

ACCESS STATEMENT

May 2014

An Access Statement is a written, clear, accurate and honest description of our current facilities and the services we offer, to enable you to make an informed decision as to whether our business meets your particular access needs.

Introduction

Set in the centre of historic Roman Dorchester, the Dorset County Museum is an historic two storey Grade II building dating from 1883 which contains displays of the archaeology, natural history, geology, art, literature and social history of Dorset.

Our Mission is to inspire people to explore the past, understand the present and imagine the future.

Pre-Arrival & Transport

- Address: Dorset County Museum, 66 High West Street, Dorchester, DT1 1XA
- Telephone: 01305 262735
- Website: www.dorsetcountymuseum.org
- National Grid Reference: SY 692 907
- The ground floor contains the reception, gift shop, tea room, toilets, baby changing facilities, Victorian Gallery, Temporary Exhibition Gallery, Rural Dorset Gallery and Library.
- The first floor contains the Jurassic Coast Gallery
- The second floor contains the Writer's Dorset Gallery, Archaeology Gallery and Dorchester Gallery.
- The museum is signposted at key local junctions by black finger signs
- We are a 15 minute walk from Dorchester West Railway Station and a 20 minute walk from Dorchester South Railway Station.
- The Museum is ¾ mile from National Cycle route 45
- Dorchester's main bus stop is immediately outside the Museum entrance
- The Museum is served by the following bus services:

7 - Forston / Charminster

31 - Axminster / Lyme Regis / Bridport / Weymouth

101 - Crossways / Overmoigne

183 - Salisbury / Blandford / Weymouth

212 - Yeovil

216 - Yeovil / Sheborne

307 - Sturminster Newton

323 - Sturminster Newton

347 - Bere Regis / Poole

387 - Poole

- Contact Traveline South West (www.travelinesw.com or 0871 2002233) for full details about service bus operators and route timetables

Car Parking Facilities

- There is a set down point in front of Dorset County Museum but the Museum has no car park of its own.

- The nearest car park (including disabled parking) is the 'Top of Town' car park just beyond the roundabout at the end of High West Street.
- The museum is signposted from the car park.
- The museum is a 5 minute walk (500 metres) from the car park along High West Street on an even tarmac surface. The route is slightly downhill.

Arrival, Main Entrance & Reception

- There is single step (0.2m high) to negotiate at the Main Entrance.
- A ramp is available and can be called by pressing the bell located on the left hand side of the Main Entrance doors.
- The Main Entrance doors are automatic swing doors (1.2 metres wide)
- Immediately on entering there is door matting flush with floor beyond which is the tiled foyer
- There is a Hearing Loop at Reception Desk
- The Reception Desk is 0.8 metres high.
- Entry to Museum Gift Shop and Tea Room is free of charge
- Entry to the Museum's galleries, exhibitions and displays is charged at the following rates:
 - Adult Gift Aid Entry: £7.00 (includes free admission for up to 2 accompanying children aged 5 to 16)
 - Adult Standard Entry: £6.35 (includes free admission for up to 2 accompanying children aged 5 to 16)
 - Over 60 Gift Aid Entry: £6.50 (includes free admission for up to 2 accompanying children aged 5 to 16)
 - Over 60 Standard Entry: £5.90 (includes free admission for up to 2 accompanying children aged 5 to 16)
 - Disabled Gift Aid Entry: £6.50 (includes one carer admitted free)
 - Disabled Standard Entry: £5.90 (includes one carer admitted free)
 - Child / Student Entry: £3.60
 - Children under 5 admitted free
- We have one manual wheelchair for use in the Museum, which is available at Reception.

Public Areas - General

- The flooring throughout the museum is of carpet, tile, wood or vinyl
- Seating is provided in most galleries
- Lighting is mainly by LED spotlights and natural light but at low brightness to protect the artefacts
- The environment is maintained by a zoned environmental system which aims to keep temperature below 23 degrees Celsius and relative humidity below 55%
- A recorded Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV) operates throughout the building
- There is a lift to the first floor
- The lift (1.4 x 1.1 metres) is accessed through doors 0.78 metres wide

Public Areas - Toilets

- There is a male toilet with 3 urinals and 1 cubicle on ground floor
- There is a female toilet with 3 cubicles on ground floor
- There is one unisex accessible (Disabled) toilet with baby changing facilities on the ground floor
- Details of unisex accessible (Disabled) toilet (WC) on ground floor:
 - Width of door is 0.85 metres

- Transfer to the toilet is from the left from a seated position (1.1 metres between wall and side of toilet)
- The height of toilet (floor to seat) is 0.46 metres
- The height of the wash basin (floor to rim) is 0.70 metres
- There are a vertical and a horizontal wall rails to the left of the toilet (opposite side to transfer)
- There is a vertical wall rail to the right rear of the toilet
- A drop-down grab rail can be lowered from a vertical to horizontal position to the right of the toilet
- There is an alarm call cord (red) which alerts Museum Reception

Public Areas - Tea Room

- Hot and cold beverages, cakes and light snacks are available for sale in the Tea Room
- Tables and wooden chairs are situated in the Tea Room area

Public Areas – Reception / Gift Shop

- Area in foyer selling souvenirs, toys, books, postcards and prints
- We accept cash, cheques, credit & debit cards (Maestro, VISA, MasterCard)

Meeting Rooms

- The Victorian Gallery, Learning Base and Library are available for hire and are ideal venues for workshops, lectures, training events, and meetings
- The Victorian Gallery can seat 180 people in a theatre style, the Learning Base can seat 30 people in a lecture or seminar style and the Library 15 people in a seminar or meeting style. The temporary exhibition gallery is a high quality space for both two-dimensional and three-dimensional work. The gallery has dedicated exhibition lighting, hanging rails and a portable display walls.
- The Victorian Gallery has a public address system including a hearing loop.
- Digital, 35mm slide and Overhead Projectors are available and a laptop PC can be made available
- These spaces are also used by local schools, colleges and groups of life-long learners.

Attractions

- Dorset County Museum is a beautiful gothic Victorian building featuring intricate internal cast iron work
- It is home to the most important Thomas Hardy archive in the world – inscribed on the UENSCO Memory of the World register
- The Jurassic Coast Gallery plays host to the Weymouth Bay Pliosaur – the largest prehistoric marine reptile ever discovered
- The Museum holds internationally important collections of archaeology, from Prehistoric, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British Dorset
- The Museum also houses a large collection of fine and decorative art related to Dorset
- Artefacts are mainly exhibited in upright or desktop style glass cabinets
- Laminated printed guides are available in most rooms
- Four videos playing continuously
 - One shows the story of Maiden Castle featuring Magnus Magnusson
 - The second features Julian Fellowes discussing the story of the Hardy Players
 - The third provides an overview of the Jurassic Coast shoreline
 - A selection of archive footage related to rural life and farming practices in Dorset
- Sound recordings of readings from the novels and poetry of Thomas Hardy and Dorset poet William Barnes.
- Interactive computer games (touch screen only operation) based on the Weymouth Bay Pliosaur
- Special exhibitions and events
- Family friendly display. Trails and activities
- Children's school holiday and family learning events throughout the year

- Guided tours of the Museum daily at 2pm

Additional Information

- Service dogs welcome
- No smoking in any part of the building
- No general background music. There are sound recordings, including one with music, associated with some displays and sometimes exhibitions in the Galleries include music and other audio visual content.
- All staff, including volunteers, attend Disability and Diversity awareness training and Dementia Awareness training.
- Director, Finance & General Manager, Front of House Manager and Education Officer are trained First Aiders.

Nearby Restaurants and Accommodation

- Nearest restaurant is Prezzo, 6 High West Street, Dorchester, DT1 1UJ (Tel: 01305 259678) - 2 minute walk.
- Nearest accommodation at the Best Western Kings Arms Hotel, 30 High East Street, Dorchester, DT1 1HF (Tel: 01305 265353) - 5 minute walk

Contact Information

- Address: Dorset County Museum, 66 High West Street, Dorchester, DT1 1XA
- Telephone: +44 (0)1305 262735
- Email: enquiries@dorsetcountymuseum.org
- Website: www.dorsetcountymuseum.org
- Minicom: Not available
- National Grid Reference is SY 692 907
- Reference for Satellite Navigation is: Lat 50.715378 Long -2.4369746 or GL5 4AF

Hours of opening

April to October

Monday to Saturday 10am - 5pm

Open Sundays in August 10am - 5pm

November to March

Monday to Saturday 10am - 4pm

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day

Customer Feedback

We welcome your feedback to help us continuously improve. If you have comments or suggestions please leave them with a member of staff or at reception before you leave or phone or email them to us. Should you have a complaint please ask to speak to the Front of House Manager.