

# YHA Stour Valley

## ACCESS STATEMENT

### Introduction

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this 20 bed bunkhouse, a single storey building which is situated on our 1000 acre farm, close to the River Stour on the South Suffolk/North Essex border.

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

- Good train links to within 3 miles of bunkhouse (Manningtree) on main London Liverpool Street – Norwich line, with branch line and boat train to Harwich. At both Manningtree and Ipswich station some platforms are only accessible via the foot crossing across the track, with staff assistance (they will require 24 hours notice).
- Regular bus services to surrounding area from Brantham Bull (3/4 mile from bunkhouse), although only two direct buses Mon – Sat from/to Manningtree Station.
- Several local taxi firms, but none have accessible taxis.
- Nearest Shop-mobility scheme is situated in the Buttermarket Centre, Ipswich, approx, 7 miles away. Tel: 01473 222225.
- Details for the bunkhouse can be seen on the YHA website: [www.yha.org.uk](http://www.yha.org.uk).
- You can contact the bunkhouse by phone or e-mail (details below).

## **Arrival and Car Parking Facilities**

- Up to 10 parking spaces (13 yards from main entrance) No marked bays, but a position next to the gate can be reserved by telephoning in advance.
- The parking area is on a compacted, smooth surface.
- Sloped pathway with even surface and hand rails leading from the car park to main entrance.
- The bunkhouse has external lighting that is light sensitive, but is in a rural location with no street lighting on the access road or bridlepath approaches.
- Undercover level seating area outside main entrance.
- There is no Reception or resident warden. Entry is via digilock after contacting warden on arrival, either by phoning (see numbers below) or finding someone at Brantham Hall who will contact the warden for you.
- The main entrance leads directly into the kitchen/dining area where it is possible to be seated whilst checking in.
- There is no Induction Loop.
- There is no payphone.
- Reception on most mobile networks is good.
- Emergency contact numbers are displayed below the fire panel inside the main entrance.

## **Public Areas – General**

- Good colour contrast to floor, walls and doorways throughout the building.
- Well lit corridor.
- Tiled flooring throughout.
- Communal areas and bedrooms are all well lit through a combination of electric and natural lighting.
- There are no internal steps or stairs.

## **Public Areas – Washrooms**

- There are three gender free washrooms with WC, basin with lever taps and shower.
- The wet room (7'6" x 8'3") has a non slip floor and is designed for disabled use, with WC, low level basin and adjustable shower head.
- There is one washroom outside the main entrance, down two steps.
- The second internal washroom is more compact, with a cubicle shower.
- None of the showers have hinged seats, but an adjustable height stool is kept in the wet room.

## **Public Areas – Kitchen/Dining Room**

- Tables and chairs are all movable.
- Chairs are without arm rests, and there are no perching stools.
- Table height – 30"

## **Public Areas – Self Catering Kitchen**

- All work surfaces are at 36".
- The hob and microwave are at work surface height, the grill and two ovens are all lower level.
- There is a large chiller cupboard with sliding doors.

## **Bedrooms**

- There are five bedrooms – two 2 bed, one 4 bed and two 6 bed. They all contain 2'6" bunkbeds, with the bottom mattress 21" from the floor, and 26" headroom below the top bunk.
- All have bulkhead lights, basins with lever taps, a chair, a shelf on the wall alongside the bunk and underbed storage trays.

- Unobstructed space (but including basin and movable chair)  
two bed room approx. 4'10" x 6'10"  
four bed room approx. 5' x 6'10"

### **Drying Room**

- Down two steps by the covered area outside the main entrance.
- There are no laundry facilities.

### **Grounds and Garden**

- Grass garden area to the front and side of the bunkhouse, accessed from the paved sloping path , or from the covered front entrance area down two steps with hand rails.
- The grass area is reasonably level and kept mown.
- There are two 3 seat benches with arm rests and three picnic tables.
- Cycle storage is undercover in the farmyard, 20 yards from the bunkhouse entrance gate.

### **Additional Information**

- No smoking.
- No pets or dogs (but service dogs are welcome)
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms are fitted throughout the building,
- Emergency pull cord in the wet room.
- Evacuation procedure advice in every bedroom.
- We are unable to accommodate guests who require an oxygen cylinder.

## **Accommodating lone guests with sight/hearing/mobility impairments – evacuation in an emergency.**

**Stour Valley is equipped to accommodate most persons, where they are travelling with a companion who would be able to assist in emergency evacuation.**

**Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate those who would need assistance in an emergency, but who travel without a companion as there is no residential member of staff on the premises.**

### **Contact Information**

- Address: Stour Valley Bunkhouse,  
Brantham Hall,  
The Chase,  
Brantham,  
Near Manningtree,  
Suffolk.  
CO11 1PT.
- Telephone: 01473 327090 / 07857 630692  
As there is no Reception these are the warden's home telephone numbers.
- E-mail: [stourvalley@yha.org.uk](mailto:stourvalley@yha.org.uk)
- Open for arrival from 4 pm – 10pm.
- Bookable on line or via the main YHA booking line – we are unable to take telephone bookings.
- Advance bookings only.

**We welcome your feedback to help us continue making improvements. Please contact us directly if you have any queries or if you would like to make any comments.**

