

Sutton House Access Statement

2-4 Homerton High Street London E9 6JQ

T: 02089862264

E: suttonhouse@nationaltrust.org.uk

Introduction

- 1. At nearly 500 years old, Sutton House is one of the oldest special places the National Trust looks after. Sutton House is a small property situated in an urban area.
- 2. Mobile phone reception is good in emergency situations. Visitors should alert staff or volunteers should they encounter a problem whilst at the property.
- 3. Assistance dogs are welcome to the property.
- 4. There is level access for wheelchair users on the ground floor and Breakers Yard only.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

- Sutton House is located at the very beginning of Homerton High Street. It is five minutes'
 walk away from Hackney Central Overground station through St John's Churchyard
 Gardens and Sutton place. There are no brown signs as there is no onsite parking, but
 council black signs are in place. There is limited metered parking on adjacent streets (e.g.
 Isabella Road).
- 2. If walking from Hackney Central Overground station, please note that a misdirecting sign at the junction of Sutton Place and Urswick Road points visitors in the wrong direction. Please turn right, instead of left, for Sutton House.
- 3. There is no transfer vehicle.
- 4. Visitors in wheelchairs or with mobility issues can be dropped off at the loading bay area at the front of the house.

WCs

- 1. An accessible toilet can be found in the West Lobby, to the left of the Painted Staircase.
- 2. The accessible toilet measures 1.5m x 2.1m.
- 3. The accessible WC is right-hand transfer, with the possibility to pull down a second rail on the left side.
- 4. There is a Baby Changing facility in the accessible toilet.
- 5. The area is lit on sensors, with use of a florescent tube over the sink area.
- 6. The WCs (both accessible and non-accessible) have automatic hand driers and energy saving lighting.

Visitor Reception

- If attending a guided tour during daylight hours, access to the Visitor Reception at Sutton House will be via the Breakers Yard. This is to the right of the house, via Homerton High Street.
- 2. If attending Sutton House for an private or third-party event, such as a community drama group or wedding, or an event that takes place after dark, you will likely access Sutton House via the front courtyard which is step-free. There is uneven paving as soon as you



enter the front courtyard, so please take care going across it. Currently part of the front courtyard is cordoned off due to damage from a car crash.

- 3. The Breakers Yard is accessed via one small step, so it is not level access from the street.
- 4. A portable metal ramp can be put down for wheelchair users. If attending alone, they can contact a member of staff who will bring out the ramp either by calling 020 8986 2264, or by heading to the front gate of the house and ringing the Office or Café buzzers.
- 5. The entrance to the Visitor Reception from the Breakers Yard is accessed via one wooden door with glass panels. It is 105cm wide. Visitors with mobility issues should note that there is a door mat just outside the Visitor Reception door and a metal grate covering the Tudor well. A rubberised mat can be placed down to assist wheelchair users to get over the grate.
- 6. The path in the Breaker's Yard is step-free and made of earthenware tiles, with gravel on the sides. The path is 1.5m wide but it can feel slightly narrower on the right side in the proximity of where the sand play area is located.
- 7. The reception desk is 1.05m high. Please note that the desk does not have a lower section, but staff/volunteers will be happy to come around to facilitate communication.
- 8. The area is lit with energy saving bulbs. The Visitor Reception benefits of lots of natural light thanks to the glass veranda.
- 9. Chairs and benches are available, all without armrests.
- 10. The house only has one desk that functions as reception, till, membership recruitment. An induction loop is available at the Visitor Reception desk.
- 11. One manual wheelchair is available at the property with no need to book.

House

- 1. The Visitor Reception is located inside the House, in the conservatory.
- 2. Sutton House is built in bricks and wood, with wooden flooring mostly everywhere, except for the earthenware tiles in the Visitor Welcome area and Tudor Kitchen, the cobbled Courtyard and front yard, the paved Breaker's Yard (garden), the door mats at the entrances and the waterproof floor coating in the WCs. The East Staircase and landings are wood covered in a central carpet stripe.
- 3. Some doors have glass inserts and the conservatory is made of glass and wood.
- 4. Should visitors happen to use the left-hand side entrance (East Lobby), please note that the cobbled uneven path is the only route to it. It is 1.1m wide. The door manually opens inwards and staff/volunteers can assist with opening if required. There are two door mats outside and inside the East Lobby, and a second entry way (a French door) leading to the cobbled Courtyard (1.1m wide).
- 5. Sutton House is a furnished property on four levels of visitor route. Most rooms have wooden flooring and the historic rooms have wooden panelling on the walls.
- 6. During visiting times, the shutters are always open allowing for natural light, with additional artificial light (mainly energy saving bulbs).
- 7. The only means of access to the upper floors is via stairs (Painted Staircase and East Staircase), both with handrails. To visit the Cellar and the Chapel, in the basement, the only way is via steep and narrow stairs, with handrails.
- 8. Sutton House is a small Tudor property, so please note that the doorways on the first floor, connecting the Little Chamber, Great Chamber and Victorian Study, are narrow (less than 75cm wide).
- 9. Each room has enough space to turn a wheelchair easily, except for the Victorian Study and the Tudor Kitchen which both have a large table in the middle.



- 10. The Sutton House team of staff and volunteers provide guided tours of the property on a scheduled basis. Unfortunately, the guides are not trained to use induction loops or BSL.
- 11. Audio Described Tours are available on request please contact the property with advance notice if you would like to arrange one.
- 12. Guided tours last for approximately 1 hour, standing throughout. Please contact the property if you are booked and require some rest points so that we can arrange for this.
- 13. There are three WCs in the house, one of which is an accessible toilet.
- 14. We can provide braille and large print interpretation for each room or display.
- 15. There are no restrictions on access for powered wheelchairs or powered mobility vehicles inside the house.
- 16. The fire alarm is sound only. Volunteers and staff will begin an evacuation procedure should the alarm go off.

Catering

- 1. There is no café at Sutton House.
- 2. Fresh drinking water can be provided from the Visitor Reception by request.
- 3. Sutton House staff and volunteers will be happy to recommend local cafes, restaurants, and pubs.

Retail

- 1. Sutton House does not have a shop. A small range of souvenir items and guidebooks can be purchased from the Visitor Reception.
- 2. Souvenir items are displayed on shelves and volunteers can assist with accessing retail items from shelves as required.
- 3. Souvenir items are paid for at the Visitor Reception desk and information regarding the price of items can also be provided.

Garden

- 1. The Breaker's Yard is Sutton House's small urban back garden. There is level access from the Visitor Reception.
- 2. The path in the Breaker's Yard is step-free. Visitors with mobility issues should note that there is a metal grate covering the Tudor well. The path is 1.5m wide but it can feel slightly narrower on the right side in the proximity of where a sand play area is located.
- 3. The exit from the Breakers Yard to either Homerton High Street or Isabella Road is via one step. Wheelchair users can exit Sutton House via the Front Courtyard or can ask staff to put a portable ramp down for exit to Homerton High Street. Staff or volunteers can help to open doors.
- 4. The path in the Breaker's Yard is of earthenware tiles, with gravel on the sides. Little grass is present.
- 5. There are four round metal tables in total, with four or five chairs each.
- 6. Please note that we do not have any water features.

Contact details for more information

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- Sutton House, at 2-4 Homerton High Street E9 6JQ
- Location of misdirecting sign