

## **Access for All at Harewood - Groups**



At Harewood we always welcome visitors with disabilities and try to ensure you are able to see as much of the House and Gardens as possible. The information contained here is designed to tell you about accessibility, although we do ask you to use your own discretion and judgment. Harewood is situated on a natural slope and access to most of the grounds is dictated by the strength and experience of the person pushing the chair. Each area is discussed in more detail below.

Our aim is to give all our visitors an enjoyable day out, so if you are experiencing difficulty please ask any member of staff for help. We sincerely hope you enjoy your visit to Harewood. Suggestions about how we can improve our facilities are always welcome at [\*\*info@harewood.org\*\*](mailto:info@harewood.org).

### **Parking**

Disabled visitors may be set down outside the front entrance of Harewood House, but for security reasons all vehicles, including coaches cannot be left and must be parked in the car/coach park, approximately 150 metres away. If the disabled person is the driver of the vehicle then the vehicle may park in the designated area on the grass outside the House for the duration of the visit to the House. Please give your name and car registration number to the House Desk on arrival in case of emergency. Cars may also be set down at the entrance to the Courtyard but this is not accessible to coaches. When using the disabled parking facilities, please ensure your disabled permit is visible.

### **Use of the Shuttle Bus**

A shuttle bus, seating 7 and driven by members of our team of volunteers. is supplied for the convenience of less mobile visitors. The shuttle takes a circular route around the Harewood site, including the coach par, car park, Below Stairs and main house entrances, Courtyard café and shop, church and entrance archway. Regrettably it is not able to take visitors unable to stand or step onto it nor able to take wheelchairs.

### **Harewood House**

There are six steps up to the front door of Harewood House. There is an electric wheelchair lift fitted on the right hand side of the steps. This lift can accommodate manual wheelchairs and small electric wheelchairs. A courtesy wheelchair is available from the House Desk for touring the House, please note that the wheelchair is allocated on a first come, first served basis. The State Floor rooms open to the public are all on one floor. In the Below Stairs area there are a number of steps, however an alternative route is available for wheelchair users - please ask a member of staff for assistance in the Below Stairs entrance.

A free audio tour of the House is available for visually impaired visitors. Service Dogs are welcomed in the House.

For conservation reasons, only courtesy pushchairs provided by Harewood can be taken around the House and you will be able to borrow one from the House Desk, alternatively slings are also available for babies.

If you have problems then the House Desk staff will be happy to assist.

## **Bird Garden**

This is situated on a natural slope. All paths are surfaced with asphalt and have handrails. We do advise that if you are in any doubt about your ability to negotiate any slopes you consult with the Duty Manager or Group Bookings Coordinator who will allow a reconnaissance before wheelchairs enter. Service Dogs are not allowed in the Bird Garden as they frighten the birds.

## **Gardens**

Access to both the Terrace and Parterre is through the West Garden Gate. There is a ramp up to the Terrace. Both the Terrace and Parterre have gravel paths, which could prove difficult to navigate with a wheelchair.

A new access path has been created to the Himalayan Garden for wheelchair and pushchair access to this new garden.

However all paths around the Lakeside are surfaced with gravel and the entry route has naturally steep gradients. We advise that wheelchair pushers consider carefully before undertaking this route.

Visitors are advised to wear flat soled outdoor shoes.

## **All Saints Church**

Cars may drive up to the 5-bar gate. Entry is through a pedestrian gate and a distance of approx. 50 yds. to the church door via a compacted hardcore drive. The front door to the church may be fully opened to allow wheelchair access. In certain circumstances vehicles may be taken to the front door of the church. Please enquire at Visitor Reception who will advise you.

## **Shops**

The main gift shop is the Courtyard with full access. A second gift shop is located Below Stairs.

## **Toilets**

There are toilets suitable for disabled visitors situated in the main car park and by the entrance to the Courtyard.

## **Boat**

We regret that the Boat cannot accommodate wheelchairs.

## **Dogs**

Harewood is a great place to bring your dog for a walk, just as long as you clean up after your dog and keep it on a short lead.

Dogs are not allowed in the House, Bird Garden, Adventure Playground or at some special events. Please call us on 0113 2181010 or email us on [info@harewood.org](mailto:info@harewood.org) if you would like to bring your dog to an event.

**Service dogs are allowed** everywhere except the Bird Garden; all dogs must be kept on a short lead at all times.

## **Warning!**

Harewood is situated on a natural slope so please wear appropriate footwear. Wheelchair users will require a strong and able pusher.