

## Leith Hill Place Access Statement

Leith Hill Lane, Holmbury St. Mary, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6LY

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### Introduction

1. Leith Hill Place is nestled within the Surrey Hills. Having been a private family home and then a boarding house for a local school, there are limited facilities. The long term future of the house is currently being decided, but the doors have been opened to give visitors a glimpse of this beautiful house and an insight into the behind the scenes work of the National Trust.
2. There is good mobile phone reception in the property and in the surrounding grounds.
3. Assistance dogs are welcome in all areas, whilst well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome in the grounds and house, but not the kitchen or attic rooms. During special events such as concerts, only assistance dogs are welcome.
4. Only the ground floor rooms of the house are accessible by wheelchair, but an audio recording of the Soundscape tour is available to listen to on the ground floor. There are two toilets on the ground floor (neither have accessible facilities) and the majority of seats in the house can be sat on. The main car park (Rhododendron Wood) for the house is a 400m walk across a field, which can be muddy and there is no surfaced path across the field. There is limited disabled parking at the house, but it is possible to drop off passengers before parking in the main car park.

### Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. There are brown road signs to Leith Hill from Dorking. Once near the property there are also A-boards giving directions. There is clear signage from the Rhododendron Wood car park through the woods, to the house.
2. There are 6 disabled parking spaces, which are immediately outside the house. From the main car park there is a 400m walk through woodland and across a field, which can be slippery in wet weather.
3. The Rhododendron Wood car park has a rough hardened surface and no dedicated disabled bays, whilst the disabled parking at the house is on tarmac. Parking at Rhododendron Wood car park is £3.50 (payable via a donation cairn) or free for National Trust members.
4. If the disabled parking area is full, it is possible to drop off passengers who are unable to make the 400m walk at the house, and then drive up to the Rhododendron Wood car park.
5. There are several other car parks on Leith Hill, which offer a longer walk to the property, through the beautiful countryside. Visit <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leith-hill> for more details. These car parks are non-National Trust and tend to be surfaced with stone/earth.

### WCs

1. There are no accessible toilets at the house, but there are two ground floor toilets:  
Toilet 1 measures 1.64m x 1.30m with a door width of 0.65m

Toilet 2 measures 1.90m x 1.80m with a door width of 0.60m



Toilet 1



Toilet 2

2. The toilets are lit by natural light and also have standard domestic light fittings in the centre of the room. Each toilet has a push button hand drier.

### Visitor Reception

1. All of the rooms have wooden or stone floors, with the exception of the Wedgwood room on the ground floor which is carpeted. Some of the rooms have rugs.
2. The entrance to the house is up two steps, on which there is always a ramp which has a gradient of which is 1:7.
3. The entrance door is 1.8m wide and is a manual opening door, which opens inwards. On a normal open day this door would always be open. Inside there is an inner entrance door which is 0.94m wide, however there is a second door which can be opened if necessary, doubling the width of the entrance door. This door opens outwards and if necessary a member of staff would be able to open this door.



4. The reception desk is 0.71m tall, and staff are able to step around the desk to talk to visitors.
5. There are three lights from the ceiling in the entrance hall with three windows giving natural light. However, on a dull day it can be quite dark in the hall.
6. There are chairs to sit on in the entrance hall, but only a leather sofa has arm rests.

## House

1. The path to the house is tarmac and there are two steps to the front of the house, over which there is always a ramp situated.
2. The floors in the house are mainly stone flags or wood. There are seats available in every room for visitors to use.
3. The house benefits from a lot of natural light, but other areas are lit by standard light bulbs and some areas have fluorescent lights, including the hallway, stair case and Wedgwood room. The Entrance Hall can be dim on a cloudy day.
4. Access to the first floor is by a wide wooden stair case with handrail on one side. Access to the top floor (where the Soundscape tour takes place) is by a narrow steep stairway which has a handrail on only one side. Access to the cellars is via a narrow brick staircase, which twists at the bottom. There is no handrail on the cellar stairs.

Main stairway width: 1.14m



Second floor stairway width: 0.82m



Cellar stairway width: 0.68cm



Second floor Soundscape route



5. On the second floor within the Soundscape there are several carpeted roof beams which need to be stepped over, which are 0.22m high. On the second floor there is one narrow door way which measures 0.64m. The access to the cellars has only a 0.68m width.

Terrace room set up for a concert



6. Within most rooms on the ground floor it would be possible to rotate a wheelchair. However when the terrace room is set up for a concert, there is little space (when booking special events, customers are always asked of their access needs and extra room is allowed when setting up for wheelchairs) and the dining room can

have some narrow gaps, but the chairs and tables are moveable.

7. There are seats which can be used by visitors in each room including sofas upright chairs and ones with armrests. In the dining room the chairs do not have arm rests, but are light weight and stackable so they can easily be moved to accommodate a wheelchair.
8. Volunteers are available on the welcome desk and in the kitchen. They also run the Soundscape tour at certain times during the day. However, on days when we don't have enough volunteer helpers, we're unable to offer the Soundscape tour.
9. There are three toilets in the house, two of which are on the ground floor and one of the first floor (none of these are accessible toilets).
10. The Soundscape tour takes place in the attic and is led by a volunteer. The tour is available to listen to via headphones on the ground floor. Please ask a member of the team when you arrive.
11. There are large print guides available in the house.
12. Powered wheelchairs or mobility vehicles will be able to access the ground floor rooms.
13. There are chairs in every room of the house which can be sat on. The informal nature of the house gives visitors plenty of space to sit and reflect and wait for other members of their group.

## Catering

1. Within the dining room the floors are wood and stone.
2. The dining room is lit by fluorescent lights, but mainly benefits from large windows which allow lots of natural light in to the room.
3. There is a flat access route to the dining room through the terrace room and flat access to the kitchen along a gently sloping corridor. There is an additional stepped entrance from the dining room to the corridor by the kitchen, which has two steps.
4. Within the dining room the tables and chairs are moveable, so could be adjusted to allow a wheelchair to manoeuvre.



The dining room



5. The kitchen counter is 0.75m tall and visitors can help themselves to cake and scones, or at least one member of staff is always in the kitchen to give assistance. Access to the kitchen is along a tiled/flagstone surfaced corridor (which varies in width from 0.83m to 1.16m), which then needs to be returned along to reach the terrace room and flat access to the dining room.
6. Straws are available in the kitchen, please do ask a member of staff if you require one.

Corridor between the terrace room and kitchen

## Retail

1. There is a very limited retail offer in the house which is operated from the front desk. The member of staff on duty will be available to show items to visitors requiring assistance.

## Garden

1. Access to the back of the house can be made through a courtyard garden. There is a step into the garden from the house of 7cm and the access through the courtyard is rough and cobbled. There is an additional 8cm step to access a ramp through a gate to the back of the house. Alternatively visitors can exit from the front of the house and continue along a gravel and grass path to the back of the house and the viewpoints.
2. There is seating at the back of the house with benches with armrests and foldable chairs. The area at the back of the house is all laid to grass lawn.



Stepped access in courtyard garden



Cobbles in the courtyard.

## Contact details for more information

T: 01306 711685

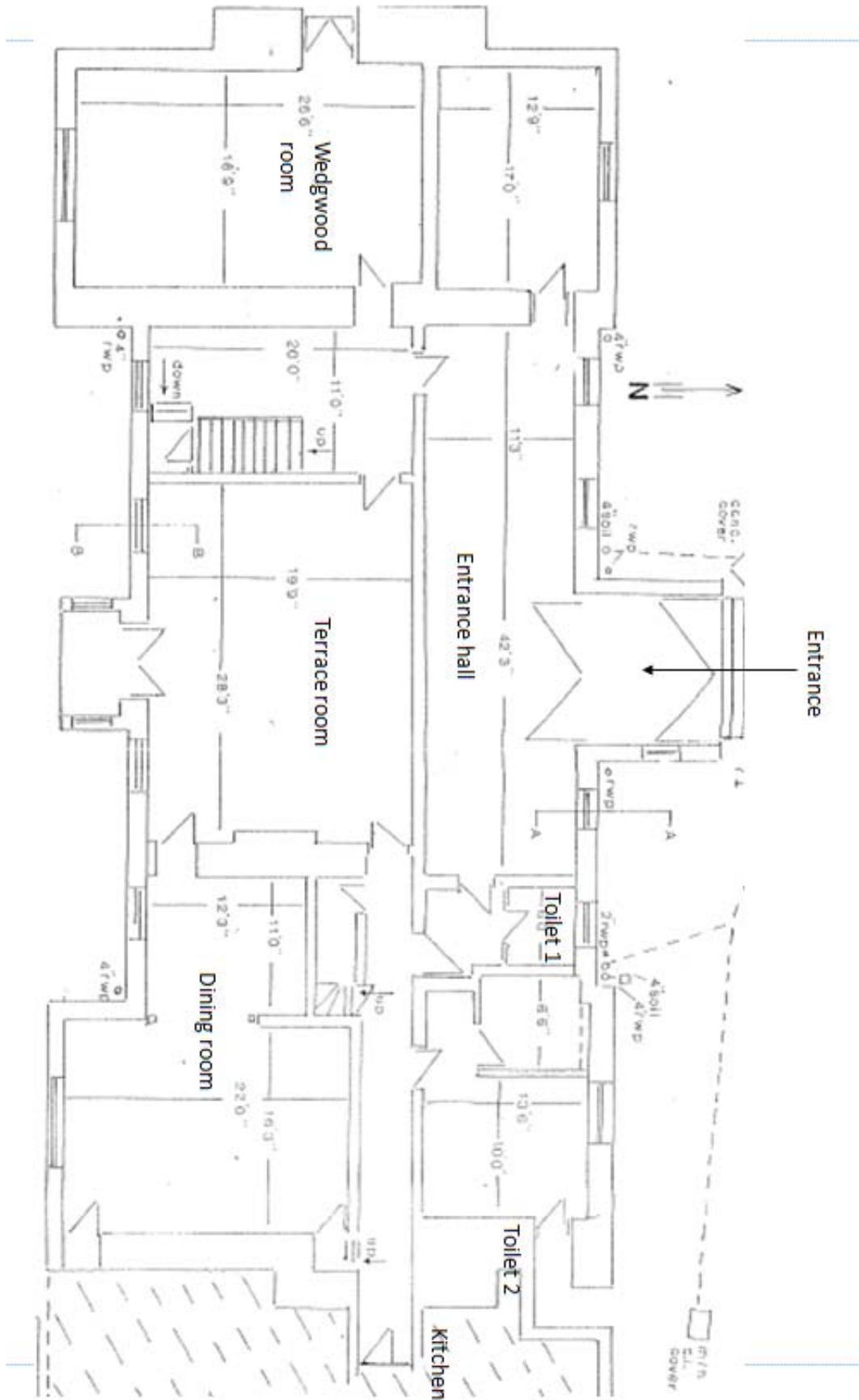
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# National Trust

## Map



Any good?????

