

Plan your visit to Easton Walled Gardens Snowdrops.



Whenever I visit a garden in a part of the country I don't know, the one thing I want to do is make the most of the time and pack in as much as I can into a precious day off. It can be very difficult to find the information all in one place so we have put together this little guide to our area which we hope you find useful. If you would like further advice you can contact the office or tweet us [@ewgardens](https://twitter.com/ewgardens)

So here it is! Ideas for making the most of your snowdrop visit to Lincolnshire, the East Midlands and snowdrop gardens near the A1 for 2016 (please check opening times before visiting). Scroll down to see ideas for overnight stays, route planning, refreshments, good food and other gardens to visit around Easton Walled Gardens.



Making the most of your visit to Easton Walled Gardens snowdrops:

You can find details of our snowdrop week on the website but here is some additional information to help you plan your visit.

Allow about 2 hours to visit us: 2 1/2 hours if you are eating in the tearoom.

Our postcode is NG33 5AP if you are searching for the gardens on google. (Don't rely on Sat Nav for directions, it will take you up and down the A1 - see our directions page for more.)

The gardens are open from 11.00 - 4.00 but we never turn away snowdrop visitors who arrive at 10.30! The busiest time of the day for arrivals is 11.30 -12.30. See visitor information pages on the menu bar above for full opening times.

We have loos with a baby change unit, a shop including some beautiful spring flowers, sweet pea seeds and of course, snowdrops for sale and a busy but efficient tearoom.

The gardens have limited access for wheelchair users although it is possible to see much of the lower gardens from above. If you have limited mobility and can manage slopes with a handrail then you may well find the lower gardens possible to navigate. For a full round up of disabled facilities See more here.

The Photography Exhibition is undercover in the Coach House where there is some seating available.

The tearoom serves light lunches and cream teas but, if you prefer, the estate pub in Burton le Coggles is open for lunch every day except Monday and Tuesday. Eating at [The](#)

[Cholmeley Arms](#) (NG33 4JP) is very popular so you may need to book on 01476 550225. There are some comfortable rooms available if you want to make an overnight stay.

Snowdrop Gardens near Easton Walled Gardens*



[Little Ponton Hall](#) - About 5 miles away, just up the B6403 (known locally as The High Dyke) are the beautiful gardens of Little Ponton Hall (NG33 5BS)

Even when we are busy, we try to get away in early afternoon to attend their opening for the National Gardens Scheme. This mature garden is like stepping back in time and we can't do any better than quote their website:

"Little Ponton Hall and its gardens nestle in the curve of the River Witham as it wends its way through the rolling countryside of South Lincolnshire towards Lincoln.

The 18th century house is surrounded by spacious lawns dominated by a 200 year old cedar tree. In the walled vegetable garden are the Victorian greenhouses, full of exotic plants, and a listed dovecote. Adjoining the garden is the tiny village church dedicated to St.Guthlac.

In the early spring, swathes of snowdrops clothe the river banks, and aconites form a golden carpet around the Church walk. This is a magical, secret garden, rarely opened to the public."

[21 Chapel Street, Haconby](#) - A little further afield, but still an easy 25 min drive from Easton is 21 Chapel Street (PE10 0UL.) Cliff and Joan are extremely knowledgeable plantspeople and their 1/2 acre cottage garden is packed with different varieties, some of which are for sale. Joan makes a mean cake too!

Their entry on the NGS website is rather understated. Basically, most of their visitors come via word of mouth and they can only take a limited number of visitors so they don't need to advertise this beautiful garden widely. I have never been disappointed by a visit here which includes winding paths through beds of winter flowers.

Services and refreshments on the way:

Visit the local market town of Bourne on your way between 21 Chapel Street and Easton Walled Gardens for refreshments, petrol and provisions.

[The Cholmeley Arms](#) is also on your way or try [The Pantry](#) (NG33 4NH) in Corby Glen or the [Five Bells](#) in Edenham which we have heard good things about.

Other places to visit:

Alternatively, you might like to explore some of the beautiful architecture of our area and enjoy some retail therapy.

Stamford, with its stunning Georgian buildings and great shopping is just 20 minutes on the A1. Oakham and Rutland Water are just 20 minutes away by good A-roads. You can explore the whole region by visiting <http://www.southwestlincs.com> or <http://www.discover-rutland.co.uk>

Visiting from further afield:



If you are coming from London or the South on the A1, consider visiting [Benington Lordship](#) or [Anglesey Abbey](#) gardens en route.

I have visited both of these gardens, you will find them stuffed with snowdrops and history and both offer teas (although, as you can imagine, Anglesey Abbey near Cambridge is a slicker operation being National Trust and hugely popular. The winter garden is dazzlingly good.) For homemade teas, a warm welcome and a less corporate experience try Benington Lordship near Stevenage.

To the north of us, the famous snowdrops at [Hodsock Priory](#) are well worth a visit. You can walk for miles through their woodland littered with snowdrops. They have been open for years so they know how to look after the 1,000s of people who flock to see the display every year. Hodsock is about 45 minutes north of us, straight up the A1.

Other Lincolnshire Gardens worth a winter snowdrop visit:

If you are seeking out other gardens in Lincolnshire open for snowdrops, tudor [Doddington Hall](#) has an amazing farm shop and restaurant close to historic Lincoln or try the new and exciting gardens at [Brightwater Gardens](#) in the north of the County. [Hackthorn Hall](#) has an annual Snowdrop Sunday in February in aid of the local church and is well worth a visit.

*Please check opening times and prices at all venues before visiting.