

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 Kench Hill Centre**

### **Introduction**

Kench Hill Centre is a Georgian mansion set in 2 acres of gardens, run as a group hostel and residential education facility by The Kench Hill Charity on behalf of Hackney Council.

The property is located nearly 2 miles from Tenterden in rural Kent, on the edge of the Romney Marshes.

There are 11 bedrooms sleeping up to 45 people on 1st and 2nd floors. There is an additional ground floor bedroom which converts from a small lounge, with wheelchair access. This contains 1 single up/down + 1 double sofa bed.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01580 762073 or email [admin@kenchhill.co.uk](mailto:admin@kenchhill.co.uk).

### **Pre-Arrival**

- For details of how to get here, see our website.
- The nearest train station is Appledore (5 miles), with a limited hourly service (Ashford to Brighton line) and no taxis available. Alternatively, Headcorn or Ashford International stations are 10 or 12 miles respectively. A taxi service is available from Headcorn, which should be booked in advance. (MTC 01622 890003) Hackney cabs are available from Ashford. There are no readily available wheelchair accessible taxis.
- AH Cars/Tenterden Cars is the local taxi service in Tenterden, drivers can assist passengers with limited mobility. Tel 01580 762444 or email [tenterden-taxis@live.co.uk](mailto:tenterden-taxis@live.co.uk) / [ah-rc-cars@live.co.uk](mailto:ah-rc-cars@live.co.uk)
- The nearest bus stop is in Tenterden, 1.7 miles away. Bus #2 route from Ashford (hourly), or 12/12RL from Headcorn/Maidstone (not Sundays). It is not recommended to walk along the roadside.
- It may be possible to pick-up/drop-off groups using our minibus. It is not adapted for wheelchair users. Contact us for details of price and availability.
- All major supermarket chains can do food deliveries. Tesco and Waitrose have branches in Tenterden. There is a farm shop 5 minutes away selling own-grown fruit, other fresh and frozen foods, local beer and wine.

## **Key Collection, Welcome and Car Parking**

- You will be met on arrival, please confirm your expected time.
- There is parking for up to 12 cars in front of the house, on a gravel surface. An area should be left as a turning-circle for large vehicles eg emergency vehicles, delivery lorries.
- 1 disabled parking bay is located on a grass area to the side of the house adjacent to the stone path leading to the step-free back door. The path is slightly bumpy but otherwise wheelchair accessible.
- Loading can be done at the front door, provided vehicles are moved away afterwards (to allow emergency vehicle access). There are 4 wide, shallow steps to the front entrance. The rear side entrance is wheelchair accessible.
- Floodlights can be put on to light up the front of the house at night. There is a motion sensor light on the left hand path.

## **Entrance to Property**

- The front doorway is 108cm/42" wide. There are 4 wide, shallow steps leading to the door, plus a threshold step.
- The outer double doors are bolted from the inside at night.
- Inner door is barred from the inside at night.
- Step-free wheelchair access is at the rear of the main hall from a path at the side (as above). There is a small rim at the entrance to the hall, a ramp can be provided if necessary. A Yale lock secures the door at night.

## **Halls, Stairs, Landings, Passageways**

- Hall and stairs are carpeted with short-pile wool.
- Ground floor main hall is 115-200cm (45-79")wide.
- Doors off lead to bedroom, lounge, bathroom and dining-room.
- Hallway leading to kitchen, offices and cloakroom with additional Male and Female WC's narrows to 70cm (27.5"), then widens to 81cm (32")minimum width.
- Main staircase is 102cm/40" wide with banister and stair rail, but with a narrow 68cm turn on the landing. There are 19 steps total to both 1st floor or rear annexe, with a landing after 13 steps.
- Steps are low and wide - 15cm/62 high and 28cm/11" deep.

- The door into the rear annex corridor is 70cm/27.5" wide, at the top of a short flight of stairs. The door is quite stiff to push open, as it is controlled by a door closer mechanism.
- An ancillary fire exit staircase is 85cm/33/5" wide, with steeper, narrow steps (21cm/8.5" high, 22cm/9" deep). There are 15 steps to the 1st floor, with a wooden hand rail on one side, leading from the east side door to the building. There is 1 step to the side door.

### **Sitting Room/Lounge**

- Main lounge has level entry from the hallway.
- Door opening is 80cm/31" wide
- Furnished around perimeter with low, wipeable sofas and moveable stools and low coffee tables.
- Furniture can be moved.
- Widescreen digital TV with DVD player, remote control and subtitles.
- Flooring is wool short-pile carpet.
- Lighting by natural light and ceiling candelabra.

### **Dining Room**

- Door to dining-room is 80cm/31".
- The floor is non-slip lino, in contrast to wall colours.
- Tables can accommodate wheelchairs. Dining chairs are heavy, metal frame with wooden seats.
- The room is well-lit by natural light or overhead candelabra fittings.
- Cutlery is located at a low level in a side-board.

### **Kitchen**

- Door to main kitchen is 75cm/29.5" wide. The work surface is 85cm high.
- It contains commercial cookers and fridges, plus an under counter freezer.
- A constant hot-water boiler is located in a separate washing-up area. The outlet tap is 122cm/48" above floor level. Entrance doorway to this area is 73cm/29" only.
- The washing-up area contains cupboards housing all crockery and glassware, at varying heights from ground level upwards. There are several trolleys that can be used to store crockery at lower heights.
- Lighting in both areas is florescent strip lighting.
- Flooring is linoleum

### **Bedrooms and Sleeping Areas**

- Ground floor bedroom doorway is 79cm/31" wide, with a low door handle. This door does not lock and is connected to the fire alarm system, with automatic closing in event of a fire.
- Light switch is located 115cm/45" from floor level.
- The room contains 1 single adjustable up/down bed with electric controls and optional side-bars. Waterproof foam mattress.
- There is also a good quality double sofa bed with a firm sprung mattress and a 2-seater sofa.
- A small fridge and TV can be kept in the room (eg for medications) or moved to another area.
- A dining table and chairs can also remain or be moved, as required.
- There is no lift access to 1st and 2nd floors.
- If required, an internal telephone can be retained in the bedroom, connecting to a carer in a single bedroom upstairs.
- Waterproof mattress covers are available.

### **Bathrooms, Shower-rooms and Toilets**

- Ground floor unisex bathroom is diagonally opposite the bedroom across the main hall, with level step-free access. It is adjacent to lounge and dining-room.
- The doorway is 80cm/31" wide.
- This area is a wet-room with a non-slip lino floor. Shower has a fold-out stool and grab rail. Accessible WC with grab rail is 47cm /18.5" high and single-lever tap to washbasin. Top of washbasin is 75cm / 29.5" above floor level.
- The space can accommodate a trolley bed in the shower area.
- There is a low level bath on 1st floor, with over-tap shower, only reached by stairs.

### **Straw Hall**

- The Hall is a purpose-built space with ramped access. It contains a sink with hot and cold water. It has wi-fi. The main door opens outwards and is DDA compliant. The floor is lino, contrasting with white walls. Lighting is florescent panels.

## **Garden**

- Games Hut outbuilding has padded walls, bright colours. Currently contains table tennis and table football. It is level access.
- Fully operational kitchen garden, with wheelchair access to raised beds.
- Platforms giving wheelchair access to views of 2 large ponds.
- There are 7 wooden picnic tables/seats near the side entrance to the house, with parasols for sunny weather. 2 of the tables have wheelchair spaces.
- Most of the garden is laid to lawn, on one level with stone paths. Nearly all areas are wheelchair accessible.
- The Front lawn can be accessed from the side across the gravel car park/drive. There are steps down from the drive in the centre of the lawn.
- The Centre has 2 lengths of roll-out matting which can be provided for visitors' use, on request, to ease access across the lawn in muddy conditions, or across gravel areas.

## **Additional Information**

- Trained assistance dogs are welcome with prior notification, restricted to ground floor and 1 designated bedroom area.
- Mobile phone reception can be poor. There is wi-fi but it does not extend to all areas.
- We have a portable hoist, battery-operated, with 2 sizes of cradles (suitable for children/small adults). Also a trolley table for showering.
- Nearest A&E hospital is William Harvey, Ashford, 12 miles away.
- Nearest doctor's surgery is Ivy Court, Tenterden, 1.8 miles away.
- 'The Barn' classroom/meeting room is an outbuilding which is fully accessible. It has step-free access and double doors, with a parquet wood floor.
- There is a short area of gravel to cross before reaching the paved area in front of the building.
- The 'Thatched Hut' space has a steep step down into the camp fire area.
- We can provide information on local attractions and advise on accessibility. Eg Tenterden Leisure Centre pool is fully accessible, a hoist is available with prior notification.
- The Centre has games and equipment specifically suited to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- A washing-machine can be made available on request. It is located in a cleaning store room, not usually open to visitors.

- Play equipment for children with disabilities eg cradle swing, plus an enclosed sensory garden for children with special needs.

### **Contact Information**

Address: Kench Hill Centre Appledore Rd Tenterden KENT  
TN30 7DG

Telephone: 01580 762073

Email: [admin@kenchhill.co.uk](mailto:admin@kenchhill.co.uk)

Website: [www.kenchhill.co.uk](http://www.kenchhill.co.uk)

Hours Of Operation: Office hours 8.30-5.30pm

Local Accessible Taxi: No