



## YHA St Briavels Castle - Access Statement

### Introduction

If you're looking for a memorable getaway in affordable accommodation then YHA St Briavels Castle is the perfect choice. Nestled in the Wye Valley, this 800-year-old Norman Castle is packed with history and boasts remarkably well-preserved original features alongside charming Victorian renovations.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this 70-bed hostel (63 bunks/singles plus 7 temporary truckle beds); a 3-storey building set in the picturesque surroundings of the Wye Valley. We have two ground floor rooms. Unfortunately none of our bedrooms or bathrooms meets modern standards of accessibility.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01629 592700 or email [customerservices@yha.org.uk](mailto:customerservices@yha.org.uk). You can also take a virtual tour of our hostel at [www.yha.org.uk/hostel/st-briavels](http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/st-briavels).

### Pre-Arrival

- The nearest rail station is Lydney which is 8.4 miles away.
- The nearest bus stop is within 50 metres of the hostel. There is an intermittent local bus service to the village. Guests are advised to check in advance that the service is running.
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when booked in advance. Please see the contact information section for more details.
- The road approaching the hostel is level and surfaced with tarmac. From the centre of town there is no pavement and limited street lighting.
- The hostel's details can be seen on YHA's website [www.yha.org.uk](http://www.yha.org.uk); please scroll down to the Maps and Directions section to view a map and transport options.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (please see contact information).

### Car Parking and Arrival

We have ample parking approximately 35 metres from main entrance. There are no marked bays, but we would be happy to reserve a space for you if required. The car park is reasonably level with an uneven gravel surface and it is lit by a street light nearby.

There is also a dropping-off point at the end of the drive (30 metres from main entrance). Unfortunately, due to the fragility of the courtyard and driveway, and for the safety of other guests (especially young children) English Heritage and YHA do not allow vehicles up within the castle grounds.

From the car park to the main entrance there is a sloped cobbled pathway which is very steep for the first 2 metres and then slightly less steep for 12.5 metres. The slope leads up through the huge wooden castle doors (pinned open) and into the courtyard which is also cobbled, but at a gentler gradient. The driveway is lit during the night and during the day. If you let us know what time you are coming we will do our best to provide assistance moving to and from cars.

### Main Entrance and Reception

From the cobbled courtyard there is a tiny lip up and through a large, heavy, period front door (900mm width). The door opens inwards into the tiled reception lobby. It is level and well-lit here. There is a bench available for guests to use just to the side of the reception lobby.

The reception desk also serves as our bar; a range of local ales, wines and cider is served from here, alongside hot drinks and a selection of gifts.

### Public Areas

#### Halls and Corridors

There is good colour contrast to floor, walls and doorways throughout the building. All public areas, halls, stairs and landings are well lit using a combination of ceiling and wall lights.

The corridor flooring is red quarry tiles, uneven flagstones or wooden parquet on the ground floor. On the first floor they are carpeted and the second floor has wooden floorboards. Due to the age of the building the floors can be uneven in places and there are often steps not only in the corridors but also up and down into rooms.

Unfortunately we do not have a lift, so access to the upper floors is by stairs only. The stairs to the first floor are carpeted and narrow, with a handrail to one side. The stairs to the second floor are bare wood with a handrail on one side. In the East Tower the stairs are narrow and winding with a handrail to one side; to the first floor the steps are stone and those to the second floor are wood.

#### Public WCs

There are two washrooms (one female, one male) close to Reception on the ground floor, but none currently meets modern standards of accessibility. They have red quarry tile flooring and are well-lit with ceiling lights. The female washroom contains 2 toilets and 2 showers and the male washroom contains 2 toilets and 1 shower.

#### Lounge

We have two lounge areas open to guests. The Old Kitchen is on the ground floor and there is an extremely slight ramp down from the reception lobby through a single leaf

door (750mm width). The floor is level and surfaced with wood parquet. Here there are two sofas, a dining table and some straight backed chairs without armrests.

The Common Room is on the first floor in the Chapel. From the stairs there is a single leaf door and then four steps down into the room. This room has level wooden floorboards and is well-lit with ceiling lights. Here there are armchairs, a wooden table and straight backed chairs without armrests at the table.

Furniture in both rooms can be moved; please just ask at reception if you require assistance.

### Dining Room

There are two dining areas:

The general dining room is located on the ground floor. From the reception lobby there is one step up and then one step down into the dining room. The floor is level and surfaced with wood parquet. This room is furnished with dining tables and wooden chairs (straight back without armrests).

The second room is the Banqueting Hall which is located on the first floor, next to the Chapel lounge. This has a step up from the landing and is furnished with long wooden banquet tables and long benches. The flooring is wood and is level. All furniture is heavy, but can be moved; please just ask at reception if you require assistance.

Table service is available; please ask at reception and we will be happy to help. We are also happy to cater for dietary requirements or any particular likes or dislikes. Please advise us of these before your arrival.

### Self-Catering Kitchen

The self-catering kitchen is located on the ground floor and has level access from the reception lobby via a single leaf door (770mm effective opening width). The floor is level and surfaced with red quarry tiles. There are tables and benches in here that guests may use.

The kitchen is equipped with a domestic cooker with hobs and a grill, a fridge, a microwave, a toaster, cordless kettles, cutlery and crockery. Crockery and some kitchen equipment are kept in high shelving units. We would be happy to move these to lower storage if required. One sink (hand wash) is fitted with lever taps.

### Drying Facilities

The drying room is located on the ground floor of the East Tower. From the courtyard outside there is a level threshold through a single leaf door into the tower, and then two steps up to the drying room.

The floor is level and surfaced with red quarry tile. Space in this room is extremely limited.

## Bedrooms and Bathrooms

Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds, and none are en-suite. Most rooms have wooden floor boards, but some have carpet. They are well-lit with ceiling lights. All bedding is provided.

All of the bathrooms have fluorescent lighting. They have non-slip flooring in the main building and tiled flooring in the East Tower. The standard showers have a step up to enter.

### Main Building - Ground Floor

- One 6-bedded room. From the Old Kitchen there is a step up and through a single leaf door, followed by a raised threshold through another to access this room.

### First Floor

There are either 19 or 21 steps to this floor, depending on the staircase.

- One 5-bedded room (double with a single over and a bunk bed)
- One 6-bedded room. There is a raised threshold to enter this room. The edges are marked in white paint.
- One 9-bedded room
- Two WCs and two showers.

### Second Floor

There are 20 steps to this floor.

- One 14-bedded room. There are two steps into the second half of the room.

### East Tower - Ground Floor

Access into the East Tower is from the cobbled courtyard. There is a level threshold and then two steps up to ground floor. All of the Tower's wash facilities are on this floor.

- One 6-bedded room. There is a slight step down into this room.
- One male washroom with shower & sinks
- One female washroom with WC, shower & sinks
- Two further WCs and one Shower

### East Tower - First Floor

There are 16 steps to this floor. This is a steep and winding stone staircase. The door to the room opens onto the staircase.

- One 8-bedded room

### East Tower – Second Floor

There are 17 steps to this floor. These are very steep, wooden stairs with a rail.

- One 10-bedded room

### Grounds and Garden

We have approximately a quarter of an acre of gardens which slope moderately away from the main building. They are mainly laid to lawn. From the courtyard there are two uneven steps up onto the lawn. The lawn is level but uneven, and then slopes steeply upwards to the back of the hostel. There is one 3-seat bench with armrests available in the courtyard. Six picnic benches are situated around the gardens and courtyard.

The cycle shed is 50 metres from main entrance, connected by an uneven gravel path.

### Additional Information

- We do not permit pets, but assistance dogs are very welcome.
- We do not permit smoking anywhere in the hostel or grounds.
- A member of staff is currently always available on site, including at night (access via emergency phone at Reception). However, the new Out of Hours system will mean that from Summer 2015 this will change to an emergency contact via phone overnight and during any period when the site is unsupervised.
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms 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 in case of fire should be discussed beforehand.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom.
- There is poor mobile phone reception in the immediate vicinity. There are some hotspots throughout the Castle, but generally there is no reception.
- Wi-Fi is available at this hostel, but only in the Chapel lounge, part of the Banqueting Hall and the Dining Room.

### Contact Information

- Address: YHA St Briavels, St Briavels, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 6RG
- Telephone: 0345 3719042
- Email: [stbriavels@yha.org.uk](mailto:stbriavels@yha.org.uk)
- Ordnance Survey Map 162; Grid reference SO558045.
- Local buses: 707 Chepstow-St Briavels & 701 St Briavels-Coleford run by Lydney Dial A Ride 01594 843809; 69 Monmouth-Chepstow, 2 mile walk to nearest bus stop.
- Local taxi: K&T Taxis (Lydney) 01594 845913; Abbey Taxis (Alvington) 01594 528181; CDs Taxis (Coleford) 01594 834834.

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.