

Which path can we lead you down today?

Leave the New Inn visitor centre behind you and take your time to stroll down Bell Gate Drive, as visitors to Stowe have done for nearly 300 years. You can pick from one of our three paths, created in the eighteenth century by Lord Cobham. Though these aren't loops of the garden, they were intentionally created this way to illustrate Lord Cobham's political and social beliefs. Or feel free to explore and create your own path through the garden.

The Path of Vice

Easy going walk – 1 mile, 25 minutes*

Let us tempt you along the Path of Vice. Turn left as you enter the garden to be led through life's indulgences. The temples in this area are concerned with lust and illicit love; the hermitage story links into sexual jealousy and melancholy whilst the Temple of Venus is dedicated to the unfaithfulness of women. Some say to truly appreciate virtue you must first dabble in vice.

The Path of Virtue

Steady stroll – 1.2 miles, 25-30 minutes (slight gradient)*

If you are not feeling quite so naughty today, perhaps you'd rather follow the Path of Virtue? Head left as you enter the garden but don't stray too far down the Path of Vice; take a right turn passing the Cascade towards the Elysian Fields. Along this path you'll meet those the family hold in high esteem; the Ancient Greeks, Queen Caroline (wife of George III, for whom Queen's Temple was named) and those honored as Great British Worthies.

The Path of Liberty

Vigorous ramble – 1.3 miles, 30-35 minutes (slight gradient)*

This was the final path created through the garden, themed on the origin of English political liberty. Wonder at the Temple of Concord and Victory, the first Greek revival building in England, the imposing Gothic Temple and the breath-taking views over large open spaces across to the parkland beyond the HaHa revealing military success.

Discover more

Stowe is packed full of amazing stories, what you've discovered today is the tip of the iceberg. Pick up a guidebook in the Shop, Café or at Reception to delve further into the stories of this monumental garden. The money from each guidebook sold goes towards restoring and caring for Stowe, forever for everyone.

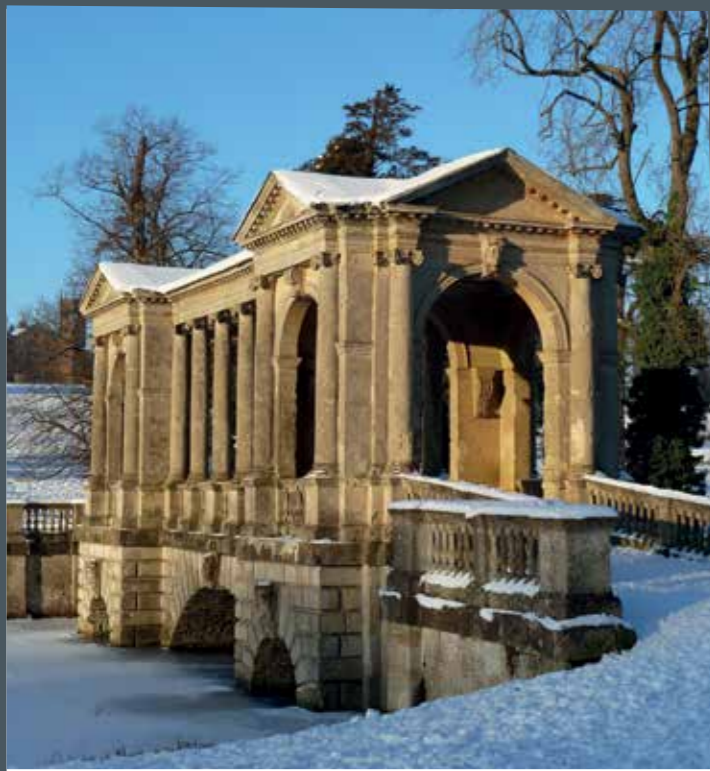
* all times are approx. Bell Gate Drive is approx 0.3miles/600m long



Key

	Visitor Reception		Toilets
	Buggy Collection Point		Dog waste bin
	Shop		Temples
	Car park		Path
	Café		Grass path

Please note this map is intended as a guide only and is not drawn to scale



Winter at Stowe

The perfect time of year to see the garden glisten with crisp frost and mist drifting across the lakes. Take in the fresh air and open views in the garden and kick off the winter blues. Highlights of the season including Stinking hellebore, Dogwood, Holly, Winter aconites and early Snowdrops.



Autumn at Stowe

Experience the vivid colours as they give a fiery frame to the monuments. In particular the Guelder rose, Liquidambar and Stag's horn sumach are a riot of unmistakable autumn colour.



Summer at Stowe

It's the time of year for simple pleasures, like picnics and play. Stay late in the afternoon to see the sun glittering across the lakes, creating mystical reflections and shadows. At this time of year keep an eye out for Tulip trees, Coneflowers, Cranesbills and a range of wildflowers through the Grecian Valley. On a hot day head to the Cascade where the lush planting will help you keep cool.



Spring at Stowe

Discover signs of new life at Stowe with a host of spring flowers, leaves unfurling on trees and even ducklings. Depending on the month, you'll be able to find carpets of Snowdrops, Cyclamen, Primroses, Lilies, Wood anemones and Turk's head tulips.



Welcome



National Trust

Stowe
A monumental day out

Stowe in a nutshell

The grand gardens of Stowe were created by Lord Cobham, a highly influential eighteenth century aristocrat and politician



In its late eighteenth century heyday, Stowe was considered the most magnificent landscape garden in Europe. The Temple family, who owned Stowe, spent a fortune creating and extending the garden to further their political ambitions.

With the help of some of the most talented architects and garden designers of their time they created a garden on the grandest scale.

Visiting the House

You can visit the magnificent state rooms regularly throughout the year. Pick up a leaflet at New Inn for opening times or visit www.stowehouse.org. Stowe House is managed by Stowe House Preservation Trust and is home to Stowe School.

Time for tea and treats

Our café and shop close at 6pm, March to October and at 4pm the rest of the year. Don't forget to leave enough time to return from the gardens.

Restoring Stowe

Help us restore the monuments in the garden, buy a raffle ticket or drop a donation into a tin.

The National Trust is an independent charity. All profits from our gift shop and café go towards the upkeep and restoration of the gardens and New Inn.

Thank you for your support.

Finding out more

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National Trust Stowe



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