

## **INFORMATION FOR VISITING GROUPS**

*We welcome visits by clubs, societies, schools and colleges.*

### **The benefits of visiting as a Group**

When you visit as a group, we will give you a generous £1.50 discount off the normal adult admission price. As long as you come in a group of at least ten people, adults will pay just £4.50 (children £2). All we ask is that your party is at least ten in number.

### **Facilities**

We are situated just a few miles off the A30 dual carriageway, but the last part of your journey will be down narrow lanes. If you are arriving by coach then it is important that you make this clear to the driver. We have space for small coaches and mini-buses in our car park. There is space for one larger coach (49 seater) in the layby just up the lane and our staff are always happy to help coach drivers with parking arrangements. Because of the narrow lanes it is strongly recommended that coaches approach down the lane from Whiddon Down.

Whilst we have no catering facilities on site, there are several good tea rooms and pubs within a couple of miles. We are happy to give details of these when you make your booking. Alternatively your group is welcome to bring a picnic into the garden and we have a picnic area with two large tables at the edge of our car park amongst the trees.

The toilets are just off the main yard - one is a disabled toilet, although the garden has only partial access for disabled people. There are a couple of small shelters in the garden that are useful in bad weather. The garden itself is sheltered to some extent (we do have over 1000 trees!).

### **Additional services**

Refreshments can be made available by prior arrangement, as can an introductory talk and guided tour by Garden manager Paul Bartlett. Charges are as follows:

Group rate for adults	£4.50 per person
Group rate for students	£2 per person
Tea/coffee with biscuits	£2/person
Tea/coffee with cakes	£4/person
Talk & tour (approx. 30-40 minutes)	£30

### **How to arrange a visit**

Just give us a ring on 01647 231311 or email [paul.bartlett@stonelanegardens.com](mailto:paul.bartlett@stonelanegardens.com) with your preferred date and time and we will reserve the garden for you. If you have any special requirements, please get in touch to discuss them. We are always happy for group leaders to visit the garden ahead of a group trip. Please make yourself known to whoever is on the door and you will not be charged admission.

I hope you will take the opportunity to come and enjoy our garden this year. If there is anything you would like to discuss, please contact me using one of the methods above.

### **Safety and liability**

Groups need to be aware of the dangers normally to be found in a rural environment. We try to maintain the garden in as safe a condition as possible, but trip hazards, slippery ground, unguarded ponds, fungi, faeces and biting/stinging insects/animals could all be present. Please encourage everyone to use common sense!

This is a working environment and there could be machinery and tools unattended. Please keep well clear and follow the instructions of members of staff. We expect you to give your group a safety brief upon arrival at the garden.

## STONE LANE GARDENS TEL: 01647 231311 Postcode TQ13 8JU

### Directions

Stone Farm is marked on OS Map 191, Okehampton and North Dartmoor - Grid Reference 708908 - close to both Castle Drogo and Spinster's Rock, and about 1.5 miles from Whiddon Down and Drewsteignton. The dual-carriageway A30 linking with the M5 at Exeter is only 2½ miles away.

### FROM THE A30

At the Whiddon Down junction on the A30 turn off for Whiddon Down. Pass through the village and at the roundabout take the left turn signposted "A382 Moretonhampstead". Go straight on at the crossroads (ignore right turn to Throwleigh). As the road bends right take the left turn. You will see our Brown 'Tourist Sign' at this junction. Carry on for just over a mile. Pass the right turn for Spinsters Rock. Pass the next right turn and continue for about 300 metres. Our car park is on the right and is well signposted. Stone Farm and the Gardens are a 150 metre walk through the trees. Please pay at the farm before entering the garden. Elderly or disabled people can be dropped off at the farm before parking the car.

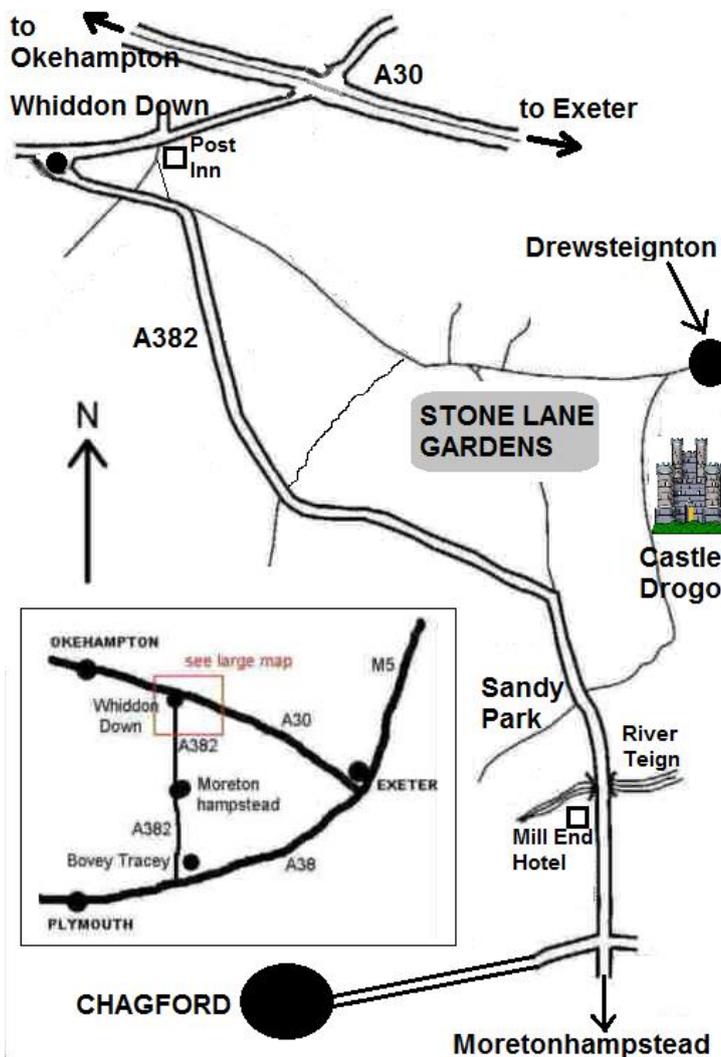
Alternatively, there is a small amount of priority parking available at the farm itself. This is meant only for people with walking difficulties.

**Large coaches (49 seat +) should not attempt to park in the car park but should park in the layby in the Drewsteignton road just after the Spinsters Rock turning.**

### FROM THE A382 (MORETONHAMPSTEAD)

Take the A382 towards Whiddon Down. **(Mini-buses and coaches should keep going until Whiddon Down and then take the right hand turn signposted Drewsteignton (Brown sign "Stone Lane Gardens"). Then follow the A30 directions above)**

**Cars:** Go straight over Easton Cross (this has a left turn signposted to Chagford). Pass the Mill End hotel on your left and over the bridge. Go straight ahead at Sandy Park. After leaving Sandy Park take the next right turn up a narrow lane. Keep on this lane eventually passing Stone Farm on the right. At the top of the lane the road splits left and right. Take the right fork and then turn right at the T junction. Continue for about 300 metres. Our car park is on the right and is well signposted. Stone Farm and the Gardens are a 150 metre walk through the trees. Please pay at the farm before entering the garden. Elderly or disabled people can be dropped off at the farm before parking the car. Alternatively, there is a small amount of priority parking available at the farm itself. This is meant only for people with walking difficulties.



### Disabled Access

The Garden is set on a sloping site, with a level, stony drive leading into the top half of the arboretum; which consists of groupings of trees with grass areas between. This area slopes downhill to the second half of the garden; which is accessed by narrow paths, some soft, some stone paths and various sets of steps. We have a disabled toilet at the top of the farm-yard. Disabled parking is available in our farmyard by the garden entrance.

The above information is intended to be informative to those who feel they may have difficulty negotiating the garden. We do not advertise as being suitable for people with walking difficulties, but will make every effort to assist and help you enjoy your visit. If in any doubt, please phone us for a chat. 01647 231311.

