

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our guests/visitors.

Access Statement for the Cottage

Introduction

The “Cottage” is ideal for 2 people who want a quiet holiday in a peaceful rural area. Situated in a small village with a shop, pub and post office, the nearest larger village being 6 miles away with many more facilities including bank, chemist, health centre and tourist information centre. The cottage is just off the main road at the rear of our property. The whole property is completely self contained with private yard, car parking and small garden. It is a one bedroomed cottage with bathroom, kitchen, dining room / lounge all on 1 level. It sleeps up to 2 people with a bed-settee for another person should a carer need to be in attendance. We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01388517572 or email josephinephillip@btinternet.com.

Pre-Arrival

For full details of how to reach us please refer to the attached directions leaflet. The nearest railway station is Durham .25 miles away. Taxis are available at the station and we can make arrangements for an accessible taxi if required. A car is really an essential for access to this area of Weardale because the bus service is not very regular and to travel from the railway station would be very long by public transport!

Key Collection, Welcome and Car Parking

We are always here to welcome guests to the Cottage. It is in our grounds and we will be here on your arrival and most of the time during your stay. Parking is adjacent to the front door of the cottage. The yard is tarmaced and is quite level. The yard is lit by emergency flood lighting.

Entrance to Property

The front door is 760mm/30ins. wide. There is 1 step to the front door with a handrail on the right hand side. We can provide a ramp if required. The entrance and the yard is well lit by a emergency lighting system - automatic. The entrance door leads directly into the kitchen and the carpet is of a cord-type therefore being easy to walk / wheelchair on. All rooms are on the same level and there are no more steps.

Halls, Stairs, Landings, Passageways

All doors and the passage way are 760mm./ 30ins. wide and the carpet is of a cord type for ease of movement. The bathroom is tiled. Lighting is a mixture ceiling and extra lamps and wall lights. There are no steps.

Sitting Room/Lounge

The lounge/dining room is very easy to move around in with a good space in the centre and easily moved furniture. The carpet is corded. The table and chairs are standard height and the dining chairs are upright with no arms. The bed settee is easily converted and makes a comfortable bed suitable for a carer or for the person who cannot access the bedroom in a wheelchair. We can re-arrange the furniture should this be required. The door opening is 760mm./ 30ins. There is a selection of 3 coffee tables in a stack and throws for the floor if a pet is with you or a guide dog.

Dining Room

The dining room and lounge are one room see details above. This room has level entry into the kitchen. The heating thermostat is located in this room and is easily adjusted. There is a solid fuel stove and we can assist with the lighting of it should it be needed. A wheelchair would be quite OK in this room for all aspects of its design. It has been tried and tested by a previous guest. There are plenty of leaflets and brochures in the basket in the lounge/dining room giving you places to visit.

Kitchen

The kitchen is the first room you access as you enter the property. There are some high cupboards that contain the crockery but we can move the equipment to a lower cupboard should this be necessary. The cooker has a side opening door with a drop down grill. There is a fluorescent strip light and a corded carpet. The microwave is on one of the benches but again we can adjust this if necessary. However the kitchen is not totally accessible because the sink would be too high for someone confined to a wheelchair.

Bedrooms and Sleeping Areas

The bedroom is small and not accessible for someone confined to a wheel chair. However it would be reasonable to suggest that the bed-settee in the living room could be used for ease of access. The bedroom is well lit with a ceiling light, 2 bedside lamps and a over bed light. The chest of drawers offers easy storage space and a wardrobe with easy opening has adequate storage space. The carpet is short pile. This room has the fire safety exit window and a fully opening large window for quick exit.

Bathrooms, Shower-rooms and Toilets

The shower is **over** the bath and not therefore fully accessible. There is a rail over the radiator to dry towels and a laminated non slip tiled floor. The bath is 206mm/22ins. from the floor and the wash basin is 804mm/33ins. from the floor. The toilet is 404mm./ 17ins. high. The ceiling light is enclosed. The taps are all non-lever type. There are no grab rails at the moment but it is a level entry from the passageway.

Garden

Guests have access to the garden which has lovely views over the fields and fells. There is a picnic table, sun-lounger and access to a barbecue either charcoal or gas. The garden area is grassed with flower beds and rockery and fruit trees. It has a slight incline. The yard is quite flat.

Additional Information

We can provide any meals requested and I do “home-baking” to order. We welcome up to 2 pets and are happy to assist with the walking of guide dogs. All areas of the cottage have good light and dark colour contrast the walls being light and the door frames being wood coloured, the carpet is dark. We can provide any photographs of the cottage should you require them in order to assist you in making a reservation. There are full details on the facilities in Weardale in a very comprehensive brochure available in the cottage as a “browser” or we can send you relevant pages to answer your queries about the area and its amenities.

Contact Information

Address (Inc postcode): Mrs. J. Hayes 7 Front Street, Westgate Co. Durham
DL131JWWeardale

Telephone: 01388517572

Email: josephinephillip@btinternet.com

Grid Reference: NY908381

Hours of Operation: all year round

Local Carers: For all this information please ask and we can supply the information through the Weardale Visitor Network Brochure