

St. Mary's House and Gardens

Access Statement

Introduction

St. Mary's House is a Grade I listed building, which dating from medieval times has considerable architectural and historical interest; it is located within the South Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The need to conserve the special characteristics of St. Mary's House is recognised, and the aim for accessibility is to fulfil the obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), providing that any work to improve accessibility does not prejudice the character of St. Mary's or increase the risk of long-term deterioration to the building fabric or fittings.

Policy

St. Mary's House and Gardens are open to the public on designated open afternoons during the summer months, and open to groups on other days by appointment. We welcome visitors with a disability and make every effort to ensure that they get the most out of their visit by

- Ensuring staff are trained to communicate sensitively with visitors with disabilities, and to provide advice and assistance where appropriate;
- Allowing wheelchair access to the whole of the ground floor;
- Providing room-guides describing each room and its furniture and artefacts in large print

Facilities for the Disabled

- There are portable ramps available for wheelchairs, which can be put into place on request at the main entrances to the house and certain steps in the garden;
- The tea-room is accessible by wheelchair;
- A toilet for the disabled is available;
- There are no steep slopes in the gardens;
- The garden paths are flagstones, grass or gravel.