

Denbies Wine Estate, Dorking

Information dated 2012, from www.accessinlondon.org
For a summary of the abbreviations used see under *Methodology*

Denbies Wine Estate

London Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6AA

Tel: 01306 876-616 Fax: 01306 888-930

website: www.denbies.co.uk e-mail: info@denbiesvineyard.co.uk

Denbies is the largest privately owned vineyard in England where a total of 67ha (265 acres) have been planted. It is situated on the North Downs in a protected valley of south facing slopes.

It is located just off the A24 on Bradley Lane, and is well signed from the roundabout at the junction with the B2038. It is just south of Westhumble, and immediately north of Dorking. There is plenty of parking, including 8 BB spaces. Dorking station which NR says is step-free to all platforms is less than 1km away. It is variously described as a 10 or 15 minute walk.

The **main building** has a reception desk, shop and the *Conservatory Restaurant* which has a spacious atrium with a translucent roof. There is also the wrap-around 360 degree cinema for the start of the wine tasting tours. The whole GF is step-free.

There's a spacious lift going to:

- the 3rd floor Gallery Restaurant, which has +1 step to all the tables;
- the 1st floor Gallery for art exhibitions which is step-free; and,
- the basement for wine tastings.

There are **wheelchair toilets** on both the ground (near reception) and 1st floors (near the lift, and with BCF).

The **wine tastings** include the film/presentation in the cinema. Then, you travel through the production stages in the indoor winery train, which takes you down to the basement for a tasting. The train has fixed seating so a chair user would have to transfer. We were told that they had (in the past) made provision for a chair user to be accommodated on the train in their chair, but someone had complained about it as they thought it was unsafe, and unfortunately 'health and safety' seems to have prevailed. Chair users who cannot transfer can simply take the lift down to the basement.

Outside there are tours on a little motorised train going right through the vineyard and getting magnificent views of the Downs. The third carriage provides space for chair users, with a ramp for getting in and out, so people can stay in their chair if they prefer. There's also a (small) portable set of steps to help people who find that the big step into the carriages is difficult.

Some 250m from the main building there's a Kitchen Garden Farm Shop. It's up a bit of a slope for part of the way, but it's all step-free.