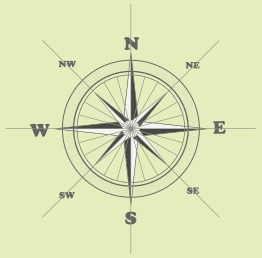


5 THE SUNKEN GARDEN

The recently restored Sunken Garden now makes a fitting spatial and visual "full stop" to the splendour of the adjacent Pergola. Richly planted with a wide variety of low growing plants and bulbs, it is a joy throughout the growing season. Winner of the Sussex Heritage Trust's Gardens and Landscape Award 2014.

6 THE PERGOLA

Designed by Harold Peto in 1911 this marvellous structure was fully restored after the 1987 storm. At 300ft long, it is one of the largest in the country.

7 WEST DEAN COLLEGE

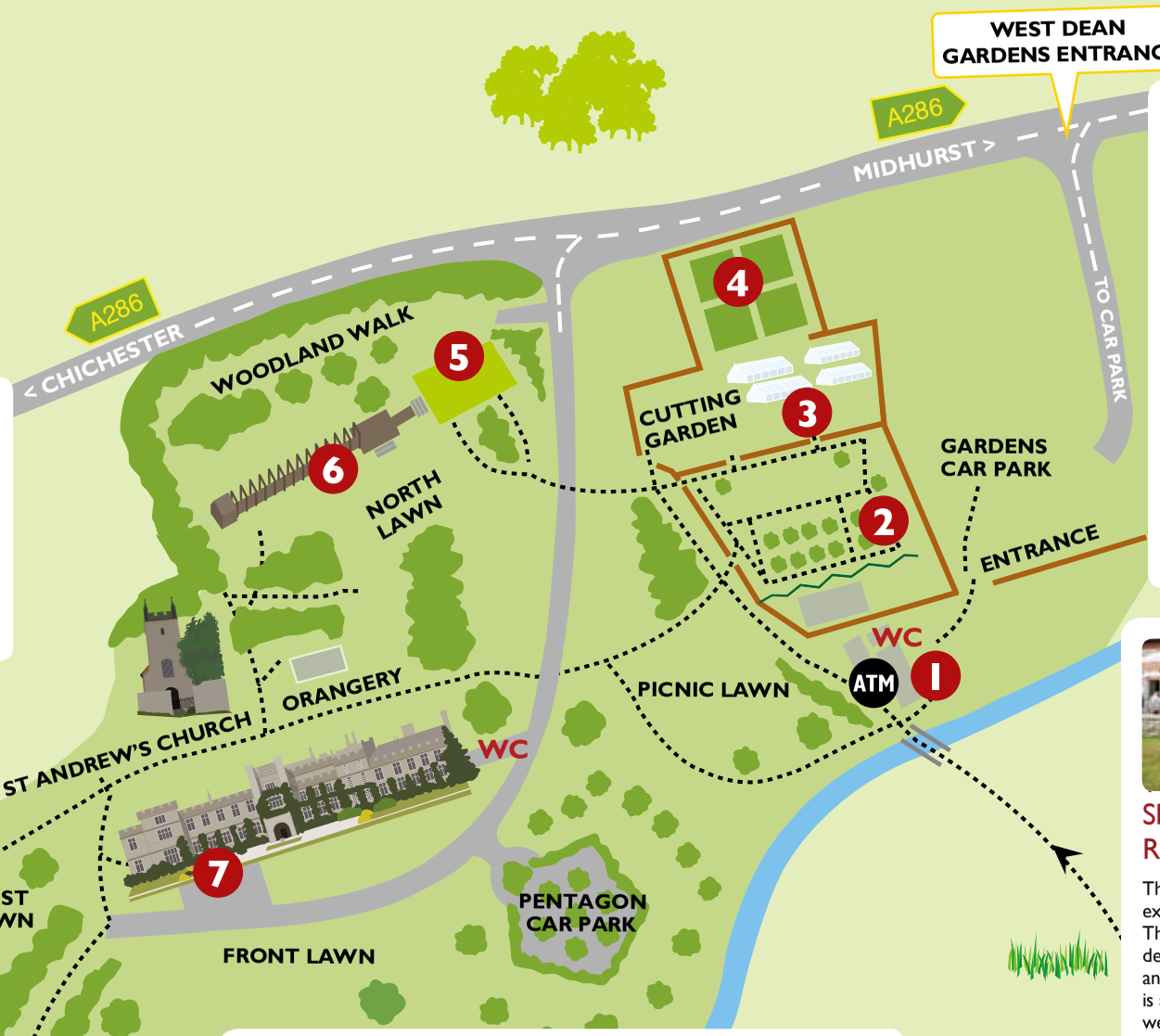
West Dean College is internationally recognised for conservation and creative arts. A unique place to study, visit or stay, it is a centre of excellence, creativity and tranquillity. Underpinning it all is the vision of founder and Surrealist patron Edward James, connecting today's students and visitors with a rich heritage of arts, crafts and creative possibilities.

9 THE WILD GARDENS

The furthermost part of the grounds, but with lots to offer, including wild flower meadows, a naturalistic pond, woodland and dry gardens with lovely parkland views.

8 THE SPRING GARDEN

The Spring Garden features plants with strong form, distinctive leaf shape and exotic character. The "Bognor rock" and flintwork bridges, surreal fibreglass trees, rustic summerhouses and laburnum arch all add interesting architectural delights to the gardens.



2 THE WALLED FRUIT GARDEN

The fruit collection is housed within the restored Victorian Walled Kitchen Garden.

3 VICTORIAN GLASSHOUSES

These superbly restored 13 glasshouses were built between 1890 – 1900 and offer year-round colour from the large collections including tropical and temperate plants, orchids, pelargoniums and fuchsias, figs, vines, melons, cucumbers, chillies, tomatoes, aubergines and ornamental gourds.

SHOP AND RESTAURANT

The Gardens Shop sells an exciting range of gifts and plants. The Gardens Restaurant offers delicious home cooked lunches and afternoon tea. The Restaurant is also open for breakfast at weekends and Bank Holidays.

4 THE KITCHEN GARDENS

This was the original "Top Ground" or upper kitchen garden. The area is laid out using the classic Victorian design of two cross paths bounded by a perimeter path producing four central beds and a series of borders at the base of the surrounding walls.

10 RIVER LAVANT

The front lawn and parkland are divided by a natural ha-ha created by the River Lavant, which continues through to the Spring Garden. It is a "winterbourne" and it is perfectly normal for it to be dry at certain times of the year.

NOTICE: Please keep your dog on a short lead at all times.

Artichoke House: An installation by George Charman based on an original concept by Edward James.

Fibreglass Trees: These trees suffered disease and old age so Edward James asked sculptor Ralph Burton to 'encapsulate' the trunks (1972-1974), creating these surrealist sculptures.

11 ST ROCHE'S ARBORETUM

A beautiful 50-acre collection of trees and shrubs surrounded by native woodland. To explore the hidden delights of the arboretum follow the blue posts which mark the secondary paths. These will always lead back to the main tracks. In spring and early summer there are extensive wild flower meadow displays and a colourful collection of rhododendrons and azaleas.

12 EDWARD JAMES

In 1964, Edward James conveyed his family mansion, art collection and estate to The Edward James Foundation, a charitable educational trust established to reflect his lifelong love of the arts and to preserve the family estate. Edward James is buried in St Roche's Arboretum beneath a slab bearing the simple inscription "Edward James 1907 – 1984 Poet". The lettering was cut by John Skelton.

13 THE PARKLAND WALK

The 2 ½ mile Parkland Walk climbs gently through the landscaped park to St Roche's Arboretum and is clearly marked with orange posts; do take time to turn around and admire the views of the house. Having passed through the arboretum you emerge on the upper slopes of the park which afford fabulous panoramic views across the rolling South Downs. Continue following the orange marker posts to return to the Gardens Shop and Restaurant.

ONE OF THE GREATEST RESTORED GARDENS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ENGLAND

The gardens are a beautiful but working environment, please be aware of machinery and other hazards such as ponds etc. Please supervise young children at all times, in particular within the Walled Garden and Glasshouses. Thank you for your co-operation.