



DORSET

West Dorset for Visitors with Additional Needs

Helpful information on Bridport, Dorchester, Lyme Regis and Sherborne.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Thank you for requesting an Accessibility Guide to West Dorset. This booklet provides visitors with simple and practical information about the towns in West Dorset. **It is not intended as a detailed access guide** but should be used alongside other West Dorset publications to give guidance in planning a visit to the area and to take advantage of all the facilities on offer.

Detailed, large print information on accommodation, attractions, transport and town maps are provided as separate information sheets and have been included if requested. These are also available to download online at www.visit-dorset.com

If there is any further information you need, please contact one of our Tourist Information Centres (TICs) and we will do our best to help you.

We hope that the details provided will help you to make an informed choice when deciding how to spend your time in West Dorset. However, we would strongly recommend that you always check that the facilities on offer are suitable for your specific requirements.

We look forward to welcoming you to West Dorset!

If you have any comments or suggestions about this guide please send your feedback to Leisure and Tourism Division, West Dorset District Council, Stratton House, High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1UZ or alternatively email us at tourism@westdorset-dc.gov.uk

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TRAVEL TO WEST DORSET

By Coach

National Express Services

Routes to Bridport, Dorchester, Lyme Regis and Sherborne

Telephone 08717 818181

www.nationalexpress.com

To make a reservation, contact the Disabled Persons Travel Helpline on 08717 818179. A textphone is provided for customers who are deaf or hard of hearing on 0121 455 0086

By Rail

London Waterloo to Weymouth services call at Dorchester South. London Waterloo to Exeter St. Davids call at Sherborne and Axminster (for Lyme Regis). Bristol Temple Meads to Weymouth services call at Maiden Newton and Dorchester West.

For all rail enquiries and station accessibility information, call 0845 7484950 or visit

www.nationalrail.co.uk

South West Trains

South West Trains Assisted Travel Telephone Line: 0800 5282 100

Textphone: 0800 692 0792

Website: www.southwesttrains.co.uk

First Great Western

First Great Western Assisted Travel Telephone Line: 0800 197 1329

Textphone: 0800 2949 209

Website: www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk

By Air

Regional airports at:

Exeter: (01392) 367433

Southampton: (0844) 4817777/textphone (0844) 7417410

Bristol: (0871) 334 444

Bournemouth: (01202) 364000

TRAVEL AROUND WEST DORSET

By Bus

For general bus information and a route planner, contact Traveline South West:

Telephone: 0871 200 2233

Minicom Line: 0870 241 2216

Website: www.travelinesw.com

Accessible Transport Schemes

There are a number of wheelchair accessible schemes in Dorset that provide transport for people who find it difficult to use existing transport services.

For more information, please contact Dorset County Council's passenger transport services on 01305 225165 or email dorsetpassengertransport@dorsetcc.gov.uk

By Taxi

Licensed vehicles with wheelchair access:

Bill's Taxis, Bridport: 01308 424728

King Kabs, Bridport: 01308 425489

Bob's Cars, Dorchester: 01305 269500

Taxi 4 U, Dorchester: 01305 262222

A Line Taxis, Dorchester: 01305 251666

Thomas Airports, Chickerell: 01305 814216

Beaver Cabs, Sherborne: 01935 816620

MP Cars, Salwayash: 01308 422148

Mr M Poole, Salwayash: 01308 488632

Mobility Hire

Bridport Mobility, East Street, DT6 3JX

Hire service which supplies people with mobile vehicles and other aids when away on their holiday.

Tel: 01308 424266

www.bridportmobility.co.uk

British Red Cross, Parkway Farm, Poundbury, DT1 3AR

Short-term loans of medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, for people with a disability or illness.

Tel: (01305) 215951

www.redcross.org.uk

Brotherwood Automobility, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, DT9 6QP

Converted vehicles available for short or long term hire.

Tel: (01935) 872603

www.brotherwood.com

Newfound Mobility, Charmouth, DT6 6BY

Mobility scooters and wheelchairs available to hire by the day or by the week

Tel: 01297 560 651.

www.newfoundmobility.co.uk

“Wheels for Freedom”

"Wheels for Freedom" is a charity dedicated to giving freedom of movement by loaning mobility scooters, power-chairs and manual wheelchairs to any person who has difficulty walking. It operates in 6 Dorset towns as well as at major shows and events across the county.

Tel: (01202) 661770

www.pooleshopmobility.org.uk

Dorchester Shopmobility is located in the Charles Street car park. Mobility equipment is available from 9.45.am until 3.45 pm every Wednesday excluding Bank holidays and must be booked in advance.

Tel: (01202) 661770

www.pooleshopmobility.org.uk

Yeovil Shopmobility, Quedam Shopping Centre, Yeovil, BA20 1E4

Scooters and wheelchairs available for hire

Tel: (01935) 420889

www.yeovilshopmobility.co.uk

WEST DORSET TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

BRIDPORT: South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NY
Tel: (01308) 424901 Fax: (01308) 421060
bridport.tic@westdorset-dc.gov.uk

- Level access, low level counter, seating available
- Hearing loop, magnifying glass
- Guide dogs and dogs for the disabled welcomed
- Information in large print
- RADAR keys available
- Temporary disabled car parking permits

DORCHESTER: Antelope Walk DT1 1BE
Tel: (01305) 267992 Fax: (01305) 266079
dorchester.tic@westdorset-dc.gov.uk

- Level access, low level counter, seating available
- Hearing loop, magnifying glass
- Guide dogs and dogs for the disabled welcomed
- Information in large print
- Temporary disabled car parking permits
- RADAR keys available
- RADAR toilet opposite

LYME REGIS: Church Street DT7 3BS
Tel: (01297) 442138 Fax: (01297) 444668
lymeregis.tic@westdorset-dc.gov.uk

- Level access, low level counter, seating available
- Hearing loop, magnifying glass
- Guide dogs and dogs for the disabled welcomed
- Information in large print
- Temporary disabled car parking permits
- RADAR keys available
- RADAR toilet nearby

SHERBORNE: Digby Road DT9 3NL
Tel: (01935) 815341 Fax: (01935) 817210
sherborne.tic@westdorset-dc.gov.uk

- Level access, low level counter, seating available
- Hearing loop, magnifying glass
- Guide dogs and dogs for the disabled welcomed
- Temporary disabled car parking permits
- RADAR keys available

Our TICs can also offer the following services:

- Open all year round for friendly, helpful advice on where to stay, what to see, where to go and how to get there
- Free accommodation booking service
- Maps, guide book, souvenirs, local crafts, postcards and stamps on sale
- Booking agents for bus/coach service, ferry services, theatres, events and attractions in the area
- RADAR keys to purchase, all have Hearing Induction Loop fitted and provide the Dorset Loo Guide
- Additional temporary disabled car parking permits available



ACCOMMODATION

National Accessible Scheme

VisitEngland's National Accessible Scheme for Accommodation aims to identify those accommodation establishments that provide facilities and/or services for visitors with special needs. Establishments that display one of the symbols below care about Accessibility and have been rigorously assessed against demanding criteria.



Typically suitable for a person with sufficient mobility to climb a flight of steps but would benefit from fixtures and fittings to aid balance.



Typically suitable for a person with restricted walking ability and for those who need to use a wheelchair some of the time and can negotiate a maximum of three steps.



Typically suitable for a person who depends on the use of a wheelchair and transfers unaided to and from the wheelchair into a seated position. This person may be an independent traveller.

Access Rated Serviced Accommodation

DORCHESTER

Aquila Heights Guest House (VE 4 Star, Silver Award, Breakfast Award)



44 Maiden Castle Road, Dorchester, DT1 2ES

Contact: Mrs Joan Cox

Tel: (01305) 267145

Website: www.aquilaheights.co.uk

Email: enquiries@aquilaheights.co.uk

B&B: from £35

Access Rated Self-Catering Accommodation

ABBOTSBURY

Gorwell Farm (VE 4 Star)



Abbotsbury, Weymouth, DT3 4JX

Contact: Mrs Mary Pengelly
Tel: (01305) 871401
Website: www.gorwellfarm.co.uk
Email: mary@gorwellfarm.co.uk
6 cottages sleep 2 – 8 people
Price per week: £200 - £1100

ALTON PANCRAS

Bookham Court (VE 4-5 Star)

Bookham, Alton Pancras, Dorchester, DT2 7RP  
Contact: Nicola or Andrew Foot, Whiteways, as above
Tel/Fax: (01300) 345511
Website: www.bookhamcourt.co.uk
Email: andy.foot1@btinternet.com
4 cottages sleep 4-10 people
Price per week: £330 - £1160

BEAMINSTER

Stable & Barn Cottages (VE 4 Star)

Lewesdon Farm, Stoke Abbot, Beaminster, DT8 3JZ
Contact: Linda Smith
Tel / Fax: (01308) 868270
Email: lewesdonfarmcottages@tiscali.co.uk
4 cottages sleeps 2 - 6
Price per week: £200 - £575

Stable Cottage (VE 4 Star)

Meerhay Manor, Beaminster, DT8 3SB
Contact: Mrs D M Clarke
Tel: (01308) 862305 Fax: (01308) 863972
Website: www.meerhay.co.uk
E-mail: meerhay@aol.com
1 cottage sleeps 2 - 3
Price per week: £250 - £450

LANGTON HERRING

Character Farm Cottages (VE 4 Star)

Langton Herring, Nr. Abbotsbury, Weymouth
Contact: Mrs A E Mayo, Higher Farm, Rodden, Weymouth, DT3 4JB
Tel/Fax: (01305) 871347

Website: www.characterfarmcottages.co.uk

Email: ann@characterfarmcottages.co.uk

7 cottages sleep 2 – 9 + cot

Price per week: £250 - £1100

WEST MILTON

Lancombes House & Cottages (VE 4 Star) 

West Milton, Bridport, DT6 3TN

Contact: Adrian Semmence

Tel: (01308) 485375

Website: www.lancombes-house.co.uk

Email: info@lancombes-house.co.uk

3 cottages sleep 4-12, 1 farmhouse sleeps 12

Price per week: £350 - £2200

Tourism for All

Tourism for All is a national charity dedicated to making tourism welcoming to all. A selection of our properties have chosen to self assess their accessibility by submitting a form provided by Tourism for All. These details can be viewed on www.visit-dorset.com. The visit-dorset website relies on the accuracy of the information supplied by the accommodation provider therefore it is advisable to check these facilities before making a booking. Alternatively, call one of our Tourist Information Centres where a member of staff will be happy to find a suitable establishment according to your needs.

PLACES TO VISIT

Abbotsbury Children's Farm

Church Street, Abbotsbury, DT3 4JJ

Ramp access to main entrance, level access to ground floor. Sloping paths, gravel with benches provided. Adapted disabled toilets (sloping access). Drop off point and parking for disabled at entrance. Disabled parking, guide dogs accepted on leads.

Tel: (01305) 871817

www.abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk

Abbotsbury Sub-Tropical Gardens

Bullers Way, Abbotsbury, DT3 4LA

Level access to main entrance / 1 step down from shop. Access to gardens is on all one level but with steps in places. Level access to shop, teahouse and play centre. Two wheelchairs available free of charge (not bookable). Disabled parking, guide dogs accepted on leads

Tel: (01305) 871387

www.abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk

Abbotsbury Swannery

New Barn Road, Abbotsbury, DT3 4JG

Level access to all facilities. Disabled visitors may take their vehicles down to the Swannery rather than park at the entrance and walk down. Two wheelchairs are available free of charge (not bookable). No assistance dogs on premises due to swans. Disabled parking, disabled toilet facilities.

Tel: (01305) 871858

www.abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk

Athelhampton House & Gardens

Athelhampton, Dorchester, DT2 7LG

1 step up to entrance, ramp available. Gardens are mostly level but with steps in places. Mostly level access to ground floor, but with steps in places. First floor reached by staircase. There is a route provided around the garden. Full access, all on one level in restaurant, shop and disabled toilet. Manual wheelchairs available to borrow at no charge, drop off point directly outside main entrance and disabled parking for approx. 8 cars. Guide dogs accepted.

Tel:(01305) 848363

www.athelhampton.co.uk

Beaminster Museum

Whitcombe Road, Beaminster, DT8 3NB

Ramp access at main entrance, level access to ground floor. First floors reached by staircase then level. Partially adapted disabled toilets.

A video of the 1st floor collection has been prepared and can be seen on the ground floor if requested.

Tel: (01308) 863623

Bennetts Water Gardens

Putton Lane, Chickerell, Weymouth, DT3 4AF

Ramp to main entrance. Garden is mainly grass, south paths gravel, some sloping, benches provided. Wheelchair access to gardens. Covered way links tearoom, toilets and gift shop. Disabled parking, disabled toilet facilities.

Tel: (01305) 785150

www.waterlily.co.uk

Bridport Museum

South Street, Bridport, DT6 3NR

Level access to main entrance. Ground floor is level. First floor reached by staircase then level. Large print file downstairs with photographs of the exhibits and their captions for those who are unable to get upstairs. Guide dogs accepted.

Tel: (01308) 422116

www.bridportmuseum.co.uk

Dinosaur Museum

Icen Way, Dorchester, DT1 1EW

1 step up to main entrance, level access to ground floor. First floor reached by staircase and level access. Ladies and gents toilets on ground floor with level access. Temporary ramp available for main entrance. Guide dogs accepted.

Tel: (01305) 269880

www.thedinosaurmuseum.com

Dorset County Museum

High West St, Dorchester, DT1 1XA

1 step up to main entrance. Level access to ground floor, first floor reached by staircase, mostly level with steps in places, 4 steps down to gallery. Ladies and gents toilets on ground floor with level access. Disabled toilet facilities, Audio guides, information available in Braille, guide dogs accepted.

Tel: (01305) 262735

www.dorsetcountymuseum.org

Fleet Air Arm Museum

Royal NAS, Yeovilton, Yeovil BA22 8HT

Main entrance has 25 steps with handrail. Side gate available. Concorde 002, the 'Brush with War' and 'Merlin Experience' gallery in Hall 2 are not accessible for wheelchair users. Manual wheelchair available. Assistance not required to catering facilities and shop, ground level access. Tables for wheelchair users in restaurant. Disabled parking, disabled toilet facilities, accessible lift, guide dogs accepted.

Tel: (01935) 840565

www.fleetairarm.com

Forde Abbey & Gardens

Forde Abbey, Chard, TA20 4LU

Wide level access, house not accessible for wheelchair users. Steps and a few slopes on the lawn. Level entrance to shop and tearoom / restaurant with the ability to move around unobstructed. All display materials are accessible for wheelchair users. Wheelchair access to pottery exhibition. Disabled parking, disabled toilet facilities, large print guides, guide dogs accepted.

Tel: (01460) 221290

www.fordeabbey.co.uk

Hardy's Cottage

Higher Bockhampton, Dorchester, DT2 8QJ

Steps up to the entrance of the cottage.

Tel: (01305) 262366

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Haynes International Motor Museum

Sparkford, Yeovil, BA22 7LH

Ramp access for wheelchair users. All areas of the attraction and displays are accessible for wheelchair users. A manual wheelchair is available on request. Full access to catering facilities and shop. Disabled parking, disabled toilet facilities, guide dogs accepted, hearing loop fitted in conference.

Tel: (01963) 440804

www.haynesmotormuseum.co.uk

The Keep Military Museum

Bridport Road, Dorchester, DT1 1XA

All floors reached by lift, then level access. Roof is reached by 27 narrow stone steps from third floor then level. Video bunker with voice over, touch screens at each display. Disabled parking, disabled toilet facilities, accessible lift, guide dogs accepted.

Tel: (01305) 264066

www.keepmilitarymuseum.org

Kingston Maurward Garden & Animal Park

Dorchester, Dorset DT2 8PY

Access to attraction is via ramps or steps (on more than one level). Wheelchair access to shop, restaurant and plant sales. Access also to parts of the formal gardens, bench seating provided throughout. Colour and scent in gardens and wheelchairs available. Disabled parking, disabled toilet facilities, information available in Braille, guide dogs accepted.

Tel: (01305) 215003

www.kmc.ac.uk/gardens

Lulworth Castle

Lulworth Estate, Wareham, BH20 5QS

Disabled access around the grounds and also on the ground and basement floors of the castle. The 1st floor and the tower are not accessible. Also, there is access to the church but not the chapel.

Info: 0845 4501054

www.lulworth.com

Mangerton Mill

Mangerton, Bridport, DT6 3SG

Level access to main entrance, level access to ground floor, 1st floor reached by staircase, then level access. Level access to tearoom. Ladies and gents toilets on ground floor with 4 steps to gain access. Disabled toilet facilities, guide dogs accepted.

Tel: (01308) 485224

Mapperton House & Gardens

Mapperton, Beaminster, DT8 3NR

Level main entrance. Gardens have flat access, ramp to 2nd level of gardens. Wheelchair access to both café and shop. Ladies and gents toilets with wheelchair access adjacent to Sawmill Café.

Tel: (01308) 862645

www.mapperton.com

Max Gate

Alington Avenue, Dorchester, DT1 2AB

To enter the house one must climb three steps that are supported by a rail. Access to the ground floor only.

Tel: (01305) 262538

www.maxgate.co.uk

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Minterne Gardens

Minterne Magna, Dorchester, DT2 7AU

Some of the paths are uneven and steep making access for wheelchairs difficult.

Tel: (01300) 341370

www.minterne.co.uk

Monkey World Ape Rescue Centre

Longthorns, Wareham, BH20 6HH

Disabled access except the woodland walk. Disabled toilet facility with wheelchair access situated near the main entrance. Selection of 25 motorised scooters, dual-controlled or manual wheelchairs (refundable deposit and ID required). Disabled parking, guide dogs accepted.

Tel:(01929) 462537 or Free Information line 0800 456600

www.monkeyworld.org

Mummies Exhibition

Amarna Centre, Alington Street, Dorchester, DT1 1UW

Temporary ramp as you enter premises. Otherwise, fully accessible.

Tel: (01305) 269741

www.mummiesexhibition.com

Old Crown Courts & Cells

High West St, Dorchester, DT1 1UZ

Level access to main WDDC reception. Partial disabled access - stair-lift from main double doors to courtroom. Courtroom mostly level but with steps in places. 13 very narrow steps down to cells, inaccessible for wheelchair users. Disabled toilets. Guide dogs accepted.

Tel: (01305) 252241

www.westdorset.com

Portland Castle

Castletown, Portland, DT5 1AZ

Access to castle and Captain's House: ground floor is level in the castle apart from steps to get to the gun room. Narrow doorways in Captain's House. Special audio tour and flip-book for those unable to access upper floors.

Visually impaired visitors: Bas-relief sculptures to touch. Audio tour included in admission price. Braille and tactile signs on all displays.

Hearing impaired visitors: Audio tour with hearing loop included in admission price.

Script also available

Disabled parking, disabled toilet facilities, audio guides, information in Braille, large print guides, guide dogs accepted, hearing loop fitted.

Tel: (01305) 820539

www.portlandcastle.co.uk www.english-heritage.org.uk

Sherborne New Castle

New Road, Sherborne, DT9 5NR

Castle viewing takes place over 3 floors, with 4 sets of stairs to encounter between the floors. Only the ground floor is accessible to wheelchair users. There are resting chairs for visitors in most rooms and a Braille transcript of the guidebook is available. The garden and grounds cover a large area with full access for wheelchair users. Garden paths all have a smooth gravel surface and benches are located throughout the garden. Tearoom, gift shop and toilets are all accessible in the Castle Yard. Disabled parking, disabled toilet facilities, guide dogs accepted.

Tel:((01935) 812072/813182

www.sherbornecastle.com

The Tank Museum

Bovington, BH20 6JG

Slight slope to main entrance. Level access to ground floor (majority of displays on ground floor). First floor access reached by stairs, then level flooring. Level access to garden, smooth paths with benches. Slope to restaurant – assistance would be required to toilets as there are steps. Shop in main entrance with slope. A number of wheelchairs are available. Disabled parking, disabled toilet facilities, guide dogs accepted, hearing loop fitted, Acoutiguide audio tour.

Tel:((01929) 405096

www.tankmuseum.org

The Terracotta Warriors Museum

Salisbury Street, Dorchester, DT1 1JU

Full disabled access. Temporary ramp available for 1 step into building. Guide dogs accepted.

Tel: (01305) 266040

www.terracottawarriors.co.uk

The Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum

Main Road, Tolpuddle, DT2 7EH

Sloping access, tarmac paths with benches, ramp to main entrance and museum shop. Disabled toilets facilities situated to the right of the museum. Guide dogs accepted.

Tel: (01305) 848237

www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk

The Tutankhamun Exhibition

High West Street, Dorchester, DT1 1UW

Full disabled access. Ground floor level with two slight slopes. Some audio programmes within exhibition. Guide dogs accepted.

Tel: (01305) 269571

www.tutankhamun-exhibition.co.uk

Further details on these attractions including prices and opening times can be found on www.visit-dorset.com



LEISURE TIME

Leisure Centres in West Dorset

Beaminster Community Sports Centre

Beaminster Technology College, Beaminster, DT8 3EP

Tel: (07792) 791038

www.dorsetforyou.com/394259

Bridport Leisure Centre

Brewery Fields, Bridport, DT6 5LN

Tel: (01308) 427464

www.bridportleisure.co.uk

Budmouth Community Sports Centre

Chickerell Road, Weymouth, DT4 9SY

Tel: (01305) 830508

www.budmouthsports.co.uk

Fit School

Woodroffe School, Lyme Regis, DT7 3LX

Tel: (07970) 710660

www.fit-school.com

Gryphon Leisure Centre

Bristol Road, Sherborne, DT9 4EQ

Tel: (01935) 814011

www.dorsetforyou.com/gryphonlc

Oxley Sports Centre

Bradford Road, Sherborne, DT9 3DA

Tel: (01935) 818350

www.oxleysc.com

Sherborne School Sports Centre

Sherborne School, Abbey Road, Sherborne, DT9 3AP

Tel: (01935) 810549

www.sherbornesports.co.uk

St Osmunds Community Sports Centre

Barnes Way, Dorchester, DT1 2DZ

Tel: (01305) 756472

www.dorsetforyou.com/387476

Thomas Hardy Leisure Centre

Coburg Road, Dorchester, DT1 2HT

Tel: (01305) 266772

www.dorsetforyou.com/thomashardyelc

Exploring the Countryside in West Dorset

www.walkswithwheelchairs.com

A website dedicated to providing free information on routes that are suitable for wheelchair users throughout the UK.

www.accessiblecountryside.org.uk/southwest/dorset/

A selection of walks in Dorset that are accessible for all.

Local Theatres and Cinemas

Bridport Arts Centre

Arts Centre offering music, theatre, film and visual art

South Street, Bridport, DT6 3NR

Tel: (01308) 427183

www.bridport-arts.com

Electric Palace

South Street, Bridport, DT6 3NY

The Electric Palace in Bridport offers a comprehensive programme of film, theatre, music, comedy and cabaret

Tel: (01308) 428354

www.electricpalace.org.uk

Dorchester Arts Centre

The Grove, Dorchester, DT1 1XR

Dorchester Arts runs a year round programme of events and workshops for people of all ages and abilities, including theatre, dance, puppet shows, circus events and music.

Tel: (01305) 266926

www.dorchesterarts.org.uk

Marine Theatre

Church Street, Lyme Regis, DT7 3QA

The theatre offers a varied programme of events including live music, local and professional drama and musical productions.

Tel: 01297 442394

www.marinetheatre.com

Powell Theatre

Abbey Road, Sherborne, DT9 3AP

Events include stand-up, live music, films and drama.

Tel: 01935 810 579

www.powelltheatre.co.uk

Plaza Cinema,

Trinity Street, Dorchester, DT1 1TT

Cinema showing the latest box office hits.

Tel: (01305) 262488

www.plazadorchester.com

Regent Cinema

Broad Street, Lyme Regis, DT7 3JB

Cinema showing the latest box office hits.

Tel: (01297) 442053

www.scottcinemas.co.uk

What's On

A free monthly events listing is available from the Tourist Information Centre or online at www.westdorset.com

BRIDPORT, WEST BAY & BEAMINSTER

BRIDPORT

Bridport is a friendly and vibrant market town, with its own thriving artistic and literary community. The town has a captivating history, once renowned as the centre of the country's rope and net-making industry and has broad, wide, open streets offering views of the countryside beyond. There is a small amenity area called "Bucky Doo" Square with seating and also a public garden with disabled access. Bridport is one of West Dorset's most welcoming towns and is the ideal place to browse and shop.

Bridport is recognised for the quality and variety of its locally produced food and a regular market has been held in Bridport for over 1,000 years. Today, there are two market days a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays and farmer's markets are held on the second Saturday of each month. Bridport even boasts its own food festival, held annually in June.

In general Bridport's broad streets are very suitable for wheelchair users. The pavements are a mixture of small paving slabs and tarmac. Some streets, however, do have an incline and a camber.

WEST BAY

One mile south of Bridport is West Bay, a pretty harbour village with characteristic kiosks, fishing boats, pubs and restaurants all nestling between the spectacular East and West Cliffs. West Bay is an official gateway to the Jurassic Coast and its waterfront buzzes on a summer day. The new Jurassic Pier is fully accessible and has views stretching from Portland to Brixham in Devon. The main car park and the harbour area are level but there is a gentle incline to the esplanade where it becomes level again.

BEAMINSTER

Beaminster is a prosperous market town, just six miles north of Bridport, which once thrived from woolcloth and sailcloth. With over 200 listed buildings in its historic centre, it is a charming place to visit or stay and is one of West Dorset's most tranquil towns. Shopping is on a small scale with individual shops offering unique gifts, a great place to browse and to sample the local fare in a wide range of pubs, cafes and delicatessens. The town centre area is suitable for wheelchair users but away from the centre some of the streets and pavements are narrow, not wheelchair friendly and could prove difficult for people with walking difficulties.

Car Parking

Disabled badge holders must pay for parking. Tax exempt vehicles may park free for up to 3 hours. Disabled badge holders in receipt of higher rate of mobility or equivalent may obtain an exemption permit from the Council or any West Dorset Tourist Information Centre. **Disabled badge holders are advised to refer to the disabled car parking notices on display on each car park.**

The following car parks have designated disabled bays:

Parking in Bridport

East Street, DT6 3LL (long/short stay) P (2)

Rope Walks, DT6 3RH (short stay) P (2)

South Street, DT6 3PS (short stay) P (4)

West Street, DT6 3TP (long stay) P (2)

Parking in West Bay

The Mound, DT6 4HE (short stay) P (1)

Esplanade, DT6 4HE (short stay) P (4)

Quayside, DT6 4ER (short stay) P (6)

West Bay Road, DT6 4HE (long stay) P (6)

West Bexington, DT2 9DG P (4)

Parking in Beaminster

The Square, DT8 3AU (short stay) P (1)

Yarn Barton, DT8 3EQ (long stay) P (2)

Disabled Toilet Facilities

The following toilets have disabled facilities:

Town Hall, Bridport (daytime only)

West Street, Bridport (daytime only)

East Street, Bridport

Sea Hill Lane, Seatown, Chideock

West Bay Road Car Park, West Bay

East Beach, West Bay

The Mound, West Bay

The Beach, West Bexington

Common Lane, Burton Bradstock
Fleet Street, Beaminster (daytime only)

RADAR keys are available to purchase from any West Dorset Tourist Information Centre.

Public Gardens

Borough Gardens, Gundry Lane, Bridport is accessed from a gentle slope suitable for wheelchairs. It is a level grassed area bounded by a path. Wheelchair users can access the Playing Fields at Plottingham, Bridport from three points. A slope at one end leads down to a flat grassed area where there is a fenced off children's play area. Wheelchair users can also access St. Mary's Playing Fields easily. There is a large flat grass area with pathways and a fenced off children's play area with paddling pool. The Millennium Green at Mountfield in Bridport is also accessible.

Places of Worship

Beaminster

St. John's RC Church, Shortmoor	(01308) 422594
St. Mary's Church	(01308) 863127

Bridport

Baptist Church, Victoria Grove	(01308) 456101
Bridport Christian Fellowship, King Street, King Square	(01308) 424047
Bridport Team Ministry, South Street	(01308) 422138
Christian Science Society, Rax Lane	(01308) 425302
Church of Our Lady (R.C.), North Road, Chideock	(01308) 488348
Evangelical Church, Priory Lane	(01308) 488402
Jehovah's Witness, South Street	unknown
Holy Trinity, Bothenhampton	(01308) 422138
Holy Trinity (C of E), Bradpole	(01308) 458788
Society of Friends (Quakers), South Street	(01308) 456336
St John's, West Bay	(01308) 422138
St. Mary's, South Street	(01308) 422138
St. Mary's & St. Catherine's (R.C.), Victoria Grove	(01308) 422594
St. Mary's, Walditch	(01308) 458788
St. Swithun's, North Allington	(01308) 423458
Unitarian Chapel, East Street	(01308) 420630
United Church, East Street	(01308) 422766

Useful Numbers

Beaminster Citizens Advice Bureau	(01308) 456594
Beaminster Police	(01308) 862222
Beaminster Town Council	(01308) 863634
Beaminster Library	(01308) 862362
Bridport Community Hospital	(01308) 422371
Bridport Citizens Advice Bureau	(01308) 456594
Bridport Police	(01308) 422266
Bridport Library	(01308) 422778
Bridport Town Council	(01308) 456722
West Dorset District Council (sub-office)	(01308) 422248



DORCHESTER

Dorchester has much to offer the visitor with an appealing combination of rich heritage and exciting attractions. The county town boasts a fascinating history which includes Judge Jeffreys' Bloody Assize, the Tolpuddle Martyrs Trial and significant Roman ancestry. Dorchester also has strong literary connections with both Thomas Hardy and William Barnes and was the setting for one of Hardy's finest novels, 'The Mayor of Casterbridge'.

Dorchester is ideal for shopping and has a great collection of gift stores and independent retailers, along with some high street favourites. Market day is held on Wednesdays and the Farmers' Market is held on the first Saturday of the month at Poundbury.

Independent wheelchair users should successfully manage the town centre and immediate streets in the vicinity. Those who push wheelchairs may have more difficulty once they move away from the main shopping area as some streets are narrow and inclined. Acland Road, Charles Street and Top o' Town car parks are a short distance from the town centre.

Car Parking

Disabled badge holders must pay for parking. Tax exempt vehicles may park free for up to 3 hours. Disabled badge holders in receipt of higher rate of mobility or equivalent may obtain an exemption permit from the Council or any West Dorset Tourist Information Centre. **Disabled badge holders are advised to refer to the disabled car parking notices on display on each car park.**

The following car parks have designated disabled bays:

Acland Road (short stay) P (5)
Top o' Town (long/short stay) P (2)

Disabled Toilet Facilities

The following toilets have disabled facilities:

Maumbury Road, Dorchester (daytime only)
Trinity Street, Dorchester
Waitrose, Dorchester (daytime only)
Old Market, Dorchester

Top o' Town, Dorchester
Long Street, Cerne Abbas

RADAR keys are available to purchase from any West Dorset Tourist Information Centre.

Public Gardens

The Borough Gardens are located within a few minutes walk of the town centre and are wheelchair accessible from all entrances. The paths are wide and gently sloping. The gardens contain two tennis courts, a large children's play area, snack bar, and many features including a bandstand, clock tower, and fabulous flower beds. The gardens are open every day from dawn until dusk. Contact: (01305) 266861.

Places of Worship

Dorchester Baptist Church, Bridport Road	(01305) 262045
Dorchester Community Church, Acland Road	(01305) 267171
Dorchester Family Church, North Square	(01305) 265775
United Church (Methodist and URC), Charles St	(01305) 262462
Holy Trinity RC, High West Street	(01305) 251976
Jehovah's Witnesses, Weymouth Avenue	(01305) 751755
Pentecostal Church, Cambridge Road	(01305) 268618
Quakers (Society of Friends), Holloway Road	(01305) 263544
St. George's, High Street, Fordington	(01305) 250719
St. Mary's Church, Edward Road	(01305) 250719
St. Peter's, High West Street	(01305) 250719

Useful Numbers

Citizens Advice Bureau	(01305) 262220
Dorchester Police	(01305) 251212
Dorchester Town Council	(01305) 266861
Dorset County Council	(01305)221000/textphone(01305) 267933
Dorset County Hospital (A&E)	(01305) 251150
Dorset County Library	(01305) 224652
Dorset History Centre	(01305) 250550
West Dorset District Council	(01305) 251010

LYME REGIS

Lyme Regis is a historic and picturesque seaside town set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, on the border where Dorset meets Devon. The town is surrounded by beautiful coastlines and countryside famous for its geology and fossil hunting.

The town's most outstanding feature is a delightful 13th Century Cobb harbour, famous for being the landing place of the Duke of Monmouth in 1685. The town was made more famous by the filming of "The French Lieutenant's Woman" from the book by local author John Fowles.

Jane Austen visited Lyme Regis during the summer of 1803 and 1804 and no doubt the dramatic Cobb and the surrounding scenery fired her imagination. The film version of "Persuasion" was filmed in Lyme.

The seafront, a picturesque part of the town, is accessible to all wheelchair users and those with walking difficulties. It stretches from the area of Monmouth Beach car park along the promenade to Gun Cliff/East Beach where there are views around the bay towards Charmouth. Cobb Gate car park, at the bottom of Broad Street, also provides access to this area. Anywhere away from the promenade is hilly with some narrow pavements.

Car Parking

Disabled badge holders must pay for parking. Tax exempt vehicles may park free for up to 3 hours. Disabled badge holders in receipt of higher rate of mobility or equivalent may obtain an exemption permit from the Council or any West Dorset Tourist Information Centre. **Disabled badge holders are advised to refer to the disabled car parking notices on display on each car park.**

The following car parks have designated disabled bays:

Cobb Gate (short stay) P (1)
Lower Sea Lane (short stay) P (2)
Monmouth Beach (long stay) P (6)

Disabled Toilet Facilities

The following toilets have disabled facilities:

Broad Street (daytime only)
Charmouth Road
Holmbush
Monmouth Beach
Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth (daytime only)
Foreshore, Charmouth (daytime only)

RADAR keys are available to purchase from any West Dorset Tourist Information Centre.

Public Gardens

Langmoor Gardens is situated above the Marine Parade and overlooks the sea with benched seating areas. It is accessible from the Marine Parade and the top of Broad Street for wheelchair users and those less able wanting to avoid steep steps. Paths and slopes meander through the gardens making every part of it accessible to wheelchair users.

Anning Road Playing Fields has swings for toddlers and infants, two climbing frames one for under eights and one for over plus two slides. It is not specifically designed for people with disabilities but access to the area is level.

Places of Worship

Baptist Church, Silver Street	(01297) 445303
Bethany Chapel, Coombe Street	(01297) 443210
St. Michael & St. George RC, Silver Street	(01297) 32135
Bethany Chapel, Coombe Street	(01297) 443210
Quakers (Society of Friends), Uplyme Village Hall	07976845591
St. Peter & St. Paul's, Rhode Lane, Uplyme	(01297) 443256

Useful Numbers

Axminster Hospital	(01297) 630400
Citizens Advice Bureau	(01297) 445325
Community Care Centre	(01297) 445777
Lyme Regis Library	(01297) 443151
Lyme Regis Police Station	(01297) 442603
Lyme Regis Town Council	(01297) 445175

SHERBORNE

Sherborne is a historic abbey town with many individual shops and restaurants. Founded by the Saxons amidst green valleys and wooded hills, the town has a number of buildings of architectural note. It boasts famous schools, 15th Century almshouse and two castles. Sherborne offers delightful and varied shopping, hand-crafted goods, elegant fashions and fine art and antique shops.

Market days are Thursdays and Saturdays with the Farmers' Market held on the third Friday of the month. Antiques, collector's fairs and flea markets are held monthly in the town. The town centre is accessible for wheelchair users with many car parks located nearby. Cheap Street, which gradually inclines, is pedestrianised from 12 noon to 4pm Monday to Friday and 11am to 4pm on Saturdays. Some paths are narrow in places.

Car Parking

Disabled badge holders must pay for parking. Tax exempt vehicles may park free for up to 3 hours. Disabled badge holders in receipt of higher rate of mobility or equivalent may obtain an exemption permit from the Council or any West Dorset Tourist Information Centre. **Disabled badge holders are advised to refer to the disabled car parking notices on display on each car park.**

The following car parks have designated disabled bays:

Culverhayes (short stay) P (5)
Digby Hall (short stay) P (4)
Newland South (short stay) P (5)
Old Market Yard (short stay) P (3)
Sainsburys (short stay) P (9)

Disabled Toilet Facilities

The following toilets have disabled facilities:

Culverhayes (daytime only)
Digby Road (daytime only)
Old Market Yard

Public Gardens

Sherborne's gardens are wheelchair-accessible. Pageant Gardens is close to the centre of the town, with sloping access from Digby Road and level access from South Street. There are several seats and the paths are level and suitable for wheelchairs. Paddock Garden in Newland is also suitable for wheelchairs and all parts can be reached by sloping gravel paths. There is a scented garden area with seating.

Places of Worship

Abbey Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Half Moon Street	(01935) 812452
Baptist Church, Sherborne Primary School, North Road	(01935) 813430
Cheap Street Church (Methodist), Cheap Street	(01935) 813220
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Digby Road	(01935) 816970
Community Church, West End Community Hall	(01935) 817575
St. Mary Magdalene, Castleton (Parish Office)	(01935) 812452
St. Paul's @ The Gryphon, St. Paul's Close	(01935) 812452
Sacred Heart & St. Aldhelm (R.C.), Westbury	(01935) 812021

Useful Numbers

Citizens Advice Bureau	(01935) 815681
Sherborne Library	(01935) 812683
Sherborne Police	(01935) 812101
Sherborne Town Council	(01935) 812807
Yeatman Hospital (Minor Injuries Unit)	(01935) 813991
Yeovil District Hospital (A&E)	(01935) 475122

USEFUL CONTACTS: NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

DirectGov Disabled People

Advice and information to disabled people about travel and holidays.

www.directgov.org/disabledpeople

Tourism For All

National charity dedicated to making tourism welcoming to all.

www.tourismforall.org.uk

West Dorset District Council Equality and Diversity Team

Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in the district.

01305 252010

www.dorsetforyou.com

RADAR

The disability network

0207 250 3222, minicom 0207 250 4119

www.radar.org.uk