



## YHA Skiddaw House Access Statement

### Introduction

Skiddaw House Youth hostel is a unique place to stay in the Lake District; a former shooting lodge, 3.5 miles from the nearest tarmac road, only accessible by foot or bicycle. Therefore, it is not suitable for people with mobility difficulties. Babies and young children are welcome, parents with three-wheeler prams might prefer to walk from Bassenthwaite side or Threlkeld side, but not from Keswick. Four-wheeler prams are not suitable.

### Pre-arrival

Train links to Penrith (20 miles away) and Windermere (24 miles). There are hourly X4/X5 Stagecoach buses from Penrith to Threlkeld & Keswick. Hourly 555 buses from Windermere to Keswick, then walk. See access map on our website <http://www.skiddawhouse.co.uk>, or telephone us on 07747174293.

### Premises

The main entrance gate is facing North/West. In season (1<sup>st</sup> of March till 31<sup>st</sup> of October), the hostel opens at 5pm ; for pre-booked people who arrive early, there is limited access to a toilet and changing area from the North corner, with a keypad. For passers-by, there is no outside toilet or other services.

The entrance door has 3 steps to get to the entrance hall and the signing-in desk. Overnight, breakfast, membership and shop prices are shown outside the signing-in window. A bell is available to attract the wardens' attention, at all times. The wardens live on site.

On the right, 2 steps to go into the boot room where hostellers can take off their walking boots and put on soft shoes or slippers. There are coathangers for wet clothes, and a gas fire for very wet days.

Next to the boot room are two common rooms, each with a solid fuel stove. Hostellers are instructed not to touch these stoves for safety reasons. The staff see to them. In the main common room, are 2 sets of double gas hobs and two 4-ring gas cookers with one gas oven. Matches and lighters are provided. There is no microwave oven as there is no electricity in the hostel. The main common room has a door opening to the outside, with 3 steps down.

On the same level are a scullery with a back door opening to the copse at the back of the house, and access to a cloakroom : first one toilet, then a shower, then to the right a changing area and another toilet. There is one step to access the first toilet, the shower and changing area and second toilet.

There are two washrooms upstairs, and the 4 bedrooms. All bedrooms have a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm. The fire exit is clearly indicated and explained to hostellers on arrival. There are no locks on the bedroom doors. The main staircase to upstairs has 2 flights and a handrail. Our 4 bedrooms have: 8 beds, 5 beds, 5 beds and 4 beds.

As there is no mains electricity in the hostel, the lights are battery-operated. Hostellers are advised to bring a torch to help them find the light switches at night as these are on the lights, not near the door, and also when they arrive at the hostel after dark, as there is obviously no public lighting on the fells.

All bedding is included but not towels and toiletries.

We are unable to accommodate dogs and pets. Arrangements can be made for registered assistance dogs; please contact the hostel directly if you are travelling with an assistance dog.

The fire exit from upstairs is via a spiral staircase to the entrance hall, with 13 steps.

Payment is requested in advance with a cheque through the post, or with a credit/debit card on the YHA internet booking system. YHA cancellation terms apply. The hostel does not have credit/debit card facilities; payment at the hostel is only with cash or cheques.

There is no mobile phone reception around the hostel, and for at least a 20 minute walk. The wardens have a phone line for safety & emergencies only. There is no internet or Wi-Fi.

Hostellers are expected to leave the premises at about 10am and not return before 5pm.

**We welcome your feedback to help us to continue making improvements. If you have any comments, please phone or e-mail us.**

**This hostel is independently owned and operated under a franchise arrangement with YHA. The following access statement has been prepared by the hostel owner and is not the representation of YHA (England & Wales). For further information and clarity on accessibility at this hostel, guests are advised to contact the hostel owners directly.**