

Heligan Membership

Your garden for a whole year!

Join as a Heligan Member to enjoy unlimited garden visits, exclusive onsite discounts, e-newsletters, events as well as some incredible additional benefits.

If you join as a Member today you will get your garden entry refunded. Simply pop in to Reception for more details.

Heligan Events

We offer an exciting calendar of seasonal activities, garden and estate experiences and the largest outdoor adventure play area in Cornwall.

See our website for the full programme and how to book your tickets

 Dogs on short leads with well behaved owners, welcome all year round 

heligan.com   



Reception: 01726 845100
Emergency numbers:
01726 845102
Duty Manager: 07939 913216

 **Garden Map**
plus Estate Map inside

The Heligan Story Past, Present and Future

The Tremayne Family have owned the 200-acre Heligan Estate for over 400 years. During the 18th and 19th centuries there was a thriving, almost self-sufficient community here. Heligan House was rented out after World War 1. In the 1970s it was converted to flats and sold off, separated from its surrounding Gardens and Estate. In 1990 this Sleeping Beauty was discovered and re-awakened, becoming Europe's largest garden restoration project. Heligan's story is unique. It is not the typical story of the family in the Big House, but of the land and its workforce; their knowledge and skills.

At least thirteen of Heligan's outdoor staff served in World War 1, nine tragically gave their lives. Soon afterwards, Jack Tremayne left Heligan and rented it out saying he could 'no longer live with the ghosts'. The Gardens became ... lost.

In 1990, John Willis (a descendant of the Tremaynes) introduced Tim Smit to the devastated Estate. Tim was an archaeologist by training and this experience prompted an all-consuming curiosity, to discover what had happened here.

Easier said than done; what followed was a mammoth task and, for some, a life's work: decades of overgrowth were cut back, priceless veteran plant specimens uncovered, buildings restored, greenhouses resurrected and the traditional horticultural practices and intriguing history meticulously researched. While excavating one collapsed building, a thunderbox room (gardeners' toilet) was discovered – and on its walls faint pencil signatures, dated August 1914. The team vowed that the restoration would be undertaken as a tribute to these working people. Some of these names were later discovered on the local parish war memorials. In 2013 the Imperial War Museum registered the Thunderbox Room as a "Living Memorial to the Gardeners of Heligan House".

Today life has been breathed into Heligan once more. Over 20 gardeners and estate workers practice the skills of those who worked the land a century ago, cultivating the walled gardens, growing heritage vegetables, farming traditional livestock breeds, re-creating a thriving community and once again re-connecting us all with the land throughout the seasons.

The
Lost Gardens
of
Heligan

Europe's largest garden
restoration project



Maps and Essential
Information

Features in The Gardens

Productive Gardens

- G1 Kitchen Garden
 - i Thunderbox Room
 - ii The Pineapple Pit
- G3 Bee Bole Lawn
- G4 Head Gardener's Office
- G5 Gardener's Bothy
- G6 Flower Garden
 - a Citrus House
 - b The Vinery (Paxton House)
 - c Peach House

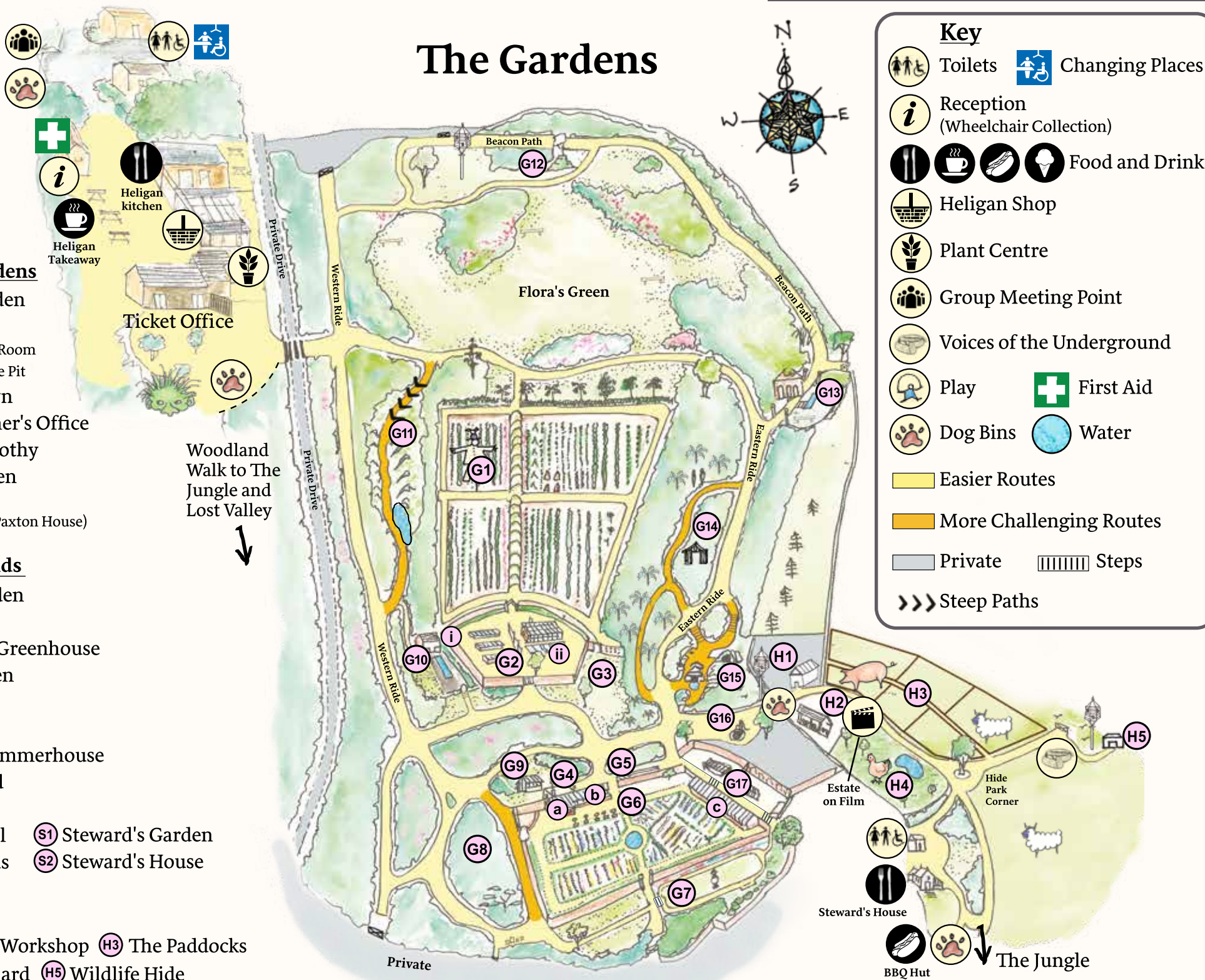
Pleasure Grounds

- G7 Sundial Garden
- G8 Sikkim
- G9 Pencalenick Greenhouse
- G10 Italian Garden
- G11 The Ravine
- G12 The Mount
- G13 Northern Summerhouse
- G14 New Zealand
- G15 The Grotto
- G16 Wishing Well
- G17 Reserve Yards
- S1 Steward's Garden
- S2 Steward's House

Home Farm

- H1 The Barn
- H2 Sawmill and Workshop
- H3 The Paddocks
- H4 Poultry Orchard
- H5 Wildlife Hide

The Gardens



Heligan Estate

The Gardens: Please turn over for a close up garden map

As a general rule: Your outward route will be mainly southbound and downhill.

Your return route will be mainly northbound and uphill.



Key

- Toilets
- Changing Places
- Reception (wheelchair collection)
- Food and Drink outlets
- Heligan Shop
- Plant Centre
- Group Meeting Point
- Voices of the Underground
- Play
- Dog Bins
- First Aid
- Water

- Raised Boardwalk
- Grass Field Paths
- Easier Routes
- More Challenging Main Routes
- Steep Paths
- Private
- Steps

Planning your day

The Heligan Estate covers over 200 acres with some areas of steep terrain, so we recommend that you plan your journey carefully allowing for plenty of resting and refreshment stops.

! There are lots of water features and areas of deep water. Please take care, especially if you have young children.

Estimated walking times:

To see everything would take a couple of days. We suggest a minimum of 4 hours to get a taste of The Gardens, The Jungle and The Estate.

Ticket Office to Mud Maid approx. 10 mins (slightly downhill)

Ticket Office to Steward's House approx. 20mins (slightly downhill)

Ticket Office to top of The Jungle (via Woodland Walk) approx. 30 mins (very steep)

Top of The Jungle to Lost Valley and return approx. 30 mins (very steep)

The Gardens

Key features in the Productive Gardens include historic glasshouses, heritage fruit and vegetables and the Melon Yard with its Pineapple Pit and Thunderbox Room. The surrounding Pleasure Grounds include Flora's Green, the Northern Summerhouse, New Zealand and the Italian and Sundial Gardens.

The Estate

The Jungle

Trek through Heligan's outdoor Jungle on raised boardwalks through exotic plantings and then continue down to enjoy our native woodland in Lost Valley. Access The Jungle via Woodland Walk, past the Woodland Sculptures and West Lawn. Or take the slightly longer route via the Sawmill and Workshop, Poultry Orchard, Home Farm and Steward's Garden.

! *Please note the Burma Rope Bridge in The Jungle is not suitable for dogs, wheelchairs or pushchairs and operates a one way system.

Home Farm Animals

Heligan's Home Farm is the first and only RBST farm park in the South West, home to rare and heritage breeds of sheep, pigs, poultry, cattle and heavy horses.

At certain points in the farming calendar our Barn is home to some of our rare breeds and open to our visitors to meet them. We are a working farm so our animals move location regularly.

Wildlife Hide

From The Hide, peek out at the resident wildlife. Discover more about Heligan's wildlife and the traditional practices used to manage the land.

Heligan Food



Our seasonally inspired menus combine Heligan grown produce and estate-reared meat into tasty home-made dishes, whilst our onsite Bakery creates a wide range of delicious cakes and baked items.

Near Ticket Office

- Heligan Kitchen:** Serving breakfast and lunch inspired by the gardens and estate.
- Heligan Takeaway:** Homemade sandwiches, Cornish pasties, cakes, ice creams, hot & cold drinks.

In The Gardens

- Steward's House:** Light bites, Cornish pasties, cakes, ice cream tubs, hot & cold drinks
- BBQ Hut:** (Seasonal) Slow cooked Heligan meats and garden vegetables, ice cream tubs, cold drinks.

Heligan Play Meadow

- Play & Graze:** Ice cream, sweet treats, cold drinks.

Opening times subject to change during quieter periods.

Features on The Estate

Woodland Walk

- W1 Giant's Head
- W2 Mud Maid
- W3 Grey Lady

Georgian Ride

- E1 Bee Observation Hive
- E2 Insect Hotel

Home Farm

- H1 The Barn
- H2 Sawmill and Workshop
- H3 The Paddocks
- H4 Poultry Orchard
- H5 Wildlife Hide

Steward's Garden Area

- S1 Steward's Garden
- S2 Steward's House

The Jungle

- J1 Fern Gulley
- J2 Burma Rope Bridge

Lost Valley

- L1 Charcoal Sculpture
- L2 Charcoal Kiln