



YHA Coniston Holly How - Access Statement

Introduction

Only minutes from the village and Coniston Water, this traditional Lakeland house is close to good walks, cycling and climbing routes for all levels. The hostel 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 59-bed hostel; a 2-storey Victorian country house set at the foot of the Coniston fells. We have one room 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 any assistance please phone 01629 592700 or email customerservices@yha.org.uk. You can also take a virtual tour of our hostel at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/coniston-holly-how.

Pre-Arrival

- The nearest railway station is 11.5 miles away at Windermere.
- The nearest bus stop is within 200 metres of the hostel. There is a daily bus service which runs to this stop.
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when booked in advance. Please see the contact information section for more details.
- The centre of Coniston is half a mile away. The road is mostly level with some sections which are moderately inclined. There is no pavement, and there is very little street lighting along this route.
- The hostel's details can be seen on YHA's website www.yha.org.uk; please click on the Maps and Directions tab 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 on site approximately 20 metres from the main entrance. There are no marked bays. There is also a dropping off point just next to the main entrance. If you let us know what time you are coming we will do our best to provide assistance 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. There is a step down through the entrance door.

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 but there is a portable induction loop available on request. There is no seating here but there is seating in the dining room nearby.

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.

The flooring in the corridors is short-pile carpet on the ground and upper floors. On the lower ground floor there are flag stones which can be uneven in places.

Stairs to the lower ground floor are stone, with a handrail which is not continuous. There are 11 steps. There are 18 steps to the first floor; they are carpeted with contrasting non-slip nosing and there is a bannister on one side.

Public WCs

There is a unisex WC located close to reception. There is one step up to access this WC, and it is not accessible to modern standards. The room is well-lit and has tile flooring.

Lounge

The lounge is located on the ground floor and has level access from reception via a single leaf door. This is a spacious room with sofas, armchairs and coffee tables. Chairs and tables can be moved; please ask at reception for any assistance.

The flooring is short-pile carpet and the room is well-lit with natural light in the day, and by ceiling lights at night.

This room is also used as a meeting room.

Dining Room

The dining room is located on the ground floor and has level access from reception via a single leaf door. The flooring is hard lino, and the room is well-lit with ceiling and standing lamps. Here we have tables and wicker chairs with armrests. All furniture can be moved on request.

Table service is available in dining room; 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 between the front entrance and reception. 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 toaster, ovens, gas hobs, and a cordless kettle. Crockery and kitchen equipment are kept in low shelving units. The height of the work surface is 3' 6".

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. Stairs to the lower ground floor are stone, with a handrail which is not continuous. There are 11 steps. This area is well-lit with ceiling lights

Washing machine is situated in a small room only accessible via uneven footpath around the side of the building with limited outdoor lighting. Please ask at reception if you would like to use it.

Meeting Room

Our meeting room is located in the lounge and shares the facilities as described above. There are further tables and straight backed chairs with armrests which can be set out in a variety of arrangements. This area is well-lit with ceiling lights and uplighters.

An additional Meeting / TV room is available on the lower ground floor. Stairs to the lower ground floor are stone, with a handrail which is not continuous. There are 11 steps. This area is well-lit with ceiling lights.

Bedrooms

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

All of the bathrooms have fluorescent lighting and non-slip flooring. The standard showers have a step up to enter.

Ground Floor

Here we have one 4-bedded room with level access. There is a washbasin in the room. There is a WC in the corridor, which requires one step up to access and it is not accessible to modern standards

First Floor

From the main staircase there is level access to:

- One 4-bedded room
- Two 8-bedded rooms
- Two WCs
- Three showers

Then there are either two steps up or two steps down to:

- Three 4-bedded rooms
- One 5-bedded room (Double with a single over and a bunk)
- Two 8-bedded rooms
- Four WCs
- Two showers

Grounds and Garden

We have approximately 1.5 acres of garden which are mostly laid to lawn. The front lawn also doubles as a campsite during the summer. Access is as below.

We also have a gravel terrace which can be accessed either via a single leaf door and then down 4 steps from the dining room, or down four narrow steps from the main drive. There are picnic style benches available here.

Cycle Shed

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

Camping Facilities

We have camping from Easter until September every year. Pitches are available on the front lawn, close to the pond, and in a wooded area which has 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 is an outside toilet available for campers at night time, and campers have full use of the hostel showers and toilets during the day. Campers also have access to the self-catering kitchen and the hostel has a licensed bar and restaurant which campers are also welcome to use.

Additional Information

- We do not permit pets, but assistance dogs are very welcome.
- We do not permit smoking 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 doors and corridor doors.
- 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.
- Mobile phone reception within the hostel is good.
- There is limited Wi-Fi around the ground floor of this hostel.

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; Grid reference SD302981.
- Local buses: Line 505 (The Coniston Rambler) runs from Kendal, Ambleside and Coniston. For the hostel, get off at Coniston, at Holly How Youth Hostel. For more information see <http://www.stagecoachbus.com>.
- Local taxi: 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.