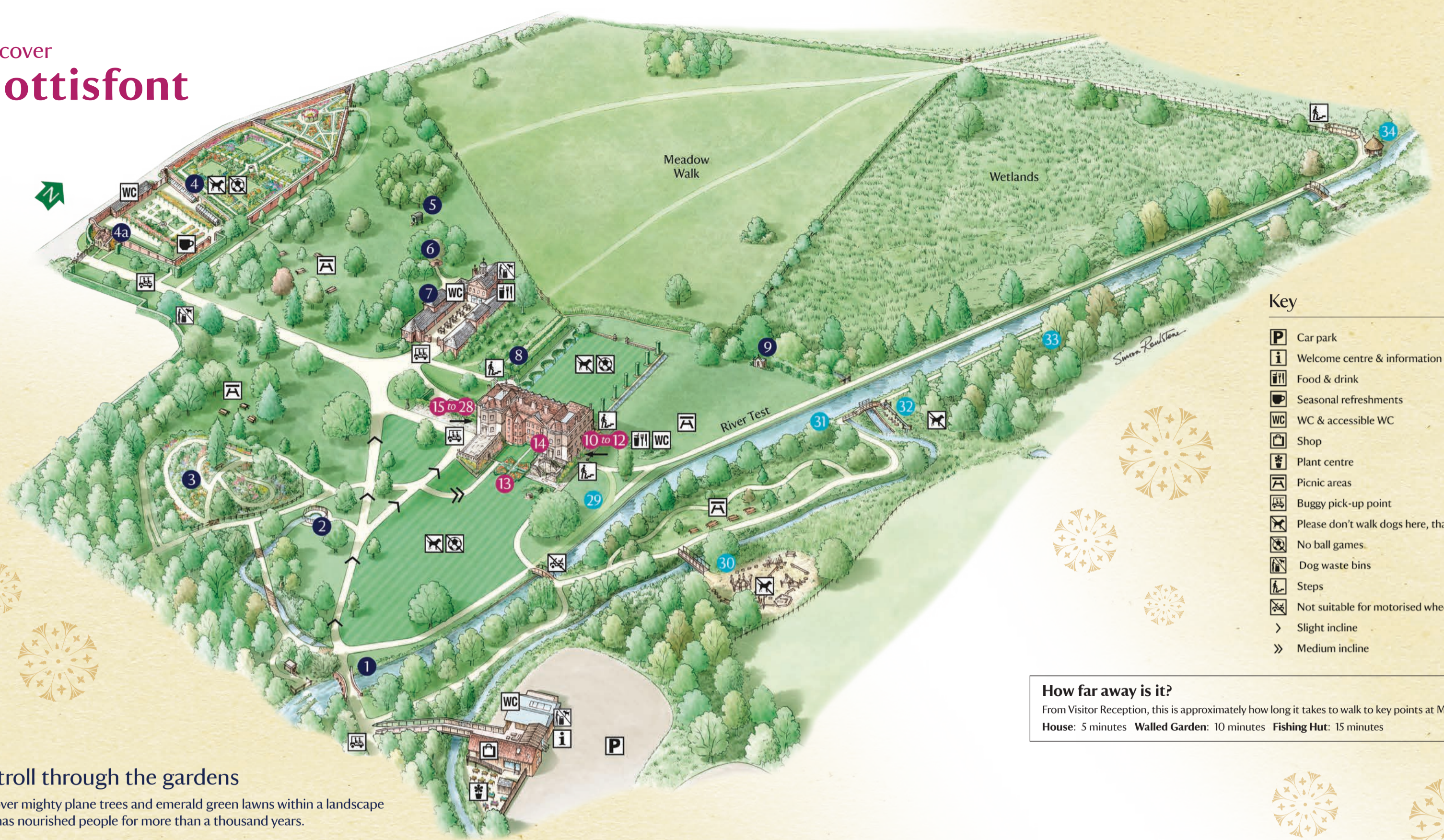


# Discover Mottisfont



## Key

- Car park
- Welcome centre & information
- Food & drink
- Seasonal refreshments
- WC & accessible WC
- Shop
- Plant centre
- Picnic areas
- Buggy pick-up point
- Please don't walk dogs here, thanks!
- No ball games
- Dog waste bins
- Steps
- Not suitable for motorised wheelchairs
- Slight incline
- Medium incline

## How far away is it?

From Visitor Reception, this is approximately how long it takes to walk to key points at Mottisfont:  
**House:** 5 minutes **Walled Garden:** 10 minutes **Fishing Hut:** 15 minutes

## A stroll through the gardens

Discover mighty plane trees and emerald green lawns within a landscape that has nourished people for more than a thousand years.

- 1 The river – a life force**  
Gaze at the crystal clear river and see trout and salmon in the calm waters to the right; look to the left to see powerful currents that once drove a mill.
- 2 The font – where it all began**  
For more than a thousand years, an endless spring of pure water. A medieval community gathered here; it is still a place of contemplation and renewal.
- 3 A burst of colour in the dead of winter**  
The Winter Garden brings colour and fragrance to the coldest months. The design is inspired by the curves of the font stream, and nestles in hollows where the priory's canons may once have kept their fish.
- 4 A garden of roses nearly lost**  
For the medieval canons, roses were sacred symbols. In the 1970s, Graham Stuart Thomas saved rare and beautiful blooms from extinction and created this glorious garden. We've also created a new Kitchen Garden here, introducing new ways to tell the story of our roses and paying homage to the garden's productive past.
- 4a** Head into The Gardener's Cottage to discover the history of our world-famous rose collection and learn more about how we look after our gardens.
- 5 The shepherd's hut – a working landscape**  
Where a shepherd once lived, close to his flock wherever he drove them. Maud found at Mottisfont a working landscape as well as pleasure grounds.
- 6 The ice house – the worst job in the world**  
Work behind the scenes. Cleaning and restocking the freezing depths of the ice house was the hard labour of providing luxuries for the mansion.
- 7 The stables – the sporting life**  
Maud and her husband Gilbert discovered they had an unusually fine stable block. Built for the thrill of the chase, it is now a place of curiosity, care and conservation.
- 8 The lime walk and yew octagon**  
Created for Maud by Geoffrey Jellicoe, this avenue of trees was inspired by the medieval columns that once formed the priory's cloisters.
- 9 Stone echoes in the summer house**  
Built from ancient priory stones and tiles, this was one of many places perfect for private conversation at Maud's weekend parties.

Stroll across the North Lawn, also designed by Jellicoe, and look back to the mansion to see at a glance how a house might grow from a church.

## The house – from priory to private home

At the heart of this house stands a priory church, a building transformed rather than destroyed. Maud and Gilbert Russell repaired these buildings and brought Mottisfont back to life.

On the lower ground floor, you can see the earliest part of the building and find out how and why it changed from a priory into a country home.

- 10 The old sacristy: a small and sacred place**  
Step into a room where Mottisfont's medieval origins become clear. Here, the canons once washed sacred vessels in a carved stone basin still set into the wall.
- 11 A building transformed**  
Find out how and why the house changed from a priory to a Tudor house, then into an 18th-century country home that still has the nave of a church hidden inside it.
- 12 The cellarium – a last glimpse of priory life**  
In this cool dark medieval interior, the cellarer stored produce from the priory's estate. Maud did nothing to alter its unique atmosphere.
- 13 Memory of a vanished window**  
Mottisfont's parterre is a knot garden designed by Norah Lindsay for Maud Russell. Like the lime walk, this too was inspired by the past – Lindsay based its shape on a window that overlooked this area.
- 14 A secret love in coloured stone**  
The mosaic angel, a hidden portrait of Maud Russell by Boris Anrep. He was her lover and great friend, one of many artists who came to stay at Mottisfont.  
Walk up the gentle slope to explore the next floor of this unusual home.
- 15 to 28 A house steeped in history and creativity**  
You're invited to Maud Russell's home to meet her family and their servants. Discover how art is once again bringing Mottisfont to life, through changing exhibitions in our upstairs art gallery.  
Pick up an invitation in the entrance hall to find points 15 to 28.

## A walk by the river – wildlife and wild play

The Abbey Stream is a man-made channel that was created to bring the River Test closer to the house, perhaps at first by the medieval canons, reinforced by builders from later centuries.

For Maud Russell, her family and guests, it was a place to bathe, boat and fish. It's now a place of wildlife and wonderful walks.

- 29 Beneath a canopy of planes**  
Maud inherited many ancient trees, including a unique collection of majestic planes. Cross the curving 'rose bridge' to take a circular walk along the river.
- 30 Wild play – the climbing bog**  
Maud's two sons, Martin and Raymond, followed in the footsteps of many children who enjoyed playing in these woods and fields. Diaries written by Richard Meinertzhagen, who lived at Mottisfont as a boy in the 1890s, describe a world of freedom and fun outdoors. His memories have inspired wild climbing and water play features here.
- 31 'The finest chalk stream in the world'**  
Find out how the River Keeper looks after this vital but fragile river now.
- 32 Water play**  
Pump, pool and paddle – water to dam and splash about in!
- 33 A haven for wildlife**  
The river is now home to a wide range of wildlife, some very rare – what might you spot if you're lucky?
- 34 The art of dry-fly fishing**  
This fishing hut has sheltered many anglers in the past. Now it tells the story of Frederic Halford, who perfected the art of dry-fly fishing on these waters.  
From the fishing hut, you can carry on your walk across the fields towards the stables, with fine views of the countryside. Or you could stroll back along this side of the river to the lawns by the house.