

Access Statement Blakesley Hall Access Report

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 visitors.

Introduction

The timber-framed house was built in 1590 by Richard Smalbroke, a member of one of Birmingham's leading merchant families. More than 400 years later, beautiful Blakesley is still a haven; secluded from the avenues of modern houses that lie beyond its gates.



The visitor centre has excellent facilities including a gift shop and a traditional tearoom overlooking its tranquil garden. Blakesley's stunning grounds include an Elizabethan inspired herb garden, apple trees and an abundance of lavender.

The site offers a varied events programme including fun activities for families and we are able to accommodate group visits and offer guided tours.

We also provide a wide range of stimulating and memorable workshops for schools and we have a dedicated classroom space in our barn for educational visits.

Blakesley is also available for corporate hire and wedding ceremonies.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 0121 348 8120.

Pre-arrival

For full details and maps of how to reach us please see our website. Alternatively if you plan your journey by car the satnav postcode is B25 8RN.

- By Road – Blakesley Hall is located 6 miles east of the city centre in Yardley. For google maps and Sat Nav use postcode B25 8RN. Entrance to Blakesley Hall is accessible off Blakesley Road.
- By Bus - 97 bus from Birmingham City Centre, Circular bus 11A/11C from other Birmingham areas.
- By Rail - The closest train station is Stetchford Station (20 mins). Turn left upon leaving the station and then right onto Station Road. Walk straight on for

approximately one mile then turn right onto Blakesley Road. Entrance to Blakesley Hall is off Blakesley Road on the right hand side of the road.

- By Bicycle – Blakesley Hall is located 6 miles east of the city centre in Yardley. For google maps and Sat Nav use postcode B25 8RN. Entrance to Blakesley Hall is accessible off Blakesley Road. Bike Racks are available.

Car park and arrival

Our Visitor Centre and car park is accessed via our drive. We have room for coaches and large vehicles in both our main and overflow car park.



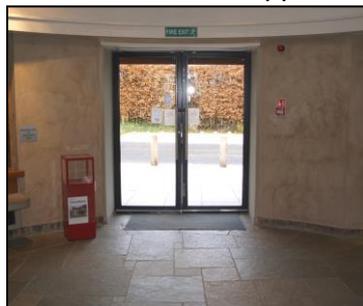
Our main car park is in close proximity to the Visitor Centre entrance. We have two designated disabled spaces which are clearly signed.



We have an overflow car park which is a grassy area located near the Visitor Centre, there is a small slope down to the main car park.

Visitor Centre

Entrance to the site is through our Visitor Centre. The front entrance doors open both inwards and outwards; the double doors measure approximately 168cm at full width.



The reception desk is located in the foyer in close proximity to the front doors. The desk is low level measuring approximately 91cm from the ground.



The Visitor Centre is accessible to wheelchairs and prams; it is all on one level including the shop, tearoom, gallery and toilets, all with level, flat floor surfaces. All exit doors to the grounds are double doors, opening inwards and outwards, measuring approximately 168cm at full width.



Our shop stocks a wide range of products from traditional toys to unique and interesting gifts. We have something to appeal to all ages from pocket money souvenirs to luxury keepsakes and delicious confectionary.



- There are two entrances to our gift shop, one measuring approximately 93.5cm and the other 98cm wide.
- We have a low level countertop next to the till point measuring approximately 89cm in height.

Tearoom

The tearoom is situated in the Visitor Centre; offering friendly service and a good selection of drinks, snacks and excellent cake the space is bathed in light from the huge windows that look out onto the back of the house and tranquil garden.



- The wooden tearoom floor is level and accessible to prams and wheelchairs.
- The entrance measures approximately 160cm in width.
- The tables in the tearoom are well spaced apart, with a clear height from the floor of approximately 75cm with chairs.
- Our tearoom countertop measures approximately 90.5cm high.
- Lighting in all areas is natural daylight with overhead lighting used.
- The tearoom serves a selection of sandwiches and cakes that are locally sourced where possible.
- Food items are not made on site and are pre-packed to sell.
- Crockery is colour contrasted with the table where possible.
- We can offer paper plates, cups and plastic cutlery if preferred.

We also have an outdoor seating area.

Visitor Centre Toilets

We have 3 women's and 3 men's toilets in our Visitor Centre and we have one disabled toilet which is unisex. The disabled toilet is also our baby changing area. The door to the disabled toilet opens outwards and measures approximately 84cm wide. The support rail, toilet, sink, hand dryer, mirror and dispensers are at low level. The toilet is approximately 47.5cm in height, the sink is approximately 72.5cm in height, and the dryer is approximately 98cm in height. The disabled toilet has an emergency alarm.



Baby Care

We have baby changing facilities in our Visitor Centre disabled toilet and a high chair in our tearoom. We also offer access to a microwave for bottle warming.

Garden

Our garden is accessed from the Visitor Centre, the grounds are flat; pathways are level and are approximately 192cm wide. There are plenty of places to sit.



Blakesley Hall

Entrance to Blakesley Hall is approximately 6560cm away from the Visitor Centre.

- The house is entered through the front door which has a slight threshold.
- The door is approximately 120cm wide.
- There is a slabbed slope to one side of Blakesley Hall, or the front door can be accessed from the other side of the building where the pathway is flat.



- The ground floor is suitable for wheelchairs and prams; it is on one level with a small ramp to the historic Kitchen.



- There are two staircases in the house leading up to the first floor.
- One staircase has a rope handrail and the other has a wooden handrail.
- Owing to its age, Blakesley Hall has no lift access to the first or second floors, however folders containing images and information about the upstairs rooms are available on the ground floor and there are volunteers and members of staff on hand to give information on the building.
- We also have a large print guide and a braille guide available.

Barn

Our Barn has two classrooms for school visits, these spaces are also used for corporate hire and weddings. It is not open for public viewing except on some event days.

- The Barn is approximately 8230cm from the Visitor Centre.

- The front door to the barn measures approximately 95cm wide. The internal doors measure approximately 100cm wide.
- There are two accessible toilets both with a toilet, sink, hand dryer, mirror and dispensers at low level. The toilet doors open outwards and are approximately 99cm wide. The toilets are approximately 46cm in height. The sink is approximately 72cm in height and the hand dryer is approximately 105cm high from the floor. Both toilets have an emergency alarm.



Additional Information

- All of our staff receive regular training.
- We have a set of evacuation procedures – should you require it someone will assist you with evacuation either out of the building or to a refuge.
- There is a dog bowl available for assistance dogs
- Language Line translation services are available. Our visitors can communicate in their own language to ask questions or receive information using an interpreter.

Contact Information

Address: Blakesley Hall, Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

Telephone: 0121 348 8120

Website: <http://www.bmag.org.uk/blakesley-hall>

Twitter: @Blakesley_Hall

Hours of Operation:

Times – 12 noon to 4:00 pm

Days of the week – Tuesday through to Sunday

Bank Holiday Monday arrangements – Open every bank holiday except for 25th and 26th December and 1st January

(Open season is April to November; tours of site are available in winter)

Taxis: TOA Taxis 0121 427 8888

Local Public Transport: Bus 08712002233 www.networkwestmidlands.co.uk

Train: 0121 200 2787 (centro)