



## 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 325 metres up a moderately inclined hill.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this 68-bed hostel. We have ground floor rooms in the Long Barn and The Granary. There is one accessible 3-bedded room with an accessible en-suite bathroom in the Long Barn.

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/south-downs](http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/south-downs).

### Pre-Arrival

- The nearest rail station is Southease which is within 200 metres of the hostel.
- The nearest bus stop is in Newhaven which is approximately 3.7 miles away.
- There is a local taxi company which can provide accessible taxis when booked in advance. For more information see the contact information section.
- The road to the hostel from the village is tarmac, and has a moderate incline. There are no pavements, and there is no street lighting so if you are arriving on foot after dark please bring a torch.
- The hostel's details can be seen on YHA's website [www.yha.org.uk](http://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

YHA South Downs has an onsite car park which has a level, hard, gravel surface and five marked accessible bays in the courtyard next to reception. There is no lighting in the car park, apart from the wall lights which illuminate the walkways

outside of the buildings. If you let us know what time you are coming we will do our best to provide assistance 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 & Reception**

YHA South Downs is split across four buildings, the Farmhouse, the Long Barn, the Interpretation Centre and the Granary. The Farmhouse is the main hostel building, containing the reception and lounge areas. There is a level threshold through a manual, single leaf door which opens outwards

The reception is adjacent to the main entrance, through another manual, single leaf door. This area has a hard tiled floor and is well-lit with ceiling and wall lights. There are two armchairs, a bench and a couple of low coffee tables in this area. There is a lower level service point at the reception desk which also has an induction loop.

To move from the reception into the rest of the Farmhouse there is a shallow step down. The doorway here is quite narrow, but there is alternative access via a wider doorway with a small bump at the back of the building.

### **Public Areas**

#### **Halls and Corridors**

This is a newly refurbished building which has a 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 unisex 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 reception area through a level corridor. The lounge is a large bright room with carpeted floors.

Seating is arranged with sofas, soft armchairs and low level coffee tables. Furniture is adequately spaced to allow wheelchairs and furniture 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 reception area, through a series of level, carpeted corridors.

The quiet room is equipped with a range of sofas, soft chairs and coffee tables. Furniture is adequately spaced to allow wheelchairs and furniture 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 (all without arms). Furniture can be moved, please let a member of staff know if you would like this.

We can also provide a table service so please ask at reception if you require this. 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

Accessed off a level carpeted corridor in the Farmhouse through a single leaf door, the self-catering kitchen is equipped with two hobs, two sinks, two fridges, a 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.

## Laundry

The laundry is located in the Farmhouse building, next to the reception area. Access into this room is level through a single leaf door, and it is equipped with a commercial washer and dryer. This room has very limited space.

## 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. Please contact the hostel on 01273 858780 for further enquiries regarding conference rooms.

## Bedrooms and Bathrooms

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.

## The Farmhouse

The bedrooms in this building are on the first floor. There are two staircases and both have low beams and are narrow with handrails. The staircase nearest the reception has 15 steps to the first floor. The bottom part of this staircase turns at 90 degrees, creating narrow treads at one side.

- One 4-bedded room
- Two 6-bedded rooms
- One 4-bedded room with en-suite shower room
- One 5-bedded room with en-suite shower room
  
- Three shower rooms with WC accessed from the main corridor

## 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. The Long Barn offers the following accommodation:

- One accessible 3-bedded room with wheelchair accessible en-suite shower room. This toilet has left-handed transfer.
- Two 2-bedded rooms
- Two 4-bedded rooms
- Three 6-bedded rooms
- Four showers accessed from the main corridor
- Three toilets accessed from the main corridor

### The Granary

The Granary is a separate building located next to the Long Barn, access into The Granary is level through a single leaf door from the brick paved path outside. The granary offers accommodation over two floors, as follows:

- Two 2-bedded rooms on the ground floor
- One double room on the first floor
- Shared kitchen
- Shared bathroom with shower over a bathtub (no grab rails)

### Grounds & Gardens

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

### Camping Pods

Our camping pods were installed recently and are an excellent alternative to camping! We have two three person pods and two four person pods available.

They are located in a field adjacent to the hostel and are 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 with 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. Customers have access to the communal hostel facilities.

### 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 shown on information board in each bedroom.
- Mobile phone reception within the hostel is good.
- Wi-Fi internet connection is not available at this hostel.

### Contact Information

- Address: YHA South Downs, Itford Farm, Beddingham, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 6JS
- Telephone: 0345 371 9574
- E-mail: southdowns@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey Map 198; Grid reference TQ433055.
- 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 can vary depending on day/time of year.
- Local taxi: Coastline Cabs (to/from Newhaven) Newhaven 01273 512222 or 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.