

Access Statement

Renishaw Hall and Gardens

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our guests/visitors.

Renishaw Hall prides itself on our excellent and personal welcome to all visitors to Renishaw Hall and its gardens. We are able to offer full disabled access to the guided Hall tours and an extensive disabled route of the Italianate gardens. Please do book your visit in advance if possible so that we can give you the best day possible. There is good access to the gardens, museum, the Café at Renishaw, shop and toilet facilities. We have wheelchairs and a motorised scooter which can be loaned on request.

People assisting wheelchair users should ideally be strong and good pushers!

1. Introduction

Situated just ten miles outside Sheffield City Centre, Renishaw Hall and Gardens have been owned by the Sitwell family since 1625. The Hall and Gardens are available for the general public to visit at certain times throughout the year, see our website for more details. There is also a Museum hosting exhibitions which include the history of the Gardens at Renishaw, and Royalty and Renishaw.

The Museum is on an even floor level with access from the ground floor only by a ramped entrance. You should allow an hour to fully explore the museum and gallery exhibitions.

The Hall Tour takes place on the ground floor of the House. The tour lasts approximately 1 hour and you should leave approximately 2 hours to fully explore the gardens.

We have one motorised scooter which can be booked prior to your arrival and a small number of wheelchairs, all of which are available to loan free of charge.

You can also enjoy our Café at Renishaw Hall, which offers a range of hot and cold refreshments and food, and our Stable yard Shop which sells a range of gifts, souvenirs. These are all located in the Stable Courtyard with ramped access where applicable.

Volunteers and staff are on hand throughout the entire site should you require any assistance.

Please contact the office prior to your visit to discuss any specific needs/requests you may have so that we can ensure your day runs smoothly and is enjoyable.

We look forward to welcoming you to Renishaw Hall and Gardens. If you have any queries or require any assistance, please phone 01246 432310 or email enquiries@renishaw-hall.co.uk.

2. Pre – Arrival

- For full details can be seen on our website and you can plan your journey by car using www.maps.google.co.uk and clicking on “Get Directions” and simply enter your postcode and ours which is S21 3WB to get directions.
- Information on bus services from Chesterfield and Sheffield can be found on www.derbybus.info and www.travelsouthyorkshire.com
- The nearest railway stations are either Sheffield Train Station which is approximately 9 miles away or Chesterfield Train Station which is also approximately 9 miles away.
- The nearest bus stop is approximately 0.3 miles from the main entrance and start of the driveway. Ask the Driver for the stop on Southgate. Walkers would be welcome to walk up this 0.5 mile drive to reach the main car park and ticket kiosks. There are no bus stops with shelters or seats. For further information about accessibility for the buses please contact Eckington or Sheffield bus stations.
- The main road outside the driveway has limited pathways and care should be taken when walking to the drive entrance and up the drive itself.
- The drive is approximately 0.5miles in length, with a slight gradient, and does not have a separate pathway. Therefore care should be taken by both drivers and pedestrians when using the drive.

3. Car Parking and Arrival

- - There is parking on site for up to 600 cars with clearly marked disabled parking for up to 10 cars. Parking is 30 metres or 34 yards from the garden entrance and the Visitors Centre, where any access needs can be dealt with. The Car parking area is 50metres or 54yards from the Stable Courtyard where the shop, restaurant, toilets and museum and gallery are located.
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- Figure 1: Car Park**
- The onsite car park surface is grass. The blue badge parking spaces are immediately adjacent to a tarmac paved path which leads into the courtyard and to the garden entrance.
 - Specially adapted toilet facilities are located in the stable courtyard 50 metres from the blue badge parking spaces and adjacent to the Café at Renishaw Hall.

4. The Hall

- The Hall Tour takes place on the ground floor only. There are 3 steps at the front doors, 2 steps into the old kitchens, and a few door-frames to step over in the hall. The wheelchair access into the Hall is located at the rear of the property, but there is no level access to the old kitchens.
- The Tour Guides can provide a folding walking stick seat, if anyone needs a rest during the tour.



Figure 2: Entrance to the Hall

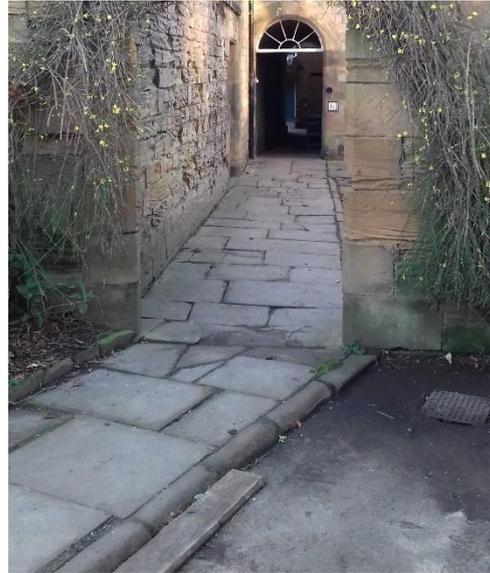


Figure 3: Disabled level entrance to the Hall



Figure 4: Slight lip on doorframe in the kitchen corridor.



Figure 5: Steps into the Old Kitchens

5. Stable Courtyard

- The Stable Courtyard is a fine collection of listed buildings. The courtyard surface is cobbled and uneven. There is a flagged ramp from the tarmac surface to the museum and gallery, restaurant and toilets, making them fully accessible for wheelchairs. However can be more difficult for wheelchairs to be pushed to the shop and care needs to be taken.
- There is plenty of outside seating in this area and indoor seating in the Café at Renishaw Hall.



Figure 6: Ramp to the Cafe and Toilets entrance.

6. Toilets

- Public toilets are located at the top of a flagged ramp, with a white hand rail, and have fully level access from the main entrance and café area.
- These toilets have a unisex accessible disabled toilet, which does not require a RADAR key. This toilet is accessible throughout the opening hours and is described below:
- A light and easy open door measuring approximately 2.4ft wide.
- The toilet height is approx. 2ft in height.
- The toilet has access hand rails, an easy to use paper towel dispenser and long handled taps.
- There is an emergency cord in the toilet, to alert staff if a visitor requires assistance.
- The hand basin sits 1m from the floor and it easily reachable for those in wheelchairs. The mirror and hand dryer are also at the same height.

7. Catering

- The Café at Renishaw Hall has, step free, level access and is situated up a two metre wide flagged ramp from the courtyard. The café it is level throughout.
- The entrance door to the café is approximately 1.75m width
- Tables in the café are well spaced apart. The chairs are both with and without arms.
- The light comes from overhead lighting with natural lighting from windows high in the walls.
- The flooring in the café is non-slip tiles.



Figure 7: The Café at Renishaw

- Where possible all our food produce is locally sourced. We do our best to cater for any dietary requirements; please contact the Visitors Centre on 01246 432310 in advance to check any specific requests you may have.
- The Café has a self-service bar for drinks, sandwiches, cakes and to order hot food and drinks, however all hot meals are delivered to tables and table service to clear is provided. Staff can assist on request.
- Specials are displayed on a blackboard in large print, all staff can assist by reading through menus.
- Crockery is colour contrasted with the table where possible.
- The toilets are located adjacent to the entrance to the Café, three metres from the Café door.

8. Shop

- The shop with a range of gifts, souvenirs and books etc. is accessed from the courtyard.
- The shop is wheelchair accessible but the surface outside the shop is cobbled and can prove more challenging for wheelchair access.
- The door to the shop is approx. 1.5 metres wide and manual. It is kept open during opening hours.
- The shop is level throughout and is covered with a thin carpeted lining which does not impede wheelchair movement.
- A low level area of the counter is provided.
- There is ample room within the shop for a large wheelchair to manoeuvre and turn.
- There are tall shelving systems and low tables accessible from a seating position.
- There is usually background music playing.
- Staff can offer assistance at all times if required.

9. The Museum

- The museum is accessed by a ramp, with white handrails, which are wide enough to provide access for large wheelchairs.
- Interpretation boards use text styles selected for easy readability, and include pictorial representation where possible. All are at a maximum top height of 1.5 metres.
- There are articles held in glass cabinets (most are upright). Some of these are vertical and may not be visible if the eye line is below 1 metre.
- Where artefacts cannot be seen at seating height, a description of the article and images are provided where possible.
- In the museum we have a video of the history of the Sitwell family which plays continuously and has ample seating and room for wheelchairs.
- Other seating is limited in the museum but is available.
- The floor surface is tiled.



Figure 8: Entrance to the Museum

- Lighting in the museum is generally bright and evenly lit overhead; however some areas are more dimly lit to aid preservation of the exhibits.

10. Visitors Centre and Garden Entrance

- Admission tickets and entrance to the garden are available at the Visitors Centre which is located adjacent to the blue badge parking, a maximum of 30 metres away. The kiosk has a wooden floor surface and a small lip to the entrance and exit.
- The Visitors Centre can accommodate one wheelchair at a time.
- The Visitors Centre has a desk which is 2 metres high and may be unsuitable for some sitting visitors.
- Wheelchair loan is available, free of charge, on request.
- Wheelchair access to the Italianate Gardens is not through the Visitors Centre but adjacent to the Visitors Centre, down the tarmac drive and over the cobbled courtyard at the back of the Hall. A wheelchair accessible ramp gives access to the Italianate Gardens.
- Wheelchair access to the top lawns is via a gate at the side of the Visitors Centre which can be unlocked on request. Both routes are suitable for wheelchairs. The ramp into the gardens can be tight for some motorised scooters.
- The visitors centre staff can provide assistance where necessary.
- A water bowl for dogs is available at the Visitors Centre and also outside the Café at Renishaw Hall.



Figure 9: The Visitors Centre

11. Grounds and Gardens

- An Access Map of the Gardens, including a wheelchair access route of the Italianate gardens and top lawn, is available to loan from the Visitor Centre.
- All dogs are welcome, kept on a short lead at all times. This includes assistance dogs.
- The garden paths are gravelled and can provide some resistance to wheelchair users. We recommend that any helpers assisting wheelchair users be ideally strong and good pushers.
- The Lakes are not accessible to wheelchair users or those of limited capabilities due to steep and uneven steps and paths.
- There is plenty of wooden bench seating located around the gardens.



Figure 10: Ramped entrance into the Gardens

- Grassed areas are generally even but care must be taken as these can become wet and uneven during inclement weather.
- Garden staff are around the gardens at various times of the day and will give assistance where requested.



Figure 11: Steps with access ramp in the Gardens

12. Additional Information

- All of our staff and volunteers receive regular training that includes disability awareness training.
- We have a set of evacuation procedures – should you require it someone will assist you with evacuation, either out of the Hall or to the nearest meeting point.
- Clear signage is used throughout the site and they are dark grey back ground with eggshell text in Garamond font.
- There is the facility to charge motorised scooters on request, however we ask for as much prior notice as possible in order to co-ordinate this as best as possible.
- Carers receive complimentary entry to the gardens, museum and hall tours.

If you have any questions at all about access at Renishaw Hall, please don't hesitate to get in contact with any of us on 01246 432310 or enquiries@renishaw-hall.co.uk.