



YHA South Downs – Access Statement

Introduction

Located on the South Downs Way, YHA South Downs is the perfect place to rest and relax before the next stage of your journey. This refurbished Sussex farmhouse and barn buildings is also less than 15 miles from Eastbourne and Brighton, making it perfect for an affordable seaside break. From Southease train station, the hostel is approximately 300m up a moderately inclined hill.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this hostel. We have ground floor rooms in the Long Barn and The Granary. There is one accessible room that sleeps up to 3 people with an accessible en-suite bathroom in the Long Barn.

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-south-downs.

This access statement was last updated in February 2024.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail station is Southease, within 300m of the hostel.
- The nearest bus stop is in Newhaven, approximately 3.7 miles away.
- A local taxi company which can provide accessible taxis when pre-booked.
- The road to the hostel from the village is a rough gravel track with a moderate incline. There are no pavements and no street lighting so if you are arriving on foot after dark please bring a torch.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-south-downs/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

The hostel has an onsite car park which has a level, hard, gravel surface and 5 marked accessible bays in the courtyard. There is no lighting in the car park apart from the wall lights that illuminate the walkways outside of the buildings. If you let us know when you are coming, we will do our best to help with moving to and from cars.

Access into the main door of the hostel is up a gently sloping ramp, which is brick paved and has a handrail on one side. Access to the Interpretation Centre is also via a gentle slope but there are no handrails here. This slope also provides access to the Granary and the Long Barn.

Main entrance and reception

YHA South Downs is split across four buildings – Farmhouse, Long Barn, Granary and Interpretation Centre. Our reception is located in the café, which is part of the Interpretation Centre.

Public areas

Halls and corridors

There is good colour contrast to the walls, floors and doorways throughout the building. The corridors in the main building are all carpeted. Corridors in the other buildings are tile, linoleum or carpet. All corridors are well-lit with ceiling lights.

Due to the age of the building the Farmhouse has some steps in the corridor on the first floor. A lift provides access to the upper floors in the Interpretation Centre. The Granary and Farmhouse do not have a lift.

Public WCs

We have an accessible WC on the ground floor of the Interpretation Centre, which is a building separate from the Farmhouse accessed via a level brick walkway. This toilet has left-handed transfer. There are two further WCs on the first floor.

There is also a gender-neutral WC on the ground floor of the Farmhouse. There is level access to this. All WCs are well-lit and have non-slip flooring.

Lounge

The lounge is on the ground floor of the Farmhouse and can be accessed from the entrance through a level corridor. The lounge is a large, bright room with carpeted floors. It contains sofas, soft armchairs and low-level coffee tables. Furniture is adequately spaced to allow wheelchairs and can be moved on request.

This room also provides access into the hostel grounds through an external door and down a shallow step.

Quiet room

The quiet room can be accessed from the Farmhouse entrance, through a series of level, carpeted corridors. It contains a range of sofas, soft chairs and coffee tables. Furniture is adequately spaced to allow wheelchairs and can be moved on request.

Dining room

The dining room is located in the courtyard café which is part of the Interpretation Centre. Access into the courtyard café is level, through two sets of double doors. The flooring is tiled in the entrance hall, and then laminate in the dining room.

This room has a range of wooden tables and chairs without armrests. Furniture can be moved – please let a member of staff know if needed. We can provide a table service (please ask at reception). We are happy to cater for dietary requirements or any particular likes or dislikes – please advise us of these before arrival.

Self-catering kitchen

Accessed off a level carpeted corridor in the Farmhouse through a single-leaf door, the self-catering kitchen is equipped with 2 hobs, 2 sinks, 2 fridges, microwave and toaster. A dining area comprising bench seating and tables is next to the kitchen (furniture can be moved by request). This is a bright room with laminate flooring.

Meeting rooms

We have a large meeting room on the first floor of the Interpretation Centre which has flexible seating arrangements. We can provide tables and straight-backed chairs. The room is carpeted and brightly lit with natural light during the day and ceiling lights at night. Access to the meeting room is via a set of stairs with handrail or a platform lift.

Bedrooms and bathrooms

Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. All rooms are carpeted and well-lit with ceiling and individual bunk lights. All bedding is provided. Most rooms without an en-suite bathroom have a washbasin.

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

Farmhouse

Access to this floor is via two staircases – both are narrow with handrails and low beams. The staircase nearest the entrance has 15 steps up. The bottom part of this staircase turns at 90 degrees, creating narrow treads at one side.

First floor

- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes 2 sets of bunk beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes 2 sets of bunk beds.
- 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.
- Two rooms that sleep up to 6 people each. They include 3 sets of bunk beds.
- Three communal shower rooms with WC.

Long Barn

The Long Barn is level throughout and the door thresholds are level with the external pathway. There are single-leaf doors to enter the building.

Ground floor

- Three rooms that sleep up to 2 people each. They include a set of bunk beds.
- One accessible en-suite room that sleeps up to 3 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath. The toilet in the en-suite shower room has left-handed transfer.
- One room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes 2 sets of bunk beds.

- One room that sleeps up to 5 people. It includes 2 sets of bunk beds and a single bed.
- Two rooms that sleep up to 6 people each. They include 3 sets of bunk beds.
- Four communal showers.
- Three communal WCs.

Granary

The Granary is a separate building located next to the Long Barn. Access is level through a single-leaf door from the brick-paved path outside.

Ground floor

- Two rooms that sleep up to 2 people each. They include a set of bunk beds.
- Communal kitchen.

First floor

- One room that sleeps up to 2 people. It includes a double bed.
- Communal bathroom with shower over a bathtub (no grab rails).

Grounds and garden

Within the immediate vicinity of the hostel are some maintained gardens, laid to lawn. There are hard paved paths around the internal courtyard areas with some gravel paths.

Camping & Cabins accommodation

Premium bell tents

Our premium bell tents each sleep up to 5 people. They include a double bed, 2 single beds and a single futon that can be folded into a chair. All bedding is provided.

Each tent is kitted out with eco-friendly solar lighting and comfy bean bags, plus rugs and a wooden storage trunk that doubles up as a coffee table.

You can cosy up by the integrated wood burner in the colder months or warm your hands by the fire pit outside. One free pack of wood is provided per stay (additional packs can be purchased from reception). Guests have full access to the communal hostel facilities.

Camping pods

Our camping pods are a great alternative to camping! We have two pods that sleep up to 2 people each and two pods that sleep up to 4 people each.

They are located in a field adjacent to the hostel and accessed via a rough, shingle path from the courtyard. There are five wide steps up a short hill to the camping pod level. Each pod has a further step up onto a wooden porch which contains two plastic garden chairs without armrests and a small coffee table.

The doors are glazed and open outwards. The pods are unfurnished but the floor is carpeted and there is heating and lighting inside. Guests have full access to the communal hostel facilities.

Landpods

Our Landpods sleep up to 4 people on 2 small double mattresses. Both mattresses are raised and may require a slight jump or push to get up. The higher of the two beds has a handy storage area underneath it.

All bedding is included plus duvets, LED lighting and a cosy seating area. These waterproof structures are slightly elevated off the ground with an insulated canopy roof you can open and raise up. Landpods don't have heating, so are more suited to those who like a traditional camping experience. There is a bench and firepit outside. Guests have full access to the communal hostel facilities.

Additional information

- Pets are not permitted at YHA South Downs except in our Camping & Cabins accommodation or 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.
- A member of staff is always available on site, including at night.
- 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 intermittent within the hostel.
- Wi-Fi is available in shared spaces.

Contact information

- Address: YHA South Downs, Itford Farm, Beddingham, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 6JS
- Telephone: 0345 3719574
- Email: southdowns@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: 198
- Local buses: 123 from Newhaven Town or Lewes Town Centre via Southease, connecting bus 12 towards Eastbourne/Brighton, community bus on Sundays during summer (times vary depending on day/time of year)
- Local taxi: Coastline Cabs Newhaven (to/from Newhaven) 01273 512222, County Cars (to/from Lewes) 01273 474444

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.