

## Speke Hall Access Statement

Speke Hall is a rare Tudor timber-framed manor house situated just outside Liverpool city centre on the banks of the River Mersey. Restored and brought back to life in the 19th century, it is a unique and beautiful mixture of Tudor simplicity and rich Victorian interiors.

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### Introduction

1. Speke Hall is situated in scenic grounds that may be accessed by mostly flat path ways. Please be aware, walking on the wider estate involves some slopes and uneven surfaces. The ground floor of the Hall is accessible with mainly flat surfaces however there are some cobbles near the Stable Tea Room and the Inner Courtyard.
2. Mobile phone reception is reasonable across the wider estate, however near and inside the Hall the signal is poor for most networks.
3. Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the property and in the Hall. There is a water bowl outside the main restaurant at Home Farm which is regularly filled or can be refilled on request. There are some areas of the site that are not suitable for dog walking including the Maze, the Childe of Hale Trail, play areas, the Moat Garden and the Hall. Maps are available at Visitor Reception. Dogs should not be left in cars on a hot day and our Ranger takes regular patrols to ensure the welfare of animals during such weather. Dogs must be kept on leads throughout the property.
4. Due to the historic dark oak interiors, light levels in the Hall are low even in good weather.
5. There are currently 4 manual wheelchairs and 1 power assisted vehicle\* available for loan. These can be reserved in advance by phone or email during the open season.

*\*For use on the property grounds only and not for entry to the hall due to vehicle size*

### Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. Speke Hall has brown directional signs from Liverpool city centre and other main routes when approaching from the south. Follow signs for Liverpool John Lennon Airport from further afield and then brown signs when in closer proximity. The entrance is signed and the main car park is down a short driveway that is clearly signposted.
2. There are 12 designated disabled bays in the car park on a tarmac surface, a short distance to the Visitor Reception that can be accessed on a tarmac and paved stone surface.
3. If all designated disabled car parking spaces are full it is possible to arrange with the Visitor Reception Team to drop off outside Visitor Reception and then park the car. Arrangements should be made on the day so a member of staff can ensure safety of all visitors and staff in what is otherwise a pedestrian area.
4. Cycle racks are available in the main car park
5. The main car park has capacity for 450 cars with two rows of parking available on tarmac and the rest on a gravel and grass surface. Overflow car parking is on grass only with a maximum 1000 car capacity. A car park attendant will assist when overflow parking is needed.

6. There is an electric buggy service to take a maximum of 6 people between Home Farm (near Visitor Reception) and a drop of point close to the Hall. It is accessible for a wheelchair user. The transfer vehicle does not serve the car park.

## WCs

1. Male and Female WC's are available at Home Farm near the main visitor facilities including Visitor Reception, Restaurant and the shop and in the Dairy Courtyard near the hall exit.
2. There are two accessible WC's both with a right hand transfer. One at Home Farm and one located in the Dairy Courtyard near the exit from the Hall.
3. The accessible toilet in the Dairy Courtyard measures 1420mm x 2200mm
4. There is no adult changing facility available however baby changing facilities are available at Home Farm and the Dairy Courtyard
5. Both toilet blocks have limited/no natural light and are lit using halogen lights.
6. All the WCs have automatic hand dryers.
7. The Home Farm toilets have a hard tiled floor and walls. The Dairy Courtyard toilets have a lino floor and brick walls.

## Visitor Reception

1. Visitor Reception is located in a modern timber clad building with wooden floorboards and plastered walls with some soft furnishings in this area.
2. The entrance from the car park is a tarmac area leading onto paving stones with a very slight incline leading to the main entrance.
3. The entrance is through a 1060mm wide glass and metal door that opens inwards just over 90 degrees. There is no power assist on this door however staff are on hand to assist. An additional bi-fold door can open to 2310mm.
4. There is a double door leading from Reception to the property that can open to 1780mm
5. There are 3 reception desks that stand 1050mm high. A member of staff can come in front of the desks for anyone who requires.
6. There is natural light through the glass doors with general good light levels. Currently the space is fitted with LED lights.
7. There are sofas available at the membership recruitment area, these are currently only available in an emergency as soft furnishings cannot be easily cleaned. Armrests are not present.
8. There is 1 portable induction loop available if required.
9. There are 2 manual wheelchairs (2 more are kept in the house) and 1 power operated vehicle available for loan. These can be reserved in advance either at Visitor Reception or by telephoning the property. They are cleaned between users.

## House

1. The Hall is 0.31km from the Visitor Reception and 0.34km from the Car Park using the shortest route past the Gardener's Cottage, Stable Tea Room and path through a small section of woodland (maximum gradient of slope approximately 5.4°).
2. There is a tarmac path across the orchard connecting to two other paths that lead to the front of the Hall. Both of these paths have a very slight decline and are gravel cut and run paths, with a 20mm stone to dust ratio.
3. There are cobbles leading from the Stable Tea Room into the dairy courtyard with paving stones to cross this section so the cobbles can be completely avoided if necessary.

4. The entrance to the Hall is across a flat stone bridge that leads into a stone floored vestibule. There is a large coir mat at the entrance to the vestibule.
5. The small door cutaway in the main frame of a larger wooden door is often in use. The larger door measuring 1200mm can be opened at any time for greater access.
6. There are 3 large coir mats on the floor inside the vestibule that are raised 30mm.
7. The door from the Vestibule to the inner courtyard measures 830mm. The courtyard is entirely cobbled with a recessed path in the centre.
8. The internal door leading to the visitor route measures 750mm or both doors can be opened to measure 1500mm.
9. The door towards the Kitchen and Servants' Hall measures 700mm with a step up that measures 350mm
10. Internal doorways throughout the house are on average 840mm wide.
11. In the event the main entrance cannot be used, visitors are directed to a door in the Dairy Courtyard measuring 910mm
12. The Hall has 2 floors. The first floor is opened when team capacity allows but cannot be guaranteed (closure is rare, but possible). There are no lifts. The ground floor is fully accessible however the first floor is only accessible by stair, both of which have 17 steps and hand rails. Visitors unable to access the upper floor are offered a large print photographic album. Please ask at the Vestibule.
13. Every room and corridor on the ground floor has space to turn a wheelchair through a 1500mm diameter circle. Room sizes vary and furniture can occasionally be added or removed.
14. There are 2 wheelchairs available in the house.
15. Indoor or light weight mobility scooters are allowed in the house on the ground floor only if they are sufficiently compact e.g. classed as a 'car boot scooter'. Outdoor all terrain mobility vehicles are not permitted in the house.
16. Each room has a non-historic chair that visitors can use in an emergency. Please ask a Room Guide for guidance as sitting on historic chairs is not permitted.
17. The Hall has dim lighting and even on bright days the dark oak panelling around most of the Hall means the light levels can be low.
18. All the rooms have soft furnishings to absorb sound. The Vestibule, Great Hall, Kitchen and the Estate Office have the least soft furnishings and a stone floor.
19. A portable induction loop is available on request. Please ask at the vestibule entrance.
20. Visitors are encouraged to follow a set route around the house in a free-flow manner. There are themed guided tours e.g. a Victorian tour from 11am on days the house is open to the public. Please enquire at visitor welcome as you arrive for availability.
21. We aim to have a volunteer room guide in all rooms; however this is dependent on volunteer numbers. If numbers on the day are low a guide may cover more than one room. Unfortunately rooms may be closed to visitors if low guide numbers compromise the security of the collection.
22. Language guides are available for French, German and Mandarin. Please ask a staff member at the hall entrance.
23. Braille guides are available at the Hall entrance.
24. There are no WCs in the Hall. The closest WCs are in the Dairy Courtyard diagonal to the Hall exit. A volunteer or staff member will guide visitors to this door and help them re-join a tour/ group when possible.
25. Baby changing facilities are available in the accessible toilet in the Dairy Courtyard. We ask that toddler potties and training potties are not used in the house.

26. Prams are not permitted in the house. There is open storage in the courtyard where prams can be left, but will not be secure.
27. Food and drink is not permitted in the Hall.

## **Catering – The Restaurant**

1. The restaurant is part of the historic sandstone and brick Home Farm building.
2. The Restaurant is 0.12KM from the car park and the route is accessible by a flat gravel path via Visitor Reception.
3. The restaurant entrance is in a tarmac courtyard with a slight incline towards a wood and glass door that measures 1100mm opening outwards. There is no power assist however staff and volunteers are available to help if necessary. There are 2 alternative doors into the Restaurant at the rear of the building.
4. There are no soft furnishings in the Restaurant to absorb sound. The floor is tiled and the walls are brick.
5. There are good light levels with natural light, halogen wall lights and LED lights over the counter space.
6. The Restaurant is open spaced and all on one level. A wheelchair can be turned in a space through a minimum 1500mm diameter turning circle.
7. The counter is 850mm high so that staff can serve visitors in a wheel chair directly.
8. Seats with arms are available in the restaurant.
9. Accessible, easy grip cutlery and mugs are available on request.
10. As part of our service promise, staff will assist visitors to ensure the best experience. If a member of the public has difficulty queuing a chair can be provided and assistance given in carrying food and drinks to tables.
11. Please note that during busy periods indoor seating may be popular. There is additional seating in an enclosed area outside the restaurant.
12. Accessible picnic benches are available beside the play area, these can accommodate a wheel chair or a buggy easily.
13. Menus are in large print displayed on the wall opposite the counter. Additional signage is on the wall behind the counter and on top of the counter. Staff are happy to talk through daily specials and menu options.
14. A buggy park area is available in the Home Farm courtyard next to the restaurant entrance

## Catering – The Stable Tea Room

15. Open only at peak times, this secondary catering outlet is approximately 0.2km from the Car Park next to the entrance to the South Lawn.
16. The first door is 680mm (but can be opened to 1000mm on request) and leads to one step up, with the rest of the tea room on one level, and a sliding door measuring 850mm. A ramp is available on request.
17. The counter height is 970mm high but staff can come in front of the counter if needed.
18. The light levels are adequate with natural light from windows and halogen lights.
19. There are no soft furnishings to absorb sound. The walls are brick and the floor is vinyl.
20. Menus in large print are displayed behind the counter. Staff are also available to talk through daily specials and menu options.
21. There are large handled cutlery and double handled mugs available.

## Retail

1. Run by volunteers our Second Hand Book Shop is open for a few hours most days.
2. The shop is approximately 0.1km from the Car Park and located in the Home Farm complex.
3. The entrance, made of wood and glass, is approximately 1100mm wide and opens outwards. There is no power assist. There is an alternative door facing Visitor Reception that is 980mm wide and opens inwards.
4. The Shop is all on one level divided across 2 rooms. Access to the second room is through a 900mm gap in the wall.
5. There are no soft furnishings to absorb sound. The floor is tiled with white painted brick walls.
6. Light levels are good with natural light and LED lights throughout the shop.
7. There is a circulation space of 1200mm minimum between the display stands.
8. The counter is 755mm high. The PDQ holder is at 1055mm high and may be taken out of the stand for greater access.
9. As part of our service promise, volunteers will assist visitors to ensure the best experience possible, reach down items to view/purchase if they cannot be reached by customers
10. There is no large print price list, however our team are on hand and happy to talk through prices with visitors.

## Garden

1. There is an available map of the garden showing options for routes around the estate. Please ask at Visitor Welcome for a free copy.
2. The South Lawn and North Lawn have accessible flat gravel paths.
3. The Moat Garden is accessible by a sloping path from the Stable Tea Room (gradient approximately 14.5°) and 5 stone steps with no handrail, or alternatively down 7 stone steps with a handrail from the South Lawn. This can then be walked using the path route or to go down onto the grass there is a grass bank of 22.4° next to the 7 seven stone steps.
4. The Kitchen Garden is accessible from the Orchard gravel path with grass walkways around the vegetable plots and glasshouse.
5. There are metal benches, with armrests, located throughout the formal gardens. There are wood benches with armrests located in the Secret Garden.

6. There are 4 picnic tables with benches on the Orchard.
7. The Secret garden features two small bridges going over a small stream. The first bridge measures 460mm x 3600mm with a right side handrail. The second bridge measures 460mm x 3000mm with a left side handrail. The area can be accessed by path if the bridges are not used. Supervision of children is recommended near open water.

### **Wider Estate –Play Areas and Walking Trails**

8. There are three play areas. The main play area opposite the restaurant is accessible through a wooden gate with bark chippings on the floor. There is an accessible roundabout alongside play equipment for older children.
9. There are picnic benches around the play area with another designated picnic area in a small enclosure a short distance from the visitor reception building.
10. The woodland play area located behind the south lawn is accessible through sign-posted wooden gates (no power assist) and has earth/mud paths.
11. The maze opposite the restaurant has flat tarmac paths with 5 bridges each with two staircases of 10 steps, and one singular platform with a staircase of ten steps. All have wooden handrails on both sides and non-slip surfaces on the wooden steps.
12. There is a fishing lake on the wider woodland walks. Supervision of children is advised near open water. A permit is required for fishing. The path nearest the fishing lake has a 11.4° gradient.
13. The Bund Walk trail is a track on a manmade earth embankment around the perimeter of the estate signposted from the Home Farm picnic play area. The full estate trail is 1.8 miles / 2.9km. The ground is varied starting with an earth path leading to a field and woodland area.
14. The Garston Coastal Reserve trail is a 2.4 miles / 3.8km walk that is signposted from the Home Farm picnic play area. The walk involves pushing open a metal gate with no power assist. The path is fairly narrow with a descent down a board walk that levels out to the concrete taxi strip (now disused). The trail continues to reconnect with the Speke Hall estate. Please ask at visitor welcome for a map or further trail information can be found on the Speke Hall website.

**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**