

Get into Heritage at Wakehurst Walk... talk... make

Get into Heritage resources for Wakehurst

This resource pack was created by Culture Shift with artist educator Anne Colvin, in partnership with Wakehurst. It is based around the idea of 'Walk, Talk, Make' a series of creative activities created by Anne and Culture Shift to support learning disabled adults to engage creatively with their environment.

In the 'Walk, Talk, Make' model, a group is encouraged to take time exploring their environment together, then discuss what they discover as a group, perhaps using prompts, and finally to take part in a creative activity together.

These resources were funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of *Get into Heritage*, a programme designed to make heritage more accessible to people with learning disabilities and to develop sustainable relationships between heritage organisations and learning disability service providers to support future visits and activity.

How to use this resource pack

You might use this resource pack if you are a carer for a learning disabled person, or if you are bringing a group of people from a day service or residential home to visit Wakehurst.

The resource pack contains three guides, each drawing on an aspect of heritage at Wakehurst.

Each guide includes:

- A specific focus and some information about an aspect of Wakehurst
- Things to look out for, notice and discuss
- Interesting facts relating to the focus
- Creative activities to engage in during the visit
- Extended activities to engage in after the visit

Guides can be explored in any order and offer ideas for supporting different levels of engagement.

As well as the guides, you will need a map of Wakehurst which can be downloaded here: <https://www.kew.org/wakehurst/plan-your-visit-to-wakehurst>. The Wakehurst newsletter also contains a map and current information. This can be picked up at the Visitor Centre on arrival.

You may also wish to buy or download a tree identification key – see the resource pack Guide 1 for information.

Creating memories

If your group is able to visit Wakehurst several times, perhaps you would like to start developing your own Wakehurst Memory Book. This could involve gathering photographs, objects, information, artwork, and thoughts and ideas from your visits, and making comparisons with your other experiences outside Wakehurst.

You could consider holding an exhibition of photographs, artwork, poetry or stories relating to your visits at your Day Service or residential home. You could even create your own *Guide to Wakehurst* to share with friends and family.

Some things to be aware of during your visit

Walking distances and pathways

- Visitor Centre to Mansion – 10 mins gentle walk
- Boarded slope outside the Visitor Centre, then hard paths with a slightly graveled surface gently sloping all the way to the Mansion Carriage Ring which is gravel
- Visitor Centre to the Millennium Seed Bank not using the mobility path – 4 mins
- Path from wooden sculpture to the service road is gravelly and there is a zebra crossing to take you across the service road
- The path leading down to the Millennium Seed Bank is quite a steep slope and ends in a flight of 5 steps, handrail on the left hand side
- Visitor Centre to the Millennium Seed Bank using mobility path - 10 mins - continue along the main path after the zebra crossing and take the mobility path. Hard path then flagstone paving. There is an alternative with 2 steps down but no handrail
- Millennium Seed Bank to Mansion – 10 mins. Hard paths
- Mansion to Walled Garden – about 2 mins. The Walled Garden has gravel paths
- Mansion to the sundial – 2 mins hard path to the sundial. A series of steps down and there is a wheelchair ramp to the right hand side
- Mansion to the Black Pond and Bog Garden - 6 mins. Hard paths all the way there. Sloping pathway from finger post 22 to the Black Pond or via the Slips - 6 mins. There are several flights of steps down, handrail to left hand side then a graveled path to the Pond
- Pathway through the Winter Garden is Sandtex (a type of packed, hardened sand)

Facilities

There are toilets situated in the Visitor Centre, the Stables restaurant, the Millennium Seed Bank and at the end of the Winter Garden called the Kangaroo Loos – 3 minutes from the Mansion.

There are two Cafes, one by the mansion and the other in the Visitor Centre.

Seating

- There are 2 bench seats on the path from the VC to the Mansion.
- There are usually a couple of picnic tables by the Willow Tents and Tunnels feature on the walk from the VC to the Mansion.
- The MSB has 2 backless benches inside and it is possible to sit on the edging of the water the MSB plants parterre outside.

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- Several bench seats against the Mansion wall in the carriage ring (tables and chairs are for patrons of the Stables restaurant)
- In front of the Mansion are 5 bench seats.
- The Walled Garden has several bench seats within it.
- There is a semicircular bench within the Winter Garden.
- Other benches are dotted about the Croquet Lawn and in other areas but are not in fixed positions.

Clothing and footwear

As British weather is so variable it is worth checking the weather forecast before coming to Wakehurst. We are one of the highest points in the county, so it can be a little colder or windier than other places. Trousers and a windproof/rainproof coat are useful. A hat if it is sunny. Flat or low-heeled comfortable shoes would make walking around easier.

Collecting materials

Please do not pick any material off living plants.

You are more than welcome to collect anything from the plants that have fallen to the floor. Please be sensible with the quantities you collect.

Planning your visit

Wakehurst welcomes visits from learning disabled people. If you are a group of 5 or more do get in touch with the learning programme team on 01444 894055 and they will be able to offer you additional advice and may be able to support your visit further or offer a guided visit.

You are welcome to bring packed lunches to Wakehurst. There are picnic tables dotted around the site.