

# Access to Winterbourne House and Garden

## Introduction

Owned by the University of Birmingham, Winterbourne is a heritage visitor attraction comprising a 7 acre garden, museum exhibitions spread over two floors, a gallery, shop and tearoom. It runs a year-round programme of family events including outdoor performances and children's activities.

The house is Edwardian with many of the former outbuildings now used for facilities.

## Travel

Information on where the house and garden is located, including maps and local public transport routes, are listed on our website.

**Note:** If you are travelling to Winterbourne by public transport, please be aware that there is a small stretch of Edgbaston Park Road which only has a pavement on one side. Care should be taken when crossing the road to enter Winterbourne.

- **Rail:** The closest train station to Winterbourne is Birmingham University station, which is approximately 15 minutes' walk from Winterbourne through the University campus on mainly pedestrianised paths. Trains run directly to the University station from Birmingham New Street, which is connected to the national rail network. Signage is limited across the University campus, so we recommend checking our location on a map before setting out.
- **Taxi:** Taxis can be taken from Birmingham New Street station and take roughly 15-30 minutes depending on traffic. There is no taxi rank at the University station.
- **Bus:** The NX Bus 99 stop less than 5 minutes' walk from Winterbourne's entrance. We recommend visiting [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info) and using their route planner to find the most up to date information. [www.nxbus.co.uk](http://www.nxbus.co.uk) will also carry up to date information about buses in the area. Not all buses have flat platform access so it's worth checking that in advance.
- **Car:** Winterbourne is accessed directly from Edgbaston Park Road. You can enter the postcode B15 2RT into your satnav. The main car park (34 spaces) is accessed directly from the main drive. There is also an alternative parking area (13 spaces) directly in front of Winterbourne House, which is accessed by bearing left around the central island. There are three blue badge parking spaces located in this alternative parking area. There are also cycle racks available. All parking is free.



Winterbourne driveway



Blue badge parking spaces

## Access to the Site



Main entrance



Lift

## The House

- The main entrance is through an outer door (kept open during opening hours) which has a level threshold, and then through an inner door which has a ramp in place. These doors are 910mm wide. Should you have difficulty opening the inner door at the main entrance, please ring the doorbell provided and a member of staff or a volunteer will assist.
- The gift shop and reception are directly opposite the main entrance. The reception desk is at an accessible height. Access to the house and garden is normally through the shop via a ramp onto the terrace. Wheelchair users and others with disabilities can, however, enter the house directly along the ground floor corridor if they wish. Staff or volunteers will be available to provide access.

- Reception staff will provide a map of the site. An accessibility leaflet is available on request.
- Winterbourne House has a largely flat interior, with most floors carpeted. The main exhibition rooms are spread over two floors. There are chairs throughout the house on which visitors can rest. Chairs which are too fragile to be used are marked with pine cones.
- There is a platform lift for the use of people with a disability. This lift is accessed via doorways which are 780mm wide. The lift door is 880mm wide, and the lift's internal dimensions are 1020mm x 1350mm.
- Unfortunately mobility scooters cannot be used in the house.
- Rooms are brightly lit and have plenty of natural light.

## The Garden

- Because of the nature of the garden, access is not level and there are uneven areas across the whole site. Care should be taken when exploring the garden, and those with mobility problems are advised to stick to the pathways. Approximately 50% of the garden is accessible with good gravel or compact gravel pathways.
- There are some steps in the garden. To avoid them, head left towards the walled garden as you leave the terrace. All steps are marked on the accessibility leaflet.
- Picnics are allowed in the garden but there are no picnic benches. There are single benches throughout the garden that offer the opportunity for rest.



A pathway in the garden



Entrance to one of the glasshouses

# Facilities

## Tearoom

- The tearoom is situated on the ground floor and is accessed through the house, or from the garden via a ramp. Chairs are not fixed in place and staff are on hand to assist visitors.
- The entrance door to the tea room servery is 950mm wide and the entrance door to the tea room sitting area from the main corridor is 840mm wide. The door to the terrace is 840mm wide.
- Flooring in the tea room and servery area is wood. The terrace seating area is concrete slabs.
- A gluten free selection of cakes is available and other diets are catered for where possible. We advise visitors to call in advance so we can ensure their needs are catered for.



Inside the tearoom



The terrace

## Toilets

- There is a unisex, disabled access and baby change toilet located at the main house entrance. The toilet layout is suitable for left-handed transfers and there is sufficient space available outside of the toilet compartment to manoeuvre and open the door. The compartment measures 1500mm by 2200mm and the door is light enough to open easily. Door width is 930mm. There are grab rails provided and there is an assistance alarm. There is a lever tap on the sink.

## **Mobility**

- Two mobility scooters and one manual wheelchair are available for use in the garden. Please speak to reception staff for assistance. An accessibility leaflet is available on request from reception.

## **Assistance dogs**

- Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the site. A bowl of water for an assistance dog can be provided on request.

## **Our displays**

- There are information panels throughout the house. These are in large type and clearly legible for most degrees of visual impairment.
- Interactives are spread throughout the exhibition rooms and provide opportunities to explore Winterbourne's story in a variety of ways.
- Winterbourne is set out as a domestic space with many items on open display. The objects and furniture can be touched with care. They should never be lifted up or moved to a different location.
- The study (ground floor) and nursery (first floor) have movement sensors which trigger an audio track.
- The old kitchen can only be entered from the courtyard in the garden, and it has stepped access only. Information about the old kitchen is provided on the back of garden maps to support visits for people who cannot access the kitchen.
- The Coach House Gallery is accessed from the garden, through the book shop. It has a glass push door and is level access from outside.

## **Contact Information**

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