

South Foreland Lighthouse Access Statement

The Front, St Margaret's Bay, Dover, Kent, CT15 6HP

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Introduction

1. The lighthouse is situated on the iconic White Cliffs of Dover 2 miles from the White Cliffs Visitor Centre. The grounds are grassed with a pebble driveway.
2. There is limited mobile phone reception at the property
3. Assistance dogs are welcome throughout and water is provided outside the lighthouse and in the tearoom courtyard
4. Access to the lighthouse tower can be challenging with 73 stairs to the top some of which are narrow and difficult to climb
5. We recommend that all visitors with access needs call ahead to discuss their visit with a member of staff

Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. On-site parking is only available to disabled visitors if booked in advance. All other visitors park at the White Cliffs of Dover and walk to site following the waymarked footpath (2 miles).
2. Visitors who have arranged to park in the grounds park on the grass near the lighthouse tower. This area is sloping and can be muddy and uneven. Disabled visitors can be dropped off closer to the tower or tearoom if arranged in advance.
3. The paths around the lighthouse are made of 25mm stones which are challenging when using a wheelchair.

WCs

1. There is an accessible toilet in the main toilet block with wider doors
2. Both the main door and the toilet door are manually operated
3. The bathroom is 2m x 1.8m with a 410mm high toilet with left hand transfer.
4. There is natural light and several LED spot lights in the room.
5. There is a handbasin and handtowels provided. There is an emergency alarm.

Visitor Reception & Shop

1. There is a stepped entrance to the building a temporary wheelchair ramp is available
2. The building has a level wooden floor inside
3. The entrance door is 870mm and is manually operated, staff and volunteers are happy to provide assistance as necessary.
4. The desk is 810mm high, staff can offer assistance as needed
5. The area is well lit, with good ambient light and lots of additional lighting, the floor contrasts with the white shop fitting.
6. A chair is available on request
7. A BSL (level 3) signer is available with advance notice

Lighthouse tower

1. There is a rough pebbled driveway around the base of the lighthouse tower which provides access to the entrance door.
2. There are 2 x 178mm steps up into the entrance/ground floor of the lighthouse with a manual door 870mm wide which opens inwards. Ramps are available on request. Staff and volunteers will be happy to provide assistance if necessary.
3. The ground floor contains historical information and an interactive display about the lighthouse including a video of the lamp room and view from the top.
4. The lighthouse tower has no soft surfaces and sound echoes throughout the building
5. The lighthouse tower has small high windows and limited amounts of natural light, electric lights are in place to help in some areas.

Lighthouse tour

1. Access to the lighthouse tower is by guided tour only
2. The lighthouse contains a total of 73 steps from the ground floor to the balcony with some stairs open to one side.
3. There is a handrail on all staircases but the steps can be narrow particularly on the upper floors
4. There is no lift or other wheelchair friendly route
5. There is a seat available on most floors for visitors to use
6. A BSL (level 3) signer is available with advance notice
7. Visitors who do not wish to climb the stairs can have a tour from a photobook in the ground floor of the lighthouse.
8. A braille guide is also available for use.

Catering (tearoom)

1. There is a flagstone area through the courtyard (with tables) leading up 2 steps to an inward opening door which is 780mm wide.
2. The hallway has a sharp right turn and 2 steps to reach the counter/servery. Temporary wheelchair ramps are available upon request.
3. The counter is 890mm high. Table service is available to visitors with additional needs if booked in advance.
4. Hearing induction loop is available.

Contact details for more information

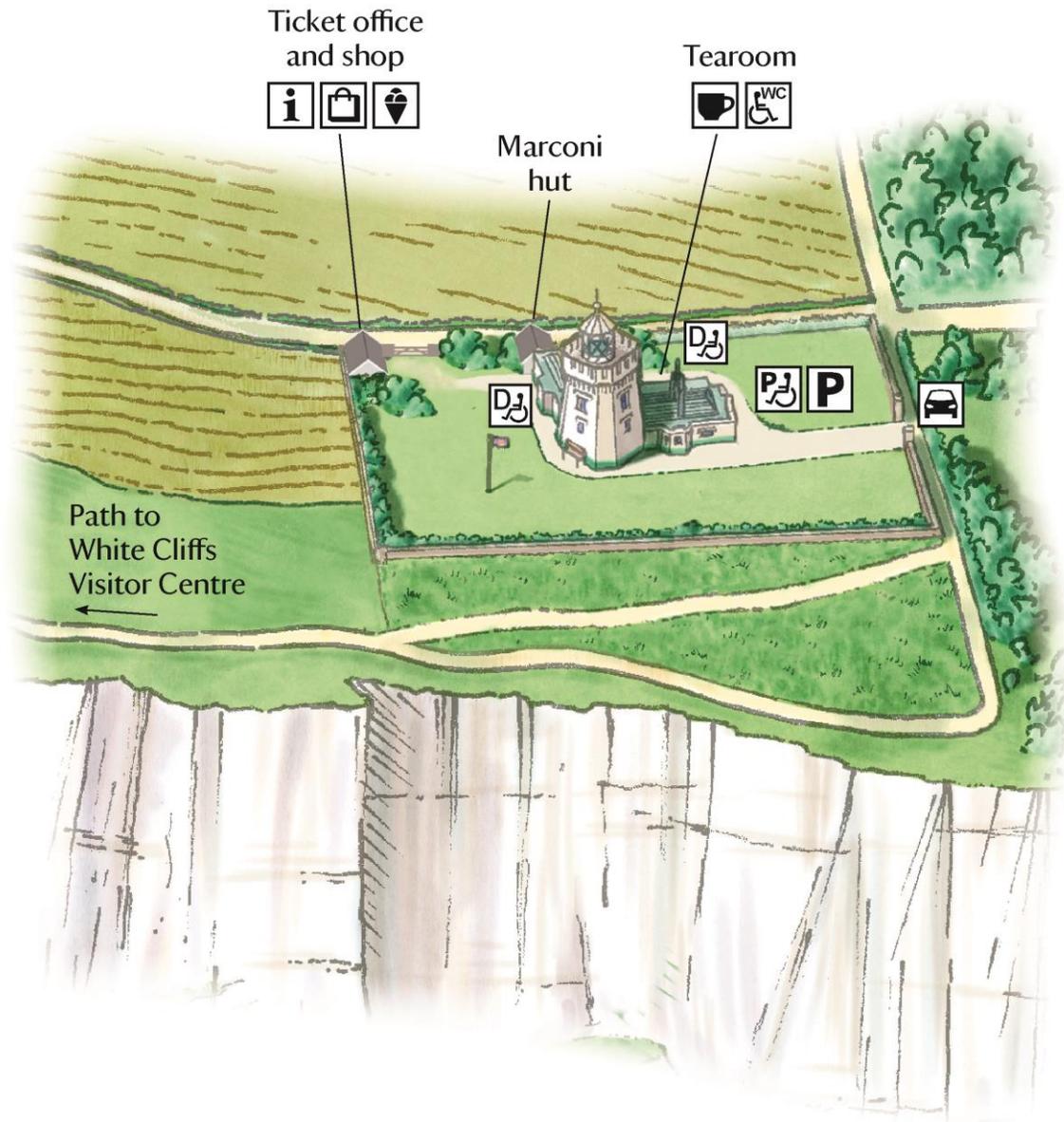
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Date 4th January 2021

National Trust

Map of South Foreland Lighthouse



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|  | Information |  | Refreshments |
|  | Car park |  | Ice cream |
|  | Disabled drop off point |  | Shop |
|  | Designated parking |  | Pre-booked vehicle entrance |
|  | Accessible toilets | | |