

Excursion No 6: Saturday 8th September 2019 (All day)

Woodchester Mansion and Historic Landscape

Excursion Leader: Roger Wilkes

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Summary

We will have a private guided tour of the Mansion in the morning, before the property is open to the public, and there is a Café that serves drinks and light snacks.

Woodchester Mansion is a Grade I Listed uncompleted house in the Victorian Gothic style, standing in Woodchester Park (National Trust). The mansion is absolutely unique because it was abandoned before it was completed in the 1860's, so it offers visitors the opportunity to see how a house of this period was constructed. The architect was a young local man called Benjamin Bucknall, and both he and his patron, the wealthy William Leigh, were admirers of the important French architect Eugene Viollet-le-Duc.

Afterwards, you will be free to explore Woodchester Park (NT) an 18th/19th century pleasure garden currently being restored by NT, and/or picnic on Coaley Peak Picnic Area/Viewpoint in this ancient landscape, which also contains nearby Hetty Peglar's Tump (EH) and Nymphesfield Long Barrow.

Meeting time and place.

After parking in the Woodchester Park car park (possible charge for non-NT members) walk through the Park, or use the mini-bus, to meet at the Mansion at **10.30am**.

Woodchester Mansion stands in Woodchester Park, a National Trust owned Park whose entrance is near Nymphesfield. The entrance to the NT car park is on a minor road that runs from the B4066 (Stroud to Dursley road) to the village of Nymphesfield. The turning to Nymphesfield is five miles south of Stroud and close to Coaley Peak Viewing Point. The entrance to the NT car park is on the left about 250 yds from the junction with the B4066. The Mansion post-code is **GL10 3TS** – please note there is no access to Woodchester Park or the Mansion from the A46 which is where, unfortunately, some satnav systems take you!

Note

Woodchester Mansion is an unfinished building with uneven floors and missing handrails! Visitors should wear sturdy footwear (avoid heels and stilettos!) and children must be closely supervised by an adult.

Please remember that you are responsible for your own safety and by joining this BACAS excursion you do so at your own risk.

Comfortable, suitable clothes and footwear should be worn, appropriate for a country walk and the prevailing weather conditions.

Maximum participants: **25**

Latest booking date: **25th August**

Members priority booking until **11th August** Cost: Members **£10**/non-members **£12**