

# Access Statement for Rockingham Castle



Rockingham Castle, Rockingham, Market Harborough,  
Leicestershire, LE16 8TH  
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[www.rockinghamcastle.com](http://www.rockinghamcastle.com)

***Visiting Rockingham Castle  
Prior to Arrival***

Rockingham Castle is centrally located within the heart of the country with good transport links.

Poised on the side of the Welland Valley, the Castle is positioned on the A6003, just one mile north of Corby. Northampton, Peterborough & Leicester are all within 45 minutes journey of the Castle.

For Satnavs, please use the postcode LE16 8TH.

The nearest train station is Corby, which has an hourly service to and from London. For services to and from Leicester or Nottingham, you can travel to Kettering and get a connection to Corby. Taxis are usually available at the train station.

There are two local taxi services based in Corby:

Sky Cabs: 01536 202020

Star Cars: 01536 443322

## *Arrival & Car Parking*

Upon arrival you will be greeted at the Ticket Office whereupon visitors may purchase tickets for either a Castle Tour or a Grounds Ticket. The Grounds Ticket entitles visitors to view the Cross Garden, Rose Garden, Wild Garden, St Leonard's Church, Ice House, Gift Shop and Walker's Restaurant. A guidebook can also be purchased. A Welcome Leaflet with map will be given to each visitor with a purchased ticket.

For visitors with carers we offer a carer's concession so please mention this when buying your tickets.

The main Visitor Car Park is approximately 200 metres downhill from the entrance to the Castle. For visitors with impaired mobility, car parking is available immediately outside the Castle Towers. Please notify staff in the Ticket Office and they will be pleased to direct you.

Visitors who have difficulty in walking and are attending the special event days such as Jousting or Vikings, are welcome to park close to the event field.

All dogs are welcome in the grounds whilst only Assistance Dogs are welcome in the Castle & Walker's House Tea Room. If you are visiting with your Assistance Dog, please make the Front Desk and the Walker's House team aware. Water can be provided upon request.



## *Visiting the Castle*

The Castle Courtyard is gravelled which can be quite difficult for those in wheelchairs or with mobility aids. Ramps are in place, around the grounds to encourage wheelchair users to use the grass.



Main Visitor Entrance to the Castle



Wheelchair access to the Castle

Due to the architecture of the Castle it is not possible for visitors in wheelchairs to enter the Castle by the main visitor entrance. The access is via the ramp to the Gift Shop in the Courtyard. A member of the Castle team will be on hand to escort you back, through the Castle, to the start of the tour.

An audio tour, narrated by the Castle owner James Saunders Watson, is available to hire at the Front Desk. If you would like to book the use of these in advance please contact the Estate Office. You can also find a large print guidebook at the front desk along with our printed guide books and the children's 'eye spy' quiz.

The flooring throughout the main part of Castle is flagstones which can be uneven in places.

Most rooms are situated on the ground floor and are accessible for those with limited mobility. There are chairs in every room for people to sit and take in the room if they wish. Unfortunately, the

Long Gallery and Salvin's Tower are not accessible for those with limited mobility, but there is a detailed photograph album at the foot of the Long Gallery stairs for visitors to browse through. This will give a flavour of the Long Gallery, the Gardens and the view from Salvin's Tower.

The Gift Shop is located in the Castle Courtyard and has ramp access, a photograph of this can be seen overleaf.

### ***Visiting the Gardens & Grounds***



Access to the formal gardens

The formal gardens are generally accessible to those with mobility constraints. The paths throughout the formal gardens are gravelled, some of which are compacted which makes for easy manoeuvring around the gardens in a wheelchair and mobility scooters. We have installed handrails and ramps and have added a 'bypass path' to the steps of the Rose Garden and the Cross Garden. The Beautiful Wild Gardens are set in a steep sided valley where the terrain is much more uneven.

There are benches and seats in the courtyard and three formal gardens as well as picnic benches in the visitor car park.

On open days we operate a complimentary outside tour; these are quite gentle in their pace but can last up to 45 minutes in total most of which is standing.

St Leonards Church is located in the Castle grounds and sits below the Castle battlements. Access is via a moderate hill, which is tarmacked up to the Church Yard. The Church Yard and surrounding graveyard can be uneven terrain in places.

There is an audio-visual room in the Castle Courtyard, which is accessible by two steps. This is a brief history of the Castle and is locate on of the Castle Drum Towers

### *Facilities*



Visitor Toilets in the Castle courtyard

The visitor Car Park locates a fully accessible disabled WC. The Courtyard Toilets are up two steps with handrails on either side of the doorway.

For our Christmas Opening Event there is a temporary disabled WC located in the Castle Courtyard.



Walker's House Restaurant  
located in the Courtyard

Walkers House Restaurant & Tea Rooms has a ramp into the main floor to allow easy access to the restaurant.

Unfortunately we do not have wheelchairs on site to hire.