



YHA Grasmere Butharlyp Howe – Access Statement

Introduction

Stay in this amazing converted Victorian mansion with spectacular views of the Rothay Valley and surrounding fells. The hostel's extensive grounds and safe play area will keep kids happy for hours, leaving parents to relax and making it perfect for cheap family holidays as well as school trips.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this three-storey main building located just outside of Grasmere village. Our bedrooms are all on the first floor and none are accessible to modern standards.

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

This access statement was last updated in March 2025.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail station is Windermere, 9 miles away.
- The nearest bus stop is in Grasmere village, 400m away, offering an hourly service that usually runs accessible buses.
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when pre-booked.
- The road from the village to the hostel is moderately inclined, without pavements or streetlighting. The driveway to the hostel is tarmac which can be uneven in places and slopes gently up to the hostel; it is another 200m to the hostel from the road. The driveway is lit at night.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-grasmere-butharlyp-howe/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

We have limited onsite parking which can be found on the driveway where it meets the main road. This area is a mixture of tarmac and bare earth. The driveway to the hostel is as described above.

The tarmac driveway runs right up to the hostel entrance. Guests can be dropped off near the main entrance and further pay and display parking can be found in the village. If you let us know what time you are coming, we will do our best to assist with moving to and from cars.

Main entrance and reception

Access to the hostel is through a manual double door which opens inwards. Where the tarmac meets the slate threshold there is a slight lip. There is then a manual single leaf door which also opens inwards into the entrance hall.

Reception is located in this area and is level throughout. The floor is surfaced with carpet and the room is well-lit with ceiling lights. There is a sofa nearby.

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 corridor flooring is carpet.

There is no lift at YHA Grasmere Butharlyp Howe so access to the first floor is by stairs only. The stairs to the basement are stone and have a handrail to one side. The stairs to the first floor are carpeted and have a handrail on one side.

Public areas are level on the ground floor of the hostel building. Due to the age of the building, the first floor has a number of steps in the corridors to access bedrooms and wash facilities.

WCs

There is one accessible WC on the ground floor. This is located in the dining room and has non-slip flooring and is well-lit with fluorescent lighting.

Lounge

We have three spacious rooms which provide a relaxing lounge area. Each has level access from reception and is level throughout with carpet flooring. Large bay windows let natural light in during the day, and the rooms are evenly lit by ceiling lights at night.

The lounges are furnished with coffee tables, sofas and armchairs. All furniture can be moved – please ask at reception if you need help.

Dining room

Our dining room is located on the ground floor and has level access via a single leaf door. The room is level throughout and has laminate flooring. Large bay windows provide natural light during the day and there are ceiling lights at night.

We have a mixture of round and square tables with wooden straight-backed chairs without armrests. All furniture can be moved – please ask at reception for help.

Table service is available (please ask at reception). We are also happy to cater for dietary requirements or any likes/dislikes – please advise us of these before arrival.

Self-catering kitchen

The self-catering kitchen is located on the ground floor through the dining room. It is a small kitchen with kettle, toaster, 2 ovens and sinks.

The kitchen has non-slip flooring and is well-lit with ceiling lights. Crockery and some kitchen equipment are kept in high shelving units, though can be moved if required. Due to the size of the kitchen, there is an additional kitchen workspace area in the dining room with access to a toaster, kettle and microwave.

Drying facilities

The drying room is located in the basement. There are 12 steps down and there is a handrail to one side. There is level access from the stairs via several single leaf doors. The floor is level and surfaced with non-slip flooring.

Meeting room

Our meeting room is located on the ground floor. There is level access from reception and the floor is level throughout. The floor is surfaced with carpet and the room is well lit. We can provide tables and chairs in a variety of different layouts.

Bedrooms

Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. Our rooms are carpeted and well-lit with ceiling and individual bunk lights plus a washbasin. Bedding is provided.

All bathrooms have fluorescent lighting and non-slip flooring. Standard showers have a step up to enter.

First floor

Access to this floor is via two staircases. The main staircase has 23 wide, shallow steps. The back staircase has 18 steps that are steeper and narrower.

- Four rooms that sleep up to 2 people each. They include a set of bunk beds.
- Four rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- Two rooms that sleep up to 6 people each. They include 3 sets of bunk beds.
- Two rooms that sleep up to 8 people each. They include 4 sets of bunk beds.
- Shared WC and shower facilities.

Grounds and garden

YHA Grasmere Butharlp Howe has extensive grounds. They are mostly meadow or wood, but we do have an area of lawn that is accessed by 17 gravel steps in 2 flights with a handrail, from the front of the hostel.

The grounds are undulating and there are some paths, but they are mown from the meadow and so are uneven. There is outside seating at the front of the hostel consisting of straight-backed chairs and tables plus picnic benches.

Cycle shed

Secure cycle storage is located at the rear of a separate building on the hostel grounds, accessed via a sloping gravel drive from the main hostel. The door is a single leaf door that is 100cm wide.

It is lit internally and externally from a switch located inside but is also externally illuminated by a light with a motion sensor. Externally the floor is slate which can be slippery when wet but the floor inside is even concrete.

Additional information

- Pets are not permitted at YHA Grasmere Butharlyp Howe, though assistance dogs are welcome throughout – please notify us at the time of booking.
- Smoking is not permitted 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 are fitted. We ensure that all guests evacuate in the event of fire or similar emergency. Arrangements for guests needing assistance to evacuate should be discussed beforehand.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom.
- Mobile phone reception tends to be good in the immediate vicinity.
- Free Wi-Fi is available at this hostel.

Contact information

- Address: YHA Grasmere Butharlyp Howe, Easedale Road, Grasmere, Cumbria, LA22 9QG
- Telephone: 0345 3719319
- Email: grasmere@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: 90
- Local buses: Line 555 – for the hostel, get off in the centre of Grasmere
- Local taxi: Windermere Taxis 01539 444144

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.