

Access Statement – Bloomsbury Park – A Thistle Associate Hotel (18.11.09)

Property:

Bloomsbury Park – A Thistle Associate Hotel
126 Southampton Row
London WC1B 5AD

Pre-Arrival

Phone, fax & email:

Phone: 0871 376 9007 / +44 845 305 8307

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E-mail: from the Contact us page on the hotel website

Alternative format information (available at the hotel)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Large print | None at present |
| <input type="radio"/> Braille | None at present |

Website accessibility (eg: font can be enlarged)

An Access Statement is available on-line.

Information about accessible public transport:

Accessibility of London and UK railway stations can be found at the following link:

www.nationalrail.co.uk/passenger_services/disabled_passengers/. An example can be seen for London Charing Cross Station: www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/chx/details.html

The nearest underground station is Russell Square on the Piccadilly Line. From Russell Square station, turn left out of the Station and walk to the Russell Hotel. Turn left and Bloomsbury Park is about 400 yards on the left. The nearest step free underground station (at present) is Westminster on the Jubilee, District and Circle Lines. Information about step free underground stations can be seen at:

www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/step-free-tube-guide-map.pdf

London's black cabs are wheelchair accessible and most have additional features to assist passengers. More information is available at: www.tfl.gov.uk/gettingaround/taxisandminicabs/taxis/1136.aspx

There is no courtesy transport for guests at this hotel.

Shopmobility is a scheme whereby users can hire a wheelchair or scooter to enable them to shop in comfort. Details of how this scheme operates are available from The National Federation of Shopmobility (NFSUK) which has a list of members in London:

www.shopmobilityuk.org/ListDirectories.asp?Country=EN&SMArea=GL&FontSize=80 - for example Camden and Kensington & Chelsea.

There are 95 bedrooms at this hotel, none of which are currently designated for disabled guests. There are however 6 bedrooms on the ground floor. Details of rooms are provided further on.

Please be aware that there is 1 x step at the entrance but a temporary ramp is usually available. The nearest wheelchair accessible hotels with designated accessible bedrooms operated by the company are the Thistle Marble Arch and the Charing Cross hotel.

Advice about evacuation should you need assistance (in the unlikely event of an emergency) should be discussed directly with the hotel.

Arrival & Car Parking

There are no parking facilities at the hotel although parking may be possible at The Bedford Hotel across the road.

Other car parks in the area include Bloomsbury Square (telephone number 020 7405 7412). There are 450 spaces with 1 x designated space for Blue Badge holders on a first come first served basis.

There is also parking at the Imperial Hotel, 61-66 Russell Square, London WC1B 5BB operated by CC Parking: www.ccparking.co.uk/ (telephone number 020 7691 2630) where there are 2 x designated parking bays. Standard charges apply in these bays.

It is possible to find out about designated on-street accessible parking spaces in the area by visiting: <http://bluebadge.direct.gov.uk> or other nearby car parking spaces at: <http://maps.camden.gov.uk/Nearest/?find=Car+park&area=WC1B+5AD&x=14&y=12>.

Entrance & Reception



The area outside the hotel is level, and there is a street crossing outside the hotel entrance.

This does mean that dropping off is further away from the hotel about 25 - 30m from the entrance. The nearest dropped kerb (except at the crossing) is on the corner of Southampton Row with Cosmo Place.

Please be aware that the area immediately outside the hotel can become congested at times by pedestrians.



The entrance has 1 x 160mm high step from street level. A temporary ramp is usually available at the entrance.



The hotel doors are supervised 24 hours a day.

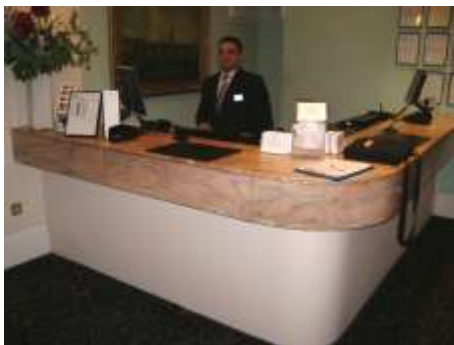
There is a double door set 850mm each clear opening, with 1380mm clear space opposite the doors (which open inwards as well as outwards).



There is an assistance bell push and sign, 1000mm high at the foot of the step.



The narrowest point on route is 800-840mm wide.



The reception desk is straight ahead - the counter is 1040mm high.

There is an open space in front of the reception desk, and seating is available in the reception area.

There is an induction loop at the reception desk for hearing aid users.

Additional room keys are available on request.



On check-in, disabled guests will be asked to complete a Personal Evacuation Plan Questionnaire in consultation with the Guest Relations Manager. All information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence. If you are likely to require assistance in the unlikely event of an evacuation please do notify us on arrival. We would also ask guests with a hearing loss to let us know so that we can provide assistive equipment during your stay.

Public Areas

All public areas are on the ground floor, **with the exception of the Cellar Bar and public WCs which are in the basement.** Access to the area is via the lift or staircase. **There is currently no designated accessible public WC at this hotel.**



The Bar and Lounge: There is level access from reception to the bar and lounge area. This is on the ground floor and is accessed via double door sets 740mm each leaf.

There is seating with and without armrests and tables have 730mm clear space beneath them.

A hearing loop is available at the bar for hearing aid users, plus a 900mm high lowered section of bar counter.

Staff will provide assistance to those who need it.



Restaurant: This is on the ground floor and is accessed from two points via double door sets 700mm - 740mm each leaf.

There is clear space of at least 1800mm opposite the double door set to the restaurant.

There is seating without armrests only, and the tables have clear space beneath them of at least 730mm.

Staff will provide assistance to those who need it.



Lift: The size of the lift would not suit wheelchair users unless they are ambulant. The lift is for accessing bedrooms above ground floor and the Cellar Bar and public WCs in the basement.

The lift has automatic sliding doors that are **760mm** clear opening and are fitted with sensors. There is clear space of 2200mm opposite the door.

The clear floorspace in the lift is 870mm deep x 1100mm wide.



Lift controls are a maximum of 1040mm high and have tactile and Braille buttons.

There is both visual and audible floor announcement in the lifts.

The lift is fitted with a mirror on the rear wall, but no handrail.

There is lift access to six floors, but stairs only to the seventh floor.

Public WCs



Public WCs: are situated below the ground floor, accessed via the lift (**see size of lift**) or the staircase, which has a handrail to one side.

There is currently no designated accessible WC or ambulant cubicle.

There are 2 x double door sets on route 630mm clear opening each leaf.

The doors to the men's and women's WCs are 680mm clear opening.

The Bloomsbury Kitchen and Bar and the Cellar Bar can also be approached via 2 x steps (90mm and 130mm high) with no handrail from a separate street entrance. There are 800 – 900mm clear opening doors.



The Cellar Bar has 20 steps down from the street entrance with mainly a single handrail to the right and then the left hand side. The staircase beside the lift has 19 steps with a handrail to one side.



At the foot of this staircase there are 2 x handrails for the final few steps.



There are also 2 x steps (130mm and 140mm high) with no handrails to the lower section of Cellar Bar.

Accessible Bedrooms



There are 95 bedrooms at this hotel, none of which are currently designated for disabled guests.

The nearest wheelchair accessible hotels with designated accessible bedrooms operated by the company are the Thistle Marble Arch and the Charing Cross hotel.

Advice about evacuation should you need assistance (in the unlikely event of an emergency) should be discussed directly with the hotel.

There are however 6 bedrooms on the ground floor. There are 2 x single fire doors on route, 770mm and 700mm clear opening.



Twin bedded room 14 (pictured) is one of six ground floor rooms. The door to the room is 710mm clear opening with 1200mm clear space opposite the door.

The door handle and keyway are between 1050-1100mm above the floor. The door viewer is at a standing height only.

There is little clear floorspace in the room, but there is clear space of at least 1060mm to the side of one bed. **There is 580mm clear space at the foot of the bed.**

The beds are 580mm high to the top of the mattress.



There is no space under the beds for a mobile hoist.

The height of the hanging rail in the wardrobe is 1930mm.

Assistance may be required by some guests to gain access to open and close the curtains, to hang clothes in the wardrobe, or to use the room safe or the ironing board and iron.

There is currently no strobe light linked to the fire alarm.



There is clear space under the desk of 615mm.

Assistive Equipment:

There are 4 x text channels on TV.

Ensuite shower rooms & WCs



There are currently no designated accessible bathrooms / shower rooms (room 14 pictured).

The door to bathroom is **640mm** clear opening into the bedroom, with a minimum of **1150mm** clear space opposite the door.

There is clear floorspace of **800 x 900mm** within the room.



There are no vertical, fold down or horizontal rails beside the WC or basin.

Care should be taken at the basin when using water from the hot tap.

There is a standard shower and **shower tray which is 250mm high**. The shower has a fixed head.

There is no emergency cord.

There is currently no strobe light linked to the fire alarm.



There is a single hand grip on the far wall beside the shower.



The WC seat is 400mm high. There is no lateral transfer to the WC.

Additional Information

Your health, comfort and safety are of the utmost importance to us, therefore hotel staff have received disability awareness training. Please do contact our Guest Relations Manager if there is something that needs our attention. We will endeavour to ensure that your individual needs are met wherever reasonably possible.

However, as with all hotels, some services and equipment are subject to operational constraints (eg: lifts and other access equipment requiring service at short notice).

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