

HELIGAN

Access Guide

2010

This information is available in three formats:

1. As an A4 booklet, for sale at £2.50 per copy
2. As an A4 laminated, all weather resource, to loan for use on your visit. A £5.00 returnable deposit is requested.
3. On a CD, which can be borrowed for downloading onto your computer at home.

All versions are available from our Visitor Reception.
It can also be downloaded from our website.

For More Information Contact:

**The Lost Gardens of Heligan,
Pentewan, St Austell, Cornwall, PL26 6EN**
Telephone/Textphone: (01726) 845100 Fax: (01726) 845101
Website: www.heligan.com E-mail: info@heligan.com

HELIGAN

Access Guide 2010

Contents

1) Information for Visitors with Disabilities

2) Resources for Visitors with Disabilities

3) Heligan Path Guide 2010

This guide divides the gardens into 33 sections and gives descriptive and statistical data about path surfaces, gradients and slopes. Information about rest places is also included. The coloured page corners correspond to the coloured areas on the two maps provided at the back of this section.

4) Guided Tour for Visually Impaired Visitors

A suggested sensory tour for visitors, with historical information and evocative descriptions of the surrounding environment. Includes route map.

5) Wheelchair Access Map

The Lost Gardens of Heligan

Information for Visitors with Disabilities

All large print information is printed on yellow paper, in ariel font with a minimum size of 14pt.

Heligan Leaflet

- in large print, audio (cd & cassette) and Braille

Site Map

- in large print

Wheelchair Access Map

- in large print

Access Guide

- on disc in advance, to plan your visit from your computer at home
- as a booklet for sale at £2.50
- as a returnable matt laminated booklet, to use during your visit, available for a £5.00 returnable deposit
- downloadable from our website www.heligan.com

Heligan Handbook – £2.50, both formats in English only

- large print and audio (cd and cassette)

The Conservatory

This building close to our Visitor Reception, offers an Alternative Visitor Experience of Heligan, enabling some of our visitors to see parts of the gardens that may otherwise be out of reach to them.

The conservatory continuously displays a short film of the more inaccessible areas of Heligan.

Follow signs for our “Armchair Tour.”

The Lost Gardens of Heligan

Resources for Visitors with Disabilities

Disabled Toilets

These facilities feature:

- disabled toilet alarms
- tactile signage
- lever style taps
- improved colour contrasting to assist people with visual impairments
- colostomy shelves
- improved layout for ease of movement
- left and right hand transfer toilets

Our facilities are based at the entrance, close to our parking for disabled visitors, but we also have a disabled toilet available within the gardens in a block adjacent to the Steward's House.

Specialised cutlery

We have two sets of specialised cutlery available for use at our main Tearoom. One set is weighted and the other set is shaped for ease of use. Please enquire in the Tearoom if you would find these helpful.

The Lost Gardens of Heligan

Resources for Hearing Impaired People

Induction Loops

- at service counters in our Visitor Reception, Ticket Office, Heligan Shop, and Stewards House Tearoom
- portable system available for use by our tour guides

An inductive coupler is fitted in the public phone box at the entrance and a textphone is available in our Visitor Reception

Resources for Visually Impaired People

Magnifier sheets at all counters

Signature strips at retail points to assist signing cheques

Large print information is available from our Visitor Reception

Our staff will be pleased to provide assistance. Just ask.

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Covered Area, Ticket Office, Western Ride (North) up to Beacon Path
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust, some loose stones, may be grooved in wet conditions, puddles
Width	Narrowest point 2.20m and widest point 3.15m
Restrictions & features	<p>40m to Ticket Office After 53m tarmac road crossing Stop for traffic After 75m crossroads, as you turn left rhododendron reaching into path by 1.50m After 82m camellia overhanging path at 1.50m height After 89m-91m vegetation overhanging path from left and right at 1.60m height and 1.40m into path</p>
Gradients	Mostly level, 1:15 at entrance to garden
Cross slopes	<p>1:60 on path to Ticket Office 1:14 on road crossing 1:30 on Western Ride pathway</p>
Rest places	After 115m opposite junction with Beacon Path

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Beacon Path, starting at top of Western Ride
Ground surface & weather effects	Compact, uneven soil with roots and loose stones, grooves in rain
Width	Narrowest point 1.10m, widest point 2.50m
Restrictions & features	<p>After 1m turning, tree trunk on left hand side overhanging path at 0.50m from ground level</p> <p>After 52m left hand turn off to Ram pumps</p> <p>Stop for traffic</p> <p>Cross uneven Works road with rough surface and loose stones, gate width 1.33m</p> <p>After 88m roots protruding from ground, rhododendron overhanging on left at 1.90m height</p> <p>After 130m rhododendron growing diagonally over path from left (0.50m) to right (2m)</p> <p>After 138-141m tree roots protruding on right and left of path (narrowest point of path)</p> <p>After 151m rhododendron branch protruding from left at 1.60m height</p> <p>After 172m rhododendron branch protruding from left at 1.90m height</p> <p>After 176m rhododendron branch protruding from left at 1.80m height</p> <p>After 201m turn left towards viewing point for wheelchair users: after 6m root reaching 0.30m into path, after 8m gate 1.50m wide</p> <p>After 206m gate into Northern Summerhouse 2.20m wide</p>
Gradients	Mostly level, 1:60 places and 1:30 around Magnolia campbellii

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Cross Slopes	Fairly level, between 1:12 and 1:5 in places
Rest places	After 33m-50m around Dovecote lawn

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Northern Summerhouse to Eastern Ride
Note	Beware unprotected pool
Ground surface & weather effects	Cobbled stone path, slate paving, after 14.93m compacted gravel-dust
Width	Narrowest point 2.15m, widest point 2.20m
Restrictions & features	<p>After 9m entrance to Northern Summerhouse on right, entrance width 1.55m Step 0.07m high at entrance to Summerhouse (On the left-hand side step 0.12m high onto slate paving with unprotected pool) After 16m cobbled drain running along left side of path, 0.40m in width After 22m join Eastern Ride, cobbled drain of 0.40m width crossing path</p>
Gradients	Level
Cross slopes	Level
Rest places	After 9m, sheltered seating in the Summerhouse

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Path from Northern Summerhouse to top entrance to Ravine
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust, grooves
Width	Uniform width 2.20m
Restrictions & features	0-20m cobbled drain on right 0.40m in width After 19m deep groove running diagonally across path After 20m-29m camellia protruding from right at 2m height From 40m-97m Flora's Green on right (optional grass surface) After 97m entrance into Vegetable Garden on left After 136m entrance into Ravine on left
Gradients	Mostly level, 1:30 in places
Cross slopes	1:20 to 1:10 in places
Rest places	Around Flora's Green lawn about 50m + from Northern Summerhouse

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Vegetable Garden, starting from North
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust, some loose stones
Layout	Four sections for growing crops each surrounded by paths Central path North/South 59m, central path East/West 71m Perimeter path - Top East/West 86m, eastern side North/South 84m Bottom path East/West 54m, western side North/South 59.6m
Width	Narrowest point 1.75m, widest point 2.10m
Restrictions & features	0-59m Apple Arch along central path at 2m height in centre, protruding side branches at lower levels
Gradients	1:25 throughout from North to South
Cross slopes	1:25 throughout
Rest places	Plenty of seats right and left of top (North) entrance

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Melon Yard, entering from the Vegetable Garden
Note	Visitors are welcome to explore the historic working buildings but steps into Thunderbox Room prevent access for wheelchair users. There is no public access into the Melon House
Ground surface & weather effects	Compact chippings, some loose stones, uneven in places, puddles, Cobbled under lean-to equipment shed
Layout	Walled garden with original working buildings on north-facing and east-facing walls. Path network around freestanding frames, pits and glasshouses 25m from North to South Approximately 43m from East to West
Width	Narrowest point 1.7m, widest point not applicable
Restrictions & features	-At top (North) entrance – gate 1.63m width After 9m from gate, through centre, two protruding steps from Pineapple Pit on left, 0.9m into path (2.70m remaining width) After 16m from gate, through centre, below Pineapple Pit, side wall of Pit on left reaching 2.65m into walking area – height 0.3m – 0.1m After 19m from gate, on right, cobbled drains crossing path diagonally, 0.4m wide After 25m from northern entrance gate, exit lower gate 2.20m wide -Low propagation pit in front of Pineapple Pit, 6.5m long by 2m wide and 0.68m high, glazed lights occasionally protrude from back up to 0.6m -3 low propagation frames on right hand side of main path, behind raised border (8.4m long by 1m wide and between 0.2m & 0.43m in height)

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

	<p>1st frame: 14.5m long by 1.85m wide & 1.29m in height, 2nd frame: 14.5m long by 1.85m wide & 0.89m in height, 3rd frame: 6.5m long by 1.85m wide & 0.74m high. Glazed lights occasionally protrude up to 1m into visitor route</p> <p>-Thunderbox Room: entrance doorway 0.95m wide and 1.50m high; narrowest point inside 0.75m; five steps at 0.05m, 0.28m, 0.26m, 0.25m & 0.13m in height</p> <p>-Dark House: both doorways 0.95m wide, height 1.46m. Right hand doorway has step down, height 0.7m & width 1.05m. Left hand doorway has step down, 0.4m in height and 1.05m wide. There is no lighting in here as the darkness is used to force the crops</p> <p>-Fruit Store above Dark House: up one flight of five steps then turn right up one more step before door. Starting at the bottom, 1st step 0.16m high, width 0.89m, 2nd step 0.15m high, width (as all following) 0.84m, 3rd step 0.18m high, 4th step 0.20m high, 5th step 0.23m high and 6th step 0.23m high by 1.10m in width. Height of doorway 2.04m, width 0.98m.</p> <p>Further steps inside with very low roof</p> <p>-Potting Shed: access under low roof 1.75m high, across cobbled floor. Doorway height 1.93m, width 0.67m, brick floor inside, this is a working building with tools and equipment in use</p> <p>-Tool Shed: doorway 1.61m high and 0.8m wide. Old tools displayed on bench, floor and around walls, please take care. Small water trough on corner outside shed</p>
Gradients	1:10 at top (North) gate, 1:45 from North to South
Cross slopes	1:20 to 1:8 in places, 1:4 under the lean-to

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Rest Places	Perch on wall right and left of northern gateway at 0.75m height, sheltered bench under lean-to 29m from gate

Area	Southern gate of Melon Yard to Western Ride, passing entrance to Italian Garden
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust
Width	Narrowest point 2m, widest 2.3m
Restrictions & features	Turning right out of gateway After 22m path joins from right (entrance to Italian Garden) After 41m join Western Ride
Gradients	Level
Cross slopes	Level
Rest places	22m from gateway, seat on left-hand side

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Italian Garden (starting from the South, outside gateway in hedge)
Note	Beware unprotected pool * Access for wheelchair users into the Italian Garden is from the North only, via Western Ride/lower Ravine.
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust approach path, uneven paving around pool Grassy area and slate floor in the summerhouse
Width	Narrowest point 1m, widest point 1.20m
Restrictions & features	After 7m 3 steps, 0.13m, 0.20m and 0.13m high After 11m paving divides in around pool After 23m step, 0.20m high After 26m step into Summerhouse, 0.15m high * After 54m join Western Ride or lower Ravine
Gradients	Between 1:60 to 1:20
Cross slopes	Level
Rest places	After 27m outside and inside summerhouse

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Ravine running from behind Italian Garden Summerhouse to Western Ride (North)
Note	Regret no access through original Ravine for wheelchair users - see next section for viewing point
Ground surface & weather effects	Rough, uneven stone paving, lots of puddles! Uneven edges
Width	Narrowest point 0.75m, widest point 1.20m
Restrictions & features	After 5m camellia protruding from right After 18m rhododendron protruding at 1.70m height from left After 21m short paved route to left links with Western Ride (exit for wheelchair users) After 32m vegetation protruding 0.42m into path from left After 42m small pool on right After 97m Ravine joins main path, turn left After 113m join Western Ride, turn left
Gradients	From level to 1:12
Cross slopes	Very uneven throughout
Rest places	None

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Western Ride to Triangular Island in path, marking start of Sikkim
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust, very few loose stones, severe grooves can occur after heavy rain
Width	2.35m throughout
Restrictions & features	<p>From 8m onwards cobbled drain on right, 0.50m wide</p> <p>After 8m rhododendron protruding from left at 1.50m height</p> <p>After 12m camellia protruding from right at 1.30m height</p> <p>After 16m rhododendron protruding from left at 1.50m height</p> <p>After 21m camellia arching over path at 1.80m height</p> <p>After 23m detour on left to Ravine Look-out (narrowest point 1m)</p> <p>After 27m & 28m myrtle reaching 0.70m into path from left</p> <p>After 49m rhododendron trunk from right, at 1.50m height</p> <p>After 58m to 60m rhododendron from left, at 1.40m height</p> <p>After 70m rhododendron reaching over path, at 1.95m height</p> <p>After 85m solid rhododendron branch from right, at 2m height</p> <p>After 151m Triangular Island in middle of path</p>
Gradient	1:20
Cross slopes	1:30 to 1:12 in most places, 1:8 in one area.

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Rest places	After 152m seats at Triangle

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Sikkim, starting from Triangle heading South (straight on) and West (turn right)
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust, uneven or slightly loose in places
Layout	Network of paths through untamed historic shrubs in condition as discovered
Width	Narrowest point 1m, widest point 1.80m
Restrictions & features	Rhododendron branches reaching over paths in many places, the lowest at 1.10m Cobbled drain alongside entire main path, 0.40m wide crossing path at 47m from Triangle After 20m from Triangle turn off right, side path looping back onto Western Ride after further 64m Main path around Sikkim 127m, returning alongside wall of Flower Garden
Gradients	Varying from 1:30 to 1:12
Cross slopes	1:12 to 1:7
Rest places	Seating at the Triangle

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	From Triangle, past Pencalenick Greenhouse to Northern entrance into Flower Garden
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust, loose in places
Width	2.40m throughout
Restrictions & features	<p>After 25m rhododendron crossing path from right to left at 1.80m height at centre of path</p> <p>After 26m rhododendron protruding from left, 1.70m width remaining</p> <p>After 49m right-hand turn off to Flower Garden, rhododendron protruding from right at 1.45m height</p> <p>After 60m doorway, 1.12m wide into Flower Garden</p> <p>After 68m Head Gardener's Office, rhododendron branch reaching over path at 1.40m height</p> <p>Doorway to Head Gardener's Office 1m wide, 1.78m high. Width inside building from 1.17m to 1.98m wide.</p>
Gradients	1:15
Cross slopes	Level to 1:10 in one place
Rest places	Seating at Triangle and after 17m

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Flower Garden
Note	The glasshouses are not accessible to the public Unprotected pool at centre focus of path system
Ground surface & weather effects	Brick path through centre and brick terrace in front of glasshouses on right Compact gravel-dust, few loose pebbles around flower beds, puddles & grooves can form on paths
Width	Central path 2.35m, right hand terrace: 3m; left hand route (East): 1.60m, 1.10m
Layout	Trapezoid shaped walled garden with perimeter path all round & unprotected pool in middle of central path
Restrictions & features	<p>Entrance doorway in north wall 1.10m wide</p> <p>1) –Path through centre: after 2m Victorian style cast iron drain cover reaching 1m across path After 15m unprotected Dipping Pool ahead (approximately 0.92m deep) with encircling path After 39m southern gateway, 2.35m wide, into Sundial Garden, Wisteria reaching over path 1.50m height</p> <p>2) –Right hand route: tubs of citrus trees along left side of terrace (during main season) After 18m 3 steps each 0.12m high After 25m 1 step 0.12m high, then turn left After 45m turn off left to walk between flower beds (narrows to 1.10m and reaches pool after 26m) After 90m southern gateway on right leads to Sundial Garden</p> <p>3) –Left hand path: after 26m turn off right in front of Peach House (path narrows to 1.10m) 26m to 52m open vents of Peach House obstruct path at 0.33m to 0.45m height</p>

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

	After 52m turn right, hedge reaching into path by 0.35m After 92m, southern gateway into Sundial Garden
Gradients	1:15 from North to South
Cross slopes	Mostly level, 1:30 in a few places 1:7 outside the side gate (near Peach House)
Rest places	Turning right from main doorway in north wall; after 6m to 24m and 45m

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Temporary Gate from Sikkim through Pet's Graveyard to Sundial Garden
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust, grooves, puddles and loose stones
Width	Narrowest point 1.40m, widest point 2.10m
Restrictions & features	After 25m path narrows, hydrangeas overhanging from both sides After 44m opening in Yew hedge at junction with brick path in Sundial Garden
Gradients	Mostly 1:30, 1:10 in one section
Cross slopes	Level to 1:12
Rest places	None

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Sundial Garden
Ground surface & weather effects	All paths brick, lawn in centre with raised circular cobbled approach
Width	Entrance path 2.35m, raised border path 0.6m
Restrictions & features	<p>After 13m main brick entrance path terminates (the whole garden can be viewed from this point)</p> <p>After 7m one step up on left across cobbles leading onto narrow circular path beside borders, herbaceous plants reaching over path all along</p> <p>After 54m turn off left towards Poultry Yard under <i>Davidia involucrata</i>, branches protruding over path at 1.65m height</p> <p>After 67m <i>Davidia</i> branches reaching over path at 1.80m height</p> <p>After 68m gate to Poultry Yard, gate is 1.10m wide</p>
Gradients	1:9
Cross slopes	Level
Rest places	After 21m from gate, 37m and 48m

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Poultry Yard and Reserve Garden
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust, very wet at times
Width	Narrowest point 0.70m, widest point 2.80m
Restrictions & features	After gate from Sundial Garden, 2 steps down; one 0.20m high, the other 0.10m high After 18m gate into Reserve Garden, 0.70m wide After 19m 2 steps up, each 0.18m high
Gradients	Level
Cross slopes	Level
Rest places	None

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Beebole Path to south-eastern exit from Northern Gardens (turning left out of lower Melon Yard)
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust, a few loose stones, grooves Cobbled drain on right side all along path
Width	2.15m throughout
Restrictions & features	After 0.30m from Melon Yard gate, small round decorative cast iron manhole cover After 34m at crossroads manhole cover 0.60 x 0.60m, turn left After 64m leave Northern Gardens
Gradients	1:9
Cross slopes	1:12 in one place
Rest places	None

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Eastern Ride starting from the bottom (South), including Crystal Grotto, Wishing Well and New Zealand Garden
Note	We regret no through route for wheelchair users in New Zealand, although the new path at <u>northern</u> end is 1.2m wide with a turning space. No access for wheelchair users to the original Victorian Wishing Well and Crystal Grotto.
Ground surface & weather effects	Compact gravel-dust, cobbled drain along right-hand edge of main path. Narrow meandering side paths; to the left, New Zealand Garden surfaced throughout with woodchippings, to the right Wishing Well and Crystal Grotto with stones and uneven ground, path prone to flooding
Width	Centre path: narrowest point 1.70m, widest point 2.50m Left side path: Narrowest point 0.80m, widest point 1.2m Right side path: Narrowest point 0.30m, widest point 0.80m.
Restrictions & features	-Centre path: after 2m tree ferns and rhododendrons hanging over path at various heights After 4m drain cover on left After 13m to 15m rhododendrons and tree ferns overhanging path After 54m to 67m azaleas encroaching path from left After 87m camellias from left After 100m path from Northern Summerhouse links on right -Left side path (New Zealand Garden): path edged with rough stone & encroached by grasses and ferns throughout at various heights

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

	<p>-Right side path: after 6m from turn off there is an unprotected pool at ground level, the Wishing Well, leaving 0.50m width of damp path</p> <p>After 20m 3 uneven steps up on left returning to Eastern Ride</p> <p>After 24m entrance on right into Grotto 0.30m wide, 1 uneven step to go in, headroom of 1.85m</p> <p>After 24m 10 uneven steps beyond the Grotto</p> <p>After 42m junction with Eastern Ride</p>
Gradients	1:30 & 1:12 in places
Cross slopes	Main path mostly level, 1:12 in one place Side paths 1:12 to 1:7 in one place
Rest places	Seating on left side of path 32m from start, sheltered seating in New Zealand Hut (0.38m high) 55m from start

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Exit Northern Gardens to Hide Park Corner
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust, loose stones, deep grooves
o	
Width	Narrowest point 3.10m, widest point 4m
Restrictions & features	After 30m gate onto Orchard Walk, 3.10m wide After 160m before reaching Hide Park Corner, deep wide groove running into roundabout on left side
Gradients	Between 1:20 and 1:15
Cross slopes	Mostly level, 1:6 around base of nearby beech tree at start
Rest places	After 160m at Hide Park Corner

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Steward's House Garden (including disabled toilet), starting from Hide Park Corner
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust, solid surface, concrete around toilet entrance
Width	2.35m throughout
Restrictions & features	-After 56m path to toilet facilities After 69m entrance to disabled toilet (door 1m wide) -After 61m entrance to Steward's House, concrete ramp or two steps, each at 0.2m height After 150m join Orchard Walk
Gradient	Ramp into Steward's House 1:25, Varies from 1:12 to 1:8; path to toilets 1:7 for 2m
Cross slopes	Level
Rest places	After 50m-60m & 95m In the summer the tea garden has numerous picnic tables

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Hide Park Corner to Horsemoor Hide
Ground surface & weather effects	Compact soil, loose stones, gravel after turn off to Hide, wooden ramp into Hide covered with wire mesh, carpet floor in Hide
Width	Narrowest point 2.50m, widest point 3.70m
Restrictions & features	After 48m turn off to Hide After 106m entrance to Hide, 1.60m wide Ramp into Hide 7m long Displays in Hide between 0.7m and 0.9m high
Gradients	Until right turning to Hide 1:30, after turning 1:10 and 1:15 in places Ramp at Hide entrance 1:10
Cross slopes	1:15 in places
Rest places	At Hide Park Corner, after 37m & at Hide.

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Hide Park Corner to Jungle
Note	Not recommended for wheelchair users
Ground surface & weather effects	Compact and loose soil, loose stones, deep grooves in places, puddles, gravel
Width	Narrowest point 2m, widest point 2.35m
Restrictions & features	After 14m kissing gate 0.9m wide, in use when field is grazed After 138m kissing gate 0.9m wide After 281m path forks, one leading to Eastern Flank (left side of Jungle) & one straight on to Top Lake and western side of Jungle
Gradients	Level to 1:6 (very steep)
Cross slopes	Gravel paths mostly level, up to 1:6 in places
Rest places	After 84m, 107m, 125m, 176m & 191m

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Woodland Walk, West Lawn to top of Jungle, starting at ticket office
Note	Access for wheelchair users along Woodland Walk to top of West Lawn only
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust, wood chippings, West Lawn - small area of compact soil at start then gravel chippings, uneven ground, grooves
Width	1.70m
Restrictions & features	After 114m rhododendron branch at 1.75m height After 460m gravel-dust path merges with soil path, can be muddy! After 628m join Jungle
Gradients	Between 1:60 to 1:10 Last 20m of West Lawn 1:7
Cross slopes	1:6 behind ticket office Between 1:12 to 1:6
Rest places	After 33m, 239m, 357m, 365m, 460m, 505m & 628m.

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Jungle
Note	Not recommended for wheelchair users
Ground surface & weather effects	<p>The Jungle lies in a valley with lakes at the bottom and a network of paths on either flank</p> <p>Wooden boardwalk covered with wire mesh all over, handrails in many places</p> <p>Compact soil and gravel, roots protruding</p> <p>No pushchairs, there is a parking area for them at the top of the West flank</p>
Width	Boardwalk 1.20m and soil path 1.60m
Restrictions & features	<p>Walking distance from upper to lower end 322m on Western side and 284m on Eastern side</p> <p>16 steps to get to boardwalk on Western side and 19 steps on Eastern side (it is possible to access the path network without using steps)</p> <p>Throughout whole path network, branches and plants protruding from either side</p>
Gradient	From 1:12 to 1:4.5
Cross slopes	<p>Level on boardwalk</p> <p>Level on soil paths, 1:12 to 1:7 in some places</p>
Rest places	<p>On Western side, after 11m, 19m, 193m, 257m & 287m</p> <p>On Eastern side, after 38m, 162m, 181m, 207m & 250m</p>

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Horsemoor Hide to bottom of Horsemoor Field
Note	Not recommended for wheelchair users
Ground surface & weather effects	Grass, very muddy
Width	N/A
Restrictions & features	Kissing gate at start, 1m wide After 55m kissing gate, 1.25m wide After 226m kissing gate, 0.90m wide After 248m join Georgian Ride
Gradients	Between 1:12 and 1:7 (quite steep)
Cross slopes	Mostly level, in places 1:12 to 1:8
Rest places	After 82m, 113m & 157m

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Georgian Ride starting at bottom of Horsemoor and running South
Note	Not recommended for wheelchair users
Ground surface & weather effects	Compacted gravel-dust, compact soil, loose stones, mud, clay, water, wood debris
Width	Narrowest point 1.90m, widest point 2.90m
Restrictions & features	After 696m stream crossing path, stepping stones After 865m join Butler's Path
Gradients	Between 1:30 along bottom of valley, and 1:10
Cross slopes	1:12 to 1:8
Rest places	After 171m, 289m, 381m, 655m, 763m & 864m,

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Sunken Lane, starting at bottom
Note	Not recommended for wheelchair users
Ground surface & weather effects	Compact sand/soil, deep grooves, loose stones, wood debris
Width	3m
Restrictions & features	After 242m pass right-hand turning into Steward's Meadow After 270m junction with Bottle Dump Hill After 330m junction with Diagonal Path After 416m reach Orchard Walk and Steward's House Garden
Gradients	Between 1:20 and 1:5 (very steep)
Cross slopes	Mostly level, 1:8 in places
Rest places	After 149m from bottom end

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Bottle Dump Hill starting at bottom
Note	Not recommended for wheelchair users
Ground surface & weather effects	Compact soil, loose stones, wood debris, mud, clay
Width	3m
Restrictions & features	No restrictions, the length of the path is 166m
Gradients	1:7, 1:6
Cross slopes	Level, 1:12, 1:4 (very steep)
Rest places	From bottom end after 34m, 98m, 114m & 151m

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Diagonal Path, starting from bottom
Note	Not recommended for wheelchair users
Ground surface & weather effects	Compact soil, lots of roots, stones, wood debris, deep grooves
Width	2m at the top, 0.90m at lower end
Restrictions & features	Whole length 260m
Gradients	Between 1:12 to 1:5 (very steep)
Cross slopes	Between 1:7 to 1:3
Rest places	From the bottom of path, after 53m, 91m, 137m, 184m, 219m & 251m

Heligan path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Steward's Meadow
Note	Not recommended for wheelchair users
Ground surface & weather effects	Grass, mud, sheep poo!
Width	N/A
Restrictions & features	Whole area approximately 1.95 hectares Access into this meadow is via a number of kissing gates from all directions, each 0.90m wide. Every kissing gate has an associated field gate except for the kissing gate next to Horsemoor Hide
Gradients	1:9 to 1:7
Cross slopes	Uneven grass
Rest places	No rest places

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Butler's Path, starting from bottom
Note	Not recommended for wheelchair users
Ground surface & weather effects	Compact soil, stones, roots, mud and wood debris
Width	Narrowest point 1m, widest point 1.40m
Restrictions & features	After 187m turn off onto 6 timber steps on right to join Jungle boardwalk After 269m narrow path on right to boardwalk After 296m turn off to right onto boardwalk After 449m reach top of Jungle
Gradients	Level, 1:20 to 1:12
Cross slopes	Level, 1:12, 1:11
Rest places	After 45m, 55m, 129m, 293m, 313m, 430m & 438m

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Farm Walk, starting at bottom of Horsemoor and across stream towards the fields
Note	Not recommended for wheelchair users
Ground surface & weather effects	These paths run along the perimeter of pastureland Compact soil, protruding roots, loose stones, mud!!! large puddles, ruts and grooves, grass
Width	Narrowest point 1.20m, widest point 1.30m
Restrictions & features	After 370m gate at junction with Eastern Drive (turn right then straight again and then almost immediately left) After 569m bridge on right, linking to Georgian Ride, 5 steps onto bridge between 0.15cm and 0.25cm high; bridge 1.05m wide After 672m dam on right between lakes, linking up with Georgian Ride (short stretch of 1:6 gradient) After 772m, 84 steps up Tregassick, each 0.10m high After 828m kissing gate at top of steps, 0.83m wide After 908m top of field, turn left After 1248m kissing gate linking to Eastern Drive, 0.75m wide
Gradients	Between 1:20 and 1:6 (some parts very steep)
Cross slopes	Very muddy and uneven all over
Rest places	After 26m, 153m, 194m, 261m, 357m, 404m, 518m, 525m, 667m, 851m, 943m, 973m, 1067m, 1174m & 1211m

Heligan Path Audit – Spring 2006

Area	Eastern Drive, starting from bottom
Note	Not recommended for wheelchair users
Ground surface & weather effects	Compact soil, grooves and ruts, mud, stones, wood debris and running water
Width	1.70m throughout
Restrictions & features	After 165m reach top of Eastern Drive
Gradients	1:4 throughout (very steep)
Cross slopes	Very uneven all over
Rest places	After 102m, 134m & 165m

The Lost Gardens of Heligan

Guide Notes For Visually Impaired Visitors

- A.** As you entered through the covered area, you may well have enjoyed the smell of freshly baked bread and other such aromas, promising a delicious lunch later when you have enjoyed a walk around the gardens! You may also have heard the birds, Chaffinches and Robins, chirping as they search for titbits among the picnic tables, or the Rooks cawing to one another high up in the treetops near the entrance.
- B.** Beyond the ticket office, you will notice the sandy path change to a tarmac surface, that of the Long Drive to Heligan House. This drive was constructed in the early 19th century and lined with the delicate trees, *Cornus capitata* – then recently introduced to this country. A number were replanted soon after the restoration began and are doing well. They have small, simple cream flowers in June, and later, inedible fruits not dissimilar to strawberries. You can feel the fine stems and narrow leaves of a decorative bamboo that also grows here. Please beware of traffic as you cross the private road.

- C.** On entering the garden take the sandy path to the left. Feel the tough leaves of the evergreen fern *Blechnum magellanicum* that enjoys the semi-shade here. Carefully follow the path between some ancient camellia and rhododendron bushes, which overhang the route. Some of the original plants are around 150 years old! Feel the glossy dark green rounded leaves of the camellias and compare them with the longer smoother leaves of the rhododendrons. Cherry laurel also grows here; it was originally planted as a hedge, to help protect the Northern Gardens from our salt laden winds. During the 70 years of gradual decline following the First World War, the hedge grew wild to approximately 30 feet in height; and also, by layering, grew out into the garden for 20 to 30 feet in places! Near the big green gate grows a *Rhododendron grande* with huge, tough, silver backed leaves, in a drooping habit.
- D.** Follow the path round to the right, past the trunks of large rhododendrons, possibly 100 years old, and on your right you will find a *Sequoia sempervirens*, or Coastal redwood, with its strange fibrous spongy bark, a very vigorous conifer. One specimen – the tallest tree in the world – has reached 112 metres (375 ft).
- E.** Leaving the gardens for a moment, turn left, crossing the Works Road carefully, you will find the brick built Reservoir, used to serve most of the water needs of the garden and

house in the early 20th century. Restored and roofed over, it is now once again in use, filled by Ram pumps that drive water from neighbouring farmland and supplying water to original water features in the garden, most noticeably in the Ravine. An exhibition of various Ram pumps, loaned to us from Green and Carter, is on display here, and you may be able to feel some of their shapes and designs.

- F.** Rejoining the path, follow it as it meanders between the rhododendrons within the old overgrown laurel hedge that borders the most northerly part of the garden. You will be able to hear any traffic on the road to the north of us. It is a very shady, often cold, area here and you may hear the wind in the treetops above us. Lying next to the path is a length of old tree trunk, one of the Holm oaks, *Quercus ilex*, that once formed part the shelter-belt of the Northern Gardens. Many of these ancient trees were lost in the hurricane of 1990. This trunk has been left, not only as extra seating for the weary, but also as the perfect habitat for wildlife, insects and toads etc. Further on you will find another of these giants that fell across the path during the storm. By feeling the cut section of it, you can gauge its original size. Opposite grows a stand of fine stemmed, narrow leafed bamboo *Arundinaria nitida* from China.
- G.** Just before you reach the Northern Summerhouse you will come upon a left hand fork in the path, leading to a small

gateway that used to open to the field beyond. You can feel the old stone and the original worn granite gate posts, though the old gate has gone. A stately oak (possibly over 200 years old) is growing here, and you can run your hands over the thick layer of moss that covers the trunk, and gauge its size and age.

- H.** As you enter the small, enclosed garden of the Northern Summerhouse you will feel the path surface change from sand to cobbles, and then again to smooth stone as you step up onto the slate slabs that surround the pool on the left. You may hear the splash of water from the fountain. The hedge here is of *Griselinia littoralis* and you can feel the tough smooth rounded leaves, well built to withstand the salt laden gales that we get here. Ideal for shelter hedging. Indeed if there is an east wind blowing, this is where you will feel it! The land outside the hedge slopes away from here to the sea, just over a mile away at Pentewan, and there is nothing to stop the easterlies roaring in from across St Austell Bay! You may well hear the wind in the tops of the ancient oaks around here. The Northern Summerhouse itself was built here to enjoy the view across the bay. Rebuilt the brick pillars support plants – beware the rose thorns! The bench seat inside has been rebuilt, and again gives welcome shelter, or shade on a hot summer's day. A delightful place to sit and dream. Lean down and you can feel the design of brick and cobbles that make up the original

floor. On leaving this garden you can feel the new stone pillars that support the second set of wrought iron gates that enclose it. These are not original to the garden, but are in keeping with the Victorian era.

- I. Once again you are now on a coarse sandy path, and you will note a cobbled gully running across it. This is part of a drainage system that collects rainwater from the whole of the Northern Gardens to feed the pool in the Flower Garden for watering the crops there. There is a beautiful *Podocarpus salignus*, a tree with long linear dark green leaves, on the far side of the path. Follow the Eastern Ride down to “New Zealand”, so called as the plants here come from that part of the world. Just beyond the second little path to the left is another interesting plant, *Cordyline indivisa*, and again you can feel the size of the leaves as it is putting out a shoot at its base. Original tree ferns, *Dicksonia antarctica*, in this area grow very near to the path, and so one can easily feel their unusual shape and the texture of their leaves and “trunks”.

- J. The Bee Boles are a fascinating structure, built to protect the skeps in which the bees were kept up until the mid-19th century, when modern beehives were invented. Feel how the skeps were made by winding barley straw round and round, held in place with twine or split cane. Bees die if they get too wet and cold, so the wooden shutters could be closed down in foul weather for extra protection; the bees

still being able to come and go through the slit at the bottom that you can also feel.

- K.** Through an old gateway you will find the Melon Yard, a walled garden, housing a number of working buildings and glasshouses. The heart of the Northern Gardens, a focus of activity, and plenty for you to explore. Please do mind your head when entering the Tool Shed: all the buildings have the original low door lintels. The smooth brick floor was re-laid, and there are some interesting Victorian tools here to inspect; some found under the debris during the restoration, and others have been added to the collection since. The old stone trough round the corner even had a tree growing in it. Now it is back in use, the granite worn with age. Try the scent of the varying types of mint that grow here. You will notice the cobbled floor of the Equipment Store (again mind your head!). John Nelson used cobbles from the beach of our neighbouring estate, Caerhays, to completely re-lay this floor. Feel the size of the large granite posts that support the roof. You will find large items stored here, such as the wheelbarrow and a long ladder. The Equipment Store leads into the Potting Shed. A delightful spot, musty, smelling of compost and evocative of ages past. You will notice the smooth brick floor (as in the Tool Shed). Feel the terracotta pots sorted into sizes and shapes, each for a specific purpose, such as growing orchids. Tools hang in orderly fashion on the wall, long handled types as used in Victorian

times, and still used here today. Back out into the sunshine, explore further. If the door to the Dark Room is ajar, you might be able to breathe the appetizing smell of fresh mushrooms growing there. Round behind the Melon House, a variety of herbs can be found (marjoram, fennel, feverfew, sage and rosemary...) Rub the leaves to enjoy their distinctive scents! You can make out the shape of the old square Victorian cloches that are used in this area. The Pineapple Pit, restored by John Nelson in 1993, is an interesting structure. You can feel the wooden covers of the two long trenches that run the entire length, both front and back of the central glass-covered growing chamber. You may catch the smell of the fresh horse manure with which they are filled, fifteen tons of it! As it rots down, enough heat is created to significantly raise the temperature of the central chamber, enabling pineapples to be grown here.

- L. Wander up into the Vegetable Garden, where you will hear the sound of hard work! Gardeners digging and raking, or leaning on their shovels, enjoying a good chat with the visitors! You may also hear the noisy rooks again, in the surrounding treetops. The scents vary with the time of year – maybe the brassicas are well grown, or maybe Mike has just fetched another trailer load of seaweed from the nearby beach to be spread as mulch – excellent fertiliser! Or the wallflowers and sweet-Williams that border the central path each spring may be in bloom. Proceed slowly down this

path and reach out for the metal arches, which run over its entire length, supporting a collection of new apple trees, which have already grown to create a tunnel effect from top to bottom. Other evocative shapes are the lovely old terracotta sea kale and rhubarb pots, both used for forcing an early crop. The sea-kale pots are slightly shorter, more rounded in body, than the straight-sided rhubarb pots (which are more like chimney pots with lids).

- M.** Leaving the Vegetable Garden through the green gates in the thick hedge of *Thuja plicata*, you may catch the scent of freshly mown grass as you arrive on Flora's Green. This large lawn is bordered by magnificent rhododendrons, mainly "Cornish Red", with their smooth green leaves, a perfect spot to rest and soak up the summer sun, and listen to the birds.

- N.** From Flora's Green, make your way down the Western Ride, between the tall overhanging rhododendrons and large camellias. The big storm of 1990 destroyed almost all Heligan's western shelter-belt, leaving this area very susceptible to the fierce westerly gales. For this reason many of the ancient rhododendrons here have fallen over, their branches propped and their shallow roots exposed, yet they still survive and bloom for us. A detour to the left runs through the Ravine, a rocky and very uneven stone path, (originally designed to be reminiscent of the Alps). Here you

can hear water, fed from the Reservoir, trickling down the rocks into a small pool below.

- O.** At the bottom of the Ravine you can continue on a stone paved route, which will bring you to the Italian Garden, designed by John Claude Tremayne in 1900. Sit for a while in the cool of the summerhouse, with its floor of large smooth slates, and brick pillars that support the roof. Listen to the fountain splashing in the pond, and those rocks once more. In the spring you may catch the scent of the flowering bulbs, or in the summer the geraniums. In the winter the old camellias to the side and back of the summerhouse are also scented. You may feel the furry leaves of the original Kiwi plant, *Actinidia chinensis*, or the spiky leaves of various other plants in pots. Then you can either make your way carefully round the pond, down the steps through the old laurel hedge, and turn right to rejoin the Western Ride, or you can retrace your steps back to the coarse sandy path of the Western Ride and turn left towards Sikkim.
- P.** Pass an island in the path, and head right, you will come to the area called Sikkim, so called as its tree and shrub collection originates mainly from the Himalayan kingdom of that name. On your right is an interesting example of the vast diversity within the genus *Rhododendron*. A large old specimen of *Rhododendron sinogrande*, the branches of which lean right over the path, is growing next to an aged

plant of a tiny leafed, evergreen rhododendron. More commonly known as “Azaleas”, these small shrubs are in fact from the rhododendron family. Compare the size and texture of these leaves; the *R. sinogrande* grows to the size of a small tree, has enormous, shining oblong dark green leaves, silvery grey underneath; and it bears big loose creamy white blooms in April, almost the size of dinner plates! It was discovered by George Forrest in China, North-east Burma, and South-east Tibet in 1913. The evergreen hybrid next to it has tiny rounded dark green leaves and small delicate purple flowers later in the summer. This area of the gardens has become a tranquil grove over the years; it always seems cool under here, the arboreal rhododendrons having grown very tall (30 to 40 feet). So tall that this is where the rooks you have been hearing on your way round have been known to build their nests, high up above you in the canopy.

- Q.** Following the winding path down, you will come to the Sundial Garden. (This was the first part of the garden the family would have entered from the big house, which, along with all the original farm buildings, is now in private hands.) The herbaceous border against the south-facing wall of the Flower Garden was described in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* in 1896 as “the finest herbaceous border in Cornwall”. Now restored, one can enjoy the scents of the various flowers, hear the bees busily working their way amongst them, and

sit for a moment in the sun on one of the decorative iron garden seats. Feel the shape and texture of the old sundial, repaired and restored to its original position in the middle of the lawn, with its original lichen covered pedestal, the smoother top and the old brass sundial itself. A brick path edges the central lawn, which you can follow round, being careful of a rather spiky plant, *Puya alpestris* as you go past!

- R.** Two ancient lichen covered granite gateposts mark the entrance to the Flower Garden. To the left grows a magnificent *Wisteria sinensis*, the old gnarled trunk curls round itself, and over to the opposite post, forming a natural arch of beauty and scent when in full bloom. The original wrought iron gates, which hung here, are long gone.

- S.** The Flower Garden is positioned close to the house, to provide flowers for the many vases within it, and salad crops and herbs for the kitchens. You can again enjoy testing the different scents of the wide variety of herbs grown here. The smooth brick path leads round a Dipping Pool in the centre, into which the rainwater drains from the Northern Gardens, for watering the crops here. This walled garden was designed facing southwest, and you can feel the warmth of the sun in the summer. The glasshouses are snuggled against the high walls, and it is interesting to compare them. The Vinery is Paxtonian, from the 1850s, when glass could only be made in small sheets, so the roof timbers were

placed closer together and the glass was cut in the “beaver-tail” design to protect the wood from rot. The Peach House dates from 1880, by which time glass could be made in larger sheets, and therefore the roof timbers were further apart and the beaver-tail cut no longer used.

- T.** Leaving this huge walled garden, turn left and you will pass under the branches of *Rhododendron falconeri*, with its large, long, drooping leaves, and come to the Head Gardener’s Office. This is a snug refuge even in the worst weather, with its log fire crackling away and the smell of wood-smoke. You can feel the size of the terracotta pots, cleaned and stored here ready for use. Smooth iron railings protect one from a drop down to where an old boiler is positioned at the bottom of a steep flight of steps. It used to heat the Vinery on the other side of the wall.
- U.** Head East, past the huge leaves of *Gunnera manicata* with their spiky stems; past a short-stemmed bamboo whose leaves rustle in the wind, and out of the gardens towards the farmland. When the wind is in the East you will begin to feel it, and realise why a shelterbelt is needed. You may also hear machinery, as you are near to where we keep our heavier equipment; or you might hear the planking saw in the new Timber Shed, cutting our timber into planks or posts for use on the estate, or ready to make smaller items which are sold from our Shop. The smell of freshly cut timber is

wonderful, different for each type of wood. Do stop and ask more from our staff here. Carry on past the Orchard on your right and listen to the gentle clucking of the hens kept here. You might also hear the geese and ducks that accompany them.

- V.** Make your way to Horsemoor Hide, built in 2001, the focus of our Wildlife Project. As soon as you enter here you will hear birdsong, recordings of a great many birds found here on the estate; also bats, the frequency of their calls adjusted to our hearing range. There is a display of various types of bird boxes (not full size) that are representative of those placed in the woodland beyond the hide, and you can feel the different designs.

- W.** Now you can head to the Steward's House for some well earned refreshment during our main season; when you can enjoy the enclosed garden outside, with the sweet fragrances from various shrubs and the warmth of the sun on your back. Relax a while before venturing further to explore the Jungle or the Wider Estate...