

National Trust Cottages Accessibility Guide

Little Portland House Dorset

003042

Category – uncategorised

Introduction

Little Portland House is a coastal villa designed and furnished in the Art Deco style. The white building is set into the sloping contour of the land and ranges over two levels within a beautiful large enclosed garden which leads down to the sea. A large formal staircase and narrower 'back' staircase are both long and steep. There are other level changes on each floor.

Some routes around the garden are uneven and steep and a little open pond is found below the House.

Sleeps 7 people in 4 large bright bed-rooms located on the first level; a cot is also available. En-suite and family bath rooms and shower rooms are available on the first level.

Tranquil sea-views from two very large and wide terraces overlook the sea and coastal views. Some bedrooms open out on to the terrace.

Whilst self-contained and private, the House is set in a residential area not far from shops and local amenities.

There are a number of good walking routes in the surrounding area but these can be steep. NB: parts of the foreshore is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest

The Cottage is arranged as follows:

Ground Floor:

Entrance level: this is the upper level. A small hall opens directly onto the main stair case leading down to the lower level. 2 further sets of 3 shallow stairs lead from each side of the hall up to four bedrooms - 2 doubles, one with en suite shower room, a twin and a single.

Bathroom with shower over the bath is found nearby. Breakfast room, pantry, scullery, utility room and kitchen are found on this level.

Main staircase. with rope banisters

Narrower staircase with wooden banisters to each side

Lower Floor:

Large formal drawing room, (3 sets of French doors to the terrace).

Large dining room again with French doors to the terrace.

Pre-Arrival

See the main webpage for booking and location details.

Please contact us prior to booking if you have any specific access requirements or queries. Directions will be provided with your booking

Approach

Carefully following the directions sent with your booking document is recommended. There is no house sign other than one that says 'private' set on a set of black metal gates.

A small detached red-brick house stands to the left on entry through the metal gates. The internal service road (compacted earth and gravel) follows round to Portland House.

The villa is 80m approximately from the public highway. A long paved avenue of palm trees leads to the sunken entrance doorway which can only be accessed by a set of brick steps. (see photo below)

Arrival & Parking Facilities

An area of parking for six cars is available on gravel. No nearer drop off point is possible.

There is bulkhead lighting (PIR) on the approach and at the entrance itself.

The 20m (approx) long path lined with mature palm trees is of paving slabs and is <1.8m wide

The key safe is located to the side of the large double blue entrance doors. The code for the key safe is in your booking details.

It is clear where to go. Please note that there are 2 other external doors and each has an access control unit fitted.

Getting in (and out) of Portland House

The entrance door is below land level. A set of brick steps to three sides of the entrance doors lead to the double front doors.

Height of risers from the top: 140mm 150mm, 150mm and 60mm.

Double timber doors painted dark blue with single leaf opening width of 490mm. One door is bolted and cannot be opened. Visual contrast is very good.

Illumination levels in the area is good.

Weather mat is available.

There are a further 2 external doors with access control units to the side and front.

Each can only be reached by steps.

Getting around the cottage

Entrance level:

- From the entrance there are 3 carpeted steps both to the left and right (each step is 130mm high) with timber handrails at 1060mm.
- The carpeted steps lead to a large separate WC with 2 wash hand basins.
- Corridor width is good and leads on to a double bedroom (6' bed) ensuite shower room with lavatory. One bathroom with shower to the left. There is one twin room with double French Doors

- **Main stair case** Wide staircase <2m. (steep with rope rail)
- **Narrower service staircase** with banisters – 820mm wide. 600mm net of banister rails. 17risers of 180mm high.

Lower floor:

- Formal dining room and lounge beds) and a single bedroom and other service rooms (locked).
- **Floor surfaces** - parquet flooring in main reception rooms with rugs. Mainly carpeted bedrooms, service rooms and some corridors. Tiled main staircase. Vinyl and ceramic tile to wet areas.
- **Door widths** Range between 690 - 800mm. None are very heavy to open.

Access to terraces

Most bedrooms lead out onto a terrace. In each case there is a step with height range of 180/200mm leading onto the terraces.

Other

Illumination levels are generally good. Visual contrast is good. This is a large house and can be navigated using the 2 main staircases as the key way-finding point.

Individual Rooms

Kitchen and Utility Rooms

- Door width 720mm leads into utility room and then the kitchen
- Height of the worktop is 990mm from floor level
- Circulation space is very good. Well equipped kitchen. Natural light from large windows.
- Central peninsular unit at 970mm
- Lighting levels are good
- Lever taps provided on sinks – sink height 950mm
- Range-master double oven and hot plates is set at 940mm high
- Standard electric oven
- Washing machine – front loader
- Dryer under Worktop at 950mm.
- Dishwasher
- 2 kettles
- Larder fridge in utility room with work top at 990mm
- 2nd utility room with ironing and back up freezer cabinet.

Main Dining Room

- Large airy room overlooking the terrace and the sea.
- Dining table 2480mm long and 1040mm wide. Height 750mm. Space under 660mm.
- Seating for 12. Upholstered chairs including carver chairs.
- Illumination levels are very good
- Parquet floor
- French windows to terrace
- Wall and standard lamps

Second dining/breakfast room

- Door width 720mm. Timber floor boards with large trestle table. Height 770mm, 1980mm length. Wall benches and dining chairs.
- Good illumination levels.
- Flat screen TV and games found in this area.
- Circulation space is very good.
- Wall and standard lamps are provided

Drawing Room

- Three large sofas (1 x 2 seater (400mm high) and 2 x 3 seater 440mm high) and a range of upholstered easy chairs (440mm – 500mm). Colonial style chairs (470mm high). Good armrests.
- Illumination levels are good. Full height windows and doors. Very large stylised windows
- Timber floors with large rugs
- Live fire, guard provided
- Standard lamps, central chandelier and a range of wall lights.

Bathrooms (See separate Photo-Log)

Bathroom 1

- 1920's style. Metal bath 460mm height. Internal width 600mm. Internal depth 400mm.
- Mira electric shower over the bath. Controls at 1550mm from base of bath.
- Shower head/unit at 1860mm from the base of the bath.
- Integral tiled soap dish and hand grip at 200mm above bath top
- Glass screen.
- Illumination levels are good.
- Large pedestal wash hand basin at 800mm height with pillar taps.
- WC with seat height of 455mm.
- Light over mirror.
- Vinyl tiles.

Bathroom 2

- Tiled in bath with height of 550mm. Internal Width 570mm Internal depth 440mm. Length 1470mm.
- Pillar taps.
- Mira Sport Shower over bath. Shower curtain.
- 1500mm to centre of Shower controls.
- Light over mirror.
- Height of large sink 800mm.
- Vinyl tiles.
- WC at 500mm to seat.
- 3.Sky-light.
- Metal very large bath with height at 640mm. Internal width 630mm, length 1740mm. Internal depth 470mm. Integral soap dish with incorporated hand-rail.
- Wall mounted wall taps
- Electronic Mira Allero shower over bath. 1570mm to centre of controls. Glass screen.
- Wash hand basin 800mm with pillar taps
- Vinyl tiles
- Heated towel rail
- WC 440mm

Shower cubicle

- Changing bench at 550mm.
- Vinyl floor.
- Corner cubicle unit with sliding doors, plinth is low profile at 100mm.
- Tray 1100 x 700mm. Curved to the front.
- Mira Sports shower. 1600mm height from tray to controls.
- Standard WC. Height of WC is 430mm.
- Wash hand basin at 800mm height, mixer pillar taps.
- Light over the mirror. Good illumination levels.

Separate WC

- A separate close coupled WC (450mm high to seat top) is available at the entry level.
- 2 hand basins at hand basins 800mm high in a spacious lobby.

1. Double Bedroom – entrance level - upper floor

- Twin beds linked together. 1800mm x 2000mm. Metal frame. Height 580mm. Space under 230mm.
- Window bench.
- Good illumination levels. Bed side lights on cabinets.
- En suite shower and lavatory

2. Double Bedroom - upper floor

- 5' bed (1500 x 1960mm) Height 600mm.
- 2 bed side lights on cabinets.
- Doors to terrace. 2 steps, 190mm and 180mm high.
- Upholstered bed-room chairs.

3. Twin Bedroom - upper floor

- 950mm x 1880mm Metal frame bed . Space under 210mm. 550mm high.
- Bed side lights on cabinets.

4. Single Bedroom - upper floor

- Single bed 900 x 1900mm space under 300mm. Height 550mm. Metal frame.
- Steps to terrace.
- Wash hand basin height 800mm. Pillar taps.
- Doors to terrace with 2 steps.

Garden

Large gardens on both levels. On arrival the entrance level offers lawns and a colonnade of palm trees. There are brick steps up to the lawned areas. Further down the site are a mixture of terraced gardens linked with pathways and steps.

Dogs are welcome

Additional Information

Assistance dogs are welcome at all our cottages

In the event of a fire, it is the responsibility of the guests to evacuate themselves.

Vibrating fire/smoke detectors are available if requested at time of booking.

Please contact us if you have any other specific access requirements in this respect.

Facilities at all cottages

The National Trust aims to expand the list of accessible /equipment/items available at each cottage and these may include

- Cordless kettles
- Hollow fibre bedding
- A range of chairs some with armrests
- Large handle vegetable peeler
- Easy tin opener
- Non-slip mat for bath/shower
- Non-slip place mat
- Easy jar opener

Information in alternative formats (on request)

Please note that we cannot guarantee that all items will be available at the time of your visit. Please enquire at the time of booking regarding any particular requests.

Specialist equipment

Other specialist equipment such as wheelchairs, bath seats, toilet frames etc may be available for loan or purchase from the local Red Cross loan centre. Please check this out before booking the Cottage and contact us if you require further information.

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/standard.asp?id=89425>

Future Plans to improve Access to National Trust Holiday Cottages

We are currently in the process of writing accessibility guides for all our holiday cottages and improving access over time for all our guests. All feedback is very helpful in informing us of ways in which we can improve access to all our cottages. We welcome any comments or ideas from you about access at this cottage and thank you for taking the time to do this. Please do this in the most convenient way for you. See contact details below or information on website.

About the Accessibility Guide

This Accessibility Guide is intended to provide key information about the cottage that may be particularly relevant to guests with disabilities. It is reviewed annually. Please contact us prior to booking if you would like more detailed information and we will be happy to oblige.

Phone: 0344 800 2070

Email: cottages@nationaltrust.org.uk

Access for All at the National Trust

We continue to work to improve accessibility at all our holiday cottages. We welcome comments and ideas on improving access.

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