



YHA St Briavels Castle – Access Statement

Introduction

If you're looking for a memorable getaway in affordable accommodation, then YHA St Briavels Castle is the perfect choice. Nestled in the Wye Valley, this 800-year-old Norman Castle is packed with history and boasts remarkably well-preserved original features alongside charming Victorian renovations.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this three-storey building set in the picturesque surroundings of the Wye Valley. We have two ground floor bedrooms, though none of our bedrooms or bathrooms meet modern standards of accessibility.

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-st-briavels-castle.

This access statement was last updated in September 2025.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail station is Lydney, 8.4 miles away.
- The nearest bus stop is within 50m of the hostel. An intermittent service runs to the village – please check in advance that it is running.
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when pre-booked.
- The road approaching the hostel is level and surfaced with tarmac. From the centre of town, there is no pavement and limited streetlighting.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-st-briavels-castle/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

We have plenty of parking approximately 35m from main entrance. There are no marked bays, but we are happy to reserve a space for you if required. The car park is reasonably level with an uneven gravel surface and it is lit by a streetlight nearby.

There is also a dropping-off point at the end of the drive (30m from main entrance). Due to the fragility of the courtyard and driveway, and for the safety of other guests (especially young children), English Heritage and YHA do not allow vehicles up within the castle grounds.

From the car park to the main entrance, there is a sloped cobbled pathway which is very steep for the first 2 metres and then slightly less steep for 12.5 metres. The slope leads up through the huge wooden castle doors (pinned open) and into the courtyard, which is also cobbled, but at a gentler gradient. The driveway is lit during the night and during the day. 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

From the cobbled courtyard there is a tiny lip up and through a large, heavy, period front door (90cm wide). The door opens inwards into the tiled reception lobby. It is level and well-lit here. There is a bench available for guests to use just to the side of the reception lobby.

The reception desk also serves as our bar; a range of local ales, wines and cider is served from here, alongside hot drinks and a selection of gifts.

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 red quarry tiles, uneven flagstones or wooden parquet on the ground floor. On the first floor, corridors are carpeted and, on the second floor, they have wooden floorboards. Due to the age of the building, the floors can be uneven in places and there are often steps in the corridors and up and down into rooms.

We do not have a lift, so access to the upper floors is only via a set of narrow, carpeted steps a handrail to one side. The stairs to the second floor are bare wood with a handrail on one side. In the East Tower, the stairs are narrow and winding with a handrail to one side; the steps to the first floor are stone and the steps to the second floor are wood.

Public toilets

There are two washrooms (one female, one male) close to reception on the ground floor, though neither meet modern standards of accessibility. They have red quarry tile flooring and are well-lit with ceiling lights. The female washroom contains 2 toilets and 2 showers, while the male washroom contains 2 toilets and 1 shower.

Lounge

We have two lounge areas open to guests. Furniture in both rooms can be moved – please ask at reception if you require assistance.

The Old Kitchen is on the ground floor and there is an extremely slight ramp down from the reception lobby through a single leaf door (75cm wide). The floor is level and surfaced with wood parquet. There are two sofas, a dining table and some straight-backed chairs without armrests.

The Common Room is on the first floor in the Chapel. From the stairs there is a single leaf door and then four steps down into the room. This room has level wooden floorboards and is well-lit with ceiling lights. There are armchairs, a wooden table and straight-backed chairs without armrests at the table.

Dining room

There are two dining areas. The general dining room is located on the ground floor. From the reception lobby there is one step up and then one step down into the dining

room. The floor is level and surfaced with wood parquet. This room is furnished with dining tables and wooden straight-backed chairs without armrests.

The second room is the Banqueting Hall on the first floor, next to the Chapel lounge. This has a step up from the landing and is furnished with long wooden banquet tables and long benches. The flooring is wood and is level. All furniture is heavy but can be moved – please ask at reception if you require assistance.

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

Self-catering kitchen

The self-catering kitchen is located on the ground floor and has level access from the reception lobby via a single leaf door (77cm effective opening width). The floor is level and surfaced with red quarry tiles. There are tables and benches in here that guests may use.

The kitchen is equipped with a domestic cooker with hobs and a grill, fridge, microwave, toaster, cordless kettles, cutlery and crockery. Crockery and some kitchen equipment are kept in high shelving units. We are happy to move these to lower storage if required. One sink (hand wash) is fitted with lever taps.

Drying facilities

The drying room is located on the ground floor of the East Tower. From the courtyard outside there is a level threshold through a single leaf door into the tower, and then two steps up to the drying room. The floor is level and surfaced with red quarry tile. Space in this room is extremely limited.

Bedrooms and bathrooms

Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. Most of our rooms have wooden flooring, though some are carpeted. They are well-lit with ceiling lights. All bedding is provided.

All bathrooms have fluorescent lighting. They have non-slip flooring in the main building and tiled flooring in the East Tower. Standard showers have a step up to enter.

Main building

Ground floor

Access to this room is via the Old Kitchen. There is a step up and through a single leaf door, followed by a raised threshold and through another to enter.

- One room that sleeps up to 6 people. It includes 3 sets of bunk beds.

First floor

Access to this floor is via a set of 19 or 21 steps.

- One room that sleeps up to 5 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath and a set of bunk beds.

- One room that sleeps up to 6 people. It includes 3 sets of bunk beds. There is a raised threshold to enter with edges marked in white paint.
- One room that sleeps up to 9 people. It includes 4 sets of bunk beds and a single bed.
- Two showers.
- Two toilets.

Second floor

Access to this floor is via a set of 20 steps.

- One room that sleeps up to 14 people. It includes 7 sets of bunk beds.

East Tower

Ground floor

Access to the East Tower is via the cobbled courtyard. There is a level threshold and then two steps up to enter.

- One room that sleeps up to 6 people. It includes 3 sets of bunk beds.
- One female washroom with a toilet, shower and washbasin.
- One male washroom with a toilet, shower and washbasin.
- Two toilets.
- One shower.

First floor

Access to this floor is via a set of 16 stone steps. The staircase is steep and winding. The door to the following room opens onto the staircase.

- One room that sleeps up to 8 people. It includes 4 sets of bunk beds.

Second floor

Access to this floor is via a set of 17 wooden steps. The staircase is very steep and has a handrail.

- One room that sleeps up to 10 people. It includes 5 sets of bunk beds.

Grounds and garden

We have approximately a quarter of an acre of gardens which slope moderately away from the main building. They are mainly laid to lawn.

From the courtyard there are two uneven steps up onto the lawn. The lawn is level but uneven and then slopes steeply upwards to the back of the hostel. There is one three-seater bench with armrests available in the courtyard. Six picnic benches are situated around the gardens and courtyard.

Cycle store

The cycle shed is 50m from main entrance, connected by an uneven gravel path.

Additional information

- Pets are not permitted at YHA St Briavels Castle, though assistance dogs are welcome throughout – please notify us at the time of booking.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the hostel.
- Staff may not always be on-site but can be contacted in an emergency, including at night, via phone.
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms are fitted. We ensure that all guests are evacuated in the event of a 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 is poor within the hostel and immediate vicinity.
- Wi-Fi is available in the Chapel lounge, Banqueting Hall and dining room.

Contact information

- Address: YHA St Briavels Castle, St Briavels, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 6RG
- Telephone: 0345 3719042
- Email: stbriavels@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: 162
- Local buses: 707 Chepstow-St Briavels & 701 St Briavels-Coleford run by Lydney Dial A Ride 01594 843809; 69 Monmouth-Chepstow, 2 mile walk to nearest bus stop
- Local taxis: K&T Taxis (Lydney) 01594 845913; Abbey Taxis (Alvington) 01594 528181; CDs Taxis (Coleford) 01594 834834

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.