



YHA Hawkshead - Access Statement

Introduction

If you're looking for a rural retreat in the Lake District, why not try YHA Hawkshead? This grade II listed Regency style building, in a glorious setting overlooking the tranquil Esthwaite Water, is an ideal base for cheap family breaks, school trips and activity breaks. For something a bit different you could book one of our camping pods which are available all year round.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this 112-bed hostel. Our beds are split between the main house and the courtyard lodge, both of which are 2-storey buildings. We have ground floor rooms in the courtyard lodge. Unfortunately none of our facilities meets modern accessibility 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/hawkshead.

Pre-Arrival

- The nearest rail station is Windermere which is approximately 10 miles away.
- The nearest bus stop is in Hawkshead village approximately 1 mile away. There is a limited 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 roads approaching the hostel from Hawkshead village are level and surfaced with tarmac. There are no pavements and no street lighting. From the road there is a driveway to the hostel which is about 85 metres long and moderately inclined. The drive is unlit at night.
- The hostel's details can be seen on YHA's website 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

There is ample parking onsite next to the main entrance. There are no marked bays but we would be happy to reserve a place close to the hostel entrance if required. Guests can also be dropped off right outside the main entrance.

The car park is level and surfaced with gravel. There is very limited lighting at night. The gravel leads right up to the hostel entrance. 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

There are two stone steps up to a manual single leaf door which opens inwards. There is no level access into the hostel. There is a coded entry pad to enter the hostel, and a buzzer for late arrivals (both at a height of approximately 1300mm).

The reception is on the ground floor and has level access from the entrance hall. This area is spacious and there is a wooden bench with armrests. The floor is level and surfaced with carpet and the room is evenly lit. The reception desk has dual height; one section is at 1000mm and the lower is at 840mm.

A payphone is available with adjacent seating. There is also an emergency phone to connect to a member of staff (on site) at night. The reception also acts as our café bar; snacks and hot and cold drinks are served from here.

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 flooring in the main house and the courtyard lodge is short pile carpet.

There is no lift so access to the first floors is by stairs only. In the main house the staircase wide and sweeping and there is a second staircase which is straighter and narrow; both have a handrail to one side. To reach the first floor of the courtyard lodge there is an external wooden staircase with a wire mesh covering and a handrail on one side.

Due to the age of the building the first floor has some steps in the corridor and to access some rooms; it is not level throughout.

Public WCs

There is one public unisex WC close to reception (clear door opening 920mm). This WC has grab rails, a low level washbasin fitted with a single mixer lever tap and an emergency cord. It is well-lit and has non-slip flooring. Transfer onto the toilet is left-handed.

Lounge

The lounge is located on the ground floor and has level access from reception via a single leaf door. The floor is level and covered with carpet and the room is well-lit.

This room is extremely spacious and furnished with coffee tables and sofas. All furniture can be moved; please just ask at reception if you require assistance.

Dining Room

Our dining room is located on the ground floor and has level access from the entrance hall via a single leaf door. The room is level with laminate flooring. The room is brightly lit by bay windows in the day and by ceiling lights at night.

There are tables and straight backed chairs without armrests. Furniture is well spaced, but it can also all be moved; please just ask at reception if you require assistance.

The serving area is in the next room, through a single leaf door. 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 of the courtyard lodge. To reach the courtyard lodge there is steep tarmac slope (gradient of 1:8 for 18 metres) and then a loose gravel courtyard to cross. There is then one step up (180mm high) into the self-catering area through a single leaf door. The doors leading to the self-catering kitchen are narrow; the kitchen door has a clear opening width of 685mm.

This room is open plan and includes the self-catering kitchen and dining room. The flooring is level and surfaced with non-slip lino.

Laundry and Drying Facilities

The drying room is located in the basement of the main building. There is a flight of 13 stone steps from which there is level access. The steps have painted contrasting nosing and a handrail to one side. There is a curve towards the bottom so some steps become narrower at one side. The flooring in this area is stone flags.

The laundry room can be found close to the courtyard lodge. The path is tarmac and then gravel. There is a level threshold into the laundry room. It has laminate flooring and is well-lit. The staff are happy to assist with washing if required.

Classrooms

We have two classrooms located on the ground floor of the courtyard lodge. The door to the classroom lobby has a clear opening width of 740mm, one classroom door is 760mm and the other is 730mm. Both classrooms have level floors which are surfaced with non-slip lino. The rooms are well-lit with ceiling lights. We can provide tables and chairs in a variety of seating arrangements. There are WCs close by.

Bedrooms and Bathrooms

All rooms have a washbasin. Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds and are not en-suite. 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.

Main House - First Floor

There are 22 or 23 steps up to this floor depending on the staircase.

- Four 4-bedded rooms
- Four 6-bedded rooms
- Four 8-bedded rooms
- Six WCs and six showers

Courtyard Lodge - Ground Floor

Some of the rooms have steps up to enter.

- Two 3-bedded rooms (double with a single over)
- Two five-bedded rooms (double with a single over and a bunk)
- One 3-bedded en-suite room (double with a single over)
- Eight WCs and five showers.

Courtyard Lodge - First Floor

There are 12 steps up to this floor

- Two 3-bedded rooms
- Two 4-bedded rooms
- Three WCs and a shower

Camping, Camping Pods, Cabin and Tipis

Our camping cabins and tipis are all located down the drive from the main hostel building. The drive is moderately steep in places.

The path leading from the drive to the camping pods, tipis and cabin is surfaced with gravel. There is lighting at night along this path, but we recommend that guests also bring a torch. All pods, tipis and cabins are fitted with futon beds and all bedding is provided.

We have toilet and shower facilities available for campers, as well as a camping wash up area. When the hostel is not booked for exclusive hire, campers also have access to the

facilities in the main building. These can all be reached either via the hostel drive or via steps from the camp site.

Camping

From the drive the campsite is flat and is entirely grass. Cars cannot be taken onto the main camping field but there is a car park just five metres away.

Camping Pods

We have 8 camping pods; there are four 3-person pods with a three single beds. There are four 4-person pods available with a double bed and two single beds. The pods all have heating and lighting inside.

All pods have 1 or 2 steps up onto the wooden porch, followed by a raised threshold to enter. The doors are glazed and open outwards. Each porch has two plastic garden chairs with armrests and a small coffee table. These can be moved if required.

Cabin

We have one cabin which sleeps 4-5 people on a double bed with a single bunk over the top and another set of bunk beds.

There is one step up onto a large wooden porch, followed by a raised threshold to enter the cabin. There is heating and lighting in the cabin.

Tipi

We have two tipis which sleep 4 people in a double bed and 2 single beds.

Access is along a gravel path and then over a grass lawn. There is a small step up onto the platform that the tipi rests on. There is a small solar lamp in the tipi.

Grounds and Garden

Our large garden slopes moderately away from the main building. Access to the lawn area is down one flight of stone steps, with a hand rail on both sides. There is also step-free access from the driveway. Two 3-seat benches with armrests and one picnic table are available on the gravel area over-looking garden.

We also have a tiled, covered veranda area with a step up; two 3-seat benches with armrests are available here. There is also woodland out to the back of the hostel.

Cycle Store

The cycle store is approximately 50 metres from the main entrance. It is connected by a sloping gravel driveway and then a narrow path.

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).
- 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 is limited within immediate vicinity, dependant on network. O2 and Vodafone have good coverage
- Wi-Fi internet connection is available to guests.

Contact Information

- Address: YHA Hawkshead, Esthwaite Lodge, Hawkshead, Cumbria LA22 0QD.
- Telephone: 0345 3719321
- Email: hawkshead@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey Map 96; Grid reference SD354966
- Local buses: Line 505 runs from Windermere, Ambleside and Coniston. For more information see www.stagecoachbus.com
- Local taxi: Lakes Cars - 015394 46777; 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.