

Smallhythe Place Access Statement

Smallhythe Road
Smallhythe
Tenterden
Kent TN30 7NG
T: 01580 762334
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Introduction

1. Mobile reception across the property can be poor to good.
2. The property is not on completely level ground, there are slopes but no hills.
3. Dogs on leads are permitted within the garden but not any of the buildings. We provide a bowl and access to water next to Visitor Reception. We ask that all dog waste is taken away with you as we do not have suitable bins.
4. Light levels in the house vary according to seasons; light is controlled to protect the collection.
5. We have a portable wheelchair ramp for access to the ground floor of the house and into VR which is situated in the Theatre foyer.
6. There are no power assisted doors.
7. The garden has 2 ponds; both have warning signs next to them. The upper pond has a low wall which gives way to a 30cm drop into the water. The lower pond has no fencing with a slope leading to the water.
8. We do not currently have induction loops.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. Car parking is in a layby just south of the house, there is also space in a layby opposite and availability on most days in the local church car park which is a few hundred yards back up the hill from the main house. There is access to the garden from the back of the church via a gate to avoid having to walk down the road to the house.
2. The main layby is hard standing with painted lines to indicate direction of parking. The opposite layby is a grass/earth surface. The church is hard standing.
3. Blue badge holders are welcome to drop off at the main gate to the property but there are no allocated spaces as the main layby is administered by the borough council.
4. Coaches can drop off at the main gate to the house. Parking can be either at the Chapel Down Vineyard just back up the hill (prior agreement needed) or at the Tenterden coach park (approx 2 miles away). There will not be space for a coach to park in the layby.

WCs

1. There are 2 toilets next to VR at the back of the barn theatre.
2. Both toilets have assistance rails but are not accessible to wheelchair users.
3. Both are artificially lit although one does have natural light via a window.

Visitor Reception

1. Visitor Reception is in the Theatre foyer. A flat route to VR can be accessed via a path to the side of the house and over grass beyond, the ground is uneven in places.
2. There are 2 steps into VR and a further small step beyond into the Theatre, the floor is concrete. A wheelchair ramp is available for access into VR.
3. The entrance door is wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair and is kept wide open during our visiting hours.
4. There is a combination of artificial and natural light.
5. There is seating in VR which visitors can use.

House

1. Stone covered path from the car park to the main gate where it changes to a brick surface.
2. Steps into the main entrance of the house, a ramp is available for wheelchairs on request.
3. Main door is wide enough to accommodate most sizes of wheelchairs. The hallway is accessible with a small step down of approx 1.5 inches into each of the adjacent rooms.
4. All rooms within the house are either bare floorboards or brick with rugs in some rooms.
5. Natural light in the house is fairly poor, lighting achieved by a variety of lamps and ceiling lights (no fluorescent strips).
6. A wheelchair user will be able to navigate and turn within the two rooms downstairs. Displays are positioned to allow access.
 7. The dining room downstairs has a settle for people to use, there is also a wooden bench in the hall.
 8. The house has a 1st floor which is not accessible by wheelchair. There are 2 staircases, the second being easier to ascend due to the narrow and steep 1st staircase. Access on request.
9. Narrow corridor section at top of main staircase to 1st floor.
10. Volunteer room stewards are in the sitting room downstairs and the bedroom upstairs.
11. There are no toilet facilities within the main house, these are within the barn buildings.
12. Volunteers provide free historic garden tours on some days, these are not supported in terms of braille or hearing induction.
13. There is an ipad available with pictures of the upstairs of the house for those unable to climb the stairs.
14. Powered vehicles can sometimes access depending on their size, please contact the property to check.



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Garden

1. The main garden surfaces are predominantly grass with some occasional stone inlay and all accessible by wheelchair. Slopes are minimal and a map is provided to show the most appropriate routes.
2. The rose garden is enclosed and not accessible by wheelchair due to the narrowness of the grass paths. This area can be viewed to some degree from the gate and additional photographs are available on request.
3. There are oak signs at places of importance within the garden; there are also exhibitions within the cow byre (accessible) and the hut at the top of the garden (not accessible).
4. There are some benches within the garden.
5. There are two ponds in the garden both with warning signs of deep water. Both can be viewed safely.

Contact details for more information

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Date

25 March 2021