

Access Statement for Abbey Guest House

Abingdon, Oxfordshire, England, UK
Last updated: 4th January 2012



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Calls using [Text Relay](#), 18001 the UK's text to voice relay service for deaf people, are welcomed. Click on the live link for full details including British Sign Language video summary.

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**Access
For All**

*the
Beautiful
South*



AWARDS
FOR EXCELLENCE 2011

SILVER

Vale
**Disability
Access Group**

TOURISM SOUTH EAST
TOURISM EXCELLENCE
Awards 2009
GOLD



TOURISM SOUTH EAST
TOURISM EXCELLENCE
Awards 2008
RUNNER UP



1 – Access Summary and Floor Plans

1a - Access Summary

Abbey Guest House is a quiet, 7 en-suite bedroom, non-smoking, B&B Guest House converted from a 1970's private house. Starting in 2006, it has now become one of the most accessible small B&B's in the country. It has won many Awards, gained National Accessible System 'standards' in 2007 and 2009 and, most importantly, gained increasingly complimentary reviews by disabled guests, from across the Globe.

Abbey Guest House is now committed to providing access for all through 'Inclusive Design' and commitment to the 'Social Model of Disability'.

The full Access Statement is necessarily very wordy, so some significant results are listed here in this Access Summary.

Some Modifications and Buildings Works have included: -

- Visitor parking within 12 metres of front door is level and hard surfaced
- Large 'Blue Badge' parking bay, which allows use of converted vehicles including those with rear and side ramped access.
- Ramp at front door – maximum of 1 in 14 slope
- Ground Floor 'Easy Access' bedroom – Room 1 used by many full-time wheelchair users
- Room 1 - Full en-suite wet room to Part M layout including tonally contrasted grab rails
- 'Allergy Friendly' bedroom with washable furnishings, hardwood flooring and daily vacuuming

Typical Auxiliary Aids available to guests:

- Deafgard, vibrating and strobe light alarm and Dorgard door stops
- Portable table hearing loops and TV neck loop
- Bed rails, Travel cot, high chair and baby feeding utensils
- Thick handled cutlery
- Camera-based text magnifier,
- Tonally contrasted feature walls and light switches in bedrooms
- Shower wheelchair for wet room

- Information Folder in all Bedrooms and Large print copy always in Lounge
- Tonally contrasted colour scheme for feature walls, bed linen and carpets
- Varied diets like Coeliac and Dairy free catered for as well as Halal and Vegan
- Braille labels and Braille labeller to hand

Flexible and Responsive:

- A choice of Single, Twin, Double, Triple and Four bedded rooms possible
- Furniture easily moved around, taken away or added rooms to match requirements
- All information can be made available in choice of formats e.g. Large print, Braille and HTML
- Cater for varied diets and wide choice of breakfast food items available/with notice
- Extra time and consideration can be offered to assist guests with impairments.
- Limited personal support / carer assistance possible by arrangement
- Local Mobility Matters supplier able to sell, hire out, service, and repair equipment fast e.g. room hoists

Awards received:

- Trip Advisor - Awarded us 5 out of 5 by in 2011, with score based upon Guest feedback comments; many specifically referring to the accessibility of the Guest House.
- Tourism South East - Access for All Awards: Gold Winner in 2009. Silver Winner in 2011.
- Enjoy England - 4 Star Silver for high quality of accommodation and customer service
- Vale Disability Access Group - Abingdon Access Award 2009


Our Disabled Guests have included:

- Incomplete paraplegic double amputee from Australia
- Mobility scooter user holidaying from South Africa,
- A German group with learning and physical impairments, and their carers
- Profoundly deaf lady from Bristol

- Gentleman with his Hearing Assistance Dog from Stoke-on-Trent
- Persons with dietary requirements including Vegan, Halal, Coeliac and Dairy-free.
- Non weight bearing wheelchair users from Scotland, Wales and England, visiting family

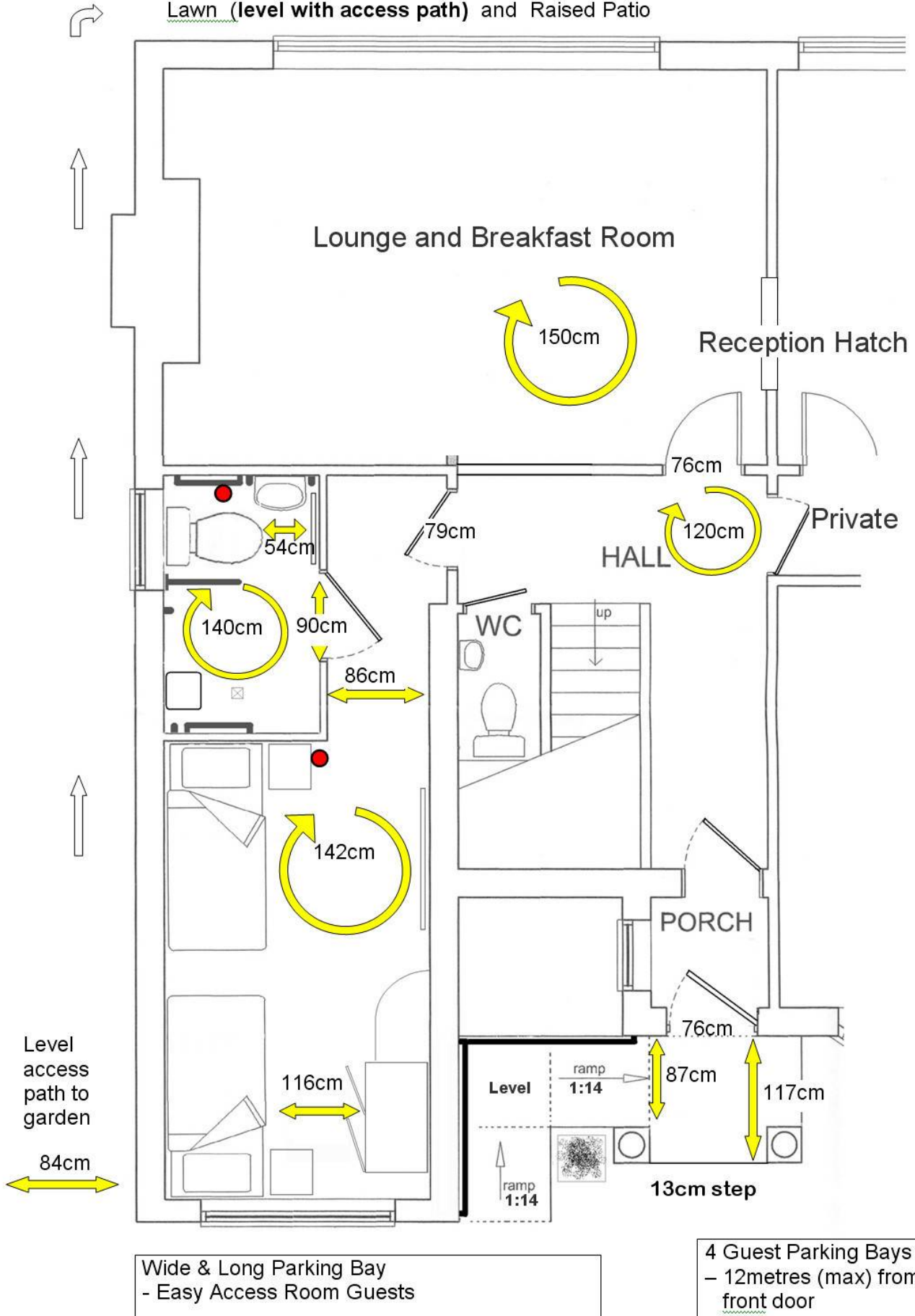
1b - Floor Plans

Location of Guest Bedrooms on First Floor – not to scale

<p>Allergy Friendly Room 6 Double Kingsize 5'</p>	<p>Room 4 Large single 4'6"</p>	<p>Stairs to Ground Floor</p> 	<p>Room 2 Double Kingsize 5'</p>
<p>Room 7 Small Single 3'</p>	<p>Room 5 Double Kingsize 5'</p>	<p>Room 3 Twin/triple/Quad 3' & 2'6"</p>	

Guest Areas on the Ground Floor

Lawn (level with access path) and Raised Patio



2 - Physical Layout

2a - Interior

The Guest House was built as a private home in the 1970's and has a Car Park frontage and rear garden lawn and patio. Inside are two floors, one at ground level and the first floor above.

Ground Floor

Front door (with vision panels) direct from car park leads into hallway where guest umbrellas, Transport timetables, Local Visitor Information and indexed street map of Abingdon are available. Leading off the hall is:

- Easy Access - Room 1: twin Bedroom and wet room with tonally contrasted grab rails
- Door with vision panels into Lounge / breakfast room with reception, guest self-dining facilities, hardback library and Tourist Information
- Kitchen and access to Private accommodation area
- Flight of stairs to first floor.
- Visitor toilet

Stairs to First Floor

Eight steps, with left handrail, to landing with feature window providing plenty of daylight.

Another seven steps with right handrail reaches First Floor.

First Floor

- Choice of 6 bedrooms all with en-suite shower-rooms.
- 'Allergy Friendly' – Room 6 double bedroom.
- Separate guest bathroom
- Paperback library.

Future plans: for a lift between floors is part of an expansion project for Abbey Guest House.

2b – Front and Rear Gardens

Front Garden and Car Park

This is now the car parking with bordering trees, shrubs, flower tubs and hanging baskets.

Rear Garden with Lawn and Patio

The rear garden is reached through a solid gate at the front of house along an 84cm wide concrete path extending 7 metres to the lawn. The firm surfaced lawn then sweeps around rising 11cm over 12 metres to the level of the patio which is surfaced with concrete slabs.

A garden table has clearance below of 68cm and the garden chairs have arm supports.

The garden is fully enclosed by fence and hedges and allows secure storage of items like cycles or mobility scooters. The gate is normally kept securely locked and garden visually isolated from public areas and fully overlooked from the Guest House.

Stepped access from the Breakfast room includes an 18cm and 8cm step. Expansion plans will see the removal of all steps and addition of solid path surfacing.

3 - Latest News, Feedback and Future Plans

3a - Latest News

Returning guests will notice recent improvements including: -

- Hardwood flooring throughout Entrance hallway and Lounge/Breakfast room
- Electric adjustable beds and Shower wheelchair for the Room 1 - Easy Access Bedroom
- Additional – ‘Allergy Friendly’ double en-suite bedroom – Room 6
- Additional small single en-suite guest – Room 7
- Additional floor space in the Lounge/Breakfast room and a new reception point
- Food hygiene ‘Scores on the Doors’ rating of 4 out of 5
- ‘[Dorgard](#)’ door stops that automatically release when smoke alarms are activated
- Extensive reference menus from local restaurants and take outs.
- Increased Local Visitor Information
- Comprehensive Bus timetables around Abingdon, to Oxford as far as London
- Print out facility for the very latest train timetables

New Facilities include: -

- Greater use of internationally understood pictograms
- Simplified signs throughout
- Route Guides to nearest shops and facilities explaining dropped or lowered kerb options
- New breakfast table with clear space between legs of 69cm
- Flat blade door lock latch in Easy Access Bedroom - Room 1
- [Deafgard](#) alarm with vibration, strobe and text confirmation
- Toy corner, along with travel cot, high chair, plastic utensils and push chair storage
- Guest Library of over 450 paperbacks and 250 Readers Digest condensed novels
- Comprehensive range of electric plug adapters for overseas guests
- Luggage Scales to check weights before airport check-in
- Range of thicker handled cutlery that many find easier to hold
- Simpler layout to the Access Statement with less repetition

3b - Feedback

Please do not hesitate to comment about barriers of a physical, sensory or cognitive nature as we welcome all questions, requests and feedback to help us improve our welcome to guests.

3c - Future Plans

Planning permission has just been obtained to extend Abbey Guest House to include: -

- Extend lounge and guest breakfasting area
- Remove threshold to patio as well as all garden steps
- Installation of a lift between the floors
- Add full wet room to another bedroom
- More colourful and scented plantings around the car park and garden

4 - Communication

All guests are met individually and given an escorted tour of their Bedroom and the shared facilities at Abbey Guest House.

Language

English is used throughout and we can accept, email, fax, handwriting, type.

A paper pad and pen is always kept to hand for guests who prefer not to use speech.

Paperwork

All paperwork is presented to guests on a clipboard to aid handling.

Telephones

All mobile (cellular) phone services can be received in all rooms including T-Mobile, Orange, O2, Vodaphone and 3.

Important or emergency calls can be dialled on behalf of guests, using a cordless telephone in the breakfast room / lounge or hallway.

Internet Access, WIFI and Skype

FREE WIFI internet access is available in all rooms. Guests can also use a PC in the lounge, which also has [Skype](#) , Internet Explorer and MS Office loaded. Headsets are not provided for hygiene reasons but guests may connect their own.

Pictograms

Pictograms are used on: exit routes, portable hearing induction loops, breakfast selection, Reception/Payments and identifying grouped types of Visitor information like Bus Timetables, Places to eat, Abingdon attractions and promotional leaflets for the wider region.

Braille

Braille is used on essential internal room switches in the 'Easy Access' bedroom and to identify all cereals in breakfast room and juices in guest fridge.

Braille labels can be requested in advance as we have label printer supplied by the Royal National institute for the Blind.

Raised / Engraved Lettering / Numerals

Outside the House number 136 is engraved into slate at the car park entrance pillars and is repeated with raised brass numerals on wooden block at front door.

Inside the bedroom door numbers are large raised brass numerals on white background.

5 - Locating Us and Getting Here

5a - Locate Us

[Abingdon town](#) is in central southern England, some 6 miles south west of the University town of Oxford and 50 miles west North West of London.

Abbey Guest House is located in the northern part of Abingdon, along the west side of Oxford Road, designated the A183.

Our region is governed by [Oxfordshire County Council](#) and more locally by the [Vale of White Horse District Council](#), and bordered by [South Oxfordshire District Council](#) to the immediate East and South of Abingdon.



[Click the Abingdon map](#) to find us on Streetmap with its' range of different scale maps.

Great Britain [OS](#) Map Grid Reference: SU 504 985

5b - Getting Here (see also Transport Options)

Click on [RAC Route Planner](#) for road distances, travel times and directional guidance /maps.

Programming your Vehicle Sat Nav

Town: Abingdon
Road: Oxford Road
Number: 136
Post Code: OX14 2AG

Latitude: 051° 41' 06.53" N
Longitude: 001° 16' 23.85" W

6 - Diet, Allergy, Mobility, Sensory and Medical Issues

Bullet point lists the key features and equipment follow. Feel free to request further information and always just indicate your wish to use any of the aids mentioned, if they are not already to hand.

6a - Dietary Issues

- Vegetarian food items are always available for breakfast
- Other diets are best notified in advance and all reasonable requests can usually be met
- Food Hygiene - [‘Scores on the Doors’](#) Rating of 4 stars out possible 5

6b - Allergy Issues

- No Smoking throughout
- All bedding used is Hyper allergenic
- All linen and towels washed with non-biological detergent
- Hardwood flooring in the Hallway, Lounge/Breakfast room, and ‘Allergy Friendly’ Room 6
- Carpets are vacuumed each day
- Normally dogs are only allowed if they are fully trained Assistance, Hearing or Guide dogs

6c - Physical Mobility Issues

- See further detailed information under Car Park and Easy Access Bedroom and Wet Room
- Easy Access Ground floor bedroom with en-suite wet room

Critical Dimensions – Gaps, Widths, Turning Circles and Distances

These have been measured for clear usable gap width, surface width or turning circles. The measurements are given in centimetres (cm) and metres (100 cm). 2.4 centimetres equals one inch.

See also the ‘Plan of Guest Areas on Ground Floor’ showing many key measurements

- Path width from car park to rear garden lawn is 84cm and 7 metres long
- Landing outside front door: 86cm deep behind pillars or 117cm deep between the pillars

- All thresholds and doormats are flush with floor level including at the front door
- The narrowest gap through any doorway is 76cm
- 19cm manoeuvring width to opening side of front doors and Easy Access bedroom door
- 142cm turning circle in 'Easy Access' bedroom
- 140cm turning circle in 'East Access' wet room
- 120cm turning circle in Hallway
- 150cm turning circle available in Lounge / Breakfast room
- Gap in front of toilet to reach wash basin is 54cm in Easy Access Wet Room

6d - Sensory Issues

Assistance, Hearing and Guide Dogs

- Fully trained Assistance, Hearing or Guide Dogs are always welcome with their owners. The rear garden is completely fenced in for security and suitable feeding and drinking bowls are available.
- Other dogs are generally only allowed by special arrangement to limit any allergy issues
- Dogs can be exercised along the service road or in the local parks with dog areas.
- All owners will be expected to clean up after their dog with a plastic bag

Hearing and Acoustic Issues

- Mobile induction loops for hearing aid users with a 'T' – switch at reception and in lounge
- A neck induction loop that connects to the TV/DVD in any Guest bedroom
- [Deafgard](#) with vibrating, strobe and text alert action for alarm clock and smoke alarm
- Paper pad, pen and clipboard constantly available at the Reception counter
- Willingness to converse via fax or email.
- Abbey Guest House is very quiet, being set back some 30 metres from the Oxford road
- Conifer hedge around the car park acts as a further acoustic screen
- Family sized rooms with standard ceiling heights and all windows double glazed

- Soft furnishings dampen any echo's of the walls
- Background music plays gently in the lounge / breakfast room but can be turned off
- Experience suggests conversations are not hampered by acoustic noises or reflections

Vision and Lighting Issues

- Large print information folder is always available in Breakfast / Lounge
- All exterior signs are high contrast and illuminated automatically through the night
- There are no glass screens to look through at reception or elsewhere
- Key switches and items labelled with either a large font or a Braille label, sometimes both
- Camera based text magnifier for use with guest bedroom TV screens or a computer screen
- Access Statement and Information Folder available in various sized print fonts
- Computer file formats to enable use of screen reader and speech synthesis software
- Camera text magnifier that links to any guest bedroom TV screen or a computer screen
- All entrance doors have small glass panels in upper half.

Colour Schemes and Tonal Contrasts

- Bedrooms have gold carpets, white ceilings and cream walls with one dark red feature wall
- Bedside tables are birch with contrast dark green or dark grey glass surfaces
- 'Easy Access' wet room with high contrast dark blue and blue features against white walls
- Bedroom light switches are white with contrasting dark green fingerplate background
- The hallway has hardwood flooring, dark cream walls and white ceilings
- Stairs and first floor corridor have Red carpet, cream walls and white ceilings
- The doors are white with contrasting brass handles
- Bedroom furniture is birch contrasting against white walls.

- Bed linen is cream with a red and green poppy pattern with dark red valance.
- Arm chairs are white with contrasting dark red cushions/arm protectors

Lighting

- The hallway has a chandelier and down-lighters
- The lounge/ breakfast room has ceiling pendants lights, wall picture lights, a table lamp and a floor standard lamp and benefits from natural daylight from the 350cm wide patio doors
- The stairway and upstairs landing has down-lighters and benefits from natural daylight from a 250cm high by 130cm wide feature window
- All bedrooms have large windows supplying plenty of natural daylight
- Guest bedrooms have ceiling pendant lamps and either wall mounted bedside lights or individual bedside table lamps
- En-suite bathrooms and wet room have down-lighters and most have natural daylight
- All have shaver points and lights over the wash basin mirrors
- No spot lights or windows face into guests eyes in the hallway / reception area

6e - Mobility and Medical Equipment Loan

The Red Cross offers a Medical Loan Service in [Abingdon](#). They are based at Red Cross House, Colwell Drive, in the centre of Abingdon, next to a McDonalds. Tel: 01235 552 644. Opening times are 1.30 to 3.45 pm.

Mobility and Medical Equipment Repair and Purchase

[Joncare](#) is an Abingdon company that can arrange a comprehensive range of equipment repairs and purchase as required. Also, temporary free loans whilst items are repaired. Their Mobility Matters Independent Living Showroom is located at 7-8 Radley Place, Radley Road Industrial Estate, OX14 2RY. Tel: 01235 523353 and Fax: 01235 531019

Carer Support

Bedrooms 1 and 3 have twin beds. See Floor Plans for location
Proprietor (Terry) is able to offer a limited amount of individual assistance. She has over 40 years experience of first aid and care obtained as a member of St John Ambulance if you wish to bring a

carer / support person with you. None of the rooms have connecting doors.

7 - Information and Formats

Abbey Guest House information is structured for formatting in many ways and reading by software like Screen Readers.

By Default we provide:

- A 12 point Arial copy of the Full Access Statement and Guest Information Folder in every Bedroom. A 16 point Arial copy is kept in the lounge.
- Between 16 and 20 point Arial for important notices, dependant upon viewing distance.
- Other font sizes and formats are produced by request.

The hallway has an information display holding a large range of printed information leaflets from a range of transport and local attraction operators.

The Lounge has information leaflets from Tourist operators across the region

There is a folder of reference menus for Abingdon eateries and some in Oxford

Bus Timetables

Latest bus timetables are always available for the buses passing through Abingdon or linking to London via Oxford.

Train Timetables

Train timetables change so often, we will printed off latest copy from the relevant Train Company website, when you stay as a Guest.

Abbey Guest House Information folder

A copy kept in every guest bedroom and a large print copy in the breakfast room / lounge. The folder is split into several sections including: -

- The Guest House itself
- Nearest facilities and services to Abbey Guest House
- Visiting Abingdon or Oxford

8 – Car Park to Front Door and Reception

A large white sign with black text 'Abbey Guest House' sign identifies us at the entrance to car park from the parallel service road, 3 metres distant or the A4183 Oxford Road 21 metre distant.

There is a standard bell push button to left of front door and all guests are met here on arrival.

8a - Car Park

The level parking area is surfaced in dark red brick paviors, with 6 bays are marked out with single dark grey brick lines and a 218cm wide pathway marked to keep access to the ramped path clear of vehicles. The maximum distance from any point to the front door is 12 metres.

One wide and longer bay is identified by a Blue Badge symbol to reserve this bay and 218cm wide access path to base of ramp at front door. There is 120cm space to both sides of a car, 300cm for rear ramped access and 600cm plus for side access ramped vehicles e.g. Chrysler Voyager MPV.

The service road outside the car park has access in both directions and some kerbside parking. Persons using larger vehicles or towing a trailer (Mobility Scooter?) may find this convenient, as no reversing or manoeuvring in the car park is required. The distance to front door is then around 25 metres.

Abbey Guest House and 136 are written in very large black letters on a white background above the porch. The words are automatically illuminated at night.

A single 13cm high step up to a 117cm depth landing, assisted by white coloured handrails either side leads from the car park level to the front door and the Guest House floor level

A ramped approach alternative is adjacent, with a white coloured handrail to the left side only. The ramp has a 1 in 14 slope; up to a level turning platform for a right turn. Then up again to the level platform in front of the door through an 87cm gap between white columns. The total ramped length is some 3 metres.

8b - Front Door

The white painted front door is bordered by these white columns. An illuminated raised push button bell and raised brass 136 numerals are to the left side of the door. These are automatically illuminated by a light on the wall above and the down-lighter in the porch canopy above.

Going through the front door from the ramp requires a sharp left turn through the door gap of 76cm.

The door threshold has been removed and the access is now completely flush through both the outer and inner porch doorways. The doorway mat is also recessed flush with the floor.

8c - Reception

The hallway inside leads direct to the guest lounge ahead with Reception hatch located immediately on right side. Here is a small counter and draw down hatch closure.

9 - Guest Rooms and Shared Facilities

Doorway opening and closing

- All doors are manually opened and hinged excepting the patio door which is sliding.
- The outer front door has a very gentle closing action, through use of rising butt hinges.
- The inner front door, guest bedrooms and all internal fire doors now all have tension door closers to comply with fire regulations.
- Both the inner front and 'Easy Access' room doors have a '[Dorgard](#)' door stop fitted.
- If the smoke alarm activates, the '[Dorgard](#)' releases the door, allowing it to close.

Room Keys

Additional keys are available, as is an enlarged room key adaptor available to help cope with finger dexterity issues.

Room keys are individual to each room but they all lock and unlock the outer front door. Room numbers are etched into the key tags, as is the B&B emergency contact number.

Room / front door keys are retained by guests during the length of their stay thereby enabling them to have access at all times.

No Smoking

A no smoking policy is enforced. Any guest found smoking will be asked to leave immediately, with no refund and an additional £200 charge levied to clean the room and all linen.

9a - Guest Bedrooms

Guests are encouraged to vacate their rooms during the central part of the day to enable room servicing and cleaning to be undertaken as well as allowing any maintenance work to be carried out.

Additional information about our 'Easy Access' and 'Allergy Friendly' Bedrooms follows the information applying to all other rooms.

Standard equipment provided in every bedroom includes: -

- Temperature controllable radiator thermostats
- Freeview digital TV with DVD player
- Iron and ironing board
- Hairdryer

- Small personal security safe
- Kettle and hot drink facilities
- Bedside radio/alarm clock
- Coat hangers in wardrobe
- Full length and table top mirrors
- Desk lamps and bedside lights
- Luggage stand

No bedroom telephones are provided but emergency telephone calls be arranged in the lounge.

Mobile phone reception appears good throughout the guest house for all mobile networks.

A bedrail can be requested by any guest, in any room, wishing this reassurance.

Also the full range of aids e.g. Deafgard, camera magnifier or hearing induction loop for TV.

Guest En-suite Shower Rooms

- All have shower cubicles, wash basins, toilets, mirrors, shaver points and tiled floors.
- All have wall mounted range of dispensers for soap and shower gel as well as sanitary bags.
- Individual items can be supplied for guests having difficulty using these dispensers

A separate bathroom, containing just a bath, is available for guests on the first floor.

9b - Shared Facilities

Lounge / Breakfast Room

- Wide glass windows patio doors look out over the patio and lawn in the rear garden
- Room has two large dining tables and chairs, lounge seating, radio and guest desktop PC
- Breakfast is served in this room and the tables and seating arranged to suit staying guests and any staggered breakfast times
- Wheelchair users can ask for location that best suits their access and turning circle needs

- A breakfast menu order tick sheet is available in the lounge
- Guests can choose breakfast menu on a self-selection tick list the evening before and return to Terry or leave on the breakfast table
- All cooked food and hot drinks are delivered to each seating place
- Thicker handled cutlery is always available
- Cold breakfast items, tabletop fridge for yoghurts and juices kept on a 89cm high sideboard
- The room also has a small area with a microwave, crockery and cutlery for guest use

Fridge / Freezer

A fridge for guest use is always available in the breakfast room. By arrangement, fridge and freezer space is available in the kitchen, but no responsibility can be taken for any item held.

Ground Floor Cloakroom

Cloakroom with toilet and hand basin to the left of Room 1

Library

Staying guests have access to some 450 paperbacks and 250 Readers Digest bound volumes of condensed novels.

Trouser Press

There is a trouser press available for guest use.

Laundry

There is a pay Laundromat, with 'Service Wash' available, 1 km south along the Oxford Road leading into the Abingdon Town Centre. They also offer a 'collect and return' laundry service.

10 - 'Easy Access' and 'Allergy Friendly' Bedrooms

10a - 'Easy Access' Bedroom – Room 1

All items as listed under Guest Bedrooms apply to this room. Additionally, this bedroom is the only one at ground level. It has thus been fitted with a number of features to enable users much enhanced independent access, including a wet room.

For all practical purposes this is a room accessible to the majority of wheelchair users, including non-weight bearing persons and as such, has been used by many in comfort and with dignity.

However some dimensions do not meet current full accessibility requirements, as this was a conversion of a room within existing structural load bearing walls on all sides. Please check in advance that the critical measurements will meet your requirements.

The two main pinch points to bear in mind are believed to be the initial turn into the bedroom and the direct front approach to the wash basin in the en-suite wet room.

Photographs are available of all aspects of this bedroom and wet room as well as the description provided. Please ask for more details or contact to discuss as required.

Additional features of Easy Access Bedroom: -

- Two electric adjustable single beds
- All key light switches lowered and reachable whilst lying in bed
- Higher electric socket points including reachable whilst lying in bed
- Red cord for emergency / assistance call to Guest House owner (plus cancel switch)
- Full floor to head height wall mirror faces guest as they leave room
- Both wardrobe doors hung for easy access from the one approach side
- Additional small oil-filled electric radiator for use by guests if required
- Option to add or remove chairs and luggage stand as requested
- Option to store luggage bags and suitcases outside room to create more space

10b - Key features of Wet Room for Room 1

- Overall dimensions of 224cm by 140cm with window set behind toilet
- Access by left turn from bedroom corridor of 86cm width through 90cm doorway width
- Full wet room with blue stippled non-slip flooring and high contrast dark blue grab rails
- White tiles with blue tile décor horizontal line
- A shower wheelchair is available by request, as it is stored outside of the room
- Red cord for emergency / assistance call to Guest House owner (plus cancel switch)
- Space for left-hand transfer to toilet and right-hand transfer to a shower seat
- Wash basin has a thermostatic controlled mixer for basin tap and for shower
- Both high fixed head shower or a lower hand held flexible shower hose
- Mirror above wash basin between 87cm and 157cm height
- Alternative individual items for guests having difficulty using wall mounted dispensers
- A wheeled glass trolley and several wall mounted storage baskets
- Hoists can be hired if notified in advance. They are available from the local stockist

10c - The Easy Access Bedroom and Wet Room in More Detail

For a wheelchair user, the two most limiting gaps are believed to be: -

- Immediate left turn going into the 'Easy Access' Bedroom
- Approach to the wash basin in the en-suite wet room

Entering the bedroom involves passing through the doorway gap of 76cm followed by an immediate left turn required into a bedroom corridor of 86cm width.

In the wet room, the gap between toilet and radiator on wall opposite is 54cm, affecting front approach to the wash basin. Many guests can reach across the short distance from their wheelchair to the wash basin, particularly if wheelchairs legs have been removed. This wash basin is however immediately adjacent and usable by any guest sitting on the toilet.

Bedroom light switch immediately on left side at 115cm height. The door into wet room is immediately on right side. Door is hinged on right and opens outward into corridor, so access is best achieved after entering further into room, using clear turning circle area and returning to this point.

Next on the right, the room width widens to accommodate the nearest bedside cabinet and the first single electric adjustable bed on the far side of that. The two drawer bedside cabinet is 48cm deep to wall and 40cm wide and holds a radio / alarm clock.

Room and wall light switches are reachable whilst lying in the bed as they, and two electric sockets, are located on the wall above the cabinet.

Besides this cabinet is also a red coloured pull cord to activate an audible alarm call to the Guest House owner. If activated in error, the re-set switch is situated by Bedroom door at 180cm height.

Beyond the cabinet is the widest part of the room, giving an unobstructed turning circle of 142cm between the bed and the heating radiator opposite.

A second electric adjustable single bed then extends from this first bed with the head of the bed meeting the outer room wall with window above.

Two light switches reachable whilst lying in the bed to the right of the users head, operate the nearest wall lights and ceiling lights.

Two electric sockets are located on the wall above a two drawer bedside cabinet that is 40cm wide and 48cm deep.

To the left and facing this cabinet is the wardrobe. Both wardrobe doors hinge on the far side and open away from the rest of the room. This allows unrestricted access from between the bed and the wardrobe where the space is 116cm wide.

Adjacent to the left side of the wardrobe is a wall anchored table of 80cm maximum width and 37cm deep to wall and 74cm clearance underneath. This table supports the tea making facilities.

There are two electric sockets underneath table and a mirror just above, between 85cm and 145cm height.

A seat, with or without arm rests, is available for the room or can be removed completely.

10d - 'Allergy Friendly' Bedroom (Key Features) – Room 6

All items listed under Guest bedrooms apply to this room excepting: -

- The room has hardwood flooring instead of carpet
- Fittings and furnishings are fully washable

11 - Nearest Shops and Pubs

The nearest shops are 550 metres from Abbey Guest House. There are others about 1km away further down Oxford Road and again at 1.5km and a similar distance to Peachcroft.

Full inclusive access details are kept at the guest house.

11a – Northcourt Road

Turn right out of Abbey Guest House car park and head southward along Oxford Road for 350 metres before turning right along Northcourt Road for 200 metres. Here you will find a Budgens convenience store and a Post Office, both with level automatic opening door access. A separate Martin's Newsagent has a single high-step access.

The nearest pub is the Boundary House, opposite Northcourt Road, about 450 metres away.

11b – Oxford Road

Staying on Oxford Road will lead to a Tesco, Chinese Take Away, Best One store, Laundrette and Motor Spares shop on the opposite (East) side of the road. These are about 1km from Abbey Guest House.

Further south again is a specialist Cycle sales and repair shop, Londis convenience store and BP Petrol station with small store – all on the original (West) side of the Oxford road as Abbey Guest House. These are around 1.5 km from Abbey Guest House.

11c - Peachcroft

Peachcroft has a range of shops, including Budgens, Blockbuster video hire, Lloyd's chemist, Motor spares, etc. The route is not so direct, so please ask for guidance as it is not too complicated to be directed there.

12 - Transport Options

12a - Trains

The small rail station at Radley is 2 miles away by road. It is not staffed, has no toilet and only the northbound (towards Oxford) platform is level or ramped following works completed in Oct 2009. The south bound (towards Didcot) platform is only reachable by a stepped high bridge. No further works are planned.

Much larger Rail Stations are 6 miles away at Oxford and 8.5 miles distant at Didcot Parkway with connecting buses that stop outside Abbey Guest House. Web sites state both Rail Stations are staffed, have accessible toilets and accessible platforms.

Please check these details with railway station operators First Great Western directly, along with the latest situation on accessibility. In the UK, advance notice of travel by disabled persons is often still required / recommended by train operators. www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk

12b - Buses

Bus services are excellent and buses to Oxford and Abingdon Town Centre pass every 10 minutes and often more frequently at peak times. The buses used are most often modern, low level, 'kneeling' ones with frequent use by wheelchair users observed.

Both Oxford and Didcot Parkway Rail Stations are served by accessible buses that stop outside Abbey Guest House: -

- X2 service from and to Didcot train station
- X3 service from and to Oxford train station

The bus stop nearest to Abbey Guest House is named "South Avenue", which appears on the bus stop signs.

The North bound stop (towards Oxford) is immediately in front of Abbey Guest House, some 45 metres by wheelchair route using the dropped kerbs. The South bound stop (towards Abingdon town centre) is across the road, about 180 metres from front door, using a dropped kerb route.

To demonstrate the range and frequency of bus travel options available, some old timetable leaflets have been scanned and can be viewed on

the [website version](#). Please note that those scanned are now well out of date and have been deliberately chosen. Ensure you always seek the very latest information from: bus company websites, phone lines or latest timetable leaflets at Abbey Guest House or at the nearby bus stops.

Main Bus Operators and Current Timetables

Click on the company name to go to current bus timetables for our area.

[Oxford Bus](#) Company, Freepost OF336, Oxford, OX4 6BR

Customer Services - 01865 785 400

info@oxford.co.uk

www.oxfordbus.co.uk

[Heyfordian](#) Travel, Murdock Road, Bicester, Oxon, OX26 4PP

Tel: +44 (0)1869 241 500

Fax: +44 (0)1869 360 011

www.heyfordian.travel

[Thames Travel](#), (Wallingford) Ltd, Wyndham House, Lester Way, Hithercroft Industrial Estate, Wallingford, OXON, OX10 9TD Tel: 01491 837988 Fax: 01491 838562

email: office@thames-travel.co.uk, (we will respond to your email as soon as we can.)

[Stagecoach services](#) in Oxfordshire are more difficult to view as you need to know the destination or service numbers to get information out of their web site.

oxford.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com

www.stagecoachbus.com/oxfordshire

12c - Taxis

Abingdon has many taxi companies and one company, Vargas Taxis, currently operates at least 9 Metrocabs – a taxi designed and built to offer transport to wheelchair users remaining in their chair. Vargas Taxis Tel: 01235 559 606

12d - Cycling

Abbey Guest House rear garden provides secure under cover storage for guests cycles.

Oxfordshire has an enviable network of cycle lanes, cycle paths that link the towns, villages and countryside. National Cycle Route no 5 passes

through Abingdon and links to other national and major routes through Oxfordshire. Click here to visit the [Sustrans Oxfordshire page](#).

12e - Walking

Mobility Scooters can be securely stored under cover in the rear Garden

All local roads have vehicle free footways alongside and the majority of routes have dropped or lowered kerbs along them enabling wheelchair and mobility vehicle access.

Abingdon town centre is about 2 km from Abbey Guest House.

[The Thames Path National Trail](#) passes through Abingdon and is used by keen long distance walkers, local residents and, by permissive agreement, cyclists.

Gates are always found on public bridleways sometimes on those footpaths closest to the town. Further afield, stiles can be frequent on countryside footpaths and a total hindrance to most people.

Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for [managing local Public Rights of Way](#) including footpaths and bridleways and should be best placed to answer questions about inclusive access through the local countryside.

12f - Shopmobility

This is a mobility scooter, plus manual and electric wheelchair loan service for use in the main shopping centre of Oxford. A basic competence in use test and registration is usually required prior to first loan.

[Oxford](#) Shopmobility

Level 1A, Westgate Multi-storey Car Park, Norfolk Street, Oxford, OX1 1LR

Office: 01865 248 737

Fax: 01865 249 536

Email: a.francis@oxford.gov.uk

13 - Emergencies / Fire Exit / Assistance

Audible smoke alarms are fitted in all rooms of Abbey Guest House. A [Deafgard](#) vibrating pad and strobe light alarm is available for use by any profoundly deaf or heard of hearing guest in any bedroom.

The main front door entrance is the most accessible exit and closest to all bedrooms in time of emergency. The Fire Assembly Point for guests is the front car park in the shelter of the conifer hedge.

Emergency red coloured pull cords with round toggles are fixed in the 'Easy Access' suite. One is beside toilet in the wet room and the other by the bed nearest the wet room. If pulled downward, these activate an audible alarm in the hallway. Terry will respond.

If pulled by mistake the re-set button is on the wall by the top of the bedroom entrance door at 180 cm height.

A rear emergency escape route option via the rear garden is also available. This does involve crossing a 6cm door threshold with an 18cm drop and then going down two steps of 8cm and 11cm. Terry is usually available to assist guests escape through this route, should it be necessary, as she lives on site in the ground floor private area.

Note: It is planned to remove this threshold within a planned extension in the near future.

First Aid Kit

For the very simplest of injuries, we have a first aid kit at the Guest House with small bandages, plasters etc.

Minor Injuries Unit

The nearest local hospital with minor injuries unit is the Abingdon Hospital, Marcham Road, Abingdon, OX14 1AG. Tel: 01235 208 730

Full Accident and Emergency Unit

The nearest full Accident and Emergency unit is at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9DU. Tel: 01865 741 166