



# Access Statement for Godinton House



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

## **Contents**

Introduction	3
Pre-arrival	4
Car parking and arrival	5
House Tours	8
Public Toilets	10
Ticket Office	12
Tea Room	14
Grounds and Gardens	16
Additional Information	17
Feedback and Contact Details	18

## Introduction

Located in Ashford, Kent, Godinton House dates back to the 14th century, when the Great Hall was first constructed. The house was then constructed around this central room over the subsequent centuries: the greatest part of it is Jacobean, but the most recent alterations were in the earliest 20th century. The house is surrounded by twelve acres of tranquil gardens formalised at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and ancient parkland.

The house itself is located on level ground however there is a gradual declined slope on the approach to the house from the car park. There are several steps around the gardens but these can be avoided by using the accessible route shown on the map.

If we do not cover your access requirement in this document, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01233 643854 or email [house@godintonhouse.co.uk](mailto:house@godintonhouse.co.uk) and we will be happy to discuss your needs.

The north front including the entrance to the House and Tearoom



## Pre-Arrival

### By car

- For full details and maps of how to reach us please see the [information](#) section of our website. Alternatively, you can plan your journey by car or public transport using [google maps](#). Simply enter our postcode TN23 3BP to get directions.
- The postcode given is for the full estate surrounding Godinton House and therefore not all Satellite Navigation systems will be accurate. We recommend using the directions from the [website](#) for the most accurate route.

### By rail and taxi

- The nearest railway station is located in Ashford (Ashford International Station), approximately three miles away. Taxis are available at the station. If you require an accessible taxi, we would recommend you book this in advance with E7 taxis who can be contacted on 07934 363682.

### Public transport

- There is no scheduled public transport route to Godinton House due to its rural location.

## Car Parking and Arrival

- Parking is available free of charge on site at a distance of approximately 58.8 meters (193ft) from the Stables. The Stables include an accessible WC and ticket office.
- There are 5 blue badge spaces available in the car park.
- People may be dropped at the entrance to the Stables for easier access. We ask that cars are then parked in the main car park.
- The surface from the car park to the main accessible entrance is a combination of tarmacked surfaces and paved surfaces with a light gravel top that do not impede wheelchair access. There is a small declining slope from car park to the Stables. The route to the accessible entrance on the North Front of the main House is flat.
- If notified, a member of staff will normally be available to direct or if required escort a visitor to the accessible entrance on the North Front of the house. The door measures 3 feet 4 inches (1.03 meters) wide. The doors to this entrance are manual and open inwards. The door to the house is open between 1pm-5pm on days where the house is open to the public. There is a small step up to the door measuring 2 inches (5cm) high.

## Godinton House Access Statement

- Most areas surrounding the entrance to the House itself and the Stable area, are paved tarmacked surfaces and paved surfaces with a light gravel top. One small section is flagstone stone and another brick. None of the surfaces on the route from the car park to the house impede wheelchair mobility.



Blue Badge car parking bays

Godinton House Access Statement



Pathway from carpark to ticket office

## House Tours

- The House Tour is the standard tour of the house which covers both the ground floor of the house and the first floor of the house. Covering 10 rooms which date from the fourteenth century onwards.
- As the House Tour includes two sets of stairs it is not fully accessible. A video tour of the upstairs is available upon request as well as a complimentary guidebook with information about the rooms upstairs and accompanying images. The House Tour lasts approximately one hour.
- The House Tour is accessible for wheelchairs via an entrance on the North Front measuring 3 feet 4 inches (1.03 meters) wide. The doors to this entrance are manual and open inwards. There is a small step up to the door measuring 2 inches (5cm) high. The door to the house is open between 1pm-5pm on days where the house is open to the public. A member of staff will be stationed at the door and will be able to call a member of staff for any access needs.
- All tours of the House are followed by a "backmarker" – a member of staff who is equipped with a panic alarm to contact the office



## Godinton House Access Statement

should any member of the tour group need any form of assistance at any point.

- In case of a fire in the House, modern internal sounders will activate and a loud siren will sound.



The accessible entrance to the property located on the North Front

## Public Toilets

- There is an accessible unisex toilet located alongside the main WCs in the Stable area
- There is a bricked path leading up to the accessible WC.
- The width of the door to the WC is 2 ft 11 inches (0.90 meters). There is a clear space for a wheelchair to the left-hand side of the WC measuring at a width of 2 ft 7 inches (0.80 meters). The height of the WC from floor to seat is 1 ft 6 inches (0.47 meters).
- There is one adjustable handrail to the right hand side of the WC and three wall mounted handrails to the left and right hand side of the WC.
- If assistance is needed, guests can activate an emergency call system via a red alarm cord installed in the disabled WC.
- The WC is lit using spotlights. The floor is level inside the WC and surfaced with stone tiles. The taps on the sink are mono basin mixer taps with lever handle.

Godinton House Access Statement



Accessible WC entrance



Interior of accessible WC

## **Ticket Office**

- During public opening times (April-September) tickets are sold in the ticket office which is located in the Stables area. In March and October an honesty box system is in operation.
- There is a paved surfaces with a light gravel top leading to the entrance of the ticket office as is shown in the photograph below. The width of the open doorway to the ticket office is 3 ft 1 inches (0.95 meters). There is cobbled level flooring throughout the interior of the ticket office. The narrowest space within the ticket office is 3 ft 4 inches (1 meter) wide.
- Counters are located at various heights as shown in the images below but staff can provide assistance should anything from higher shelves be needed. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a hearing loop or low counter area. No background music is played in the ticket office.

Godinton House Access Statement



Entrance to ticket office



Ticket office interior



Ticket office interior



Ticket office interior

## Tea Room

- The Tea Room is located in the main house approximately 136.5 meters (448 ft) from the Stables.
- The width of the door to the Tea Room is 3 ft 1 inches (0.95 meters) when open. The Tea Room floor is solid hard wood floors and level throughout.
- The tables in the Tea Room are low tables with a height of 2 ft 3 inch (0.70 meters) from floor to table. All chairs are standard dining chairs with no arms with a height of 1 ft 6 inch (47 cm).
- The Tea Room is well lit via LED light bulbs and large windows.
- Allergy information is available for all items on the menu.
- The service offered in the Tea Room is table service and is paid for at the counter.
- Crockery and tables contrast in colour.
- The nearest WCs, including an accessible WC, are located approximately 136.5 meters (448ft) away in the Stable Area.

Godinton House Access Statement



Tea Room entrance



Tea Room interior

## Grounds and Gardens

- There is a footpath that covers general views of the gardens and surrounding landscape. The footpath is even, however, there are steep inclines at some points on the suggested route. This footpath is 3 ft 1 inches (0.95 meters) wide at its narrowest point and is covered with light gravel. Other areas of the gardens and landscape are open to the public, but there is no footpath and these areas are grassed.
- There are some steps along the footpath around the gardens. A wheelchair accessible route is marked on the map of the garden available on our [website](#).
- The entrance to the Walled Garden is 7ft 2 inches (2.20 meters) wide. The narrowest point on the footpath within the walled gardens is approximately 3 ft 2 inches (0.97 meters).
- Benches are available along the footpath and within the garden but not at regular intervals.



## Godinton House Access Statement



East facing Gardens



Entrance to Walled Garden

## Additional Information

- Assistance dogs are welcome and water can be provided upon request.
- We do not have manual or electric wheelchairs available onsite for use on the day.
- Our local taxi service E7 Taxis provide accessible taxis for those with both manual and regular sized electric wheelchairs. For larger wheelchairs we would recommend contacting E7 taxis on 07934 363682 to confirm accessibility.

## Feedback & Contact Details

We welcome your comments if you would like to provide us with any feedback on this Access Statement.

Godinton House, Ashford, Kent, TN23 3BP

Tel: 01233 643854

Email: [house@godintonhouse.co.uk](mailto:house@godintonhouse.co.uk)

[www.godintonhouse.co.uk](http://www.godintonhouse.co.uk)

