



YHA Coniston Holly How – Access Statement

Introduction

Minutes from the village and Coniston Water, this traditional Lakeland house is close to good walks, cycling and climbing routes for all levels. YHA Coniston Holly How is a major Mountain Leader Training and Assessment base and a popular venue for school trips – ideal for all kinds of get-togethers and outdoor activity holidays.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this two-storey Victorian country house set at the foot of the Coniston fells. We have a bedroom on the ground floor, but it is not accessible to modern standards.

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-coniston-holly-how.

This access statement was last updated in February 2024.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail station is Windermere, 11.5 miles away.
- The nearest bus stop is within 200m. A daily service runs to this stop.
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when pre-booked.
- The hostel is 0.5 miles out of Coniston village. The road is mostly level with some moderately inclined sections. There is no pavement and very little streetlighting along this route.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-coniston-holly-how/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

We have ample on-site parking approximately 20m from the main entrance. There are no marked bays. There is also a drop-off point just next to the main entrance. If you let us know what time you are coming, we will do our best to assist with moving to and from cars.

The car park is on a gentle slope away from the hostel and has a hard floor surface. There is no lighting. An even, tarmac drive runs from here to the entrance. The drive becomes steeper as it approaches the building.

Main entrance and reception

The main entrance door is manual and opens inwardly with a step down. The reception is on the ground floor and is level throughout. The flooring is short-pile

carpet and the area is well-lit with ceiling lights. The reception desk does not have a low-level service section. There is seating here in the dining area.

Public areas

Halls, corridors and stairs

There is good colour contrast to floor, walls and doorways throughout the building. All public areas, halls, stairs, landings and lifts are well lit using a combination of ceiling and wall lights. Flooring is short-pile carpet on the ground and upper floor corridors. The lower-ground floor has flag stones which can be uneven in places.

There is a set of 11 stone steps to the lower-ground floor, with a handrail that is not continuous. There is a set of 18 carpeted steps to the first floor with contrasting non-slip nosing and a banister on one side.

WCs

There is a gender-neutral WC close to reception with a step up to access. The room is well-lit and has tile flooring but is not accessible to modern standards.

Lounge

The lounge is located on the ground floor and has level access from reception via two single-leaf doors. This is a spacious room with sofas and coffee tables. Chairs and tables can be moved (please ask at reception for any assistance). Flooring is short-pile carpet and the room is well-lit with natural light or ceiling lights.

Dining room

The dining room is located on the ground floor and doubles as reception and bar. There is level access from the entrance hall via a single-leaf door. The flooring is hard lino and the room is well-lit with ceiling and standing lamps.

There are tables and chairs with armrests. All furniture can be moved on request. Table service is available (please ask at reception). We are also happy to cater for dietary requirements – please advise us of these before your arrival.

Self-catering kitchen

The self-catering kitchen is located on the ground floor on the left of the main entrance. There is level access via two single-leaf doors. The flooring is non-slip lino and the room is evenly lit.

The kitchen is equipped with ovens, gas hobs, toaster and a cordless kettle. Crockery and kitchen equipment are kept in low shelving units. There are tables and chairs available in this room. All furniture can be moved on request.

Laundry and drying facilities

The hostel has a drying room on the lower-ground floor. Access to the lower-ground floor is via a set of 11 stone steps with a handrail which is not continuous. This area is well-lit with ceiling lights. A washing machine is situated adjacent to the self-catering kitchen. Please ask at reception if you would like to use it.

TV lounge

The TV lounge is located on the lower-ground floor. Access to the lower-ground floor is via a set of 11 stone steps with a handrail which is not continuous. This area is well-lit with ceiling lights and has a selection of sofas, tables and chairs.

Meeting rooms

Our main lounge and our TV lounge can both be used as meeting rooms. These areas are described separately and are well-lit with ceiling and wall lights.

Bedrooms and bathrooms

Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. Each room is carpeted and well-lit with ceiling and individual bed lights. All bedding is provided. Some of the bedrooms also have a washbasin.

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

Ground floor

- One room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes 2 sets of bunk beds. This room has level access and a washbasin.
- One communal WC (step up to enter).

First floor

From the staircase, there is level access to the following rooms.

- One room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes 2 sets of bunk beds.
- Two rooms that sleep up to 8 people each. They include 4 sets of bunk beds.
- Three communal showers.
- Two communal WCs.

There are then either two steps up or down to the following rooms.

- Three rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- One 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.
- Two rooms that sleep up to 8 people each. They include 4 sets of bunk beds.
- Two communal showers.
- Four communal WCs.

Camping facilities

Pitch-up camping is available from Easter to September. Pitches are available on the front lawn close to the pond, and in a wooded area with 30 different tree species, including the Lake District's tallest Monkey Puzzle tree which is 150 years old.

There is access via a grass slope from the main drive, or a total of 12 steps and a steep grass verge down from the dining room. There are two outside toilets and

showers. Hostel facilities can also be used unless the main building has been booked for private use. Campers have access to the self-catering kitchen and the hostel has a licensed bar and restaurant for guests (again, providing the main building has not been booked for private use).

Grounds and garden

We have approximately 1.5 acres of garden which are mostly laid to lawn. The front lawn doubles as a campsite during the summer. We also have a gravel terrace with picnic-style benches. This can be accessed either via a single-leaf door and then down 4 steps from the dining room, or down 4 narrow steps from the main drive.

Cycle store

The cycle shed is approximately 20m from main entrance, connected by sloping hard-surfaced path. There is limited outdoor lighting nearby.

Additional information

- Dogs are not permitted at YHA Coniston Holly How, though assistance dogs are welcome throughout – please notify us at the time of booking.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the hostel.
- A member of staff is always available on site, including at night (access via emergency phone at reception).
- Braille signs are fitted on room and corridor doors.
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms are fitted. We ensure that all guests are evacuated in the event of fire or similar emergency. Arrangements for guests needing assistance to evacuate in case of fire should be discussed beforehand.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom.
- Mobile phone reception is good within the hostel.
- Wi-Fi is available at this hostel via The Cloud. This is free to use and does not require a password.

Contact information

- Address: YHA Coniston Holly How, Far End, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8DD
- Telephone: 0345 3719511
- Email: conistonhh@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: 98
- Local buses: Line 505 (The Coniston Rambler) runs from Kendal, Ambleside and Coniston – for the hostel, get off at Coniston, Holly How Youth Hostel
www.stagecoachbus.com
- Local accessible taxis: Windermere Taxis 015394 44144

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.