



CAREYS
secret garden

Accessibility Guide for Careys Secret Garden

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Contact for accessibility enquiries: Emma Shaw or Rebecca Warren



Welcome

Careys Secret Garden is hidden amongst the rolling hills of Dorset's beautiful Isle of Purbeck, about a 5 min car journey from Wareham Train Station.

Whether you visit the gardens, take a tour, enjoy a course, event or workshop here or simply enjoy tasty treats in our little café, we're delighted to welcome you and hope you have a wonderful experience.

Please get in touch if you require any further information about specific access or need advice on planning your visit.

At a Glance

The walled garden is approx. 3.5 acres in size, and is accessed via a short walk along an undulating track from the car park.

This track may be unsuitable for wheelchair/mobility scooters. An alternative drop-off point can be arranged if required.

Level Access

- Main Gate – there is a small lip on the gateway into the garden
- Café – there is a small step up into the café
- Reclaimed Barn – ramped access into one end of the barn, at the other end is a step



- Garden Tours – these can be adjusted to the needs of the group, although the majority of the garden is level, there are grass, gravel, and bark pathways
- The Green House – concrete, gravel flooring with planting beds and shelving, glass doors
- The Potting Shed – there is a step up into the potting shed
- The Stumpery – level pathways, grass and gravel
- The Children’s Area – level pathways, grass
- The Rose Garden – slightly inclined pathways, gravel
- The Arid Garden – slightly inclined pathways, gravel
- The Orchard – level pathway, grass
- The Events Lawn – level, grass
- The Veggie Patch – slightly inclined pathways, gravel, grass and bark
- The Herb Garden – level pathways, gravel and raised beds
- The Waterless Unisex Toilet Facilities – wheelchair accessible with pull cord
- Berlin Wall Exhibit – inclined pathways in woodland, may not be suitable for wheelchair/mobility scooters

Hearing

- Staff have some disability training.



Visual

- Some parts of the venue have low lighting.
- Information is available in large print.

Getting here

Careys Secret Garden, Wareham, Dorset BH20 7PG

Follow our clues to find us:

Postcode: BH20 7PG (please follow the clues, the SatNav may take you down the wrong track)

Clue 1 - Follow Carey Road and continue past the turning on the left to Carey House

Clue 2 - Take the next turning on the left

Clue 3 - If you pass Carey Outdoor Education Centre you have gone too far!

Clue 4 - Please look out for our signs

Clue 5 - Continue down the 2-way track until you reach the parking area

Clue 6 - Once parked then follow the undulating gravel track to reach the entrance to the walled gardens

Please keep to the designated areas only to be sure that your visit is safe and sensitive to both you and the wildlife and serenity of the site.



Travel by public transport

- You can get to Careys Secret Garden by bus, train and car.
- The nearest bus stop is at Wareham Station. The bus stop is 1.4 miles from Careys Secret Garden
- The nearest train station is Wareham Station. The train station is 1.4 miles from Careys Secret Garden.
- The walk from the Train Station/Bus Stop to the Secret Garden is approx. 40 minutes (some on pavements and other sections along narrow roads).



Travel by taxi

- You can get a taxi from Wareham Station by calling the following;
 - Everest Taxis 07473 330063
 - Excel Taxis 01929 448066
 - Kings Kabs 01929 554223

- Phil's Cabs 07824 492463
- Jurassic Cabs 01929 558119
- To access the garden please ask to be dropped off in our visitor's car park.

Parking

- There is a visitors car park at the attraction with additional overflow parking for busy periods.



Secret Garden Car Park

Arrival

Path to main entrance

- From the car park to the main entrance there is an undulating track which is uneven in areas.
- The track is sloped.
- This may not be suitable for wheelchair/mobility scooters. Please contact us prior to visiting to arrange access to an alternative drop off point nearer to the gates of the walled garden.



The pathway down from the carpark.



More of the pathway down from the carpark.

Main entrance

- The main entrance has level access and is through large gates and under a high archway, there is a small lip on the gateway entrance.

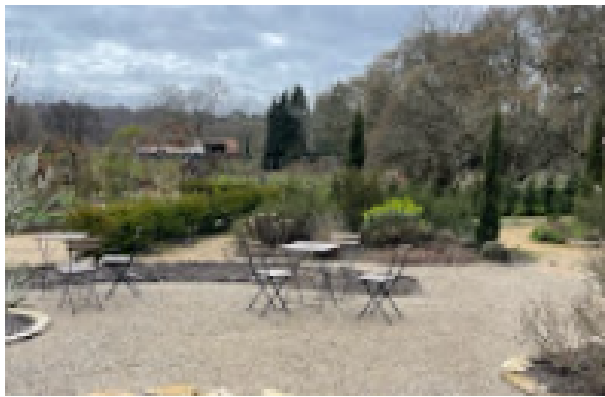


View of our main entrance

- The walkway to the café and check-in area has a slight downward slope. There is a step up into the café, the team can check you in from outside the café if required. All visitors need to check-in at the café on arrival.
- The floor of the café is tiled.
- The café is small with standing room for approx. 6 people. Seating is provided outside, with parasols in summer, and also undercover in the Reclaimed Barn. Additional benches are provided around the walled garden for visitor use.



Our café



Our outside seating area.



Pathways around the garden.

Getting around the gardens

Visual Impairment - General Information

- Some parts of the venue have low lighting, particularly in Autumn/Winter months.



The Reclaimed Barn with lighting, tables and chairs

Things to See and Do

Events

- We run a wide range of events and workshops which are open to everyone - these mainly take place within the walled garden or reclaimed barn but some of the courses are in the wider estate. Please see information regarding the individual events /workshops and get in touch with us if you have any further questions regarding accessibility.

Garden Tours

- Garden Tours are available with a member of the gardening team. Please see our website for days/times. These run from April to September.



Garden Tour with Head Gardener

The Green House

- Visitors are welcome to explore the Green House, adjacent to the Herb Garden.
- Visitors are encouraged to touch and smell plants throughout the garden to enjoy a sensory experience of the wide range of plants that have been carefully selected. Visitors must wash/sanitise hands after touching plants and never put any plant material in their mouths unless instructed by a member of the team that it is safe to do so.



Green House and Dan the Garden Designer at Careys

The Potting Shed/Roundhouse

- Along the wall, heading west from the main entrance, visitors will discover the 'Potting Shed'. This area is currently used as a retail area for 'Ard and Fragrance'. Visitors are encouraged to talk to a member of the team if they would like to find out more about this ethical and sustainable range of fragrances created by Simon Constantine, Garden Founder. The floor in the 'Potting Shed' is tiled. There is a small step into the 'Potting Shed' from the path outside. This area may be closed on some days.
- The 'Potting Shed' is dimly lit.



Exterior of the 'Potting Shed'

The Rose Garden

- Directly in front of the main entrance. Access is via a slight downward slope. There is a sculpture and water feature in the middle of the Rose Garden, with circulating beds and metal arches.



The Rose Garden at Careys

The Stumpery and Children's Imaginative Play Section

- Beyond the Rose Garden, is the Stumpery and Children's Play Section. A mixture of low/mid level planting amongst the tree stumps. Pathways are mostly grass. There are seats.
- Children are welcome to play with the 'mud kitchen' and natural resources provided. Children must be supervised at all times in the garden. At certain times of year we have a large bell tent in this area.



The Stumpery at Careys

Public toilet

Unisex Accessible Toilet

- There is a public unisex, waterless toilet
- From the main entrance to the public toilet is approx. 15m. There is level access.

- The toilet has a curved sliding door, some assistance may be required. The toilet has a light, centrefeed toilet roll dispenser, push hand gel dispenser, support rail, emergency pull cord, and coat hook.



Accessible Waterless Toilet

Place to eat and drink

Secret Salt Pig Cafe

- A selection of light refreshments, soft drinks, hot drinks and snacks are available from our small onsite cafe.
- Allergen information is displayed, please ask a member of the team if you need further assistance.
- There is no background music.
- Hot drinks are dispensed in green compostable eco cups, lids are available if required. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own reusable cups.
- Food is dispensed in brown, compostable packaging.
- All of our food is vegetarian.
- We also provide oat milk for coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

Customer care support

Accessibility equipment

- We welcome assistance dogs (in their uniform) and can provide a water bowl for them. Please ask a team member for assistance. Any dog mess must be cleared by the owners.

Emergency evacuation procedures

- In the case of an evacuation, all customers inside the walled garden will be led to safety by a member of the team or by a member of the fire brigade.
 - If emergency service is required, the team has a procedure in place using 'What 3 Words' to direct service staff.
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Guide last updated: 17th March 2023