



## YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall – Access Statement

### **Introduction**

In the heart of the Northumberland National Park and along Hadrian's Wall lies YHA The Sill – a modern, high-spec hostel that is perfect for groups and individuals. Just a short distance from the Steel Rigg viewpoint and positioned in a dark skies area, this hostel makes an ideal base for exploring Hadrian's Wall and finding peace and serenity under the stars.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this two-storey building. We offer en-suite and shared bathroom accommodation across two floors, with lift access to both levels. We also have two accessible rooms available with en-suite bathrooms.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require assistance, please phone 01629 592700 or email [customerservices@yha.org.uk](mailto:customerservices@yha.org.uk). You can also view photos of the hostel at [www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-the-sill-at-hadrians-wall](http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-the-sill-at-hadrians-wall).

This access statement was last updated in May 2024.

### **Pre-arrival**

- The nearest rail station is Haltwhistle, 8 miles away.
- The nearest bus stop is located within the car park of the hostel grounds (runs April to September only). For info, search AD122 Northumberland Bus.
- A number of taxi services will collect and drop-off at the hostel.
- The approach to the hostel is on a level, paved area straight into the hostel entrance. Daytime access is through double automatic doors into The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre. After hours, the hostel entrance is through a gate followed by a single pull door. Access is through an intercom system and assistance with the door can be provided by reception staff.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at [www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-the-sill-at-hadrians-wall/directions](http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-the-sill-at-hadrians-wall/directions).
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

### **Car parking and arrival**

There are four disabled spaces available on the car park within the hostel grounds. The car park is free for hostel guests from check-in time on arrival date to check-out time on departure date (charges apply outside of those times). If you let us know your time of arrival, we will do our best to assist with moving to and from your transport to the hostel.

### **Main entrance and reception**

Daytime access to the hostel is through a level threshold with double automatic doors into The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre. After hours, the hostel

entrance is through a gate followed by a manual single leaf glazed door that opens outwards. Access is through an intercom system and assistance with the door can be provided by reception staff. In winter, 'after hours' can be from 4pm. These times coincide with the opening times of the National Park.

The reception desk is located on the ground floor and has a lower level serving section. It is open plan and includes the main lounge, dining and café bar area. This area is level, well-lit with ceiling lights and has a mixture of vinyl flooring. There is space for a wheelchair user to manoeuvre and a selection of low, soft chairs with arm rests, straight back wooden chairs with (and without) arm rests and benches.

The reception at YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall is open from 7am until late each day should you need any assistance during your stay. Throughout the night, there is also an emergency telephone at reception if required.

## **Public areas**

### Halls and corridors

There is a good colour contrast to the floor, walls and doorways throughout the building. The corridors are well-lit with ceiling lights, and the floor is light oak vinyl. There is a lift for access to the bedrooms, or alternatively all floors can be accessed via a staircase, with a banister to each floor.

### WCs

There is one gender-neutral adapted WC available on the ground floor. Access is via the main corridor in the communal area. It is well-lit with fluorescent lighting, has non-slip flooring and lever taps and it is fitted with grab rails.

### Café bar

The café bar is linked to reception. This has a high-level service desk, but menus are available on tables and table service is available on request. There is a combination of soft and hard seating in this area, including benches. All furniture can be moved – please ask a member of staff if you need help with this.

### Lounge

The lounge is on the ground floor and there is level access via the reception area. There is access via the lift from the bedroom area.

The lounge has vinyl flooring and a range of soft seating, with armrests. All furniture can be moved and a member of staff will be happy to help with this if needed. The room is well-lit by natural light during the day and lit by ceiling lighting at night.

### Self-catering kitchen

The self-catering kitchen is located on the ground floor and has level access via the main reception area. This room is fitted with two cookers with drop-down oven doors and electric hobs, two sinks, kettles and toasters. Plates and dishes are stored in high shelves but can be moved to a lower cupboard – please ask if you would like this. The vinyl floor is level throughout and the room is well-lit with ceiling lights.

### Laundry and drying facilities

The laundry room is located on the ground floor, within the communal area, close to the lounge area and has level access. This room has a washer and dryer. This is a small room with limited space for wheelchair users to manoeuvre.

### Bedrooms

The hostel offers a mix of en-suite and shared bathroom accommodation. Bedrooms are located on two identical floors that are isolated from each other, offering security for smaller groups. Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds.

All bedrooms have vinyl floors and are well-lit with ceiling and individual bunk lights. Rooms without an en-suite contain a small washbasin. All bedding is provided.

#### Ground floor

- One accessible en-suite room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes a single bunk with a double bed underneath and a single bed. The en-suite bathroom has a wheel-in shower fitted with grab rails and fold-down shower seat.
- Four en-suite rooms that sleep up to 2 people each. They include a set of bunk beds.
- Four en-suite rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- Four rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.

#### First floor

- One accessible en-suite room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes a single bunk with a double bed underneath and a single bed. The en-suite bathroom has a wheel-in shower fitted with grab rails and fold-down shower seat.
- Four en-suite rooms that sleep up to 2 people each. They include a set of bunk beds.
- Four en-suite rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- Four rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.

### Bathrooms

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

#### Ground floor

- Four WCs accessed from the corridors.
- Four showers accessed from the corridors.

#### First floor

- Four WCs accessed from the corridors.
- Four showers accessed from the corridors.

### **Grounds and garden**

We have an outdoor seating area that is accessed from the café bar area over a level door threshold. There are double leaf glazed doors opening outwards. This area is paved with patio slabs with a border of grass and has a range of picnic bench style seating. The cycle store is also located in this area.

### **Additional information**

- Pets are not permitted at YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall, though assistance dogs are welcome throughout – please notify us at the time of booking.
- Smoking or vaping is not permitted anywhere in the hostel or grounds.
- 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.
- Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the hostel.

### **Contact information**

- Address: YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall, Military Road, Bardon Mill,
- Northumberland, NE47 7AN
- Telephone: 0345 260 2702
- Email: [thesill@yha.org.uk](mailto:thesill@yha.org.uk)
- Ordnance Survey map: OL43
- Local buses: AD122 (runs from April to September only)

**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.**