

## Clouds Hill Access Statement

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### Introduction

1. Situated off a main road near Bovington, Clouds Hill is a small brick cottage which was once a woodsman's cottage, then converted by T E Lawrence to become his retreat from army life. It is set in a small area of grounds which have some trees and shrubs but no garden. The cottage has two small rooms on the ground floor and two small rooms on the first floor.
2. There is poor mobile phone reception at the property.
3. Assistance dogs are welcome and other dogs are welcome in the grounds on leads.

### Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. There are a few brown signs off the main roads, but the property can be hard to find because of the number of roads leading to it and the limited number of signs. There is a small gravel car park at the property. There are no designated disabled parking spaces but the car park is small and all areas are within 20 metres of the Reception Building



## WCs

1. There are no accessible toilets
2. There are no toilets at the Cottage itself. There is one toilet on the outside of the Reception Building, at the back of it, accessed by a small ramp. It has no natural light and an ordinary electric light bulb. The door of the toilet opens outwards. The width of the door is 78cm.
3. There is no Changing Places facility. The nearest facility is at Dorchester Library & Learning Centre, Charles Street, Dorchester, DT1 1EE.



Entrance to toilet

## Visitor Reception

1. The room has a concrete floor with carpet fitted
2. There is a double door entrance, 1.5 metres wide. The doors are left open all the time during open hours. The entrance is level.



Reception entrance

3. The Reception counter is 92cm high. Staff/volunteers will come round to talk to anyone who cannot see over or reach up to the desk and there is there a clipboard to use to write on if the desk cannot be reached.
4. The area has low natural light and the ordinary electric ceiling light means that the area is not brightly lit.
5. There are no wheelchairs available for loan.
6. There is no induction loop.

## Cottage

1. There is a level gravel path from the Reception building to the Cottage (70 metres) and from the Cottage to the Motorbike Shed. There is a gravel path around the house.



2. The door to the Cottage is open during visitor hours and is 90cm wide. There are two small rooms on the ground floor (Book Room and Bathroom) and two small rooms upstairs (Music Room and Bunk Room)
3. The rooms are all lit with natural light and there is no electric lighting. The windows are small and the rooms are, consequently, dark, especially the Book Room on the ground floor. Torches are available for use by visitors.
4. The upper floor is accessed by a staircase of 9 steps, each step being 23cm deep and 19cm high. There is a rope handrail on the left hand side. The staircase is steep and narrow. There is no lift. At the top of the stairs there is a very small landing and then an additional step up to the Bunk Room of 20cm and a similar step up to the Music Room of the same height.
5. There is low headroom on the staircase and there are narrow doorways. The doorway to the Book Room is 74cm wide. The doorway to the Bathroom is 70cm wide. The doorway to the Music Room is 75cm wide. The doorway to the Bunk Room is 73cm wide.



Staircase



Doorway to Music Room



Doorway to Book Room

6. The rooms are all small and there is not sufficient space to turn a wheelchair easily any of them (requirement of 1500mm diameter circle).
7. There is a seat, without armrests, in the Book Room and in the Music Room, which visitors can use.

8. There are always two volunteers in the Cottage, usually one in the Book Room and one in the Music Room.
9. There are no guided tours, audio guides or virtual tours. Braille is available inside the cottage.
10. Due to the small size of the Cottage and the rooms, and the number of visitors usually present, there are usually no rooms in which to sit quietly.

## Catering

1. There is a small facility at the rear of the Motorbike Shed for self-service refreshments – tea, coffee and water. Payment is on a donation basis, by cash left in a box. There is space to turn a wheelchair easily inside the Motorbike Shed
2. The counter is a workbench with a height of 85 cm. There are no staff or volunteers on duty in the Motorbike Shed but if there are additional staff or volunteers available in Reception they will assist visitors as required.
3. Paper cups are used for tea and coffee.
4. There are benches outside the Motorbike Shed for the use of visitors.



The Motorbike Shed

## Retail

1. There is a small retail area in the Reception Building consisting of a counter top (83cm high) and two sets of shelves above it. Items to be bought are taken to the Reception desk for payment.
2. Reception staff/volunteers can assist on request with reaching down items to view if they cannot be reached by customers, or tell visitors the price of items.
3. There is no induction loop in the Reception Building.



Retail shelves

**Grounds**

1. There is no garden at Clouds Hill but the small area around it has been planted with shrubs. There is a steep hill to the side of the Cottage with pine trees at the top.
2. There are no picnic benches in the grounds other than one at the top of the hill.

**Contact details for more information**

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