



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 National Landscape 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 two-storey building located near Dorking, Surrey. We have ground floor bedrooms, however, none of our bedrooms or bathrooms meet modern accessibility standards.

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. You can also view photos of the hostel at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-holmbury-st-mary-surrey-hills.

This access statement was last updated in April 2025.

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 the route to the bus stop does not have a consistent pavement for pedestrians.
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when pre-booked.
- The roads approaching and surrounding the hostel are steep with no pavement or streetlighting.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-holmbury-st-mary-surrey-hills/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

We have parking for up to 10 cars as well as an overflow car park next door provided by Hurtswood Estate. 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 bench seating. In the event of an emergency at night, you can contact staff via option A on the payphone.

Public areas

Halls, corridors and lifts

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.

There is no lift at this hostel so access to the first floor is via a set of 16 steps. The stairs are carpeted and have a handrail fitted to one side.

WCs

There are four WCs on the ground floor with level access from the reception via a single leaf door. They all have non-slip flooring and are well-lit with ceiling lights. One of the WCs also has grabrails.

Café bar / lounge

Our café bar has level access through double doors (190cm wide) from reception. 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, which can all be moved, as well as nine two-seater sofas.

Lounge and dining room

The combined lounge and dining room is located on the ground floor with 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, 18 chairs and a built-in bench without armrests.

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

Self-catering kitchen

The 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

Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. Our bedrooms are carpeted and well-lit with ceiling and individual bunk lights. All bedding is provided.

All bathrooms have LED lighting and non-slip flooring. Showers have a step up to enter.

Ground floor

- One room that sleeps up to 2 people. It includes a set of bunk beds.
- Five rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- Three showers.
- Four WCs.
- Washroom with three sinks.

First floor

- Two rooms that sleep up to 2 people each. They include a set of bunk beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 3 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath.
- Four Five rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- Three showers.
- Four WCs.
- Washroom with three sinks.

Grounds and garden

We have a large garden around the hostel (roughly three acres), which is mainly woodland with a small pond. On the back lawn, there are picnic tables for guests.

Fires and BBQs are not permitted on this site, and guests are also asked to smoke in the area provided. The majority of the hostel's 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.

Additional information

- Pets are not permitted at YHA Holmbury St Mary Surrey Hills except when hiring the whole hostel on Exclusive Hire. 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 not always on site. In the event of an emergency at night, you can contact staff via option A on the payphone in the foyer.
- 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 – evacuate the building by the nearest exit. Arrangements for guests needing assistance to evacuate should be discussed beforehand.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom.
- Mobile phone reception is limited in the hostel and immediate vicinity.
- Free Wi-Fi is available.

Contact information

- Address: YHA Holmbury St Mary Surrey Hills, Radnor Lane, Holmbury St Mary, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6NW
- Telephone: 0345 3719323
- Email: holmbury@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: 187
- Local buses: Catch the Metrobus line 22 from Dorking
- Local taxis: 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.

This hostel is independently owned and operated. The following access statement has been prepared by the hostel owner and is not the representation of YHA (England & Wales). For further information and clarity on accessibility at this hostel, please contact the hostel owners directly.