



YHA Blaxhall – Access Statement

Introduction

Looking for accommodation in Suffolk with a difference? Then why not try YHA Blaxhall! A former school on the edge of Blaxhall Heath, this hostel is the ideal base for exploring everything that the Suffolk coast has to offer. There is plenty to do in the area with walking and cycling routes, castles and a nature reserve close by.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this single-storey building. We have a bedroom that is accessible to wheelchair users, with a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath. The bathroom next to this room is also accessible.

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-blaxhall.

This access statement was last updated in March 2024.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail station is Wickham Market, approximately 3 miles away.
- There is no public transport into Blaxhall village. Local companies may be able to provide accessible taxis if pre-booked – see www.suffolk.gov.uk.
- There are no paths or streetlighting in the village and the roads tend to be quite narrow. Away from houses, there are often high hedges and steep banks by the roadside.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-blaxhall/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

We have ample parking with a dedicated accessible bay. The car park is level and has a hard, even surface leading 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.

Access from the car park to the main entrance is via a ramp with a handrail on the left. The rise of the ramp is approximately 10cm. The ground bordering the hostel is paved. There is good lighting in the car park and on the approach to the hostel.

Main entrance and reception

The main entrance is a single-leaf door. There is another inner door which opens outwards. If you require any assistance, please call us prior to arrival. The reception desk is located in the dining room – it does not have a low-level section but a clipboard can be provided for completing registration. The flooring is laminate and

the area is well-lit. There is a payphone available in the foyer with adjacent seating in the form of sofas and armchairs with low armrests.

Public areas

Halls and corridors

There is a good colour contrast to floors, walls and doorways throughout. Our corridors are well-lit and public areas have a mixture of carpet tiles and hard flooring.

Lounge

There is level access to the lounge through a single-leaf door. There are armchairs and sofas which are all quite low. There are large spaces where a wheelchair user could manoeuvre and all furniture can be moved on request.

Dining room

There is level access to the dining room and it is level throughout. Tables are movable and chairs are available with and without armrests. If you need any help moving furniture, please ask a member of staff.

The breakfast buffet is served in an adjacent conservatory which has level floor access. 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

There is level access to the self-catering kitchen. It is equipped with 2 domestic-sized ovens, 4 gas hobs and a separate 4 electric hob built into a lowered work surface (height 80cm). A toaster, kettle and utensils are also located on the lowered work surface. If you need any help accessing high items, a member of staff can help.

Drying facilities

The drying room is located next to the lounge. This room has level access.

Bedrooms and bathrooms

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

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

Ground floor

- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 2 people. It includes a double bed. The en-suite bathroom is a small shower pod.
- One accessible room that sleeps up to 3 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath. The bathroom next door is also accessible with right-handed transfer on to the toilet and a seat raiser available on request. A flashing fire alarm light is fitted in both rooms.

- Two rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 6 people. It includes 3 sets of bunk beds.
- Four rooms that sleep up to 6 people each. They include 3 sets of bunk beds.
- Four communal showers.
- Three communal WCs, each with a sink and mirror.

Grounds and garden

Gardens are located at the side of the hostel, which are mainly laid to lawn with flower borders. There is outside lighting along the hostel which sheds light onto most of the garden.

Cycle store

The cycle store is located on the far side of the external storeroom. Access is currently across the grass and there is a large step up to the cycle store.

Additional information

- Dogs are not permitted at YHA Blaxhall, though assistance dogs are welcome throughout – please notify us at the time of booking.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the hostel.
- Reception is staffed from 8am to 10am and 5pm to 10pm. Emergency contact details are displayed at reception and in the main entrance for contacting a member of staff at night. When the hostel is on Exclusive Hire, there are no staff on duty and out-of-hours support is available via the payphone.
- 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 poor within the hostel and fair outside reception.
- Wi-Fi is available at this hostel.

Contact information

- Address: YHA Blaxhall, Heath Walk, Blaxhall, Suffolk, IP12 2EA
- Telephone: 0345 3719305
- Email: blaxhall@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: 156
- Local buses: Suffolk Links Alde 0845 6041802 or www.cats-paws.co.uk, for other local public transport information, call Traveline on 0870 6082608

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.