

# **Access Statement for Hawkstone Park Follies**

## **Introduction**

Hawkstone Park Follies is situated in North Shropshire. This unique attraction is an “romantic garden” created by the wealthy Hill family of Hawkstone Hall in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century to overwhelm their guests’ visual and spiritual senses. It was restored and re-opened to the public in 1993.

The Park is spread over 100 acres on undulating terrain and you should allow at least 2.5 hours to walk around all of it.

We have a small tearoom and gift shop located at the entrance to the attraction. These two areas are on one level with the absence of steps.

Wardens and staff are on duty throughout the attraction should you require assistance.

We look forward to welcoming you but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to call 01948 841777.

## **Car Parking**

We have a large gravelled car park which is uneven in places, and there is a short walk uphill to the Visitor Centre (the entrance to the Park). However there is parking for accessibility vehicles outside the Visitor Centre.

## **Main Entrance**

The entrance to the Visitor Centre is via double doors and the exit is a single width door (810mm)

The ticket desk is accessible to all – no glass or obstructions

The floor surface is tiled and all on one level

There are some chairs available in this area

The ladies (and disabled) toilets are on the same level as the ticket desk, gift shop and tearoom. The toilets are fitted with an emergency alarm pull cord system. The toilets are tiled.

## **Attraction/Park**

The main part of the park is inaccessible to wheelchairs, prams, and buggies due to the amount of steps and the uneven terrain. However complimentary access for wheelchair users is available as far as the Grand Valley – which is a large grassy area

on one level and is a great place for picnics. The path is mainly tarmac leading to a gravel track.

We have interpretation boards around the Park in larger than normal text. Braille is not available.

We have laminated leaflets and maps on entry which are free to take away.

There is a short health and safety DVD playing in the Visitor Centre/gift shop.

There are wooden benches scattered around the park.

The pathways can be uneven in places and are mainly loose gravel/soil/sand etc., and steps can be steep and uneven. Hand rails are provided where possible.

### **Additional Information**

All of our staff receive regular training that includes disability awareness training.

Carers are entitled to half price entry.

We have specialist evacuation procedures.

There are first aiders on site at all times.

Dogs are welcomed but they must be kept on leads.

Water bowls for dogs are available outside the gift shop, toilets and on Grotto Hill.

There is an emergency phone situated on Weston Bridge but we advise our visitors to contact us on 01948 841777 in case of emergency.

### **Contact Details**

Address – Hawkstone Park Follies, Weston-under-Redcastle, Nr Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 5JY

Telephone – 01948 841700 or 01948 841777

Email – robert.hare@hawkstone.co.uk

Website – [www.hawkstoneparkfollies.co.uk](http://www.hawkstoneparkfollies.co.uk)

Facebook – Hawkstone Park Follies – Shropshire

Twitter - @Thefollies

Hours of opening – gates open 10am – last admission 3pm – gates close at 5pm

Opening days – please check the website before travelling.