

## Sudbury Hall and the Museum of Childhood Access Statement

Sudbury Hall is a unique site with two visitor attractions in one. The National Trust's Museum of Childhood sits alongside this late 17<sup>th</sup> Century House with its internal lavish architecture.

### Contact details

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### Points to note

- There is reasonable mobile phone reception across most of the site except in the Hall where the signal is poor
- Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the property and there is a water bowl alongside the stable yard toilet doors which is refilled regularly or can be filled on request
- There are manual wheelchairs available for loan from Visitor Services and in the Hall, free of charge and offered on a first come first served basis. Please note that these will require a companion/carer's assistance to push

### Arrival & Parking Facilities

- There are brown signs directing you to the property from the A50. The entrance to the visitor car park is well sign posted from both sides of Sudbury Main Road. The car park is situated approx. 400 metres from the Hall and Museum of Childhood
- The main car park surface is gravelled with some embedded space markers and some painted space markers
- There are 20 designated spaces for blue badge holders on a firm and gravelled area with a walkway in-between the two lines of spaces. These spaces are the shortest distance from the Hall and also closest to the 'hut' which has details of how to telephone for a mobility vehicle to collect you and take you down to the house. The 'hut' is covered and includes seating.
- Disabled passengers may also be dropped off at the side of the Hall, at the entrance to the stable yard area, whilst the driver parks in the main car park. There are benches in the stable yard area to rest upon. If it is raining at the time of your visit, you are welcome to sit inside visitor services, which is situated at the entrance to the stable yard
- There are designated spaces for coach parking in the main car park. A barrier will need to be opened to allow access. This can be arranged either by telephoning the number provided at the barrier or by letting staff know when dropping visitors off at the hall or museum

- We allow free admission, on request, to the necessary carer/companion accompanying a disabled visitor
- There is a barrier at the start of the path to stop car access. There are gaps either side of the barrier measuring a minimum of 930mm
- There are 3 benches provided along the course of the pathway down to the hall
- Low level lighting is provided, along the length of the pathway, during dark periods of the winter months
- The pathway from the car park to the road edge way is approx. 225 meters and is a tar sprayed and chipped pathway which is flat but slightly meandering.
- At the end of the pathway visitors need to cross Sudbury Main Road which has a 30mph speed limit, to continue their journey to the hall, which is a further approx. 175 metres. The pathway to the hall from the road is solid with the exception of the area directly outside the hall which is loose gravel on a hard standing.
- To gain access to the museum of childhood there is a further walk of approx. 50 metres, via the stable yard, which is a route taking in a mixture of hard standing and cobble stones.

**Stable Yard area of the property** – the stable yard area is the access point to visitor services, WC's, shop, tea room, museum, garden and children's play area. This area consists of a grassed central area surrounded by a mixture of cobbles, loose gravel and dirt pathways. The area is flat.

## Visitor Reception



Visitor services



Doorway in to VS

- The Visitor Reception Building is a room located at the entrance to the stable yard.
- The entrance door, which measures 1050mm width is left open during opening hours. There is a slight step up on entry and a large inset coir mat just inside.
- There is a second door to enter, which is also always open during opening hours and measures 860mms.
- Staff are on hand to assist with opening of doors if required.
- The floor surface is carpet and there are adequate windows to provide natural light.
- The reception desk is 920mm high.
- An induction loop is available.
- There is a good turning circle in front of the reception desk.

- There are chairs located in VS for visitors to sit down on if needed.

## WCs



Entrance to WC's

- Our public toilets, include an accessible toilet for disabled visitors, and are accessed via a large arched doorway underneath the clock.
- Entry to the toilets is all on the level.
- There is a left hand transfer accessible WC with space to turn a wheelchair through 1400mm diameter circle.
- There are no adult changing facilities but baby changing facilities are available in this location.
- All the WCs have automatic hand driers, a contrasting colour scheme has been used and all toilets have tiled floors, brick walls and are well lit

## Shop



Entrance to shop



Shop entrance

- The shop entrance doorway measures 910mm. There is a slight step up on entry to the shop.
- Items in the shop are displayed on shelving units. The space between these units varies but is a minimum 900 mm. There are staff and volunteers to assist when required

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- The shop counter is 950 mm high but staff and volunteers are on hand to assist and to help lift goods if required
- Baskets are available for easy carrying of shop items
- There is an induction loop available at the shop counter
- The flooring is original stone and cobbles and has areas which are slightly uneven

## Tea room



Tea room entrance

- Entrance to the tea room is via double doors from the stable yard, measuring 2180mm when both doors are open (good weather) and 1070mm when just one door is open (bad weather). Staff are always on hand should assistance be required. There is a very slight lip up on entry to the tea room.
- The seating in the restaurant is chairs, and tables which are 750 mm high. Chairs can be removed to accommodate wheelchairs
- The ceilings are high and can create an echoey environment
- The circulation space between the tables measures a minimum of 600 mm but staff are available to assist whenever required
- There are straws on request
- Food and drink needs to be ordered at the counter, which measures 900mm. Assistance is available if required.
- There is space for 54 diners on the ground floor with further space for 68 diners upstairs. The upstairs seating area is reached by 26 stairs, located in the middle of the tea room
- Flooring is original brick and therefore slightly uneven in places

## Museum



Museum entrance



Museum scullery yard

- Access to the museum is via a further doorway in the stable yard which measures 1200mm wide and is always open during opening hours.
- The museum is split over 3 floors and floor covering is mainly carpet with a small amount of linoleum.
- There are many doors in the museum, leading to different exhibition spaces, with the minimum measurement being 800mm
- The stairs between the floors are carpeted and have hand rails
- There is also a lift to access all floors. The lift entrance measures 800mm
- There is a scullery yard play area, off the museum, which is sometimes open during good weather for outside play. There is a step down to this and the floor is original stone and very uneven, with a large grate in the centre.
- There is a disabled access WC in the museum, located near the exit at the far end of the museum. The WC includes a left hand accessible toilet and has a turning circle of 1370mm. Sink and electric hand dryer are provided
- Exit from the museum is down 24 wooden steps, with a handrail, or can also be achieved by using the lift and exiting through the entrance doorway.

## Gardens



Ramp up to garden



Pathway through garden



Steps down to nearer lake



Steps up from garden fountain

- Access to the garden is through a large gate, left open during opening hours, at the far end of the stable yard
- There is a slope upwards, immediately after the gate, containing earth, brick pieces and tree roots, which can become muddy in wet weather.
- Once in the garden there is a wide, flat, gravelled pathway which leads to the far end of the area.
- There are paths off the central walkway, to lead further down in to the garden and closer to the lake, but these do involve varying amounts of steps
- Access to the boat house is via uneven grassed land which can become very muddy in wet weather
- There are benches located at various points throughout the gardens

## Play area

- Access to the play area is through a gap in the far side hedge surrounding the stable yard. The width of the gap is approx. 1100mm and the access route can get very muddy during wet weather
- The ground in the play area is dirt with some wood chippings near the play equipment.
- The play area is densely covered with trees, so light levels are low, but it can still get muddy in wet weather
- There are benches and picnic tables situated in the play area

## Route to the Hall

- The entrance to the Hall is via the front of the building, which is a short distance from the stable yard area and accessed via a hard surface path way and gravelled area directly in front of the Hall.

## Hall

- There are two entrances to the hall that are used depending on the current visitor journey. The main door is accessed via 6 steps up and the side door is accessed via 4 steps up



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- The floors in most of the rooms within the Hall itself have hard surfaces and can be quite echoey
- The lighting is kept at a fairly low level for reasons of conservation
- A variety of seating is available if required in most rooms and extensive seating is available on the ground floor. There is usually a room guide in each room so please ask for assistance
- Manual wheelchairs are available for use on the ground floor but users will need a helper and will also need to be able to walk a small amount as steps and floor height differences are around the ground floor. There are 12 steps up to get to the area where the wheelchairs are kept.
- Rucksacks and large bags are required to be left at the entrance area
- Powered mobility vehicles cannot be accommodated in the Hall due to the narrow corridors, limited turning circles and steps
- The Hall is divided into two floors. Side Hall, Cross Passage, Stone Passage, Lord Vernon's Study, Great Hall, Great Staircase, Saloon, Drawing Room, Library are all located on the ground floor. Long Gallery, Talbot Room, Queens Room, Porch Room and Bedroom Corridor are all located on the first floor
- The staircase which takes you from the ground to the first floor consists of 20 steps, on carpeted surface, and does have a handrail.
- The basement is open on some occasions and access is via 12 very uneven and slippery original stone steps.
- The level of lighting can be quite low on the staircase areas.
- There is no lift or stair climber available in the Hall
- In the event of a fire alarm, staff and volunteers will ensure that all visitors have left the Hall

## Date

August 2017