



YHA Holmbury St Mary Surrey Hills – Access Statement

Introduction

Steeped in history, YHA Holmbury St Mary Surrey Hills was one of first purpose-built YHA youth hostels in England and Wales. It was constructed in July 1935, thanks to the support of a variety of donors, and stands in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the edge of 2,000 acres of open access countryside and woodland.

YHA Holmbury St Mary Surrey Hills is a perfect rural retreat and a great base for activity breaks and day trips to London. Near to the village, it's not far from Holmbury Hill with its panoramic views of the North and South Downs. There are great routes for walking, cycling, mountain biking and horse-riding nearby – perfect for a family activity holiday. The hostel has a large open plan lounge and dining area which is perfect for relaxing after a busy activity-packed day.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this 47-bed hostel; a two-storey building located near Dorking, Surrey. We have ground floor rooms, however, none of our bedrooms or bathrooms meets modern accessibility standards.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require assistance, phone 01629 592700 or email customerservices@yha.org.uk. You can also view photos of the hostel at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-holmbury-st-mary-surrey-hills.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail stations are Gomshall (2.5 miles) and Dorking (6.3 miles).
- The nearest bus stop is 0.4 miles away. A daily bus service runs accessible buses to this stop from Monday to Saturday. Please use caution as this walk doesn't have pedestrian paths the whole way.
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when booked in advance (please see contact info).
- The roads approaching and surrounding the hostel are steep, without pavement or street lighting.
- The hostel's details including a map and transport options can be seen at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-holmbury-st-mary-surrey-hills#hostel-location-map.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (please see contact info).

Arrival and parking

We have parking for 8-10 cars at the site as well as a secondary car park next door provided by Hurtswood estate as an overflow. Our car park is uneven ground surfaced with a mixture of gravel and mud. It is roughly 100m from the hostel entrance.

Main entrance and reception

There are three concrete steps up to the main entrance. To enter, there is a set of double doors which open inwards into the dining room. This area is level with laminated flooring and well-lit with ceiling lights.

Reception can be found in the entrance area. It does not have a low-level section but a clipboard can be provided for completing registration. There is a range of seating in our dining room if needed.

There is a payphone available in the foyer with adjacent seating (bench). In the event of an emergency during the night, option A on the payphone will take you through to a member of staff who will be able to advise you.

Café bar / lounge

Our modern lounge area is located to the front of the marquee. The floor is level throughout and surfaced with timber. The area is well-lit with ceiling lights. There are tables and chairs with and without armrests available here. This is where guests can have their breakfasts and evening snacks.

Circulation between furniture may be limited in some sections, but all furniture is moveable; please just ask at reception if you need assistance. If you purchase any food or beverages from reception and require assistance to take these to a table, we will be happy to help.

We can cater for particular dietary requirements; please call the hostel and discuss these in advance and we will do our best to provide alternatives.

Public areas

Halls, corridors and stairs

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 corridor flooring is carpet throughout.

Unfortunately, there is no lift at YHA Holmbury St Mary Surrey Hills, so access to the first floor is via stairs only. The stairs are carpeted and have a handrail fitted to one side. There are 16 steps to the first floor.

WCs

There are WCs on the ground floor with level access from the reception via a single leaf door. There are three unisex WCs and a unisex WC with grab rails fitted. They all have non-slip flooring and are well-lit with ceiling lights.

Café bar

Our café bar has level access through double doors (width 1900mm) from the reception lobby. There is a level section and then a step down to further seating in the middle of the room. The flooring is tiled and the room is well-lit with ceiling lights.

The furniture here is well spaced. There are tables and chairs here which can all be moved. We would be happy to assist with this. There are also nine two-seater sofas.

Lounge and dining room

The combined lounge and dining room is located on the ground floor and has level access from the reception and lobby via a single leaf door. The floor is level and surfaced with wood effect laminate. The room is well-lit with ceiling lights.

The room is furnished with 10 small dining tables with 18 chairs and a built-in bench without armrests.

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

A self-catering kitchen is located on the ground floor with a kettle, microwave, oven, 2 refrigerators (with freezer compartments) and toaster. Dishes and cutlery are provided as well as kitchen utensils, pots and pans.

Our kitchen is small and equipped with domestic appliances and is therefore not suitable for large group catering.

Bedrooms and bathrooms

None of our rooms are en-suite. All bedrooms have bunk beds. All bedrooms are carpeted and well-lit with ceiling and individual bunk lights. All bedding is provided.

Dormitories are not available at this hostel.

All of our bathrooms are unisex. They have good LED lighting and non-slip flooring. All our showers have a step up to enter.

Ground floor

- 1 x two-bedded room
- 5 x four-bedded rooms
- 4 x WCs, 3 showers and a shared washroom with 3 sinks

First floor

- 1 x two-bedded room
- 1 x double room
- 5 x four-bedded rooms
- 4 x WCs, 3 showers and a shared washroom with 3 sinks

Grounds and garden

We have a large garden around the hostel (roughly three acres), which is mainly woodland with a small pond. No fires or BBQs are permitted on this site, we also

kindly ask guests to smoke in the area provided. The majority of YHA Holmbury St Mary Surrey Hills land lies on a Peaty soil which allows fires to spread underground.

This means that even though you may have been careful and put your fire out, it can still be alight underground and spread. On the back lawn there are picnic tables available for guests to use.

Additional information

- We do not permit pets, but assistance dogs are very welcome.
- We do not permit smoking anywhere in the hostel.
- In the event of an emergency during the night, option A on the payphone will take you through to a member of staff who will be able to advise you.
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms are fitted. Our teams won't fetch you in the event of an emergency, so if the alarms go off please don't wait for a member of staff to evacuate; get yourself out of the building by the nearest exit.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom. Arrangements for guests needing assistance to evacuate in case of fire should be discussed beforehand.
- There may not be a member of staff on site outside reception hours, or when the whole hostel is booked through Exclusive Hire.
- Free Wi-Fi is available. Mobile phone signal is limited at the hostel and in the immediate vicinity.
- YHA Holmbury St Mary Surrey Hills operates Salto key system throughout. Key cards will be issued and valid once checked in on the day of arrival is complete.

Contact information

- Address: YHA Holmbury St Mary Surrey Hills, Radnor Lane, Holmbury St Mary, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6NW
- Telephone: 0345 371 9323
- Email: holmbury@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey Map: 187
- Ordnance Grid Ref: TQ104450
- Local buses: Catch the Metrobus line 22 from Dorking
- Local taxi: A-Star Taxis – 01306 882299

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.