

# Access Statement for The Red House, Aldeburgh

## Introduction

The Red House, the former home of the composer Benjamin Britten and his partner, the tenor Peter Pears, is situated on a private road on the edge of the seaside town of Aldeburgh in Suffolk. The site contains an extensive permanent exhibition dedicated to Britten's life and work along with his Library, Composition Studio and The Red House (guided tours available). There is a large garden open to visitors and the Archive which is open for drop in visits during weekday opening hours and to researchers by appointment.

Full details of our opening hours and special events throughout the year are available on our website at <https://brittenpears.org/visit>.

We look forward to welcoming you at The Red House. If you have any queries or require any assistance in planning your visit, please phone us on 01728 451700 or email [info@brittenpears.org](mailto:info@brittenpears.org).

## Pre-arrival

For full details and maps of how to reach us please see the [Getting here](#) section of our website.

This will give you details of how to access the site by car, train and bus and also details of the running times for our free accessible shuttlebus service from Aldeburgh town centre to The Red House (available during school holidays and Aldeburgh Festival only).

## Car parking and arrival at Reception



1 Blue badge parking space



2 Level bonded gravel surface

There is a reserved blue badge parking space available in the additional car park. A path (bonded gravel) leads down to Reception. The drop-off point for taxis on the main car park is also on bonded gravel.

The Reception area is approached via a shallow ramp and is level throughout. A fully accessible toilet is available in the toilet block at the far end of the building.



3 Ramp to Reception



4 Fully accessible toilet

## The Gallery

The Gallery is accessed from a door in Reception and follows a route over timber flooring which is level throughout, with displays designed to be fully viewable from a wheelchair. Audio guides are available at the entrance of the gallery and include a large selection of musical examples, video clips and speech extracts related to the exhibits.



5 Level timber flooring in the Gallery space



6 Shallow slope with handrails to the Library

At the end of the permanent exhibition, there is a smaller temporary exhibition area, and this leads up a shallow slope with handrails to Britten's Library.

## Britten's Library

The Library was designed for Britten in 1964 on the site of an old cow shed, and is level throughout with a tiled floor. Please note that space is restricted within the room because of the layout of Britten's furniture and piano. From here, a straight route back down the shallow slope leads to Reception.



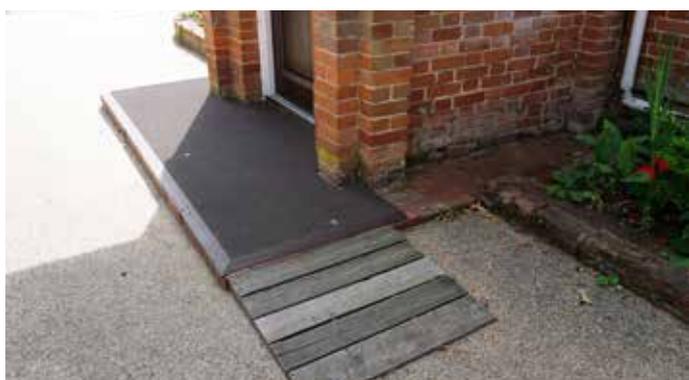
7 View of the Library by the fireplace



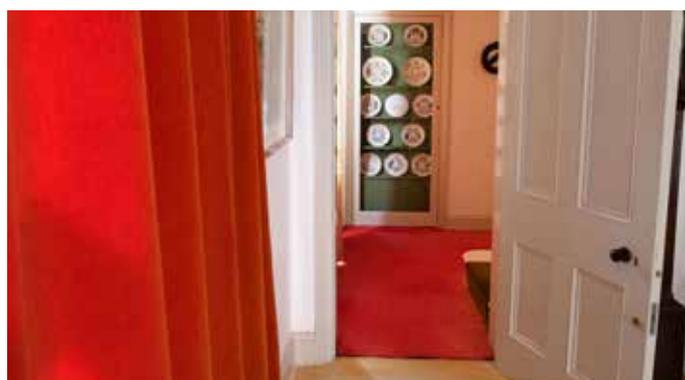
8 View of the Library from the sliding doors

## The Red House

A former farmhouse, The Red House dates from the late seventeenth century with additions through to the 1960s. The ground floor has a combination of corners, slopes and corridors that are accessible to standard-sized wheelchairs only. A lightweight wheelchair is available and has a 46cm (18") wide seat. A staff member will assist due to the narrow corridors. A ramp is provided up to the front door and the ground floor of the house is accessible.



9 Ramp to front door of The Red House



10 Tight corner from entrance hall to corridor



11 A tight corner in the corridor of the House



12 Slope from the dining room to the morning room

Please note that the morning room can be viewed from outside but the door is too narrow for a wheelchair.

Walking sticks with spikes are not permitted in the historic interiors. Rubber-tipped walking sticks are available on request. Chairs can be made available, please ask a volunteer on arrival.

### **Composition Studio**

Neither the first floor of the House nor Composition Studio (on the first floor of an adjacent building) is currently accessible to wheelchair users. A film of these spaces is available on an iPad at Reception.



13 Studio facing Britten's Steinway piano



14 View of Britten's desk and nearby table

### **The Archive**

The Archive is linked to the main site by a level brick path with a gentle slope towards the building. Entry is via the intercom to the right of the door and is set at a low level. All of the public areas of the Archive are fully accessible and an accessible toilet is situated in the building.



15 Level brick path to the Archive from main site



16 Gentle slope into the Archive building



17 Archive foyer



18 Accessible toilet at the Archive

## The Gardens

The Gardens are viewable from various paths on site. Please note that some areas are uneven. A wheelchair is available upon request from Reception.



19 Courtyard with uneven and broken concrete



20 Gravel path from the orchard



21 Stairs towards the rose terrace



22 Sloping lawn from the side of the House

## Additional information

- All our staff and volunteers have received Welcome Host Gold training in customer care.
- Assistance dogs are welcome on the site and in the house. Water bowls are provided.
- We are very happy to make our information leaflets, maps and other documentation available in large print upon request.