

Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses Access Statement

Holy Austin Rock Houses, Compton Road, Kinver, Staffs. DY7 6DL

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Introduction

1. The Holy Austin Rock Houses are rock-cut cottages excavated out of sandstone, with built additions such as brick frontages, tiled floors and doors. The cottages are across three levels, with steps between them. The ground and flooring has cobbles and is uneven in places, there are some low doorways and narrow corridors. The tea rooms and toilets are located on the top level of Rock Houses, either accessed by a flight of steps or a slope and 5 steps. There is low level lighting in some areas of the restored houses. The garden has earth steps and is steep at times.
2. The wider countryside of Kinver Edge is a mixture of woodland and heathland habitats, on an escarpment. Kinver Edge has some sandy, some dirt, and some surfaced paths. There are some steep slopes, 2 flights of steps. There are several wide, accessible kissing gates. The 3 NT car parks have designated disabled car parking bays.
3. Mobile reception is good at the Rock Houses, and variable in the wider countryside.
4. Assistance dogs are welcome in all areas of the Rock Houses and countryside. Other dogs are welcome in the gardens of the Rock Houses, and in the countryside. Grazing animals are present at certain times of the year in the countryside and there are ground nesting birds, so dogs may be required to be kept on a lead and on the paths.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. There are brown signs from Kinver village.
2. There are designated spaces for disabled visitors in each of the 3 NT car parks, and on the lay-by parking adjacent to the Rock Houses. It is approximately 200m from this lay-by car park to the Rock House entrance.
The lay-by car park immediately adjacent to the Rock Houses is stoned. The other 2 carparks around Kinver Edge have uneven surfaces.

WCs

1. There are 3 WCs for the Rock Houses. There is a larger WC which up an additional 2 steps, has grab handles for the toilet and is larger in size. The smaller WCs are narrower. All are well lit and have automatic hand driers.
2. In the countryside of Kinver Edge there are WCs at the Kingsford Lane car park on the Worcestershire side of the county boundary. There are also council-maintained WCs at the lay-by on Sandy Lane near the Warden's Lodge.

Visitor Reception and Rock Houses

1. It is approximately 200m from the car park to visitor reception and the Houses. Visitor Reception is located at the Rock Houses. There is a stoned slope leading to the Rock House entrance.
2. There are cobbles around the entrance to the building and there is a low step to enter the building.



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3. The main entrance (into the room called the Ballroom) is 71cm wide. There is a lip on the door frame.
4. The door is kept open during opening times.
5. Staff/volunteers will come outside to greet visitors.
6. The entrance to the building is lit with natural light and overhead lighting.
7. Currently there is no induction loop available on site. Some staff members have limited sign reading skills.
8. There are no manual wheelchairs or powered mobility vehicles available for loan.
9. The floor of the Rock Houses is uneven tiles. There is one step between the rooms.
10. There is a narrow corridor between the Ballroom and the first restored cottage (the Fletcher Cottage), or alternatively there is another entrance that is 83cm wide. There is a lip on the doorframe.
11. The entrance to the second restored cottage (the Martindale cottage) is 90cm wide. There is a step up to the doorway.
12. There are seats for visitors to use in every room of the house. Some of the seats do have armrests.
13. There are not always volunteers in every room.
14. There are no WCs for visitors to use in the Houses or on the same level as the Houses.
15. There are no braille guides available.
16. Guide dogs are permitted inside the Rock Houses

Tea room

1. The tea-room is on the top level of the Rock Houses. It is accessed by a steep flight of steps, or by a stoned slope and 5 shallow steps. It has an indoor seating area of 2 rooms, and an outdoor seating area composed of a lawn, and a further stoned terrace that is up 2 steps.
2. There are cobbles immediately outside the tea room and a small step to get in.
3. The indoor area is tiled. The outdoor area is a mixture of cobbles, grass lawn, and stoned surface.
4. There is some natural light inside, and there is overhead lighting in the rooms.
5. Staff/volunteers will assist visitors as required, and can take food and drinks beyond the entrance to the tea room for visitors who can't access the area e.g those in wheelchairs.
6. Food and drink is served using porcelain or cardboard cups on request.
7. There is a small shop on some shelves inside the tea room, and a bookstore at the back of the tea room.
8. Guide dogs are permitted inside the Rock Houses

Garden

1. The garden is set out across an area of sloping land
2. The meadow and orchard are on a flat level. The surface is grassy. There are picnic benches in these areas.
3. The allotments and picnic grass are on a steep slope. There are some grassy paths and some steps.

Kinver Edge countryside

1. The countryside consists of woodland and heathland habitats, with a network of paths, some gates and fences, and some steps. Some paths are gentle slopes, others can be very steep in parts.



2. There is a map indicating waymarked trails, steps, parking and toilets.
3. Paths in the heathland are generally sandy, woodland paths are dirt and can be slippery or muddy after wet weather. Some paths are paved or small stones. Some paths have exposed sandstone which can be uneven and slippery.
4. Kissing gates are accessible wide gates with room for a standard wheelchair or a bike
5. There are several flights of steps. These have handrails.
6. There are cattle grazing at certain times of year on the heathland areas
7. There is a downhill bike track and a cycle trail
8. There are permissive horse riding trails

Contact details for more information

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