



University of Essex

# **Accessibility Information Colchester Campus**



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# Colchester Campus accessibility information

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Colchester Campus was built in the 1960s in a valley surrounded by sloping parkland. Most limitations of age and terrain have been successfully addressed over time and today the campus is:

- **Step-free;** Central campus has level access throughout, and our departments, teaching spaces, social facilities and most routes (with the exception of steeper outlying gradients) are independently accessible to all.
- **Compact;** Our main University buildings are set into the valley around a series of squares. From the centre, you will rarely have to travel very far to reach your destination.
- **Warm and dry;** Wheelchair accessible routes are sometimes a little circuitous, but you can move between almost all departments on central campus without going outside.
- **Well-populated and safe;** The campus design ensures that there should always be people nearby to direct or assist you if you need.

## AccessAble

The University works in partnership with national disability organisation AccessAble, who provide detailed online access guides to many of our campus buildings and facilities. Information about our Colchester campus can be found at [accessable.co.uk/university-of-essex/university-of-essex-colchester-campus/access-guides](https://www.accessable.co.uk/university-of-essex/university-of-essex-colchester-campus/access-guides).

We welcome disabled students, staff and visitors to our campuses, and are committed to removing barriers to education, training and employment for all.

These goals are supported by the University's policy statement on equality, diversity and inclusion. Our dedicated Student Wellbeing and Inclusivity Service offers specialist support, equipment and expertise to students with disabilities and learning difficulties. There is also an Access Forum, which promotes university-wide communication on access issues and contributes to new developments and refurbishments across the University.

The University recognises that comprehensive, accurate information is essential in enabling disabled people to make informed choices. To this end, all access-related campus information is now available from a one-stop portal, [Access@Essex](mailto:Access@Essex) on the University website.

# Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP)

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The University wishes to assist all students or members of staff who may have difficulty in evacuating any campus buildings in the event of an emergency such as a fire. These difficulties could arise from permanent, long term or temporary disability. Although not exhaustive, the following is a guide as to what may be relevant:

- **Cognitive;** Could be such as panic attacks or inability to follow or comprehend instructions
- **Dexterity;** Issues which may cause difficulty opening doors.
- **Hearing;** Possible lack of awareness that a fire alarm has actuated or be able to follow directions (signs or verbal).
- **Mobility;** Impairment ranging from strains and sprains through use of walking aids or wheelchair; most relevant are problems using stairs, travelling distances or open doors.
- **Vision;** Possible lack of awareness that a fire alarm has actuated or be able to follow directions (signs or verbal).

If you believe you may have difficulty during emergency evacuations of University buildings you should contact the Student Wellbeing and Inclusivity Service, (SWIS) at [include@essex.ac.uk](mailto:include@essex.ac.uk) or Fire Safety Team who will arrange for your Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) assessment to be undertaken with you so any evacuation arrangements you may require can be organised.

As required, the details of PEEP assessment and any arrangements made may be shared with relevant services as explained at [essex.ac.uk/student/fire-safety/peep](http://essex.ac.uk/student/fire-safety/peep), such as Campus Security, to ensure that the correct facilities and procedures for your safety are in place. Your details will be administered on a completely confidential basis.

Students that have visitors who may have difficulty on evacuation are required to notify the Fire Safety Team or Security as appropriate before or on their visitors' arrival on campus and to encourage or arrange for visitors to use the most suitable areas of campus.

The relevant PEEP forms and further information can be found at: [essex.ac.uk/student/fire-safety/peep](http://essex.ac.uk/student/fire-safety/peep).

To submit a PEEP or for any enquiries, please contact the University Fire Safety Team using the email address: [fire@essex.ac.uk](mailto:fire@essex.ac.uk).

# Student services information

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- **Student Services Hubs**

For practical advice, a confidential conversation or general information, no matter what your query, our Student Services Hub is the place to go. You can ask about health and wellbeing, accommodation, funding, exam stress and much more. More information can be found at: [essex.ac.uk/students/contact/default.aspx](https://essex.ac.uk/students/contact/default.aspx).

Full information on the support and services available can be found at: [essex.ac.uk/student/professional-services/student-wellbeing-and-inclusivity-team](https://essex.ac.uk/student/professional-services/student-wellbeing-and-inclusivity-team).

- **SWIS drop in**

The 'drop in' facility is a key feature of the Student Wellbeing and Inclusivity Service and operates across all campuses. Students can access 'drop in' advice in person, remotely by Zoom using the [online enquiry form](#), via email or by phone and live-chat has been added to the access routes available to students seeking support.

## Academic and Learning Support

The University provides the following academic and learning based support to assist you:

- **A named adviser from the Student Wellbeing and Inclusivity Service (SWIS)**

If you register with SWIS by providing a copy of your medical or diagnostic evidence and complete our Student Support Confidentiality Agreement (your permission for us to share information with relevant staff) you will have a named adviser within our service who will be able to provide advice and information about the support available to you and how to get this in place.

- **Orientation support**

SWIS is able to offer initial orientation tours of campus for students who may be anxious about being in a new environment. If you require initial or ongoing orientation support to get to and from your lectures, please do contact us so we can provide advice and information about how these may be provided and funded.

# Student services information

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- **Student Support Notification**

This provides information to your department / school / centre about your disability and how your support needs may be met in your academic studies.

- **Individual Exam Arrangements**

You can apply for individual exam arrangements via your named adviser in SWIS. These might include extra writing time, rest breaks, alternative format exam papers, examination scribes or readers. Please do contact us to discuss this.

- **Cover Sheets**

If you have a diagnosis of Specific Learning Difference, such as dyslexia, or an autistic spectrum condition, you may wish to use coversheets for your assignments to alert the marker to difficulties you encounter when writing.

If you have registered your disability and provided evidence of your condition to SWIS and are eligible for a cover sheet then this will automatically be applied to coursework submitted via FASER. If you wish to opt out of this option you can do so when you submit coursework. FASER (Feedback Assessment Submission Electronic Repository) is the University's online coursework submission assessment and feedback service.

- **Notetakers**

If you have disability related difficulties with independent notetaking and your needs are not met by the Listen Again service, please ask us about notetaker support. We may ask you to complete an assessment process with us to help ensure this is the best support for you. If a notetaker is in place then this support provision is paid by the University.

- **Listen Again**

Listen Again is the University's lecture capture and playback service. It records your lectures so you can listen back at a time that is convenient to you. The majority of main lectures for core / compulsory modules are recorded centrally via the Listen Again system. Information about Listen Again can be found at: [essex.ac.uk/student/learningtechnologies/listen-again](http://essex.ac.uk/student/learningtechnologies/listen-again).

- **Coursework Deadlines**

Deadlines are published in advance and should give you time to plan and pace your completion of coursework. If you have difficulties submitting coursework by the deadline date, do keep your lecturer informed. There is an online procedure for extenuating circumstances that you can use if you miss a deadline. You can find more information at: [essex.ac.uk/student/exams-andcoursework/extenuating-circumstances](http://essex.ac.uk/student/exams-andcoursework/extenuating-circumstances).

# Student services information

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## ● Reasonable Adjustments

The University has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to put in place and consider requests for reasonable adjustments to ensure you are not placed at a significant disadvantage during your studies. Reasonable adjustments will not change the learning objectives or academic / competence / professional standards of your course but can consider how these are assessed. They may also include things like advanced notification of coursework titles and deadlines, permission to record lectures, targeted reading list and cover sheets. If you have any questions about the academic support that will be available to you, please do contact SWIS.

## ● Adapted or Alternative Assessment

Adapted assessment is where the assessment task remains the same for all students but the conditions are changed specifically for disabled students. This may be considered where alternative assessment cannot be offered, as it would compromise the learning objectives or academic / professional standards of your course.

Alternative assessment is where a different assessment task is prepared specifically for a disabled student.

If your disability means you are placed at a significant disadvantage by the assessment task then please do talk with your named adviser in SWIS.

## ● Timetables

SWIS can liaise with the timetabling team, or timetable organisers, to let them know about your accessibility needs and to identify changes that can be made, such as changing the location of a teaching room. It is not usually possible to reschedule the main lecture for your modules, but where there are a number of seminar or tutor groups you can request a change of group where this offers you the opportunity to condense or reduce your teaching events on a particular day. We can also include information in your Student Support notification so, should it take you longer to navigate around campus between lectures, this is considered.

## ● Albert Sloman Library Service

Our library offers various support to disabled students including those who require alternative format materials. Please see the library information page for additional accessibility support available at: [library.essex.ac.uk](http://library.essex.ac.uk).

## ● Computing Facilities

Assistive technology software and equipment are available in the open access labs. More information can be found at: [essex.ac.uk/student/it-services/assistive-technologies](http://essex.ac.uk/student/it-services/assistive-technologies). You can find the location of computer labs at: [essex.ac.uk/student/it-services/computers-on-campus](http://essex.ac.uk/student/it-services/computers-on-campus).

# Student services information

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## ● Skills for Success

Our Skills for Success team offers support and resources to help students to reach their potential and enhance their chances of success. The team works closely with academic departments to deliver support with academic study skills, researching, assignment writing, mathematics and statistics, digital skills, English language and more. You can find more information at: [essex.ac.uk/student/academic-skills/workshops](https://essex.ac.uk/student/academic-skills/workshops).

## ● Departmental Disability Liaison Officer (DDLO)

Each department has a DDLO who:

1. Has a knowledge of the subject area you are studying and the structure of the department.
2. Can provide advice about the University's specialist support services.
3. Can act as a link between the department and the Student Services Hub.
4. Is available if you wish to disclose or initially discuss your needs with them.
5. Can liaise with lecturers if you are worried, or embarrassed, about talking to them about disability related difficulties.

6. Can assist if you feel the reasonable adjustments recommended are not being implemented by the department.
7. Can provide advice if you are experiencing problems with your academic progress as a result of a permanent or temporary disability, medical condition or specific learning difficulty and who will be able to find out about the options available to you.
8. Will listen to your concerns confidentially.
9. More information can be found at: [essex.ac.uk/student/access-and-disability/ddlo](https://essex.ac.uk/student/access-and-disability/ddlo).

## ● Personal Tutor

Your personal tutor is there to help you feel connected to your department and is someone you can talk to if you have questions about your course or encounter any difficulties which affect your studies. You can find more information at:

[essex.ac.uk/student/personal-tutor](https://essex.ac.uk/student/personal-tutor).

You can find further information on support available at: [essex.ac.uk/student/access-anddisability](https://essex.ac.uk/student/access-anddisability). You can find guidance on physical accessibility on campus at: [essex.ac.uk/student/access-and-disability/accessible-travel](https://essex.ac.uk/student/access-and-disability/accessible-travel).



# Student services information

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## ● Disabled Students' Allowances

UK students may be eligible to apply for these allowances to cover some of the extra costs they may experience in accessing their academic studies. More information can be found at: [gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas](http://gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas). These allowances are not means tested and they are not a loan that has to be paid back. You can get help with the cost of specialist equipment e.g. computer, assistive software, non-medical helpers such as Specialist Mentor (Mental Health or Autistic Spectrum Condition)

and extra travel costs because of your disability (this may cover the difference between your public transport costs and specialist transport costs). We encourage students who are eligible to apply and application form are usually available from March / April of the year you are coming to University.

EU and international students may wish to contact their own Government to see if additional allowances are available to them.

Please do talk with SWIS and ask for more information about disability funding.

## The Students' Union

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The Disabilities officer, who is a democratically elected Student Community Officer, works part-time with the Students' Union in order to represent you and the issues that your community faces in Essex. The Disabilities Officer sits on the Just Play Committee to ensure events put on are as accessible as possible.

The Students' Union is an organisation run for students, by students. Within the SU there is the SU parliament. If you want to be part of the democratic action you will have

a chance to run for a Students with Disabilities position when student elections begin.

There is representation and support through SU Advice to ensure reasonable adjustments are made for each student to engage with their degree.

The SU ensures that there are opportunities to openly voice your experiences and gain support through the "How Are You?" campaign.

# Parking for those who have a disability

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Those with a blue badge can register their vehicle each year for a small fee and use the accessible parking spaces on the surface car parks for free as long as a valid badge is displayed.

For those with more limiting conditions an application to student services can be made for a dedicated space under podia. Upon assessment from SWIS and if space is available, one will be allocated.

If you do not have a blue badge but have a disability, you can make an application to bring a vehicle onto campus. See; [essex.ac.uk/student/travel-and-transport/parking-for-students](https://essex.ac.uk/student/travel-and-transport/parking-for-students). Your application will be assessed by SWIS.

If you are living in campus accommodation, you will not be able to use the automated application process for registering a vehicle. However, you can apply by emailing [travel@essex.ac.uk](mailto:travel@essex.ac.uk). If you require a carer to visit campus, we may be able to assist with that person's parking. This is considered on a case-by-case basis. For more information, please email [travel@essex.ac.uk](mailto:travel@essex.ac.uk).

The Under-Podia spaces have the benefit of:

- **Central and Step-Free** Lifts provide level-access from under-podia to all five main squares, with most departments, teaching spaces and social facilities easily accessible from there on.
- **Dry** Under-Podia routes onto campus entail relatively short distances and have the benefit of being mostly undercover.
- **Well-populated and safe** Under-Podia is a busy area and there should always be people nearby to direct or assist you if needed.

Clearly marked pedestrian zones provide walkers and wheelchair users with the safest passage route.

The local travel information can be found on the existing webpages [Travel and transport | Student Directory | University of Essex](#).

# Accommodation in Colchester

## New Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students

When you have received and accepted your academic offer from the University, you will be able to apply for accommodation online via the myEssex Applicant Portal. Please make sure you apply by the deadline. During the application process, you will be asked whether you have an individual need relating to a hearing impairment, a visual impairment or a mobility issue.

You will then be directed to contact the Student Wellbeing and Inclusivity Service (SWIS) so that you can discuss your accommodation requirements in more detail. SWIS can recommend campus accommodation for students with a physical disability, sensory impairment, mental health condition or long-term medical condition, which severely restricts a student's mobility or ability to live off campus. Individual requirements may include:

- Needing a wheelchair accessible room
- Visual or tactile alerts to emergency alarms for hearing impairment
- A ground floor room if you cannot use stairs

It is very important that you engage with SWIS so that you are provided with the right type of accommodation to meet your needs. SWIS can be contacted by emailing [include@essex.ac.uk](mailto:include@essex.ac.uk). Further information about the services SWIS provide may be obtained at: [essex.ac.uk/student/access-and-disability](https://essex.ac.uk/student/access-and-disability) and [essex.ac.uk/student/professional-services/student-wellbeing-and-inclusivity-team](https://essex.ac.uk/student/professional-services/student-wellbeing-and-inclusivity-team).

You may be asked to complete an **accommodation on medical grounds application form** to give SWIS as much information as possible about your specific requirements. You may be asked to provide medical evidence. Please note, if your evidence is not in English you will be asked to provide a certified translation of the document, as well as providing a copy of the original document. If you have any disability related needs that may affect your accommodation allocation and have any questions about what is available, please do contact SWIS. SWIS will liaise with Accommodation Essex and arrange a visit for you to view rooms and / or for these to be available for a care assessment by an external occupational therapist or other health professional.

In some circumstances, we may need you to ask your doctor or specialist to organise an **occupational health assessment** of where you will be living so we have this specialist advice about any essential adaptations.

## Returning Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students

If you have been identified as having an individual need, in your first year, you will be assigned a named adviser from the SWIS team.

Your adviser will be able to provide advice and information about support which may be beneficial and how to get this in place.

If you will have disability related difficulties with moving to off campus accommodation in the following academic years, you can apply for accommodation as a returning student by completing an **accommodation on medical grounds application form**. Your adviser will tell you about this.





## Adapted Rooms

There are a number of adapted en-suite bedrooms with shared kitchens at the Colchester Campus that are suitable for wheelchair users. We also have rooms that are suitable for students with hearing impairments. Detailed information about these rooms can be seen from page 47 onwards. You can also find information about these rooms at: [essex.ac.uk/life/accommodation/how-to-apply/students-with-individual-needs](https://essex.ac.uk/life/accommodation/how-to-apply/students-with-individual-needs).

The room information provided later in the brochure details which flats and rooms have automated doors. These doors are generally via fob access. If you are not able to use a fob, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can discuss and agree how access to these areas can be facilitated.

Please be aware that all of our en-suite rooms have showers and not baths.

If you require further adaptations or specialist equipment, it is very important that you let us know at the earliest opportunity, so that SWIS, Accommodation Essex, Estates Maintenance and Fire Safety staff can work closely with you to make sure that your room is completed in time for you to move in at the beginning of term.

**Please note:** Delays in providing information about your required specialist equipment/adaptations and any funding you have secured for room adaptations may mean that the University cannot guarantee fitting will be completed in time for you to move in at the beginning of term.

## Personal Carers

If you currently have, or will have, a personal carer, please let us know at the earliest opportunity. We will be able to arrange for your carer to have appropriate access to your room when you move in.

All students will need to cover the costs of their personal care needs, such as support you would need at your home address. This includes personal care assistance such as assistance getting dressed and undressed, getting up from and into bed, taking medication, eating, drinking, accessing the toilets, shopping and cleaning.

The University is not able to provide or fund personal care support. Please do consider the support needs you have between lectures during the day and to attend extra-curricular activities as this should be considered in any care assessment.

If you have been supported by family members prior to coming to Essex, then

you may find it useful to keep a diary of the support they provide over a week or month, e.g. what they do, time of day or night and how long it takes, so that you have this information available. UK students should contact their local council to ask for a care needs assessment. If you are applying for UK general disability allowances for the first time, this can take a considerable time. So, as soon as you are considering living on campus, please contact your council Adult Social Care Team so they can assess your needs and agree a care plan and funding for this.

If you are an overseas student, please do consider how these additional costs will be met and ensure that your personal care support is organised prior to your arrival in the UK, so it is available as soon as you move into your campus accommodation. You can find local care providers via a Google search or via the Essex County Council website. You can contact them to discuss your support needs and ask for a quotation of their fees, terms and conditions.





## Wheelchairs/Mobility Scooters

The University is not able to provide or cover the cost of wheelchairs or mobility scooters. If you do not currently have this equipment and / or cannot bring it with you please consider purchasing this before you come and arrange for it to be delivered to the campus ready for your arrival.

## Visual Impairments

There are no adapted rooms specifically for students who have severe visual impairments. If you require adaptations that will help with your independence in your room and shared areas e.g. lighting, high contrast (toilet seats / shower curtains) or textured surfaces please discuss these with SWIS.



## **Permission to have a fridge in your accommodation room**

If you have medication that needs to be kept refrigerated, you can request to have a small fridge in your room. Please email [include@essex.ac.uk](mailto:include@essex.ac.uk) with your request. You will need to provide evidence that your medication needs to be stored in a refrigerator. If your request is approved, we will arrange for a fridge to be provided in your room.

If you wish to have a small fridge in your room for any other reason, you will need to request permission for this and supply your own fridge. Please email [askthehub@essex.ac.uk](mailto:askthehub@essex.ac.uk).

## **Permission to have alternative desks, chairs, beds in your room**

All furniture should meet the necessary fire standards and you may be asked to provide proof of this. In standard rooms with no adaptations, desks and beds may be in a fixed position and height. If this is a concern for you please do let SWIS know by emailing [include@essex.ac.uk](mailto:include@essex.ac.uk), so that they can liaise with Accommodation Essex about this. Accommodation Essex can arrange to remove standard fixtures and fittings where appropriate for your individual needs.

## **Accommodation Bursary**

If, because of the nature of your impairment, it is essential that you have a wheelchair accessible room and / or en-suite bathroom facilities you can apply via [SWIS](#) to be considered for an accommodation bursary which will give a set rent reduction for your accommodation.



## How we can help you

The following University services work together to help ensure that room adaptations are carried out:

### ● SWIS

provides advice on:

1. Possible sources of funding for personal care need.
2. Liaison with Accommodation Essex.

You can email [include@essex.ac.uk](mailto:include@essex.ac.uk) or call +44 1206 874635.

### ● Accommodation Essex

provides information on the standard adaptations already available in University accommodation and advises on accommodation arrangements for live in personal care assistants. More information can be found at: [essex.ac.uk/life/accommodation/howto-apply/students-with-individual-needs](http://essex.ac.uk/life/accommodation/howto-apply/students-with-individual-needs).

You can email [askthehub@essex.ac.uk](mailto:askthehub@essex.ac.uk) or call +44 1206 874000.

### ● Estates Maintenance

provides technical compliance support if external suppliers are to be used for the installation of specialist equipment. External suppliers will be required to follow University policies to access the accommodation and work in a safe way. They will need to provide the required documentation to Accommodation Essex, who will liaise with the Estates Management team to facilitate the work. We will need to have sufficient advance notice, prior to any work commencing on campus. More information can be found at: [essex.ac.uk/information/emergencies-security-and-safety/contractor-health-and-safety](http://essex.ac.uk/information/emergencies-security-and-safety/contractor-health-and-safety).

You can email [askthehub@essex.ac.uk](mailto:askthehub@essex.ac.uk) or call +44 1206 874000.

### ● Fire Safety Manager

provides fire safety information and training to you and your personal care assistants on basic fire safety, safe evacuation and, where necessary, use of specialist evacuation equipment. More information can be found at: [essex.ac.uk/student/fire-safety](http://essex.ac.uk/student/fire-safety).

The Fire Safety Manager will also assist you with your Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP). You can find more information at: [essex.ac.uk/student/fire-safety/peep](http://essex.ac.uk/student/fire-safety/peep).

You can email [safety@essex.ac.uk](mailto:safety@essex.ac.uk), or call +44 1206 872944

## How you can help us

We need your help to ensure suitable adaptations are carried out in time for your intended arrival and for the safety of you and your personal care assistants (if applicable) whilst living on Campus, please contact the Student Wellbeing and Inclusivity Service (SWIS) at: [include@essex.ac.uk](mailto:include@essex.ac.uk), to discuss your individual needs.

If you require further adaptations or specialist equipment to your room, such as a hoist, special bed or to help with your visual impairment or have a personal carer, you will need to:

- Liaise with your local Social Services/ NHS continuing care team with regard to a care plan and the funding available to you for specialist equipment and/ or personal assistants. Please provide a copy of this to your named adviser.
- Provide your named adviser with written confirmation of funding for any additional rooms for personal care support provision from your local council/Social Services/NHS continuing care team. If this is not confirmed, please speak to your named adviser.
- Provide your named adviser with written confirmation of funding for any specialist equipment and installation (for example, a hoist).
- Put suitable arrangements in place for the regular inspection / maintenance / cleaning of equipment (as specified by the equipment supplier). All electrical equipment must have a current PAT Test certification and all equipment must comply with current Fire Regulations.
- Confirm to Accommodation Essex the details of any specialist equipment that is installed into your study room. And provide Accommodation Essex with a copy of the equipment maintenance contract/s and servicing schedule/s covering the period of your study. Please note: the University will not be responsible for any maintenance or associated costs of specialist equipment you have had installed, unless this is agreed in advance in writing by Accommodation Essex.
- Recruit, appoint and arrange payment for your carers (you may prefer to consider an external service provider who will do this on your behalf).
- Have an emergency arrangement for your support in place should a personal care assistant be ill or unavailable.
- Arrange for your personal care assistants to have information and training appropriate for their role, including orientation of campus, moving and handling of people training and use of any specialist equipment. You will also need to make sure they have ongoing support and supervision to ensure safe working practices are followed.
- Liaise with the Fire Safety Manager to ensure that you and your personal care assistants receive fire safety training and that your PEEP is in place.

It is very important that you engage with us at the earliest opportunity so that we can work with you to make sure your room is ready for you to move into at the beginning of term. An accommodation manager will visit you within the first two weeks of you moving in to check everything is fine.

When you move out of your room, you must arrange for the removal of any specialist equipment and the cost of making good, so that the room is returned to its original condition. Please confirm to Accommodation Essex when you have put these arrangements in place.

## Residence Life

There are many routes for social interaction with your peers or welfare advice and support if you feel that you may need this.

The team of Residents' Assistants (RAs) are here to help you settle into university life, answer any questions you may have, organise fun events so you can meet new people and help you solve flat issues or disagreements via flat meetings. Residence life don't offer targeted specialised support to students with individual needs, however the service aims to help students have a positive experience of living and learning at Essex. Our events are open to all students and you can find them on the University What's On page at: [essex.ac.uk/events?page=1&organiser=residence-life](https://essex.ac.uk/events?page=1&organiser=residence-life). The RAs can also offer low level welfare support by providing a listening ear and signposting to the appropriate services. If you live in University accommodation, you will be assigned an RA who will be in touch with you. However, if you are unsure who your RA is, please drop us an email and we will put you in touch.

RAs also provide support to off-campus students and help build the larger Essex community. They run Residence Life Open Door drop-ins for students who live off-campus and who are looking to get some advice or guidance. Whether you want to have a chat, don't know where to find the solution to your problem, or have a question to ask – our RAs are here to help.

- [Webpage](#)
- [Events Page](#)
- [Social Media](#)

# Adapted rooms and kitchen information, room plans and images

## Accessibility in The Houses

Door information	All rooms
Building entrance door automatic	✓
Flat door automatic	✓
Bedroom door automatic	✓
Kitchen door automatic	✓

Bedroom information	Room type A	Room type B	Room type C	Room type D	Room type E
Hard-wired deaf alarm	–	✓	✓	✓	–
Flashing beacon in smoke detector	–	✓	✓	–	–
Disable refuge pull cord, beacon and reset panel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Height adjustable desk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Automatic window blinds (remote control operated)	✓	✓	✓	✓	–
Automatic blackout blinds (remote control operated)	✓	✓	✓	✓	–
Mechanical window opener (crank handle operated)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Adapted rooms and kitchen information, room plans and images

## Accessibility in The Houses

Bedroom en-suite information	Room type A	Room type B	Room type C	Room type D	Room type E
Automatic door with touch pad for entry and exit	✓	✓	-	-	-
Fire alarm warning beacon	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Disabled refuge pull cord and beacon with reset panel in bedroom	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Disabled refuge pull cord x2 and beacon with reset panel in bedroom	-	-	✓	-	-
Wheelchair accessible handbasin with safety mixer tap and grab rails	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fixed head shower and adjustable shower on riser rail	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fold up shower seat with grab rails	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Toilet with grab rails	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Closomat toilet with grab rails	-	-	✓	-	-
Mechanical window opener (crank handle operated)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heated towel rail	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

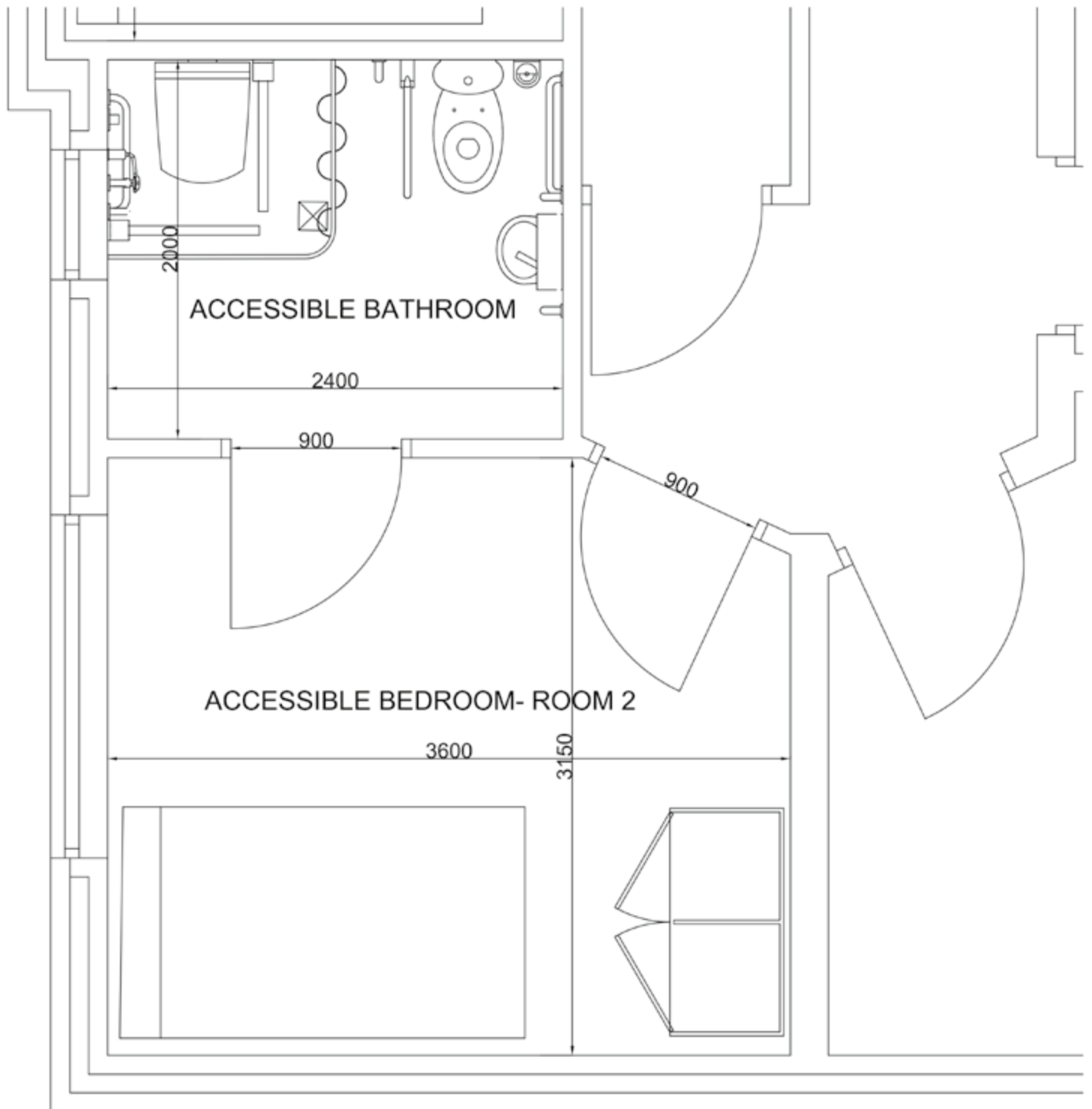
# Adapted rooms and kitchen information, room plans and images

## Accessibility in The Houses

Shared kitchen information	Room type A	Room type B	Room type C	Room type D	Room type E
Fire alarm beacon and sounder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Height adjustable sink, worktop and hob (crank handle operated)	✓	✓	-	-	-
Height adjustable sink, worktop, and hob (push button operated)	-	-	✓	-	✓
Non-adjustable wheelchair accessible sink, worktop and hob	-	-	-	✓	-
Wheelchair accessible oven	-	-	✓	-	✓
Automatic window blinds (remote control operated)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Mechanical window opener (crank handle operated)	-	-	-	✓	-
Automated windows (wall switch operated)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓

## Examples of Adapted rooms – The Houses

### Example 1, The Houses accessible bedroom



**Example 1, The Houses accessible bedroom**

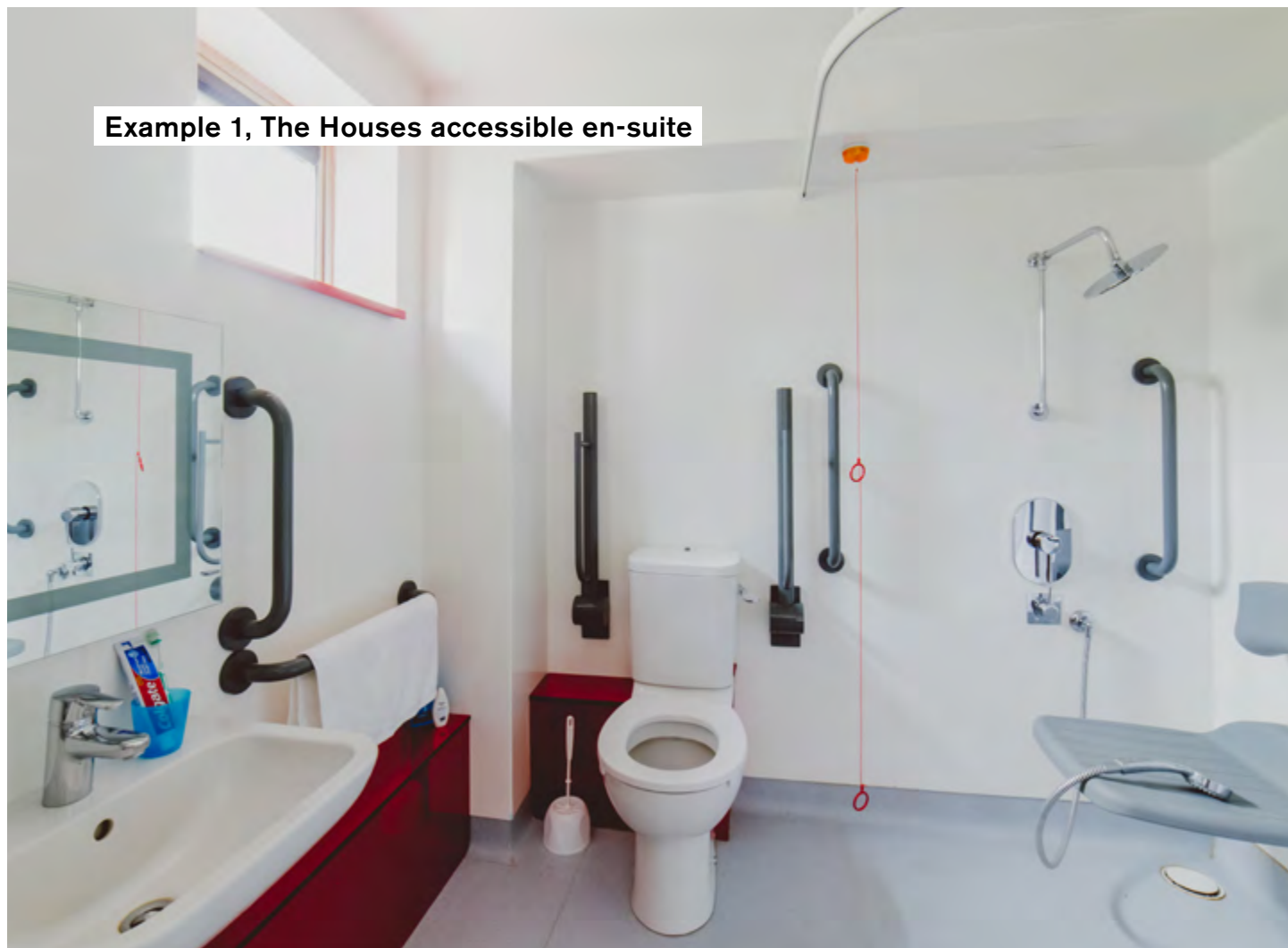




Example 1, The Houses accessible bedroom

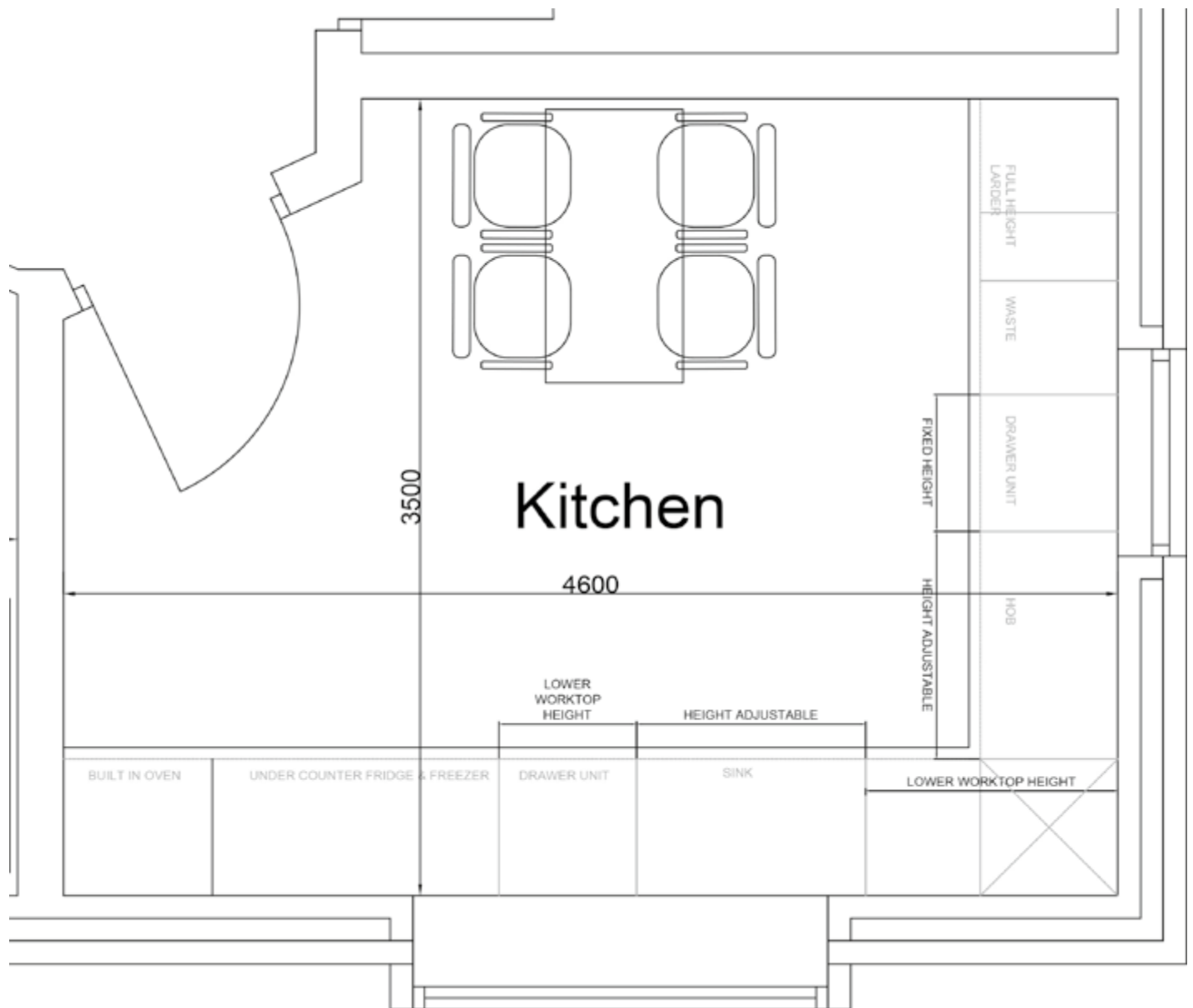


Example 1, The Houses accessible en-suite

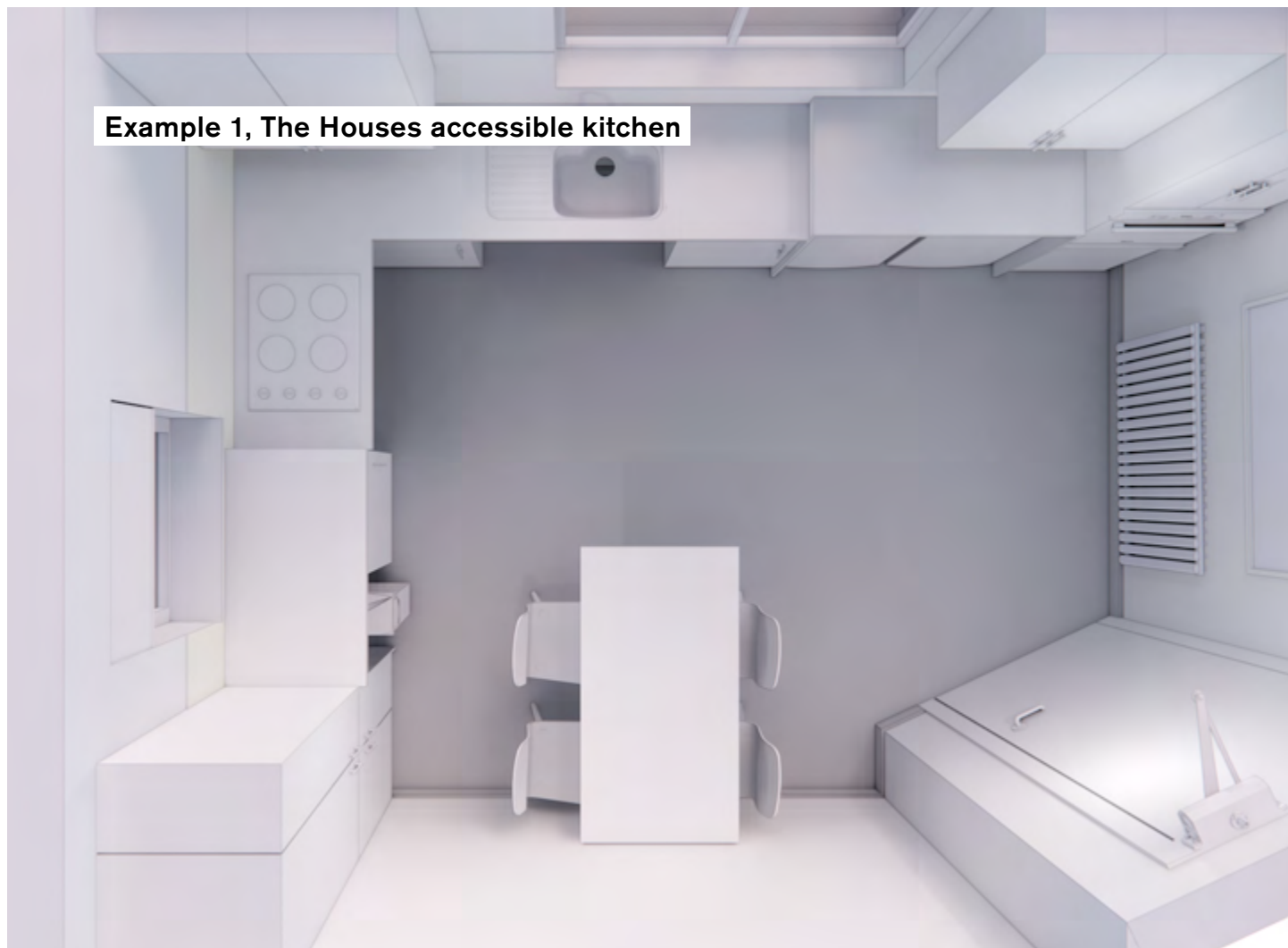


# Examples of Adapted Kitchen – The Houses

## Example 1, The Houses accessible kitchen



Example 1, The Houses accessible kitchen



**Example 1, The Houses accessible kitchen**



# Adapted rooms and kitchen information, room plans and images

## Accessible South Courts

Door information	All rooms
Building entrance door automatic	✓
Flat door automatic	✓
Bedroom door automatic	✓
Kitchen door automatic	✓

Bedroom information	All rooms
Fire alarm beacon	✓
Door bell with light strobe	✓
Disabled refuge pull cord and beacon with reset panel in en-suite	✓
Low surface temperature radiators x2	✓
Height adjustable desk	✓
Automatic window blinds (remote control operated)	✓

# Adapted rooms and kitchen information, room plans and images

## Accessible South Courts

Bedroom en-suite information	Room type A	Room type B	Room type C
Fire alarm warning beacon	✓	-	-
Disabled refuge pull cord, beacon and reset panel	✓	✓	✓
Wheelchair accessible handbasin with safety mixer tap and grab rails	✓	✓	✓
Fixed head shower and adjustable shower on riser rail	✓	✓	✓
Fold up shower seat with grab rails	✓	✓	✓
Closomat toilet with grab rails	✓	-	✓
Heated towel rail with wall mounted control on wall outside of bathroom	✓	✓	✓
Grab rail on back of bathroom door	✓	✓	✓

# Adapted rooms and kitchen information, room plans and images

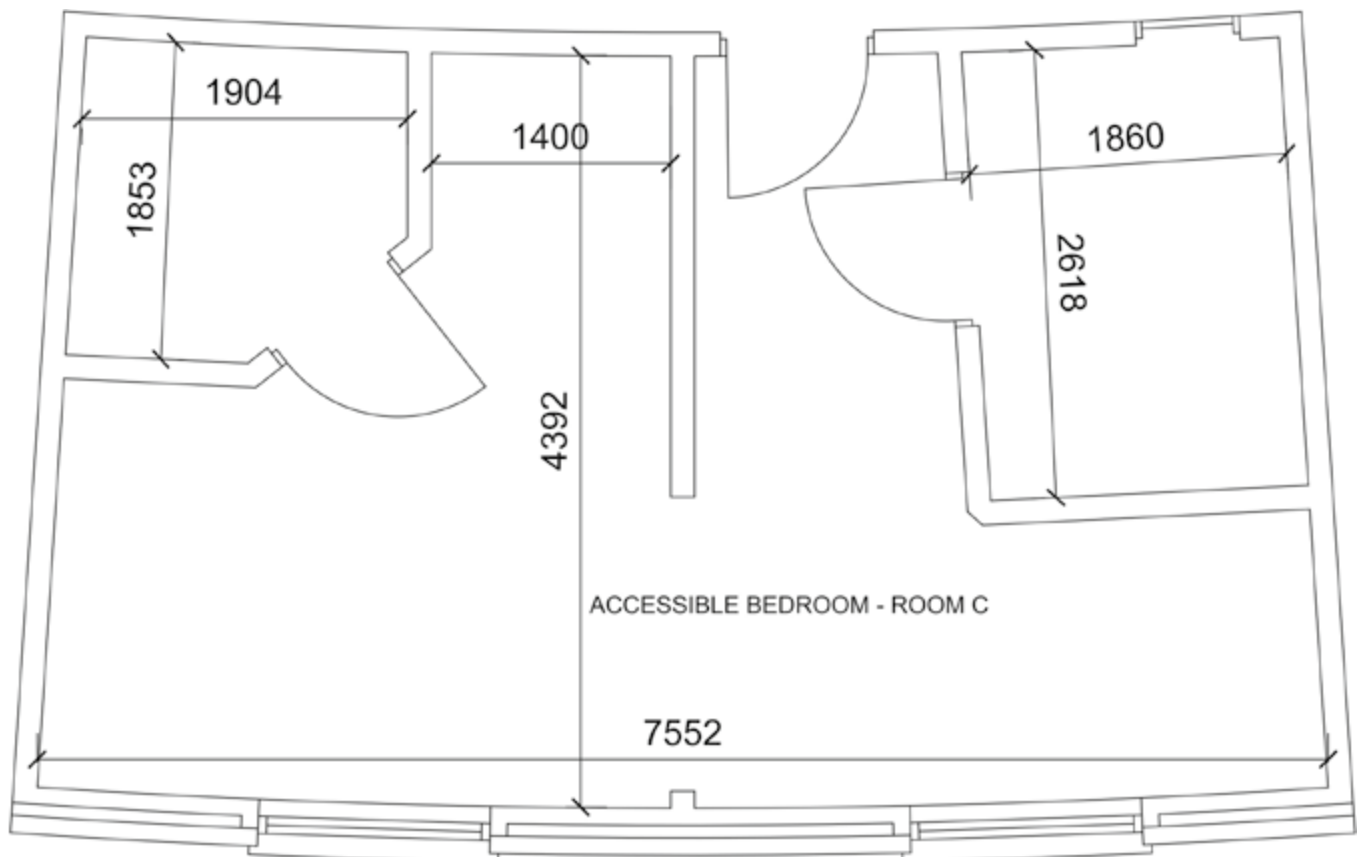
## Accessible South Courts

Shared kitchen information	Kitchen 1 for room type A	Kitchen for room type B & C	Kitchen 2 for room type A
Fire alarm beacon and sounder	✓	✓	✓
Height adjustable sink, worktop and hob (crank handle operated)	-	-	✓
Non-adjustable wheelchair accessible sink, worktop and hob	✓	✓	-
Wheelchair accessible oven with slide opening door	-	-	✓
Disabled refuge pull cord, beacon and reset panel	✓	✓	✓
Automated window blinds (wall switch operated)	✓	-	-



## Examples of Adapted rooms – South Courts

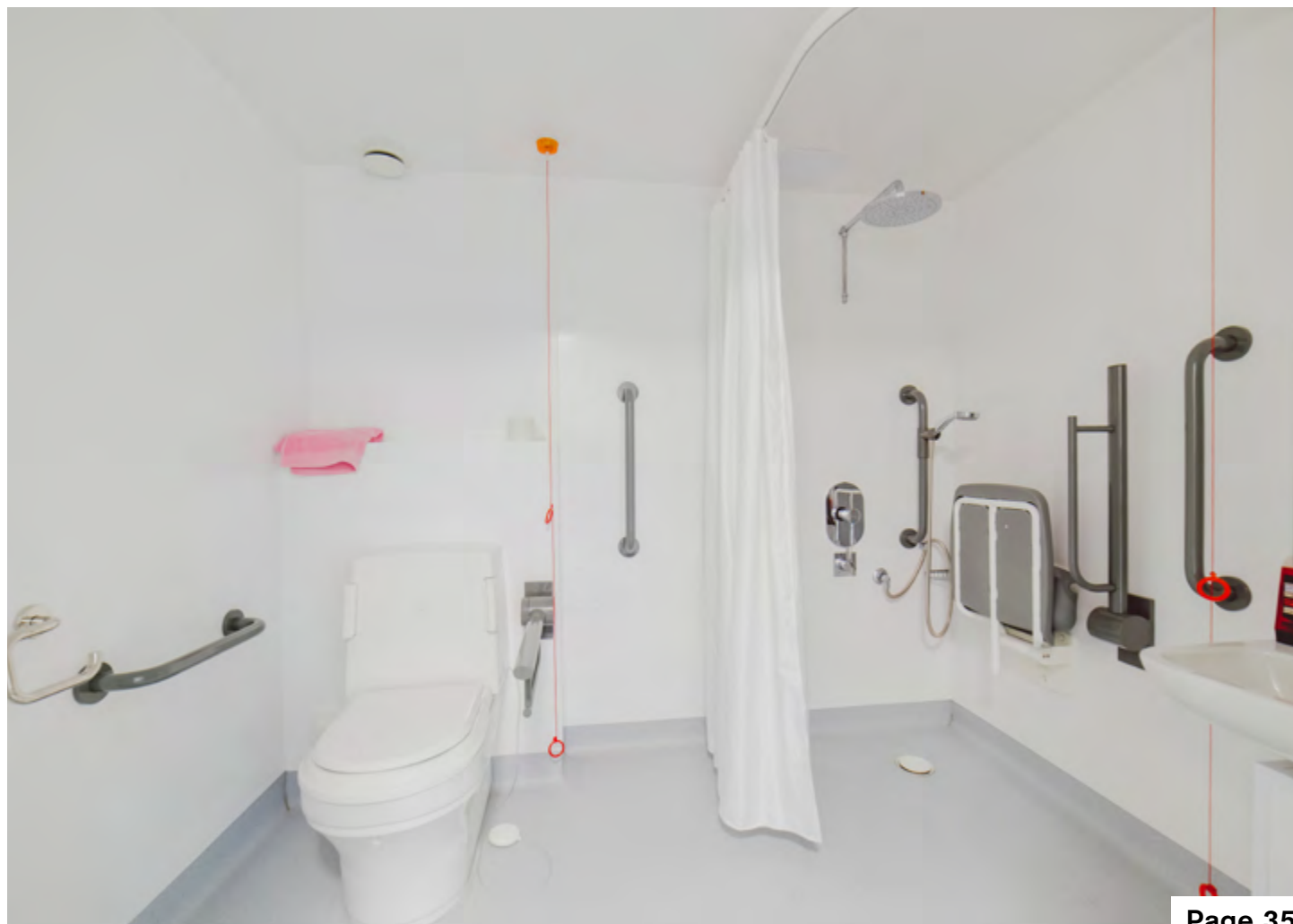
Example 3, South Courts accessible bedroom



Example 3, South Courts accessible bedroom

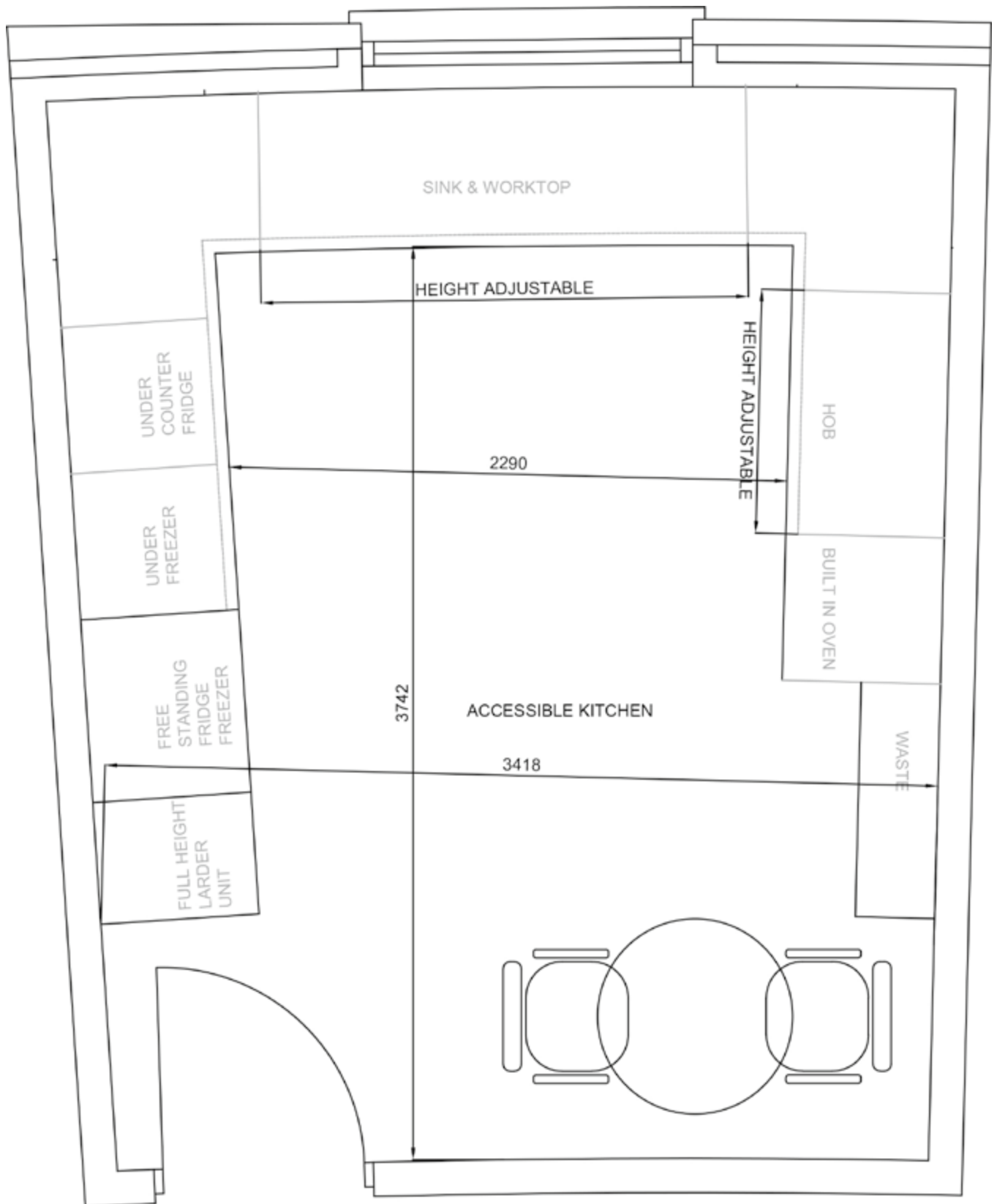


Example 3, South Courts accessible bedroom



## Examples of Adapted Kitchen – South Courts

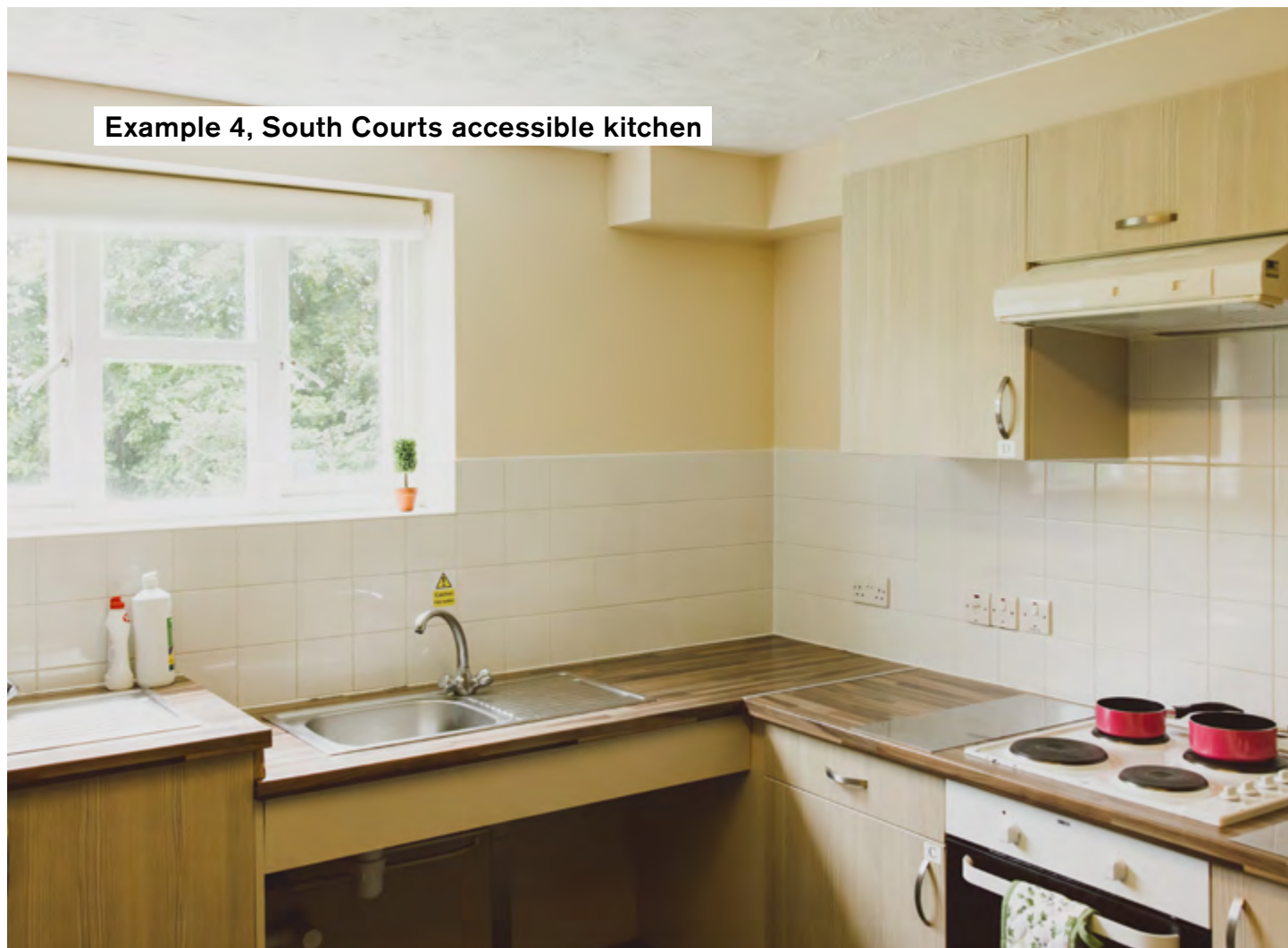
Example 4, South Courts accessible kitchen



Example 4, South Courts accessible kitchen



Example 4, South Courts accessible kitchen



# Adapted rooms and kitchen information, room plans and images

## Accessible The Copse

Door information	Both rooms
Building entrance door automatic	✓

Bedroom information	Both rooms
Hard-wired deaf alarm	✓
Flashing beacon in smoke detector	✓
Disabled refuge pull cord, beacon and reset panel	✓
Automatic window blinds (remote control operated)	✓
Automated windows (push switch operated)	✓

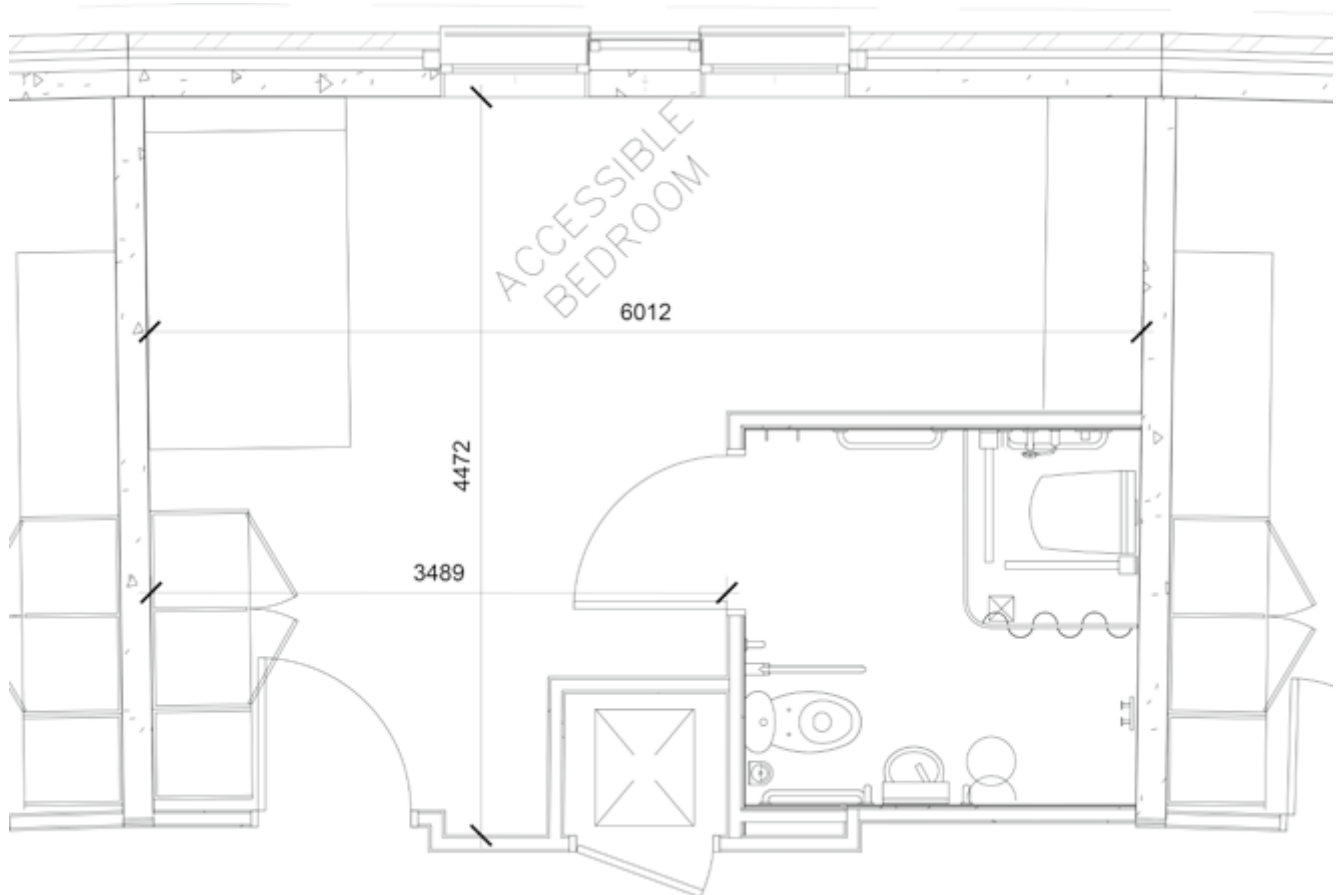
Bedroom en-suite information	Both rooms
Disabled refuge pull cord, beacon and reset panel	✓
Wheelchair accessible handbasin with safety mixer tap and grab rails	✓
Fixed head shower and adjustable shower in riser rail	✓

Shared kitchen information	Both kitchens
Height adjustable sink, worktop and hob (crank handle operated)	✓
Wheelchair accessible oven	-

## Examples of Adapted rooms – The Copse

Example 5, The Copse accessible bedroom





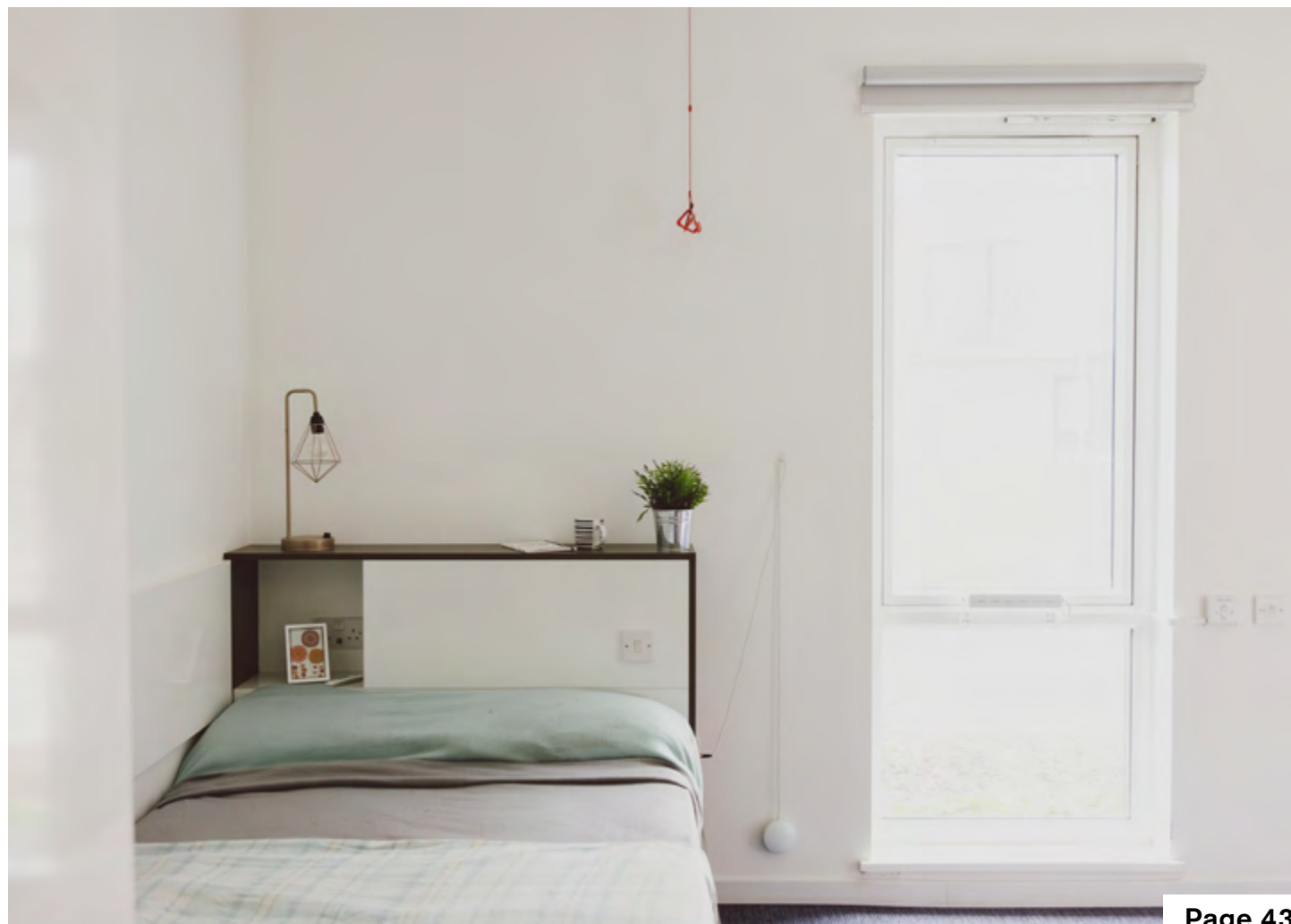
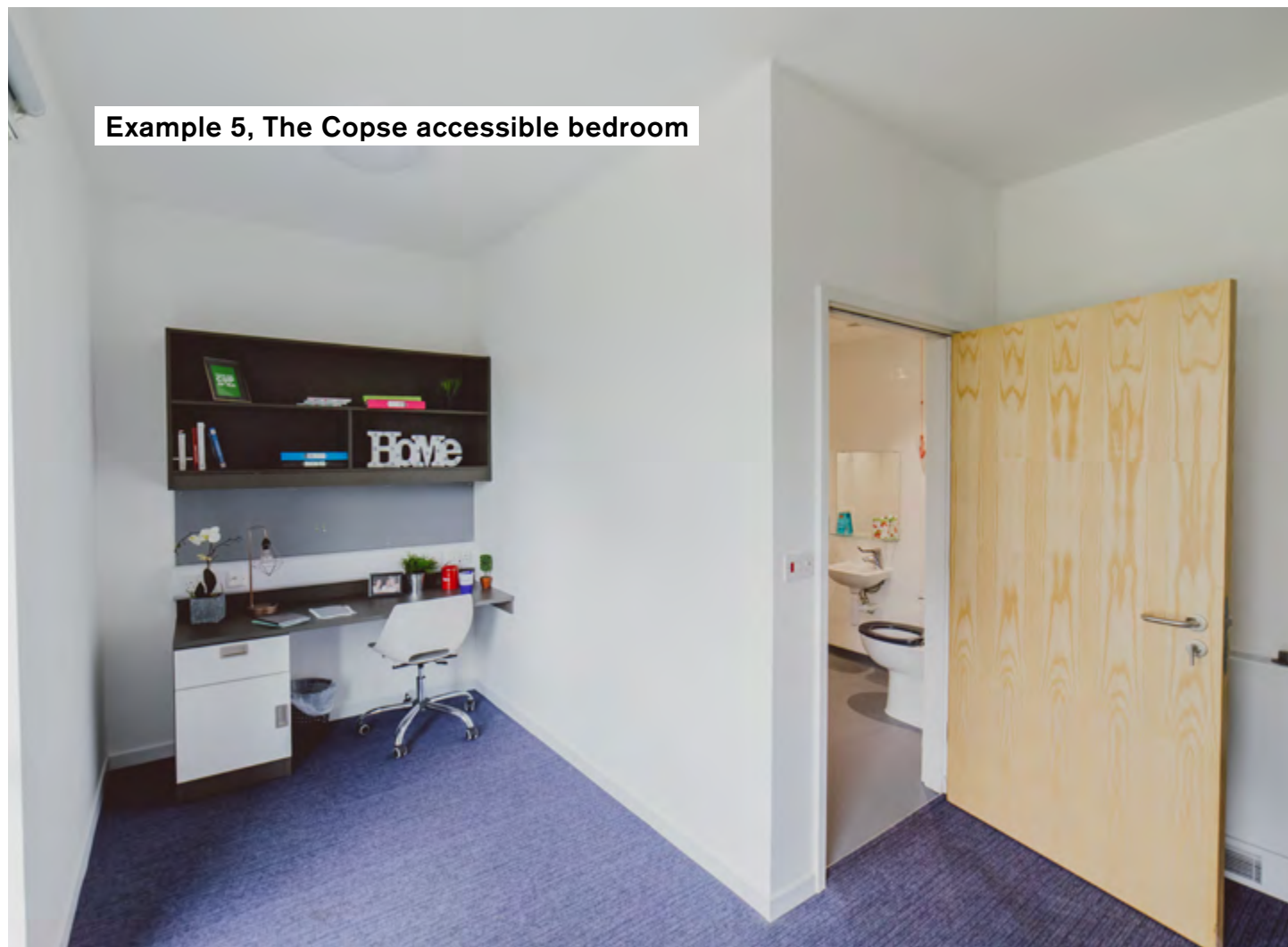
Example 5, The Copse accessible bedroom



Example 5, The Copse accessible bedroom

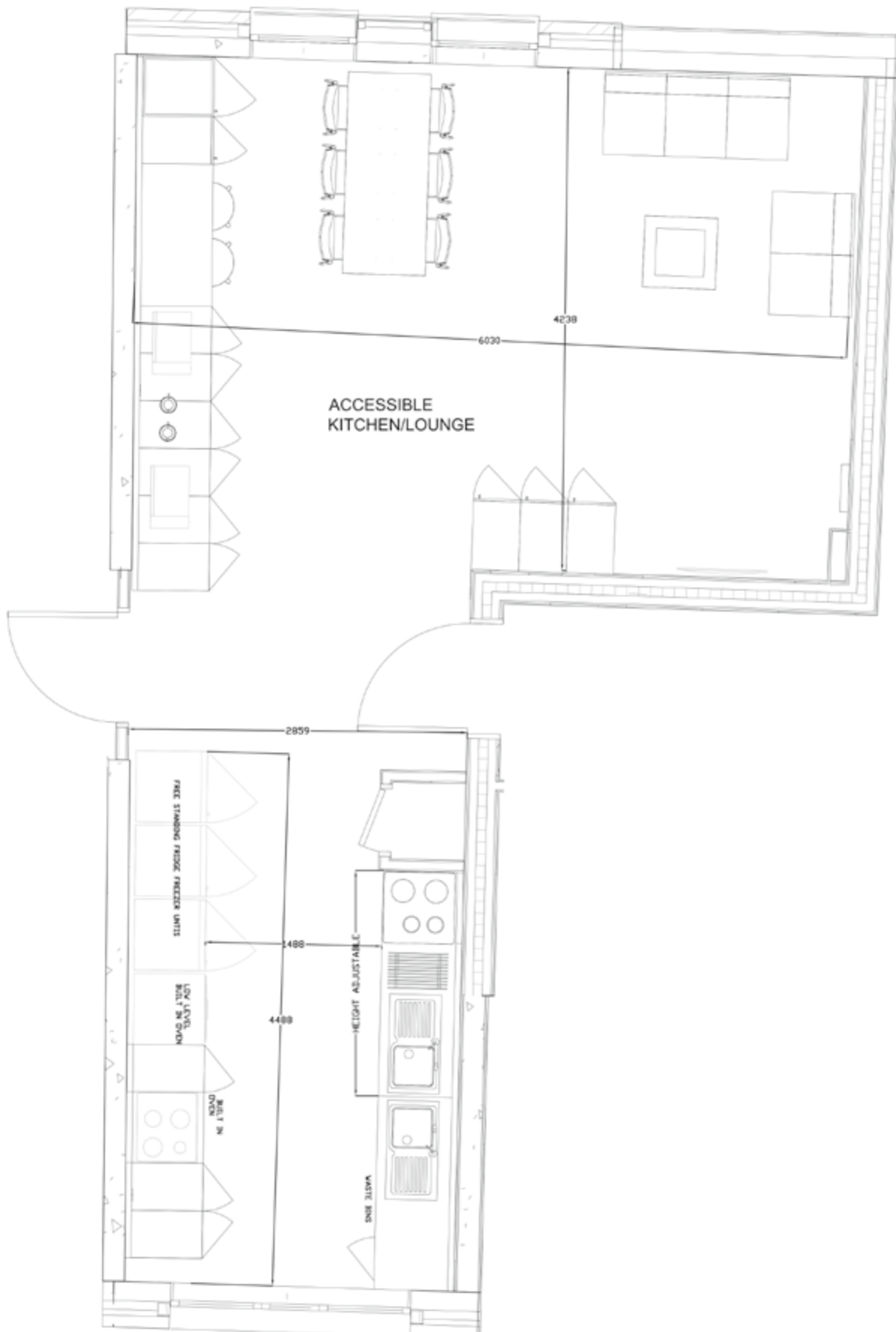


Example 5, The Copse accessible bedroom



# Examples of Adapted Kitchen – The Copse

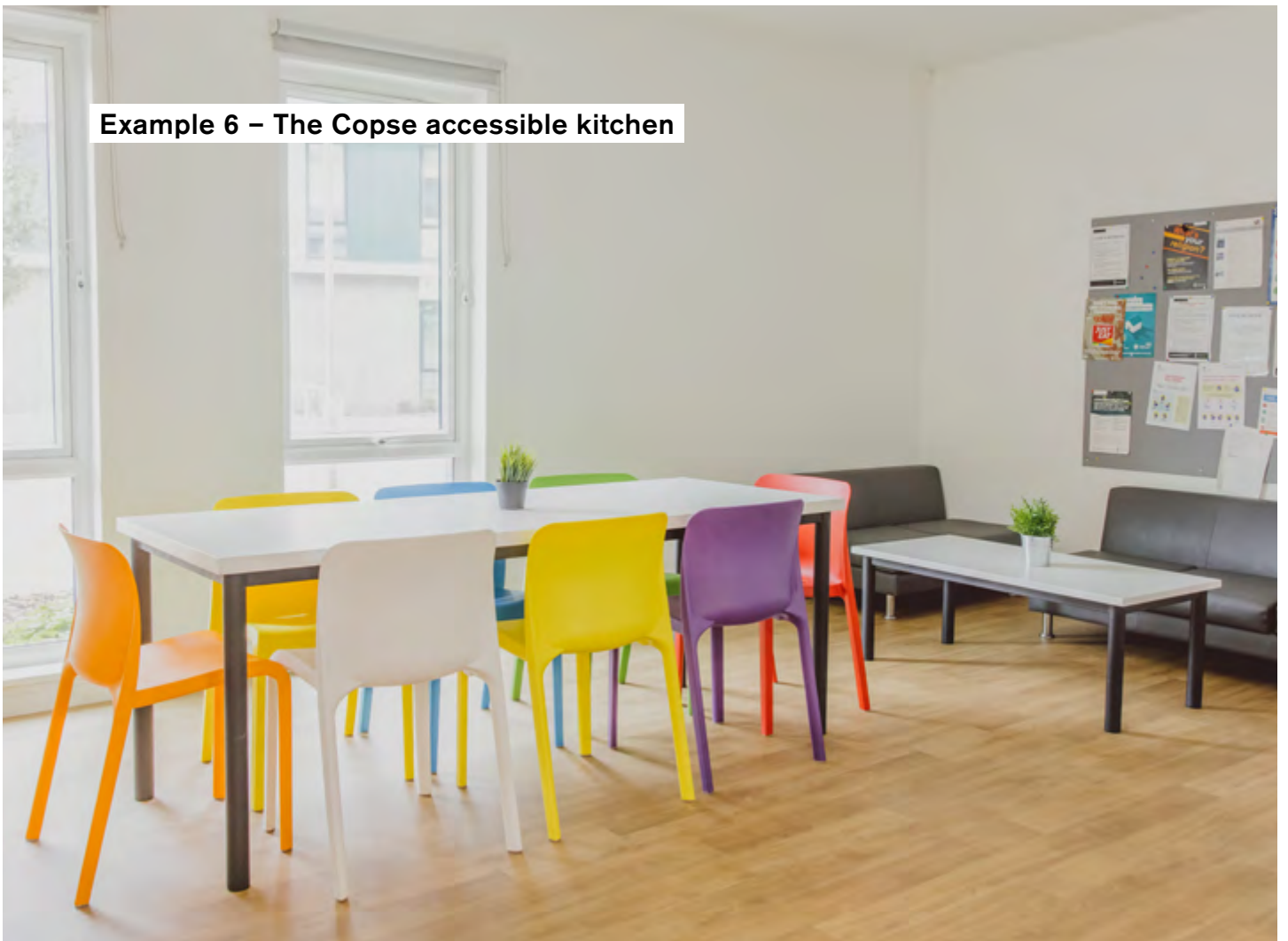
Example 6 – The Copse accessible kitchen



Example 6 - The Copse accessible kitchen



**Example 6 – The Copse accessible kitchen**



# Adapted rooms and kitchen information, room plans and images

## Adaptions for Hearing Loss

The Houses	Richard Wood flat 1 room 1	Richard Wood flat 2 room 1	Richard Wood flat 2 room 6	Swaynes flat 2 room 6
Entrance door automatic	✓	✓	✓	-
Hard-wired deaf alarm	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flashing beacon	-	-	-	-
Flashing beacon on smoke detector	✓	✓	-	-
Flashing beacon in en-suite	✓	✓	-	-
South Courts	Harwich Court house 19 flat 1 room C	Walton Court house 3 flat 1 room B	Alresford Court house 1 flat 1 room E	Walton Court house 3 flat 2 room C
Entrance door automatic	-	-	-	-
Hard-wired deaf alarm	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flashing beacon	-	✓	-	✓
Flashing beacon on smoke detector	✓	-	✓	-
Flashing beacon in en-suite	✓	-	✓	✓

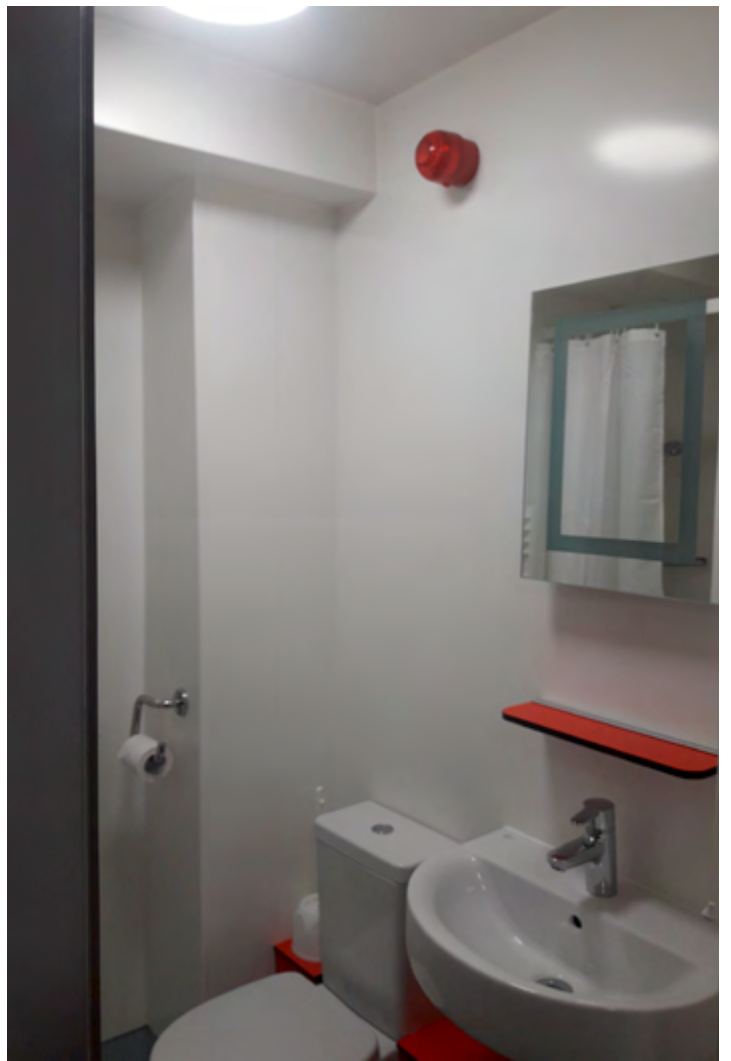
# Adapted rooms and kitchen information, room plans and images

## Adaptions for Hearing Loss

<b>University Quays</b>	<b>Hawkins Quay house 2 flat 6 room A</b>	<b>Sainty Quay house 6 flat 6 room F</b>
Entrance door automatic	-	-
Hard-wired deaf alarm	✓	-
Flashing beacon	✓	✓
Flashing beacon on smoke detector	-	-
Flashing beacon in en-suite	-	-
<b>Towers</b>	<b>Tawney Tower flat 1C room 12</b>	<b>Tawney Tower flat 7 room 10</b>
Entrance door automatic	-	-
Hard-wired deaf alarm	✓	✓
Flashing beacon	-	✓
Flashing beacon on smoke detector	-	-
Flashing beacon in en-suite	✓	✓



**Adaptions for Hearing Loss**



# Student Services Hub

## Colchester Office

First Floor, Silberrad Student Centre  
Colchester Campus  
University of Essex  
Wivenhoe Park  
Colchester  
Essex  
CO4 3SQ

## Contact details

### Telephone

01206 874000

### Website and Live Chat


[essex.ac.uk/life/accommodation](https://essex.ac.uk/life/accommodation)


### Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm

Office hours currently under review and may change.

### Social Media

 [EssexAccommodation](https://www.facebook.com/EssexAccommodation)

 [@AccommodationEssex](https://www.instagram.com/AccommodationEssex)



[\*\*essex.ac.uk/accommodation\*\*](https://essex.ac.uk/accommodation)