

## Nymans Access Statement – 2023.

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### Introduction

Described by Country Life magazine in 1932 as ‘A crafted work of art and theatre’ Nymans was a country retreat for the creative Messel family with views stretching out across the Sussex Weald. From flamboyant summer borders to the peace and tranquillity of ancient woodland, Nymans is a place of experimentation, a stage for nature’s seasonal changes. The comfortable yet elegant house, a partial ruin, reflects the personalities and stories of the talented Messel family, from the Countess of Rosse to Oliver Messel and photographer Lord Snowdon.

### Points to note

- The garden is mainly level and the majority of our pathways have a gravel surface. There are some steps.
- The woodland and arboretum paths are uneven and seasonally muddy with a number of slopes, some steps and uneven paths. There is also an unfenced lake.
- An access route is available and marked through the garden. Visitor welcome staff will be able to provide you with a map.
- Dogs are allowed in the woodland and we request that they are kept on a lead during bird nesting season -March to August.
- Dogs are allowed in the formal garden from November – February to coincide with our winter opening hours, please check our website for exact dates.
- There is a water bowl for dogs outside visitor reception
- Dog waste bins can be found in the main car park and on the footpath between our car park and the footpath to the woods and on the eastern side of the main car park adjacent to the weather -boarded buildings.
- Toilets are located in the main car park and adjacent to the café
- Mobile phone reception is generally good across the site however, there are a few areas where the signal is weaker. In areas of the woods mobile phone reception can be lost.
- The garden has two fountains with pools, one in the rose garden and one in the wall garden. There is a wall trough in the East Courtyard of the house. There are three water features in the ruins, which have water bubbles, none of these have water pools.
- There is a small pond in the Arboretum, there is post and rail fencing around it.

### Arrival & Parking Facilities

- Nymans is situated on the southern side of Handcross village and is signposted with brown tourist attraction signs from the A23.
- Our car park is directly inside the entrance gate. The surface is flat and is mainly tarmac with some areas of gravel and grass.
- There are 11 blue badge spaces in our car park, these are on a tarmac surface, the furthest space is 35 metres from our visitor welcome.

- The overflow car park is accessed from the main car park. The surface slopes gently to one side and is mainly tarmac with gravel parking bays
- An additional over flow field is accessed from the overflow car park, the surface slopes gently to one side and is grass. The overflow field is only used in dry weather.



## WCs

- There is one unisex accessible toilet in the car park (left hand transfer). A key is not required for access. The toilet door opens outwards. In the accessible toilet there is a red pull switch for emergency use to summon staff help with an internal reset button (in case of accidental use).
- The accessible toilet in the car park is 1520mm x 2400 mm.
- Baby changing facilities are available at all toilet locations.
- There is natural light in the toilets and the artificial lights are florescent.
- There is an automatic hand drier.
- There is one unisex accessible toilet in the café toilets (right hand transfer). A key is not required for access. The toilet door opens outwards. In the accessible toilet there is a red pull switch for emergency use to summon staff help with an internal reset button (in case of accidental use).
- The accessible toilet in the café is 1520 mm x 2400 mm
- There is one unisex changing place toilet in the café toilets. A key is not required for access. It has a toilet accessible either side, adult size changing table, hoist and height adjustable sink. The toilet door opens outwards. There is a red pull switch for emergency use to summon staff help with an internal reset button (in case of accidental use).
- There is one unisex accessible toilet by the house and Riding House tearoom(left hand transfer). A key is not required for access. The toilet door opens outwards. In the accessible toilet there is a red pull switch for emergency use to summon staff help with an internal reset button (in case of accidental use).

## Visitor Entry and Exit

- Visitor welcome is situated in the middle looking at the of the white weather-boarded buildings on the edge of the car park. It is through a double door.
- If you are unable to enter the building alternative access is available, please ask at reception for assistance. The entrance path is tarmacked, with gravel on top. Staff are able to assist with orientation.

- The exit from the garden is through the shop, via manually opened double doors from a generally level gravelled surface. The doors open outwards, staff are available to assist if required
- The exit from the shop to the car park is across a brick blocked area through manually opened double doors, opening inwards. Staff are able to assist with opening the door if required.
- The width of the shop doorways are 600mm but can be opened to 1230mm.

## Garden

A welcome map will be available on arrival. Staff can assist with wheelchair friendly routes and answer questions about access.

The paths throughout the garden are mainly level and have a gravel surface. There are some steps in the garden, the steps do not have handrails.







There are a number of wooden benches located on the South Lawns.

The garden has two fountains with pools, one in the rose garden and one in the wall garden. There is a wall trough in the East Courtyard of the house. There are three water features in the ruins, which have water bubbles, none of these have water pools.

Due to restrictions there is currently no access to the arboretum. The Arboretum is normally accessed through a wooden gate, although this is currently locked. There is often livestock grazing in this area. The Arboretum is on a steep slope, it is grassed and uneven. It is seasonally muddy. There is a small pond with post and rail fencing around. There is no seating in the Arboretum.



## Woods

The woods are seasonally muddy with some steep slopes, steps and uneven paths. There is an unfenced lake. A map is located on the orientation board at the entry to the woods. There is entry to the woods from the garden along a steep, unmade path. A code is required to operate the gate between the woods and the garden, that can be collected from Visitor Reception.

## Accessibility Aids

2 all-terrain wheelchairs and 3 standard wheelchairs are available to hire from reception, either prebooked or on arrival. The all-terrain wheelchairs can be taken into the wild garden and the woods.

2 Mobility buggies are available and take visitors on guided tours around the garden or woods (2 garden tours and 2 woods tours per day). The buggy can be prebooked before arrival, or at visitor reception. The buggy is run by volunteers, call Nymans to check the buggy will be running on the day of your visit.

4 Autism support back packs are available to borrow from visitor reception containing headphones, binoculars and toys. These can be collected on arrival, we are unable to pre book use of these packs.

## Contact details for more information

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