

 **National Trust**
Shaw's Corner

Access Statement



Contact details:

Shaw's Corner, Ayot St Lawrence, nr Welwyn, Herts, AL6 9BX.

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Introduction



- Shaw's Corner is a two story Edwardian villa built in 1902 with attached garden. It was the home of playwright George Bernard Shaw.
- It is in the small Hertfordshire village of Ayot St Lawrence, thirty miles north from Central London. The nearest towns are Harpenden and Welwyn Garden City. It is set in three acres of grounds which are sloping, mostly quite gently. There are gravel and grass paths throughout the grounds.
- Mobile reception is poor throughout the site. The kiosk telephone can be used in emergencies. The number is 01438 8219678.
- Assistance dogs are welcome inside the house. Dogs on leads allowed in the garden.
- Light levels within the house may be low for conservation purposes.
- Hot and cold drinks, crisps, chocolate and ice-creams are available on site.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

- Shaw's Corner can be quite difficult to find. There are regular signs, but the last mile is down narrow, single lane roads, with passing places at intervals.
- There is no public transport access direct to Shaw's Corner and Ayot St Lawrence. The nearest train stations are Welwyn Garden City and Harpenden – both 5 miles away and served by mainline trains from central London. Taxi ranks are located outside both stations.
- There are no bus routes to the village of Ayot St Lawrence. The nearest bus stops are in Gustard Wood (2 miles) 304, and Wheathampstead (2 miles) 304, 366, 657.
- The property has a small car park which will accommodate around 25 cars. The visitor reception is in the car park, and the entrance to the garden is 50 metres away, along flat gravel paths.
- There are two blue badge car parking space in the car park, located next to the kiosk. If this is full, visitors can be dropped off alongside.
- There are benches throughout the garden.
- There is one powered personal mobility vehicle available for public usage around the garden. Please speak to a member of staff on arrival or book in advance to avoid disappointment.



Visitor Reception Kiosk



Shaw's Corner Visitor Reception

- There are two doors to the small visitor reception kiosk, both on the front elevation of the building. Mostly, visitors enter through one, and exit through the other. This building has wooden floors. There are no hand rails.
- Each doorway has two steps. The first is 15cm high and 60 cm wide. The second, that will take you into the building, is 22cm high. Ramps are available for wheelchair access.
- The kiosk is staffed during open hours. Most visitors pass through the kiosk during their visit, but people in wheelchairs or with prams and push chairs can pass in front of the kiosk.



Main House

- The main entrance to the house is through the front door. This is used by visitors as well as staff and volunteers.
- We recommend people using wheelchairs to enter and exit through the main front door. There are two steps in total into the Entrance Hall: there is a 15cm high step up into the porch, then a further step up 11 cm high step from the porch to the Entrance Hall. Ramps are available and used for wheelchair access. There are no handrails.
- The entrance door is 100cm wide. It opens inward by being pushed. Volunteers are available inside this door and can help with opening door and putting out ramps. Inner doors to main lower floor show rooms are 89cm wide.
- The entrance hall, main stairs and show rooms are carpeted except the mid – lobby and kitchen which have lino flooring and the scullery, rear lobby which are tiled.
- Access to the upstairs is via a staircase which is 89.5cm wide at its narrowest point. Pictures line the wall on the right at shoulder height with a single handrail on the left. There are 11 steps up, then a left-hand turn followed by two steps, then another left-hand turn and then a further 5 steps to the top.
- The visitor exit to the house is through the back door. This is also used as an entrance by staff and volunteers.
- There is a 4cm step down between the kitchen and the scullery.
- There is a 15cm step down from the scullery to the back door lobby, then a further 15cm down at the back doorstep. There are no handrails.
- Braille and large-print formats of the guidebook are available to borrow.
- Seats, without arm rests, are available for visitors in the kitchen. 1 chair without armrests is available in the entrance hall and on the first floor landing.



WCs

- There are no wheelchair accessible toilets at Shaw's Corner.
- The nearest fully accessible toilet is in Wheathampstead East Lane Car Park: 13 East Lane, Wheathampstead, AL4 8BN. It is 2.4 miles away.



- The visitor toilet is on the ground floor. This can be accessed from the garden. There is a step of 17cm from the outside into the lobby, there are no handrails to get into the lobby. There is a further step of 15.5cm up into the visitor toilet, there are no handrails to get up this step.
- Flush is on a historic pull chain. There is no emergency pull cord.
- There are no adult or baby changing facilities.
- There are toilet safety rails attached to the wall on both sides.



- There are three and a half acres of garden at Shaw's Corner, with a mixture of gravel and grass paths. The grass paths can get slippery following bad weather.



- There are two sets of stone steps down into the garden, each with six steps.
- Steps to the right hand side of the house (looking south): Wheelchairs can go around these steps on the grass where the slope is gentlest – alongside the well house opposite the Dovecote - and get onto the gravel path further along where the grass runs into the path.
- Steps on the left hand side of the house (looking south): Wheelchairs can go around these steps on the grass where the slope is gentlest – follow the gravel path all the way around the south side of the house and round towards a small green gate. Just before the gate turn onto the grass and get onto the gravel path further along where the grass runs into the path.

Emergency Evacuation

- The assembly point is at the bottom of the garden by the Writing Hut.

Contact details for more information

The property team are available to assist with movement around the building and provision of equipment. Please do get in touch to find out how we might be able to help.

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