

## Souter Lighthouse Access Statement

Souter Lighthouse  
Coast Road  
Whitburn  
Sunderland SR6 7NH

### Introduction

Souter Lighthouse is a grade II listed building open to the public and comprises of ground floor, first floor and lighthouse tower. This access statement relates only to those areas open to the public.

The lighthouse is arranged as follows:

### Ground Floor:

Lighthouse Café, Admissions, Engine Room, hallway leading to Display Room, Exhibition Rooms, corridor leading to Keepers Cottage, corridor leading to Battery Room and Tower. Ambulant WC and ladies WC.

### First Floor

Keepers Cottage (upstairs room), Activity Room and Gents WC

### Pre-Arrival

See the main webpage for opening times and location details.

### Approach & parking facilities

Directly off main road into public car park. Car park is a mix of tarmac and stone surface – loose in places.

Level access from car park onto tarmac path with gentle slope through two gates with 820mm clear open width and one step down into lighthouse grounds with tarmac surface.

Level access to foghorn field by turning right before first entrance gate and through further gate with 820mm clear open width to field.

Level access into gardens.

Disabled drop off point in lighthouse grounds - directly off main road down a narrow walled driveway. The entrance to the lighthouse complex is directly in front of you. The driveway is cobbled, leading to tarmac surface.

### Getting in (and out) of the lighthouse

- One stone step mm high into admissions
- Clear open width of admissions door is 790mm
- One stone step 40mm high into the Engine Room



- Clear open width of Engine Room door is 1500mm
- Ramped access to Lighthouse Café
- Clear open width of Café door is 860mm
- Ramped access to toilets
- Clear open width of toilet door is 790mm

## Getting around the lighthouse

### Ground floor

- Ground floor is level with outer door leading to Engine Room, through to hallway leading to Display Room, Exhibition Room and corridor leading to Keepers Cottage, Radio Room and Tower
- Flooring is a mixture of historic tiles, vinyl, stone and wooden floor with rugs in some places.
- Circulation space is reasonable.

### First floor

- All on same level.
- Activity Room and gents WC accessible up 10 Stairs to a two tiered half landing with 180 degree turn and a further 3 stairs to top landing. Activity room can't be accessed through Keepers Cottage upstairs room.

### Engine Room

- Engine Room contains machinery used to power the foghorn.
- Clear open width of door leading to hallway is 770mm.
- Clear open width of door leading from hallway to Display Room is 800mm
- Seating is available



### Display Room

- Display Room contains various lighthouse artefacts – carbon arc lamp, oil vapour lamp, bulb cabinet and a number of interactive activities
- Display Room also contains television screen showing an information video on Souter Lighthouse with subtitles
- Clear open width of door leading to Exhibition Room is 800mm
- Clear open width of door leading to corridor is 770mm.
- Seating is available



### Exhibition Room

- Exhibition Room contains interpretation panels, audio and some seating.

### Keepers Cottage

- One stone step 170mm high into cottage
- Clear open width of door is 800mm
- 90 degree left turn into downstairs room. Clear open width of door is 800mm.
- 1 downstairs room depicting life as a supernumerary lighthouse keeper in the 1950's with interactive activities and audio.



- 10 stairs to a two tiered half landing with 180 degree turn and a further 3 stairs to top landing
- 1 upstairs bedroom. Clear open width of door is and 830mm

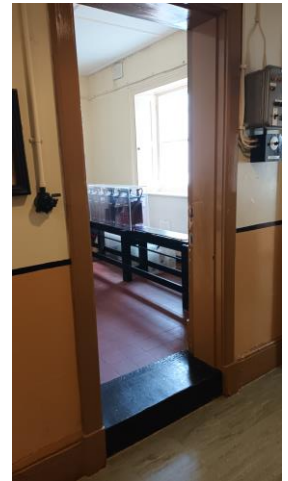
### **Tower Corridor**

- Clear open width of first door to tower corridor is 1320mm.
- Tower corridor contains recreation of lighthouse keeper on duty station with desk & chair with interpretation
- Clear open width of second door in tower corridor is 700mm.
- One stone step 190mm high to tower and radio room



### **Battery Room**

- Contains batteries originally used as additional power source for the lighthouse.
- Stone step 180mm high into room.



### **Tower**

- Stone step 180mm high into tower
- 54 spiral steps 190mm high to door leading to half landing area containing safety light for safe passage to Sunderland Harbour.
- Clear open width of door is 670mm
- 22 steep 'ladder type' steps to lantern room.
- Lantern room contains double optic on mercury base

### **Café**

- Ramped access
- Clear open width of Café door is 860mm
- 25 covers
- Table height 750mm
- Circulation space is limited – 600-750mm around tables



### **Admissions**

- Stone step 70-100mm high into admissions.
- Ramped access is available through toilet door – see below.
- Circulation space is reasonable

### **Toilets**

- Accessed from outside on north side.
- Ramped access
- Clear open width of outside door is 780mm
- 90 degree right turn through door with clear open width of 750mm
- Wheelchair users requiring use of the ambulant WC may find it difficult to negotiate the layout for access from the outside. Signage is displayed advising wheelchair users to ask at the admissions desk to be shown a level access route through the lighthouse.
- Clear open width of ambulant WC door is 780mm. Accessible WC is unisex.
- Gents WC accessed up 10 stairs to a two tiered half landing with 180 degree turn and a further 3 stairs to top landing.



**Additional Information**

- Guide dogs only in lighthouse.

**About the Access Statement**

- This Access Statement is intended to provide key information about the property that may be particularly relevant to visitors with disabilities. Please contact us prior to your visit if you would like information that is more specific and we will be happy to oblige.  
Email: [souter@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:souter@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
Phone: 0191 5293161

**Access for All at the National Trust**

- The Access for All office works to improve access at all National Trust properties. The office welcomes comments and ideas on improving access.  
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