

## **Rufford Old Hall Access Statement**

200 Liverpool Road  
Rufford  
Ormskirk  
Lancashire  
L40 1SG  
T: 01704 821254  
E: [ruffordoldhall@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:ruffordoldhall@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### **1. Introduction**

Rufford Old Hall is located in Rufford on the A59. The magnificent timber framed house was built by the Hesketh family in the 1530's, with later additions between 1662 and the 1820's. The family gave the property to the National Trust in 1936.

The property has level access externally with car park and blue badge parking adjacent to the Coach House (Visitor Welcome) and Estate Buildings. The Coach House has level access. The disabled toilet has level access via an historic central cobbled courtyard, which is uneven.

Visitor Services staff will provide information about accessibility and will arrange for manual wheelchairs to be made available without charge (limited number available). There are Room Guides in most rooms of the House, and they will be able to provide more information about the House, its history and collection.

**NB Motorised wheelchairs** – because of the limited space available in the house which does not provide adequate turning circle space, the Great Hall is the only room accessible to motorised wheelchairs.

Ramps are provided for the step from the Great Hall to the Dining Room. Unfortunately, these will only take the weight of manual wheelchairs and not motorised wheelchairs.

**Pushchairs and Prams** – Due to door width and limited turning circles please leave prams and pushchairs in your car if you would like to visit the house, or they may be left in the corridor area of the Coach House while you enjoy your visit, though we cannot be responsible for any theft or damage.



**Mobile phone** reception is good throughout the property.

If you need to contact a member of staff in an emergency, please dial:

01704 821254

or

999 for emergency services.

Alternatively, please go to the Coach House or Tearoom where there will always be a member of staff who can direct you to help.

**Assistance dogs** are welcome on site. There is a dog water bowl in the central courtyard area.

The general policy for non-assistance dogs is that well behaved dogs on leads are welcome in the woodland by the car park and in the courtyard. Please do not bring non-assistance dogs into the formal garden or inside the buildings. Thank you.

**Light levels** can be low in the House for conservation reasons.

**Quiet spaces** can be provided if necessary. Please speak to a member of the team who will make a space available to you.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance, please phone 01704 821254 or email:

[ruffordoldhall@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:ruffordoldhall@nationaltrust.org.uk).

## 2. Arrival & Parking Facilities

For full details of how to reach the property, please visit the website:

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ruffordoldhall](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ruffordoldhall)

**The Postcode is: L40 1SG**

**Parking** – there are 4 clearly marked Blue Badge bays, designated for the use of disabled visitors in the main car park, approximately 30 metres from the Coach House reception. The car park surface is gravel and is uneven. It is not lit at night unless there is an organised event taking place e.g., theatre production.

Visitors can be dropped off by the path to the Coach House if the designated Blue Badge parking bays are full. One route is level (gravel path), the other is paved and has a slight slope.

**Train** – the nearest railway station is Rufford, which is 0.5 miles away (a 10 – 15-minute walk).

**Bus** – the nearest bus stop is a couple of minutes' walk from the main entrance. Ask the bus driver for the Rufford Old Hall stop on Liverpool Road. There is no seating or shelter at the bus stop.

**Entrance Drive and paths** – the main drive is tarmacked and level. Paths around the property have a firm gravel surface which can be slightly slushy in wet weather. The central courtyard is cobbled and uneven. The toilets are accessed via the cobbled courtyard.

The canal-side path has a gravel and earth surface, and tree roots can be a trip hazard.

### 3. Toilets

**One accessible toilet (unisex)** is located across the cobbled courtyard from the tearoom and courtyard entrance. The room measures 1.6 m wide x 2.2m long. There are horizontal rails either side of the toilet, one being a rail fixed to the wall on the left of the toilet when facing it. There is a handrail fixed to the back of the toilet room door and a vertical rail on the wall at the side of the hand basin.

There is a hand basin but there are no adult Changing Place facilities. The room is lit by artificial fluorescent light bulbs.

All toilets, both accessible and non-accessible, have automatic hand driers.

### 4. Coach House (Visitor Welcome)

Visitors are welcomed at the Coach House after parking, located in the estate buildings. This houses leaflets and further information, and a member of staff is always present.

Both entrances to the coach house are 76cm wide and are propped open. Once inside, the flooring is a mixture of flagstone and brick, and is uneven.

Inside there is a reception desk which is 101cm high and a reception table which is 79cm high.

Visitor Welcome staff are available to assist should you not be able to access the reception desk. Please ask a member of the team.

There is limited natural light in the room, but there are also fluorescent light bulbs.

Carers who accompany disabled National Trust members are admitted free of charge.

## 5. House

The main House entrance hall is approximately 120 metres from the car park.

Outside the House, the paths are a mixture of firm gravel and paving. Please be aware that the gravel can become slushy in wet weather.

There is a cobbled courtyard from which the toilets, the Tea Room and Coach House are accessed.

To avoid the cobbled courtyard to access the garden or house, please walk on the grass around the Tudor Great Hall, where there is level access. In wet weather the grass can become muddy.

Once inside the House, the floor surfaces are mainly wooden, some stone flags, and some areas are carpeted.

To exit the house, you can use the accessible doors in the Great Hall, or the visitor exit door to the courtyard. The visitor exit from the house has one step down to a paved platform, which then has several steps with a handrail leading down to the cobbled courtyard.

**Entrance Hall** - the door to the Entrance Hall is manually operated – it is propped open in fine weather. It is 110cm wide. There is one step down to access the Entrance Hall with an immediate right turn into the room. To go further into the House, there are 6 steps to a corridor and other rooms.

There is always a team member in the Entrance Hall who will be able to direct you to help if required.

**Accessible route** – please tell staff in the Coach House if you need an accessible route into the House. You will be directed to a level entrance to the Great Hall (across the cobbled courtyard, a firm gravel path and then a paved route). Once in the Great Hall, the floor surface is comprised of flag stones and is uneven.

From the Great Hall, there are portable ramps which will enable manual wheelchair users to access the ground floor of the House. There is one step from the Great Hall down into the Dining Room, and another step from the Dining Room up into the Lower Passageway. The ramps cover these steps. The Ante Room is accessible via a connecting doorway in the Dining Room

**Great Hall** – the Tudor Great Hall has no soft furnishings and so the hard surfaces could cause sound echoes. The lighting is largely natural.

**Lighting** – lighting levels are low inside the House because of the need to protect the collection.

There is limited natural light, with low artificial lighting (fluorescent light bulbs).

**Small Rooms** – the School Room on the ground floor may be difficult to turn a wheelchair around in easily due to its small size.

**Seats** – there are seats for visitors to use throughout the House.

**Volunteers** – there are volunteers in each space of the House who will be able to tell you about Rufford and direct you to help should you need it.

## 6. Food and Beverage

The tearoom is approximately 50 metres from the main car park.

The main tearoom entrance is accessed via a firm gravel path and has two steps up with a left turn into the room. The tearoom is exited via one step down into the cobbled courtyard.

If you would prefer level access, please let us know via the Coach House and a member of staff will direct you.

The entrance and exit doors are both 80cm wide, and the alternative level access door is 82cm wide. Both doors are manually operated, but staff are always available to help if you need it.

There is some natural light, but there is also artificial fluorescent lighting in the tearoom.

The floor is paved with flag stones which are uneven.

There is limited space around some of the tables, but the staff will be able to help you by rearranging chairs if necessary.

Large handled crockery, cutlery and straws are available.

## 7. Garden

There is a map of the garden showing different routes which will be given to you at the Coach House. This can also be downloaded on the website [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ruffordoldhall](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ruffordoldhall)

Around the garden, the paths are either firm gravel, or natural earth. There are some areas of paved paths around the House. Both the gravel and the natural earth can become slightly slushy in bad weather. Tree roots can be trip hazards in the woods and along the canal paths.

The most direct path to the formal garden involves crossing the cobbled courtyard. You can avoid the cobbles by crossing the grass around the side of the Tudor Great Hall to get to the formal garden. There are no steps or stiles in the formal garden – it is all level access.

There are bridges and natural earth paths in the woods.

There are benches and picnic tables in the garden.

**Water hazards** - please be aware that the Leeds/Liverpool canal runs directly alongside the garden.

In the woods, there are several streams to be aware of.



**Contact details for more information:**

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**15<sup>th</sup> March 2024**