



**Location:**

Old Basing, Basingstoke, Hampshire

**Client:**

Hampshire County Council

**Value:** £2.3 million

**Completed:** October 2010

**Specialist teams:**

Historic Building Design and Accessibility Design:  
HCC Property Services

Basing House is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and contains a number of Grade I and Grade II listed buildings. Following a successful grant award from the Heritage Lottery Fund, improvements have been made to provide better facilities for visitors to this significant historic site.

Access improvements were skillfully integrated with minimal impact on the historic fabric and sympathetically designed to ensure that the site is more inclusive to achieve the widest range of access needs possible. Involving local access groups throughout the project ensured that access improvements beyond the requirements of the building regulations were incorporated into the project.

We successfully created access for disabled people to all the historic buildings on site by improving the surface and gradient of paths, widening door ways, powering entrance doors and increasing and improving accessible toilet provision.

On large historic sites such as Basing House physical access poses the greatest challenge. Pedestrian routes were improved in key areas and the focus was on resurfacing those which led to the significant historic areas around the site.

A significant feature to improve access and recreate a piece of history is the footbridge replicating the original to the Western Gatehouse. The new oak bridge provides level access across the ditch in an sensitive and appropriate way.

Other access improvements were achieved through management measures such as providing access information about the site, British sign language interpreters on request, induction loops, guided tours and Braille guide books.



Museum Entrance before



Museum Entrance after

## Key Benefits

- Improve the access arrangements and facilities for visitors and educational groups and increase access to larger areas of the site.
- Provide suitable access for disabled people within the context of significant historic buildings and a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- Provide access improvements by making small, cost effective changes which have a positive impact on the needs of disabled visitors.

# Basing House - Historic Building & Accessibility Scheme



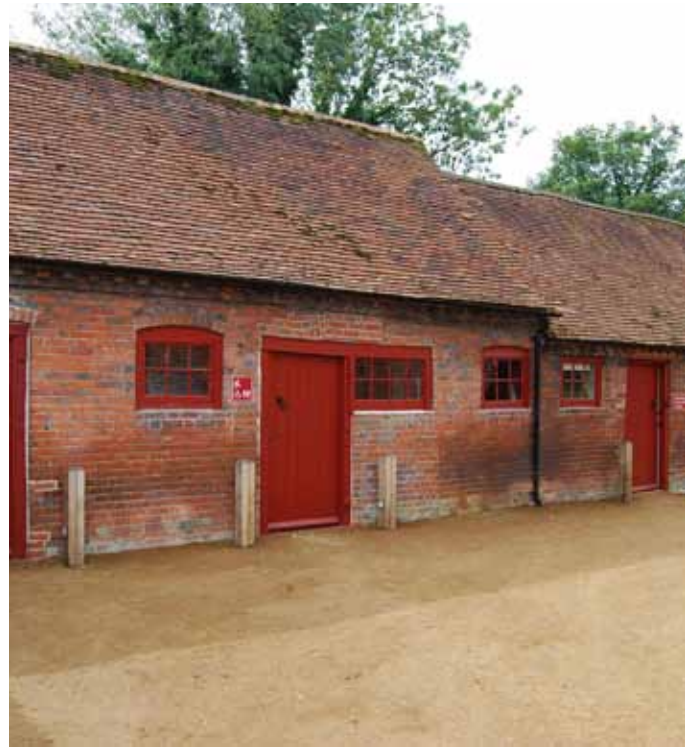
Shop Entrance before



Shop Entrance after



Stable Block before



Stable Block after