

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 beautiful gardens, most of which have flat paths; however a walk on the wider estate involves some slopes and uneven surfaces. The ground floor of the Hall is accessible and largely flat surfaces however there are some cobbles near the Stable Tea Room and the Inner Courtyard which currently have no other paving.
2. Mobile phone reception is reasonable across the wider estate, however near and in the Hall the signal is very 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 formal gardens 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.
4. Due to the historic dark oak interiors, light levels in the Hall are low even in good weather.
5. There are 2 manual wheelchairs and 1 motorised buggy available for loan. These can be reserved in advance by phone or email during the open season.

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.
2. There are 10 designated disabled bays in the car park, on a tarmac surface, which are the shortest distance of 90m to the main Visitor Reception which is also accessible on a tarmac surface.
3. Cycle racks are available in the main car park, with two bike chains available to loan from the main Visitor Reception.
4. The car park (capacity 450 cars) has two rows of parking available on tarmac with the rest of the car park made up of gravel and grass. Overflow car parking is grass only however when this car park is needed there is a car park attendant available to assist.
5. There is an electric buggy to take people between Home Farm (near Visitor Reception) and a drop of point closer to the Hall. It is accessible for a wheelchair user. The transfer vehicle does not serve the car park.
6. 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.

WCs

1. There are 2 accessible toilets both with a right hand transfer. 1 at Home Farm near the main visitor facilities including Visitor Reception, Restaurant and Shop. 1 is located in the Dairy Courtyard, near the exit from the Hall.
2. The accessible toilet is larger than 1.5m x 2.2m)
3. There is no adult changing facility available however baby changing facilities are available at Home Farm.
4. Both toilet blocks have limited/no natural light and are lit using halogen lights.
5. All the WCs have automatic hand dryers. 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 part of the historic Home Farm building constructed with sandstone and brick. There is a hard stone floor and brick walls with no soft furnishings in this area.
2. The entrance is through a 1250mm wide glass and wood door, with no slope, that opens inwards just over 90 degrees. There is no power assist on this door however staff and volunteers are on hand to assist. There is a second door that can be opened if necessary making the entrance 2500mm wide. The door leading from Reception to the courtyard and facilities is 950mm wide.
3. The reception desk is 970mm high. A member of staff will greet visitors at the entrance door in front of the desk and staff will come in front with a clipboard or other surface for anyone who requires.
4. There is natural light through the glass doors; however the location within the historic farm and the structure of this building means light levels are low. Currently the space is fitted with halogen lights.
5. There are chairs with armrests available at the Membership Recruitment table.
6. There is an induction loop fitted at the till point and a portable induction loop available if required at the Membership Recruitment table or another part of the property.
7. There are 2 manual wheelchairs and 1 motorised buggy available for loan. These can be reserved in advance during the open season either at Visitor Reception or by telephoning the property.

House

1. The Hall is 250m from the Visitor Reception (340m from the Car Park) using the shortest route past the 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. There are cobbles leading from the Stable Tea Room into the dairy courtyard. There are stone slabs to cross this section from the tarmac path and further stone slabs being put in 2015 to connect the Stable Tea Room and the path so the cobbles can be completely avoided if necessary.
3. The entrance to the Hall is flat and the stone bridge leads into the stone vestibule. There is a large mat at the entrance to the vestibule and inside that staff can assist wheelchair users to navigate if necessary.



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4. The entrance used is a small door cutaway in the main frame of the door that requires a step over. Staff and volunteers can open either one door measuring 1200mm or both of the large doors measuring 2400mm for easy access. The door from the Vestibule to the cobbled inner courtyard measures 830mm, into the house measures 750mm (or both doors can be opened, 1500mm), and through the Kitchen/ Servants' Hall measures 700mm.
5. If there is an event where the front entrance cannot be used, visitors are directed to the back door which is located in the Dairy Courtyard and is accessible via a stone path in the cobbles. There is a slight slope down the bridge into the Dairy Courtyard to a door that opens inwards.
6. All the downstairs rooms are accessible with soft furnishings to absorb sound in all but the Great Hall. In its current presentation this room has no soft furnishings.
7. The Hall has dim lighting and even on bright days, the dark oak panelling around most of the Hall, means the light levels are low. The Green Bedroom is the only room currently presented 'at night' with low levels of electric lights.
8. There are two floors. The ground floor is fully accessible however the first floor is only accessible by staircases, all of which have a hand rail. For visitors unable to access the upper floor there is a large print photographic album available on request at the Vestibule.
9. Most rooms are quite small; however every room and corridor on the ground floor has space to turn a wheelchair through a 1500mm diameter circle. Doorways vary however on average are approximately 840mm wide.
10. There are benches for visitors to use in the corridor window bays and the Great Hall however these do not have arm rests. There are also benches, with cushions and arm rests, in the Billiard Room. In the Estate Office there are four chairs available without arm rests and in each room there is a chair with the Room Guide, without arm rests, that visitors can use on request.
11. On most days there is a volunteer room guide in all rooms; however this is dependent on volunteer numbers. If numbers on the day are low there may be a guide in every other room or a guide available to cover more than one room.
12. There are no WCs in the Hall. The closest WCs are in the Dairy Courtyard by the back door of the Hall. A volunteer or staff member will guide visitors to this door and help them re-join a tour/ group when possible.
13. Guided tours are available and an induction loop is available on request.
14. There is no virtual tour, however there is an audio guide produced by a community group aimed at a teenage audience. There is a large print full colour photograph guide, room cards (with large print versions soon to be available on request), a braille guide and foreign language guides for French, Spanish, German and Deutsch.
15. Indoor or light weight powered mobility vehicles are allowed in the house but no outdoor mobility scooters.
16. The Estate Office, Great Hall, Billiard Room and Corridors all have areas of seating available and there are benches immediately outside the Vestibule under cover. These can become crowded on very busy days however visitors are welcome to leave the Hall and return later in the day if this would help their enjoyment of the visit. Staff and volunteers can advise visitors on the day where a quiet seating area may be depending on the weather/ events on that date.

Catering – The Restaurant

1. The Restaurant is 120m from the car park and the route is accessible by a flat tarmac path leading from the car park and through the Visitor Reception. There is a small incline

into the building leading to a wood and glass door, 1100mm, which opens outwards.

There is no power assist however staff and volunteers are available to help if necessary.

There is no alternative entrance into the Restaurant.

2. There are no soft furnishings in the Restaurant to absorb sound.
3. There are good light levels with much natural light and halogen wall lights and LED lights over the counter space.
4. The Restaurant is all on one level. There are no narrow spaces and a wheelchair can be turned in a space through a 1500mm diameter circle.
5. The counter is 900mm high however there is a space where staff can serve visitors directly to the side of the till with no counter. There is an induction loop at the till point.
6. 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.
7. Menus are in large print displayed on the wall by the door and along the back behind the counter. Staff are also available to talk through daily specials and menu options.
8. There is no large handled cutlery or double handled mugs available.

Catering – The Stable Tea Room

9. This secondary catering outlet is approximately 200m from the Car Park next to the entrance to the Gardens.
10. 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.
11. The counter height is 970mm high but staff can come in front of the counter.
12. The light levels are adequate with some natural light and halogen lights hanging in the centre.
13. There are no soft furnishings to absorb sound.
14. Menus are large print displayed behind the counter. Staff are also available to talk through daily specials and menu options.
15. There is no large handled cutlery or double handled mugs available.

Retail

1. The Shop is approximately 100m from the Car Park (10m from the Visitor Reception).
2. The entrance door, made of wood and glass, is approximately 1100mm wide and opens outwards. There is no other way in/out from the shop.
3. The Shop is all on one level. The floor is flat grey tiles against pale coloured off white/ pale green walls. There are no soft furnishings to absorb sound in the current presentation.
4. Light levels are good with some natural light and halogen lights throughout the shop.
5. There is a circulation space of 1200mm between the display stands.
6. The counter is 960mm high with a lower counter section of 800mm high. The till has an induction loop.
7. As part of our service promise, staff will assist visitors to ensure the best experience possible. Staff will reach down items to view/purchase if they cannot be reached by customers



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8. There is no large print price list, however staff are on hand and happy to talk through prices with visitors.

Garden

1. Is there a map of the garden showing options for routes round the garden and information about path surfaces etc? If not, provide an overview of key things to be aware of. For example:
2. The South Lawn and North Lawn have no steps or surfaces on different levels with routes of flat dust/stone paths around both. 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.
3. The Kitchen Garden is accessible from the Orchard dust/stone path with grass walkways around the vegetable plots and glasshouse.
4. Tours of the garden are currently available as part of programmed events. Written interpretation and further talks/ tours are being developed during 2015.
5. There are metal benches, with armrests, located throughout the formal gardens.
6. There is a fishing lake and a stream on the wider woodland walks. Supervision of children is recommended near open water.

Wider Estate – Main walks and play areas

7. There are three play areas. The main play area (near the main restaurant) is accessible through a wooden gate with bark chippings for the floor. The woodland play (located near the South Lawn) is accessible through wooden gates and has mud paths. The maze (located near the main 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 both sides and non-slip surfaces on the wooden steps.
8. The main Estate Walk, is approximately 1040m and has a gradual slope at the entrance near the main play area with an approximate gradient of 3.2°. The path has both stone/dust and mud sections with wooden benches, without armrests, located along the walk. The path nearest the fishing lake has a gradient of approximate gradient of 11.4°.

Date

January 2015

Map

Add any maps with access features marked to the back of the Statement

