

Lotherton

Accessibility Guide for Lotherton Hall Estate

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<https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/lotherton/things-to-see-and-do/grounds-and-gardens-at-lotherton/>

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Welcome

Welcome to Lotherton estate. Our grounds offer a wonderful range of opportunities to enjoy formal gardens, woodland walks and open green spaces.

The beautiful 8 acre Edwardian gardens include walled gardens, formal beds, rock gardens and a wildflower meadow.

Beyond the formal gardens are woodland and green lane walks, our deer park and hide, the heritage orchard and open grassy fields for picnics and play.

For our younger guests, Lotherton has a playground specifically for the under 8s, with climbing frames, zipwires and swings - and a woodland play area with twin zip wires and play equipment for older children

At a Glance

Level Access

- There is level access from the main entrance to:
 - Cafe
 - Main entrance ticket booth

- Information desk and gift shop
- Cafe toilets and baby changing
- Courtyard toilets and baby changing - Male
- Courtyard toilet and baby changing - Female
- Courtyard Changing Place facility
- Courtyard gift shop
- Parterre Garden
- Wildflower meadow
- Walled Garden
- Heritage Orchard
- Deer Hide
- There is level access from the car park to:
 - Cabin picnic area
 - Woodland playground picnic area



Access with steps

- There are steps from the main entrance to:
 - Terrace Garden
 - Dell rock garden
- There are steps from the car park to:

Covered picnic area - Deer park



General

- We have a complimentary ticket policy for personal assistants.
- There is at least 1 public toilet for disabled visitors. At least one toilet is a Changing Places toilet.

Getting here

Lotherton Lane
Aberford
Leeds
LS25 3EB



Travel by public transport

- The nearest train station is Garforth. The train station is 4 miles / 6.4 km from Lotherton Hall Estate.
- Situated just outside Aberford, Lotherton is approximately 12 miles from Leeds. It is 4 miles from the nearest train station at Garforth.
Lotherton is a 20-25 minute walk from the nearest bus stop in Aberford, along a public highway with limited footpaths.

From the main road outside Lotherton's entrance there is a 180 meter long drive leading up to the ticket booth. This access is busy with cars and there is no dedicated pavement.

Parking

- We have a car park. There are accessible parking spaces. The parking is less than 50 metres from the main entrance. Parking is free.
- Lotherton's entrance is just off a fast moving country road and so is not ideal as a drop off point. You are able to drive into the estate and drop off after the ticket barrier. Once through the ticket booth, we have plenty of parking spread across three car parks. The first - which is closest to amenities such as the cafe, toilets and changing spaces, is fully tarmaced and includes designated spaces for disabled visitors. The second two car parks - straight on from the ticket booth - are "field based" and give ready access to our gardens and walks. From the car park to the entrance, there is level access. The path is sloped.
- The route is 1260mm wide, or more.
- Please be aware that we have three separate car parks each with their own access particulars.

From car park 1 - to the left of the ticket barrier - access to the grounds and Courtyard (cafe, shop and toilet facilities) has three options. The most accessible is the tarmac path, width 1730mm, through the shubbery to the right of the Estate map, by the disabled parking bays. Secondly there is access via a steeper sloped tarmac road up to the pavement (threshold of 40mm) and through a gate with a width of 1730mm. The final access option is up 10 steps

From car park 2 and 3, access to the grounds and Courtyard is level access on surfaces which vary across grass, paved, gravel and hardpacked Quarry Limestone depending on the route taken. All routes from these field car parks go via gateways that are a minimum of 1260mm wide.



Main entrance to Lotherton



Larger accessible bay in car park 1 (Courtyard)



Disabled parking spaces in car park 1 - Courtyard

Arrival



Path to main entrance

- From the street to the main entrance, there is level access.
- The path is sloped.



Main entrance

- The main entrance has level access.
- There are three car parks at Lotherton and so entrance to the site varies.
Car park 1 - to the left of the ticket booth. This is a tarmaced car park with a stepped route to the Courtyard (cafe, shop and toilets.) This route passes between two large planters - with a clearance of 1340mm. There are two sets of 10 steps which are 1610mm wide with a rise of 200mm or less - both sides having hand rails.
There are two alternative routes (avoiding steps) to the Courtyard or into the grounds,

The most accessible is the tarmac path, width 1730mm, through the shubbery to the right of the Estate map by the disabled parking bays. Secondly there is access via a steeper sloped tarmac road up to the pavement (threshold of 40mm) and through a gate with a width of 1730mm.

Car park 2 and 3 are field based car parks (reinforced grass surfaces) and are straight on from the ticket booth. Car park 2 also offers cycle stands. Access to the grounds from these car parks are level access over either grass, gravel, paving or hard packed Quarry Limestone.

Mini buses and coaches need to pre book their visit and dedicated parking spaces will be allocated.

We also have 3 mobility scooters that can be pre-booked for use. Users need to complete a short induction to ensure the safety of themselves and other visitors whilst using the scooters. Scooters can access all areas of the grounds.



Stepped access to Courtyard area from Car park 1



Recommended level access route from car park 1



Alternative level access - steeper slope



Field car park 2



Field car park 3

Getting around inside



Ticket/ information desk

Main entrance ticket booth

- From the main entrance to the desk, there is level access.
- Entrance to Lotherton is controlled via our ticket booth that is situated on the main driveway from the road. This booth is before any of our car parks. At the booth, a Lotherton colleague will check either your membership/season ticket card or provide you with day tickets before you proceed to park.



Main ticket booth



Ticket/ information desk

Information desk and gift shop

- From the main entrance to the desk, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp. The door is 900mm wide, or more.
- The desk has a low section.
- Visitors can get further help from the office and gift shop based in the Courtyard. Again - as we have three car parks, access to the Courtyard varies. From car park 1, access is either via 10 steps of 200mm height or less or the most accessible is the tarmac path, width 1730mm, through the shrubbery to the right of the Estate map by the disabled parking bays. There is also access via a steeper sloped tarmac road up to the pavement (threshold of 40mm) and through a gate with a width of 1730mm. From car parks 2 and 3, visitors will need to travel through the grounds to reach the courtyard. This will be via a range of different surfaces depending on route taken eg grass/woodland, paved, gravel or hard Quarry type Limestone. Gated entrances will have a minimum width of 1260mm



Information desk and shop

Things to See and Do

- We have a complimentary ticket policy for personal assistants.

Cafe

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. The door is 740mm wide.
- There are seats.
- Our cafe is situated in the Courtyard area and there is a separate ice cream booth just to the left of the cafe entrance.

There is a slight threshold of 20mm to the cafe and the doorway is a minimum of 740mm but this can be opened on request to a double width of 1620mm.

The flooring of the cafe is wooden and there is matting immediately through the door up to the counter.

The counter is 890mm high.

The cafe's internal tables are 730mm high and chairs are padded and without arms. There is room to manoeuvre pushchairs or wheelchairs.

Outside in the Courtyard there are a number of further tables (740mm height) with parasols to some. Chairs are wooden and have arms but are very heavy so may be difficult to move for those with mobility or strength issues.

The outside cafe area can get busy and it may not be easy to manoeuvre wheelchairs or scooters between the outdoor tables at busy times. A good alternative would be the extensive seating inside the cafe.

Further covered seating is also provided in the historic stables which are across the Courtyard. The door into this area is 1240mm and there is a slight threshold.

Internally the flooring is cobbled and there is a shallow drainage channel to cross to access tables. This may not be ideal for those with visual impairments or with mobility concerns.

The cafe has two unisex disabled toilet and baby changing cubicles. Doors to these are 790mm and there is plenty of room for a wheel chair and carer.



Cafe entrance



Cafe threshold



Cafe interior



Courtyard cafe tables



Entrance to stable additional seating area



Stable seating

Public toilet

Cafe toilets and baby changing

- There is a public toilet for disabled visitors.
 - From the main entrance to the public toilet, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp.
 - The toilet door is 790mm wide.
 - The direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the right.
 - The toilets have handrails.
 - The cafe has two toilet and baby changing areas. These are both unisex and suitable for disabled visitors.
- There are both fixed and pivoting handrails to allow for better transfer access



Cafe toilet and baby changing

Public toilet

Courtyard toilets and baby changing - Male

- From the main entrance to the public toilet, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp.
 - The toilet door is 940mm wide.
 - The direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the front only.
 - There are designated male toilet and baby changing facilities in the Courtyard area. The external doorway is 940mm wide followed by a further doorway of 840mm. Interior cubicle doors are 560mm wide
- There is a baby changing area with an adjacent sink at a height of 790mm. The toilet facilities then also have cubicles, urinals and a further three sinks at a height of 810mm



Toilet entrances in the courtyard



Toilet lay out

Public toilet

Courtyard toilet and baby changing - Female

- From the main entrance to the public toilet, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp.
 - The toilet door is 940mm wide.
 - The direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the front only.
 - The external door to the Ladies' toilets and baby changing is 940mm and there is a slight threshold. There is a further internal door of 790mm. Cubicle doors are 550mm wide.
- The Ladies' facility has a standalone changing unit and a further cubicle that includes a toilet and changing unit. The door to this cubicle is 810mm wide.
Sink height is 790mm



Courtyard toilets

Public toilet

Courtyard Changing Place facility

- There is a public toilet for disabled visitors.
 - The toilet is a Changing Places toilet.
 - You need a RADAR key to open the public toilet.
 - From the main entrance to the public toilet, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp.
 - The toilet door is 860mm wide.
 - The direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the left and right.
 - The toilets have handrails.
 - This is a full Changing Place facility with an adjustable adult size changing bed and a hoist. There is a curtain for privacy and plenty of space for carers and wheelchairs. The sink height is 850mm
- The facility is locked and accessed with a RADAR key.



Changing Place facility



Courtyard gift shop

- From the main entrance to the shop, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp. The door is 900mm wide.
- The route through the shop is 800mm wide, or more.
- Lotherton's gift shop is sited along with our information desk, in the Courtyard next to the Cafe.

There is a slight threshold to the shop.

The shop has a tiled floor and a further internal doorway opening that is 980mm. There is a range of levels to the merchandise shelving.



Gift shop entrance



Gift shop interior

Getting around outside



Terrace Garden

- The route is sloped. From the main entrance to the gardens, there are 4 steps. There is no lift and no ramp.
- The route is sloped.
- The Terrace Garden - sited at the back of the House drawing room, is accessed by steps.

The first set of 4 steps - 120mm high - lead onto gravel paths running in between the flower beds.

The second set has two steps 120mm high and these lead onto a paved area that is slightly uneven.

There is one bench with arms, seat height 400mm in the Terrace Garden



Stepped access to the Terrace Garden

Parterre Garden

- From the main entrance to the gardens, there is level access.
 - The route is sloped.
 - The Parterre Garden includes the formal bedding areas and the herbaceous borders. Paths through this area of the gardens are all gravel with a width of at least 3730mm.
- There are numerous benches throughout the area and these seats have arms and a seat height of 400mm.
- In the middle of the Parterre, walking up through the bedding areas towards the summerhouse, there are 3 wide steps of 120mm height



Gravel paths through the Parterre Garden



Stepped area of the Parterre Garden

Wildflower meadow

- From the main entrance to the gardens, there is level access.
- The route is sloped.

- The Wildflower meadow can be accessed from two areas of the grounds:
 - * Through the Parterre Garden's gravel paths - there is a slight threshold onto the mown grass paths that are at least 1420mm wide
 - * Off the paved path that runs from the house out to the main field car park
- Within the Wildflower area there are mown grass paths of at least 1420mm



Wildflower meadow - access from the Parterre Garden



Paved route giving alternative access to the Wildflower meadow

Walled Garden

- From the main entrance to the gardens, there is level access.
- The route is sloped.
- The Secret or Walled Garden can be accessed through three routes:
 - * From the Parterre Garden next to the house - the gravel paths of the Parterre lead through an opening of 930mm in the Yew, into the Walled Garden
 - * From further up the Parterre Garden there is a wide entrance of 3290mm into the Walled Garden

* From the William and Mary Garden - there is an open doorway of 1170mm with three steps of 130mm height

Within the Walled Garden, paths are gravel and 1430mm wide. There is a seating area on pavers with a threshold of 30mm and a seat height of 440mm. There is then an additional bench with arms - this has a seat height of 400mm



Walled Garden entrance/exit to the Parterre Garden, next to the House



Walled Garden entrance/exit to the William and Mary (sunken pond) Garden



Walled Garden wide entrance off the Parterre Garden



Large benched area in the Walled Garden

William and Mary Garden

- The route is sloped.
 - The William and Mary Garden includes the sunken pond. Entrance to this garden is via one of three routes:
 - * From the end of Parterre Gardens (away from the House and near to the Temple) - a wide entrance of 1780mm
 - * From the Walled Garden - 3 steps of 130mm height and an open doorway of 1170mm
 - * From the Woods and Temple area - gravel path from the woods with one step of 130mm height
- Within the William and Mary garden the paths are paved but uneven with some overhanging foliage. This area may not be ideal for those with limited mobility or visual impairment.
- To reach the sunken pond in the middle of the garden, there are two opposing sets of 5

steps of 100mm height.

There are four benches within this garden with seat heights ranging from 380mm to 410mm.



Entrance to the William and Mary from the woods/temple area



Entrance to the William and Mary from the Parterre Garden



Surface type and condition in the William and Mary garden



Steps down to the sunken pond in the William and Mary

Dell rock garden

- The route is sloped. From the main entrance to the gardens, there are 10 steps. There is no lift and no ramp.
- The Dell Garden is on the outer perimeter of the gardens and accessed by either:
 - * Walking through the Parterre Garden on gravel paths
 - * Accessing from the two field based car parks
 - * Accessing from the outer Captain Woods walk

The Dell area has a paved 900mm wide path. However, the route is very uneven with rough rock steps leading into/out of the garden. These steps are all of uneven height and depth and are not recommended for those with mobility or visual impairment



Dell garden entrance/exit



Uneven steps leading into/out of the Dell

Heritage Orchard

- From the main entrance to the gardens, there is level access.
 - The route is sloped.
 - There are three entrances to the Orchard area
 - * A hard packed Quarry type limestone path from the field based car park 3
 - * An unmade natural grass/packed earth path from the Boundary walk - through a gate of 1340mm wide
 - * A wide 2480mm unmade grass path entrance from the Captain Wood area
- Within the orchard there are multiple adjoining grass paths of at least 1200mm. From the field car park 3 entrance to the Captain Wood entrance, there is a hard packed Quarry Limestone type path running along the boundary of the Orchard.
- The Orchard has a picnic bench at the Captain Wood end. This has fixed bench seats of 450mm height that allow for "sliding in".



Entrance to the Orchard from the field based car park 3



Entrance to the Orchard from the Boundary trail



Entrance to the Orchard from Captain Wood trail



Orchard picnic bench



Designated Walking Trail

Captain Wood

- Some of the trail has a loose surface. The trail is sloped. The trail has seats.
- From the Courtyard, The Captain Wood trail starts on a tarmac roadway going downhill slightly towards the main external road boundary and past the woodland playground. Turning right at the boundary, the path then becomes hard packed Quarry Limestone type paths of 1950mm width.

The route through the woods is fairly flat with just some slight inclines in places.

There are benches on the route - two of a rustic wood nature - no arms and a seat height of 500mm and 370mm - and one bench with arms and a seat of 370mm

When the trail reaches the Temple, the path changes to gravel as it skirts the Gardens. There are then a range of side exits from the trail where the surface changes:

- * Boundary trail path and Orchard via a hard packed Quarry Limestone surface
- * The old Tennis Court via a paved bridge of 1380mm width with a path of 1000mm leading to the court area. This area has a brick paver surface and the bench here has arms and a seat height of 340mm.

Ignoring these exits, the Captain Wood trail continues on gravel paths of 1950mm width until reaching a wide junction of:

- * paved path to the left (Boundary Trail, Deer Hide and the field car parks)
- * wide tarmac path ahead and to the right leading to the Courtyard and end of the trail



Start of the Captain Wood trail from the Courtyard area



Quarry Limestone type surface of the Captain Wood trail



Rustic bench type on the Captain Wood trail



Bench type with arms on Captain Wood trail



Bridge to Old Tennis Court



Old Tennis Court

Picnic Area

Cabin picnic area

- From the car park to the picnic area, there is level access. The entrance is 1700mm wide.
- You can bring your own food to the picnic area.
- This shaded area just off the main Courtyard Car park and close to the Under 8 playground - has a bark chipping surface and 8 picnic benches with fixed seats that need users to "climb over" to sit at the table.

Note - the cabins are not open or for use as picnic locations



Entrance to the Cabin picnic area



Cabin picnic area



Picnic bench type in the Cabin area

Picnic Area

Woodland playground picnic area

- From the car park to the picnic area, there is level access. The path is 1730mm wide, or more.
- You can bring your own food to the picnic area.
- Throughout the area that borders Wildlife World and includes the over 8 Woodland Playground, there are a number of picnic benches.. These have fixed seats - one side having a back and a seat height of 560mm and the other side with no back and a height of 450mm The seats are "slide in" type



Playground picnic area - picnic bench type

Picnic Area

Covered picnic area - Deer park

- The entrance is 1900mm wide.

- From the car park to the picnic area, there is 1 step. There is no lift and no ramp.
 - Some tables have space for wheelchair users. You can bring your own food to the picnic area.
 - Just into the Deer Park there are picnic benches and a covered picnic shelter accessed by a hard packed Quarry Limestone type path. This area is approximately 500m from the Courtyard car park
- The three outside picnic benches are of the "slip in" type and have fixed seats of 400mm high.
- The covered picnic area is entered through a wide 2550mm entrance with a threshold of 210mm. There are eight backless benches that can be moved. Bench heights are 500mm



Entrance to Deer park



Covered picnic area interior



Path to Deer park picnic area

Deer Hide

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp.
- The path through the Deer Park to the hide is made of Quarry Limestone and ends in a bridge (mesh over wooden planks) that is 1700mm wide.

The hide is approximately 700m from the Courtyard carpark

To enter the hide there is a ramp and doorway of 940mm. Inside there are 3 fixed benches of 500mm height positioned to view through windows at 900mm height.

Outside of the hide there is:

- * a bird watching area with two benches of 440mm height with a gap between of 670mm. The lowest viewing slot is at 970mm from the ground
- * a deer viewing area with a bench and the lowest viewing slot being 870mm from the ground



Bridge to the Deer hide



Ramped entrance to the Deer hide



Deer hide interior



Deer viewing wall

Customer care support

Accessibility equipment

- There are three mobility scooters that can be pre-booked and following an induction, can be used throughout the gardens

Customer care support

- To obtain free of charge access as a carer or Personal Assistant, you must register for the Leeds City Council Companion's Scheme through the Leeds Ticket Hub.

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