

Lytes Cary Manor Access Statement

Lytes Cary Manor
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Introduction

Lytes Cary Manor is a small medieval house with an Arts and Crafts inspired garden surrounded by the Somerset countryside. The property was originally the family home of the Elizabethan Herbalist Henry Lyte. After years of neglect Lytes Cary was lovingly restored in the early 20th century by Sir Walter Jenner and is shown as it was in his time. The garden rooms are divided by high yew hedges and reveal a collection of topiary, sensuous herbaceous borders and manicured lawns.

NB: Mobile phone reception is acceptable across the site. If you encounter any difficulties, please call the office number above as soon as you are able to. In case of an emergency call 999.

NB: Assistance dogs only are welcome in the manor and the garden. All dogs on leads are welcome in any other area and on the wider estate. There is no shaded car parking available.

NB: Please note that due to conservation priorities light levels inside the manor can be low. We will ask visitors to leave big bags in their cars or at the entrance to the Great Hall before entering the manor. The same applies to buggies and strollers.

NB: Manual push wheelchairs are available for visitors, but it is advised to reserve these in advance of the visit.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

Lytes Cary Manor is well signposted from the A303 and approximately 1 mile (1.6 km) from the Podimore roundabout. There is limited signage from the North. When approaching from the A37 please continue to Podimore roundabout and take the 4th exit. From Somerton and Glastonbury direction, follow signs towards Yeovil/A303. There is a brown sign on the A372 (westbound towards Podimore).

The main car park has a gravelled surface and has 3 tarmacked designated disabled car park spaces. Visitors with wheelchairs, mobility scooters or to avoid walking on gravel can enter via a gate to the left and follow the tarmac drive around to the house and garden entrance. The overflow car park has a grass surface with no designated spaces for disabled persons to use.

WCs

There is a wheelchair accessible toilet for gents by the open barns (close to the entrance area) with a 3ft 1inch (94 cm) wide door which opens to the right-hand side. There is a shallow ramp into the room and sufficient space to turn a wheelchair within.

The floor is constructed of red quarry tiles.

One other accessible toilet is located in the Ladies toilets inside the north wing of the house on the way to the tea-room. To access this there is a paved path across the gravel courtyard towards the corridor containing the tea-room and Ladies toilet. The entrance door threshold has two lips, one of 2 inches (5 cm) the second of 1.2 inches (3 cm) into the corridor.

The Ladies has a 2 ft 11 inches (90 cm) door width which opens to the right-hand side. There is sufficient space to turn a wheelchair inside this cubicle. The floor is constructed of blue Lias stone and the walls are plastered and wallpapered.

The Ladies and Gent's toilets contain baby changing facilities. There are artificial ceiling mounted energy saving lights in the Gents and artificial ceiling mounted energy saving lights plus natural window light in the Ladies.

Our toilet facilities operate with automatic hand dryers. There are no adult changing facilities.

House

The entrance to the manor is 55 yards (50 m) from the disabled car park spaces.

The path leading from the tarmac drive to the entrance is uneven and there is a 4-inch (10 cm) step into the house and the entrance way is 2 ft 10 inches (86 cm) wide. There are no handrails. Staff/volunteers are on hand to help and to place a two-piece portable ramp, each section being 1 foot 3 inches wide x 2 ft 3 inches long (40 cm x 70 cm). The ramp does not have any handrails. The main entrance door is open from 11am until 4pm and if weather permits the door at the end of the corridor is also opened into the inner courtyard. In poor weather the main door may be closed with a sign outside stating to knock for entry - volunteers are on hand to open the door.

Wheelchairs can be used to access almost the entire ground floor of the house with the exception of the Oriel room which has a 4-inch (10 cm) step in and out of the room. The original doorways are narrow; however, a wheelchair user or small mobility scooter could negotiate this with the help of a carer or alternatively look into the room. There is a small raised lip (2cm) along the south side of the Great Hall.

Unfortunately, there is no access to the upper floor. Disabled visitors can return to the Great Hall where there is a tablet computer available with pictures of the upstairs rooms. A large print guide is also available. There is no induction loop in the house.

Food & Beverage

The tea-room is 71 yards (65 m) from the disabled car parking spaces, through the courtyard and inside the north wing of the house. The courtyard has a flat, paved path between the tarmac drive and tea-room. The rest of the courtyard surface, including seating and access to the book-barn is covered with gravel which makes manoeuvring with a manual wheelchair difficult.

There is a small step of 4 inches (10 cm) into the house and a 1.2-inch (3 cm) wooden threshold. A wheelchair lift is available to access the three deep steps in the corridor halfway to the tea-room. The lift can be used without assistance but staff in the tea-room are also available to help. Please note that the weight limit of the lift is 220 kg and cannot be used standing up.

The tea-room door is 3 ft 2 inches (96 cm) the counter is 2 ft 9 inches (84 cm) high.

In addition to large double aspect windows giving natural light, there are spotlights above the service area and two upright lamps in the corner.

Food & Beverage staff can offer table service or can carry trays for less able customers. There are only 18 seats in the tearoom. The room is small, and it can be tight to

manoeuvre with a wheelchair or buggy. Straws are available.

The width between the tables varies depending on visitor group numbers. There is no induction loop at the till. The tea-room has hard surfaces and very limited soft furnishings, which can make this room quite noisy. There are also tables outside in the courtyard some of which can fit a wheelchair between the seats.

Book barn

The book barn is located in the café courtyard which has a gravelled surface and can make manoeuvring with a manual wheelchair difficult. Inside the barn there are uneven stones.

There is an artificial light source high up on the back of the barn. However, light levels can feel

low on cloudy days.

Garden

Visitors will receive a property map on arrival, and we have keys for less abled people to access the garden through a shorter and more easily accessible route from the Apostle Garden.

The garden paths are uneven with some steps/slopes and grass paths which are not marked on the current map. The garden features a fountain and a bog garden which can contain some water. There are some benches with arm rests in the garden.

Estate

The estate has three way-marked walks, between 1 mile to 1.5 miles long. The walks are not suitable for wheelchairs but may be navigated with an off-road capable mobility scooter. Please note these are not available on site.

Access to the estate walks is via a wooden agricultural gate, 5 ft (155 cm) wide which opens with a lever. There are other gates on site with various width ranging from 2.8 ft (86 cm) to 5 ft. Most can be avoided by staying on the farm track. There are two bridges on the estate, one has a 4-inch (10 cm) step (crossing a small stream), the other has two steps which are 9 inches (23 cm) high (crossing the river Cary).

The paths on the estate are uneven and subject to weather e.g. muddy/flooded or cracked during dry periods.

Maps of the wider estate are available for purchase at the entrance. A map highlighting the walks is also displayed, and staff are on hand to advise best routes.

Contact details for more information

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Map

