

Old Soar Manor Access Statement

Old Soar Road, Plaxtol, Borough Green, Kent, TN15 0QX

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Introduction

1. Old Soar Manor is a 13th century knight's dwelling over on two floors with steps and a spiral staircase. It is surrounded by small grounds and is situated in the countryside near Plaxtol village.
2. The rooms are relatively poorly lit and the windows are small in the Undercroft, so care should be taken, especially on a dark day or close to dusk.
3. This property is, by its very nature, a building with uneven floors, staircases and limited accessibility for wheelchair users and those with walking difficulties.
4. Mobile phone reception is limited across the site. In an emergency, please make contact on the phone number above as soon as you are able.
5. Dogs are welcome in the grounds on short leads but not in the dwelling. Assistance dogs are welcome throughout.
6. There is no entrance fee.
7. The site is unmanned at all times.
8. There are no refreshment or toilet facilities available on site.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

9. There are brown signs from the A227, via Plaxtol village. Please note the lanes are very narrow on the approach and you can expect to meet vehicles, horses, cyclists and pedestrians.
10. Free parking is provided in the layby next to the entrance gate for a maximum of two cars. There are no designated spaces for disabled visitors. Please park considerately as the dwelling is situated in a small residential area.
11. The layby is hard standing and on the same level as the grounds.
12. There is a manual wooden gate at the entrance to the grounds which opens inwards.
13. The approach from the car park to the building entrance is approximately 50 metres and is via an unmade path.

Welcome and Exhibition Room

14. There are two steps up to the Welcome room (15cm and 22cm deep) and two steps down into the room (10cm and 13cm deep). The wooden door is 95cm wide. It opens inwards and is not power assisted.
15. The room is LED lit and there is light switch on the left near the ceiling as you enter the room.
16. The exhibition about Old Soar Manor and the history of Plaxtol village is at standing height for reading.



Above left: Entrance door to the Welcome and Exhibition room



Above right: Interior window in the Great Chamber/Solar room

House

17. The entrance to the main dwelling is via the Undercroft. There are two steps up (8cm and 10cm deep). The wooden door is 125cm wide, opens inwards and is not power assisted. There are then three steps down (at a depth of approx. 22cm). The room is unlit and can be dark, with one slitted window letting in a very limited amount of natural light only. The Undercroft has a brick floor and is unfurnished.
18. From the Undercroft there is a stone spiral staircase where a light automatically comes on as you ascend with the aid of a rope handrail, there is a motion detector light on the staircase. There are fourteen stairs to the upper floor which houses the Great Chamber/Solar, Garderobe and the Chapel.
19. The Garderobe entrance is 65cm at the narrowest point.
20. The Chapel entrance width is 70cm. There are three windows letting in natural light.
21. All the upper floor rooms are unfurnished with wooden floors and plain stone walls, which may cause sound echoes. The rooms do not have any artificial lighting and may have low levels of light depending on the weather and time of day.

Grounds

22. Small gardens/grounds surround the building and are mostly laid to grass and uneven.
23. There is an unmade path to the entrance of the building.
24. There is one bench with back and arm rests at the front of the dwelling (see image overleaf).



Above: The grounds at Old Soar Manor and the approach to the dwelling

Date: January 2024