



YHA Wilderhope Manor – Access Statement

Introduction

This Elizabethan manor, set in the picturesque surroundings of the Shropshire Hills, is perfect for family breaks and ideal for walking. The hostel is 1.5 miles from the village of Longville and 20 miles from the historic city of Shrewsbury.

We aim to cater for the needs of all our visitors in this three-storey building, which is over 400 years old and Grade I listed. This limits the type of refurbishment that can take place and, as such, we do not have any ground floor bedrooms and none of our rooms meet modern accessible standards. However, there is step-free access into the main hall and we have an accessible WC in the adjoining outbuilding.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require assistance, please phone 01629 592700 or email customerservices@yha.org.uk. You can also view photos of the hostel at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-wilderhope-manor.

This access statement was last updated in February 2024.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail station is Church Stretton, 7.3 miles away.
- There is no regular bus service to the hostel. However, a local taxi service can provide accessible taxis when pre-booked.
- The centre of the village is 1.5 miles from the hostel and during term-time there is a bus that travels to and from Shrewsbury once a day. There is no pavement or street lighting along this route.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-wilderhope-manor/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

We have ample on-site parking around 45m from the entrance. There are no marked bays as signage is restricted. We can reserve a space closest to the entrance if required. The floor is gravel and the area closest to the hostel is lit at night.

Access to the front of the building from the car park is via a rough brick pathway with a steep incline. There are four steps without a handrail from here up to the patio surrounding the hostel. The floor here is stone slabs which are mostly even. Then there are two steps up into the stone porch which has chairs and benches along the terrace. Unfortunately, we do not currently have a portable ramp.

Access to the rear entrance is via a path surfaced with compacted fine gravel. There is then a ramp up to the door. This is approximately 9m long and has a gradient of

1:5. If you let us know what time you are coming, we will do our best to assist with moving to and from cars.

Main entrance and reception

To enter the hostel there are two doorways. At the front door, the threshold is raised. There is then another step up through the manual single-leaf main door, which opens inwards. We do not have a portable ramp, but there is step-free access to the rear of the hostel. The door here has 70cm effective clear opening.

The reception can be found on the ground floor through one single-leaf door followed by a narrower single-leaf door with a raised threshold. The flooring in the entry hall is stone, which is uneven in places. There is a seat here. The reception is a small, wood panelled room. The flooring in here is carpet, and the room is lit by wall lights. Another seat is available here.

Public areas

Halls, corridors and stairs

There is good colour contrast to floor, walls and doorways throughout. All public areas, halls, stairs, landings and lifts are well-lit using ceiling and wall lights. The flooring is mainly original stone and wood in the ground floor corridors. Corridors on the upper floors are carpet or bare wooden floorboards which can be uneven in places. Due to the age of the building, none of the floors are level throughout. There are steps up to shared facilities and some rooms have steps down to access them.

Access to the first and second floors is via spiral staircases. There are two of these – both have wooden steps which are worn and uneven in places and can be narrow. Handrails are fitted but are not continuous and there are stretches with no handrails (on the right side when going up). The step risers are an average of 19cm high.

Public WC

There are two gender-neutral WCs (one of these is accessible) in an adjoining outbuilding, reached by following the path from the rear entrance. They are both well-lit with wall and ceiling lights and tiled floors. The accessible WC has left-handed transfer onto the toilet. There is a baby changing unit. There are further gender-neutral WCs on the first floor but these don't meet modern accessibility standards. They are well-lit with fluorescents and non-slip flooring.

Dining room

The dining room is located on the ground floor and has level access from the entry hall via a single-leaf doorway. It is level throughout but the floor is uneven in places as it is the original stone. Here we have a selection of small and large wooden tables and straight-backed wooden chairs without armrests. The smaller tables can be moved – please ask at reception and we will be happy to assist.

The room is well-lit with natural light during the day but is slightly more dimly lit at night with wall lights. The nearest toilets are in the adjoining building.

Lounge

The lounge is located on the ground floor near to the dining room. There is a shallow step down from the corridor and a single-leaf door with a raised threshold. This is a bright room lit with wall lights at night and natural light in the day. There are sofas, armchairs, cushioned stools and wooden chairs with armrests plus low coffee tables. The chairs and tables are moveable. The flooring is the original bare floorboards.

Self-catering kitchen

The self-catering kitchen is located on the ground floor next to the lounge. There is a raised threshold through a single-leaf door. Space in the kitchen can be very limited, particularly during busy periods. The flooring is laminate.

The kitchen has a toaster, microwave, 2 ovens with hobs, cordless kettle, fridge-freezer and 2 sinks fitted with lever taps. Crockery and some kitchen equipment are kept in high shelving units – we can move these to lower storage if required.

Snug

The basement snug room is located on the lower ground floor and can only be accessed via a stone staircase of 12 steps with a handrail. The flooring is stone tiled and is even and level throughout. The room has a projector and screen. We provide tables and chairs which can be set out in different arrangements.

Bedrooms and bathrooms

Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. Some of our rooms have a step up to enter. They are all well-lit with ceiling and individual bunk lights. Flooring is either carpet or bare floorboards. All bedding is provided.

All bathrooms have fluorescent lighting and non-slip flooring. Standard showers have a step up to enter.

First floor

Access is via a spiral staircase of 30 steps.

- One room that sleeps up to 3 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath.
- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 5 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath and a set of bunk beds. There are 8 steps down to this room with handrails on each side.
- One room that sleeps up to 7 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath and 2 sets of bunk beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 10 people. It includes 5 sets of bunk beds. The door opens onto a spiral staircase. This room is not included when hiring the whole hostel through YHA Exclusive Hire.
- One room that sleeps up to 12 people. It includes 6 sets of bunk beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 14 people. It includes 7 sets of bunk beds. Two of the bunks are on a raised platform in the window alcove.
- Five communal showers.

- Five communal WCs.

Second floor

Access is via a spiral staircase of 20 steps. One side has ladder-style steps.

- Two rooms that sleep up to 5 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds and a single bed.
- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes a four-poster double bed and 2 single beds, plus seating and a shower and bath in the en-suite.
- One room that sleeps up to 16 people. It includes 8 sets of bunk beds. The door opens onto a corridor at the bottom of a ladder-style staircase. This room is not included when hiring the whole hostel through YHA Exclusive Hire.
- Four communal shower rooms with WC.

Grounds and garden

We have approximately half an acre of gardens which are mainly laid to lawn with no paths. The lawn slopes steeply away from the main building. There are two three-seater benches with armrests, 12 wooden chairs without armrests and tables available on the terrace in front of the hostel.

Additional information

- Pets are not permitted at YHA Wilderhope Manor except when hiring the whole hostel through YHA Exclusive Hire, though assistance dogs are welcome throughout – please notify us at the time of booking.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the hostel.
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms are fitted. We ensure that all guests are evacuated in the event of fire or any emergency requiring evacuation. Arrangements for guests needing assistance to evacuate should be discussed beforehand.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom.
- Mobile phone reception is poor within the immediate vicinity.
- Wi-Fi is not available at this hostel.

Contact information

- Address: YHA Wilderhope Manor, Longville-in-the-Dale, Shropshire, TF13 6EG
- Telephone: 0345 3719149
- Email: wilderhope@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: 137
- Local buses: 540 Cardington to Shrewsbury – get off at Longville-in-the-Dale
- Local taxi: Long Mynd Private Hire 01694 722742

We welcome your feedback to help us to continue making improvements. Please contact us directly if you have any queries or if you would like to make any comments.