

Access Statement for Bench Cottage and Little Bench

Introduction

1. Situated two miles from the Georgian Yachting Town of Lymington to the East and two miles from the New Forest National Park to the West.
2. Semi-rural location in the village of Pennington with village shops and on a bus route.
3. A pair of semi-detached bungalows built in 2001 to the specification of the (then current) National Accessibility Scheme guidelines.
4. Complete level access through a private drive with private parking for up to 2 cars further parking available if required.
5. The nearest train station is Lymington Town which is 2 miles away. You have to change trains at Brockenhurst to the Lymington Branch line, or take a taxi. Brockenhurst Station is 6 miles away.
6. There are a few accessible taxis available locally.
7. The bungalows back on to a sports field where occasional cricket and football matches take place. At the top of the road is Pennington Common, an open space where at different times of the year it is visited by the circus etc

Pre-Arrival

1. A copy of our brochure can be found on our web site www.ourbench.co.uk along with the current tariff, availability, details of accessible equipment available and a copy of our terms and conditions. A booking form is also available but you are requested to telephone in advance of sending the form to reserve the week requested.
2. A full printed brochure, equipment list, booking form and tariff sheet can be sent first class through the post on request.
3. **A receipt is sent to confirm all bookings and a final receipt when all payments have been received giving a key number to your cottage.**

The Cottages

1. On arrival there are two painted parking bays at the top of the private drive with turning space opposite your holiday home. If you need to park right outside your door you may do so to unload but please park in bay as soon as possible.
2. A key safe is on the wall by the front door of each cottage where you can retrieve your key.
3. There is no steps on entering just a small threshold to keep the rain out. The bungalows are completely level with no ramps or steps anywhere in the building.
4. The outside door has a clear access of 78.74 cm (31 inches) and all internal doors are 86.35 cm (34 inches).
5. All lights and plugs are situated in an easy reach position.
6. The open plan lounge and dining area has plenty of turning space with an electric riser/recliner chair and tub settee and chair. To allow maximum turning space the dining table and chairs are folding with the chairs stored under. Wall mounted flatscreen television, with DVD player and a remote control.
7. The open plan fitted kitchen has lowered work surface at the hob and sink with open space under, ideal for wheelchairs. The side door electric oven, dishwasher, washing machine and refrigerator are all easily accessed. The fan over the hob can be worked by remote control.
8. The master bedroom in both cottages comes with electric foot and head riser beds that work independently and can be made up as a twin bedded room or a 6 foot double. All beds supplied with duvets and pillows and made ready for your arrival.
9. Bench Cottage has a second smaller bedroom made up as a twin with access down the centre. This room is not accessible for wheelchair users.
10. The fully accessible shower room has a small lip into the shower which has a pair of half glazed shower doors which fold back to the

wall. Also a shower curtain. The controls on the shower are easily reached.

11. The toilet has drop down hand rails either side and space for lateral transfer. The toilet is approximately 5.8 cms (2 inches) higher than a normal toilet.

12. The wash hand basin is on a gas cylinder which means it can be raised or lowered into a comfortable position for washing.

Outside your bungalow

1. There is a tarmac parking area and a sitting area with 2 sets of outdoor furniture and sun umbrellas if required.
2. The area is secured by high fencing with logenberries growing over. A small lawned area outside Little Bench and a couple of brid tables for feeding the many birds.
3. A small shed is available for charging scooters and power chairs although power chairs and wheelchairs can be taken into the bungalows for charging.

Additional Information

1. We are very pleased to be able to offer guests a range of accessible equipment to make each stay more comfortable and enjoyable if required, from portable hoists (bring own sling) to monkey poles, wheelchairs, shower chairs, walking frames and walkers a full list on application. For your safety the hoist can lift a maximum of 18 stone and the electric riser/recliner chair and the electric foot and head riser beds, 21 stone.
2. Each cottage has a list of accessible venues for you to visit written by guests they have stayed from pubs to restaurants, from gardens to attractions.
3. Lots of brochures, leaflets etc of the whole area.
4. We are unable to accept dogs due to allergies from our many guests so those who use oxogen are welcome.

5. We are completely non smoking.
6. The cottages were refurbished in March 2009 and the web site is updated regularly.

Contact details

We can be contacted

- On the web at www.ourbench.co.uk
- By email: cottages@ourbench.co.uk
- By telephone: 01590 678912
- By Post: Mrs. M.J. Lewis, Our Bench, 9, Lodge Road, Pennington, Lyminster, Hants. SO41 8HH

The cottages are run by Mrs Mary Lewis and her family.

A warm welcome awaits you all.

If you have any comments you would like to make to improve our facilities or you are not happy about something please let us know, we welcome your feedback.