

## **YHA Bellever**

### **ACCESS STATEMENT**

#### **Introduction**

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this 38-bed hostel, a 2-storey building that is set in the heart of Dartmoor National Park. The following statement is a summary of our provision. If you have any specific questions about access, please call us and we will endeavour to help.

#### **Pre-Arrival**

- Twice daily bus services #98 (except Sunday) from Tavistock to within 200 meters of the hostel.
- On weekends throughout the year and daily during the school summer holidays a bus #82 runs from Exeter – Plymouth - Exeter twice a day. Alight at Postbridge 1 mile and follow the tarmac road to Bellever.
- Nearest shop is situated at Postbridge, 1 mile away. A more comprehensive selection of shops and banks can be found in Tavistock, 16 miles.
- The hostel's details can be seen on YHA's website: [www.yha.org.uk](http://www.yha.org.uk)
- You can contact the hostel by phone, fax or e-mail (details below).

#### **Arrival & Car Parking Facilities**

- Parking for 8 cars (50 yards from main entrance) on a gravel base. No marked bays but there is a dropping-off point outside the main entrance.
- Please try to provide advance notice if assistance will be needed to move to and from cars.
- Sloped pathway with even tarmac surface leading from car park to main entrance.
- The car park is lit at night but there are some dark spots.

#### **Main Entrance & Reception**

- Ramp access to main entrance. (Assistance is available on request).
- The front door is push button coded and opens outwards (closed between 11pm and 7am).
- Access to reception is through 2 further outward opening doors over painted concrete and carpeted flooring. There are 2 slopes for the change in levels en-route.
- There is a 10cm high step into reception
- Induction loop at Reception.
- A low level Payphone available with adjacent seating.
- Emergency phone to connect to a member of staff (on site) at night.

### **Public Areas – General**

- Good colour contrast to floor, walls and doorways throughout the building.
- Well-lit corridors.
- Floor covering is Flotex or even stone / tile flooring.

### **Public Areas – WCs**

- The hostel has 4 WCs, but none of them currently meets DDA standards for wheelchair users. Three are located on the ground floor and one on the first floor. The doors open outwards. 3 are left side hinged & 1 right.

### **Public Areas – Dining Room & Lounge**

- Sloped floor on Ground Floor to dining room / lounge.
- Dining Room tables are movable.
- Table service is available in Dining Room if requested in advance at Reception.
- Access to the lounge is via the dining room and during busy times egress can be challenging.
- Lounge door open outwards
- Lounge furniture is a mix of wooden benches, comfy chairs / sofa. A firm cushioned chair with high seat & backrest can be supplied on request.

### **Self-catering kitchen**

- Self-catering kitchen is with-in the dining room. General egress is poor
- The floor is even and tiled.
- Clear, visible signs (in large font) for advice on equipment use.
- A domestic gas oven with a grill and 4 hobs and 2 double burners with grills
- All worktops and sinks are 90cm high.
- The domestic cooker with 4 gas hobs is 90cm high, the grill with a bottom hinge is 60cm high and the top of the oven that is side hinged is 54cm high.

### **Laundry & drying facilities**

- A washing machine is available for use. The drying room is off the dining room and has a sliding door to the right.

### **Meeting rooms**

- 1 classroom in single storey annexe, accessed via level concrete path (20 meters) from main entrance and a 20cm step into the annex.

### **Bedrooms – Ground Floor**

- One 4 / 5 bedded dormitory with single 91cm wide over double 122cm and a 76cm wide bunk. A wash-hand basin 80cm high. The room is next to 3 WC's and 2 showers (none of them meet DDA standards for wheelchair users)
- Individual bed lights fitted adjacent to bed head.
- The door opens inwards and is 76cm wide

### **Bedrooms – First Floor**

- 2 separate Staircases to 1<sup>st</sup> Floor each with 14 steps. Handrails are fitted on both sides. One staircase is carpeted and the other polished wood
- Three 6-bedded rooms, not en-suite.
- Two 4-bedded rooms, not en-suite.
- One 8 -bedded room, not en-suite.
- Individual bed lights fitted adjacent to bed head.
- All bedroom doors open inwards and are 76cm wide.
- All rooms are fitted with emergency lighting
- All rooms have a wash-hand basin 80cm high with a mirror above

### **Washrooms – Ground Floor**

- 2 shower cubicles (both gender free) 150cm X 70cm with a 28cm step up into them. The doors are 60cm wide & left hinged.

### **WCs – Ground**

There are 3 WCs (gender free) 100cm x 130cm with hand basin, mirror and a shaver point 180cm high. None of them currently meets DDA standards for wheelchair users. The doors 60cm wide, 2 are left hinge and open inwards, 1 right hinged opening inwards.

### **Washrooms – First Floor**

2 shower cubicles (both gender free) 150cm X 70cm with a 28cm step up into them. The doors are 60cm wide & left hinged.

### **WC – First Floor**

There is one WC 144cm x 133cm, which does not currently meet DDA standards for wheelchair users. The door opens inwards and is right side hinged. It has a wash hand basin, mirror and shaver point 180cm high.

## **Grounds & gardens**

- Sloping entrance to Wildlife Garden from car park with moderate sloping and uneven pathways and a woodchip surface.
- Information boards 1 meter high set at a 45° angle
- Pond with a dipping point for wheelchair users
- A bench (with armrest) is situated in the garden.
- Cycle shed is 20 meters opposite main entrance, the door is 102cm wide, left hinged. There is a 2cm step into the cycle shed. Assistance is available on request

## **Additional information**

- Information leaflets available in large print
- No pets or dogs (but service dogs are welcome).
- No smoking.
- Disability awareness courses – as part of the ‘Welcome Host’ scheme – are undertaken by all of our staff.
- 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.
- Evacuation procedures shown in each bedroom on the notice board.
- There is no mobile phone reception at the hostel.
- Grid reference: SX 654 773
- OS Map: Explorer OL28
- An Easy-Going Dartmoor pack with Access for All walks is available for hire from reception.

## **Contact information**

- Address: YHA Bellever, Postbridge, Devon, PL20 6TU
- Telephone: 0870 770 5692
- Fax: 0870 770 5693
- E-mail: [bellever@yha.org.uk](mailto:bellever@yha.org.uk)
- Hours of operation: Reception open from 7 am to 10 am and from 5 pm to 11 pm.
- Local buses: 0870 200 22 33 or [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)
- Local taxis: Finches 01822 890224

## **Future plans**

- As part of YHA’s refurbishment program it is hoped that in 2009 YHA Bellever will under-go a major refurbishment, which will include a separate self catering kitchen and a ground floor ‘access for all’ bedroom.

**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.**