

## **Access Statement for Weymouth Beach**

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our visitors.

### **Introduction**

Weymouth's fine Georgian seafront is an impressive backdrop to the long arc of fine, golden sand. The beautiful safe, gently shelving beach is just minutes from the town centre and historic harbour. Enjoy a visit to Weymouth along the level promenade or on the sands. The views from the bay are spectacular, stretching across the horizon taking in the Jurassic Coastline.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance, please phone 01305 239832 or email [resort@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:resort@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk).

### **Pre-Arrival**

- Weymouth train station is approximately 150m from the seafront. It is the end of the South Western main line from Waterloo. Taxis are available just outside the station.
- There are several taxi ranks ranging in distance from the promenade itself to just 150m from the promenade (some are evenings only).
- The main bus stops are situated around the Kings Statue with half of the stops directly accessible from the promenade itself; the others are just 30m away on the other side of the road.

### **Car Parking and Arrival**

- There is no parking on the promenade.
- There are 6 Dorset council car parks all within easy walking distance of the beach, plus there is on street parking and private car parks.
- All parking, blue badge included must be paid for in the council car parks (run by Dorset Council).

- The Pavilion car park (DT4 8DZ) is just 200m from the beach; access is via a well-lit and level promenade.
- Please click on link for further details of all council car parks [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking)
- All the council car parks are tarmac and even.

### **Areas Adjacent to the Beach**

- Adjacent to the entire length of the beach is a level tarmac'ed and well-lit promenade.
- Cycling is currently not permitted between 10:00am and 5:30pm along any of Weymouth promenade during the peak summer period however pedestrians have right of way.
- General traffic is not permitted along the promenade. Service vehicles/deliveries etc are done before 10am from Good Friday until September.
- The average width of the prom is around 8 metres.
- On the seaward side of the promenade are railings and posts running from Pavilion Car Park to the Jubilee Clock.
- The promenade is directly adjacent to the road, between the Kings Statue and the Jubilee Clock there are 3 pedestrian crossings each with tactile paving.
- Along the promenade there are 7 Victorian shelters with seating available and some have empty bays so wheelchair users can get directly underneath the shelter.
- Between the Pavilion and Pier Bandstand there are approximately 80 benches, almost half with arm rests.
- The main beach information sign is situated on the road side of the Beach Control Office (adjacent to the Kings Statue).
- Safety and Beach Information signs are on each access point to the beach. These have a map, general beach information and contact details clearly displayed and include pictograms.
- All fixed bollards and bins on the promenade are painted blue with contrasting white either as a band or lettering.
- The promenade is well lit at night with lamp posts at regular intervals.

## **Beach Access Points**

- Access to Weymouth Beach central is very good; there are 18 sets of either steps, slipways, or a combination of both.
- The promenade is a greyish colour, and the steps are grey concrete, wood, or stone.
- All steps that lead towards the sea have at least one handrail, the number of treads vary depending on the level of the sand.
- Slipways can become wet and sandy at times, but efforts are made during the summer season to prevent the build-up of sand.

## **On the Beach**

- Weymouth beach has some of the finest golden sands around and is incredibly safe as far as beaches go. It faces East within Weymouth Bay, the beach is very sheltered and shelves gently with no drop offs. It is very rare to have any currents or rip tides. During the bathing season (May until end of September) '4 knot' buoys are placed in the bay by the Harbour Master, no unauthorised anchoring of vessels is permitted inside of these.
- Weymouth Town Council's Beach Control team are operational every day from May until September providing lost children service, general inspections and beach equipment hire. Deckchairs, windbreaks, and sunbeds are all available to hire on Weymouth beach (and deckchairs on the promenade) for a small fee weather permitting.
- The RNLI provide beach lifeguards every day from early May until September who are operational between 10:00am-6:00pm. They are on duty when the red and yellow flags are flying. The lifeguards also provide First Aid cover when they are on duty. Their tower is positioned on the beach adjacent to the Kings Statue.
- Beach Control have 2 beach wheelchairs available to hire free of charge (ID must be provided on hiring).

- For people who prefer to use their own wheelchairs, young families with pushchairs and anyone with mobility difficulties can use the access matting which is on the beach from the large slipway adjacent to the Kings Statue (June – early Sept).
- Drinking water taps are located on the beach close to the promenade at regular intervals along the entire length of the beach, plus there are two cold water showers situated on the beach – one adjacent to the Kings Statue the other near Greenhill. Then a further three outside showers attached to the side of the Beach Control Office building next to the Kings Statue public toilets.

## **Public Toilets**

Alongside the award-winning beach public facilities include:

- A set of public toilets on the promenade; these are adjacent to the Kings Statue. Above ground toilets include 23 newly built gender-neutral toilets surrounding the Beach Control Office.
- A set of underground male and female toilets are accessible by approximately 18 steps down.
- Three accessible ground level toilets are situated on the left-hand roadside of the Beach Control office building. These toilets do not require use of a radar key and are open to everyone. The doors measure 92cm wide to accommodate wheelchairs and mobility vehicles. Once inside there are 5 grab rails in each. All 3 toilets have emergency assistance alarms that alert the Beach Control Office (in operational hours). All toilets are well lit, the floors are nonslip vinyl and level.
- As well as a regular family changing facility there is also a changing facility for those with additional needs with the use of a hoist or bed as well as a toilet. This facility requires use of a fob that can be attained from Weymouth Library or access can be given by a member of Beach Control staff upon request. The width of the door measures at 82cm with plenty of space. The door operates automatically for ease of access.

- Just outside of the award-winning beach at the Pier Bandstand, are ground level toilets consisting of men's, ladies, disabled (this does require the use of a radar key), and baby changing facilities.

Opening hours for all the above are as follows:

During the summer 8:00am to 10:00pm and during the winter they are open until 6:00pm.

### **Food & Drink Outlets**

- Weymouth Central benefits from 8 food and drink outlets, 4 of them are accessible from prom level, the additional 4 are seasonal catering kiosks based on the actual beach itself. Access to the seasonal kiosks is down either a ramp or steps then across the sand. All of the outlets have outside seating areas; they all provide hot and cold food and drinks.

### **Beach Shop(s) & Amusement Arcade(s)**

- Within the immediate vicinity of the award winning beach is a variety of attractions catering for all ages. On the promenade is a viewing platform to the world famous Sand Sculptures. Further along the promenade we have a Clairvoyant. The 'Heritage' attractions include a traditional Punch and Judy show (can be enjoyed from the prom or beach) and donkey rides. Children's rides include a helter-skelter, trampolines and bungee trampolines, a mini snail rollercoaster ride and also Zorbing. With the exception of the donkey rides and sand sculptures all of the attractions are seasonal.

### **Beach Attractions/Activities**

- Weymouth hosts a wide variety of events, [www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk/events/](http://www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk/events/)

### **Additional Information**

- From 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September (inclusive) dogs are not permitted on Weymouth's award-winning sands other than in

the designated dog area which is clearly marked on the beach. Registered assistance dogs from the following charities - Dogs for the Disabled, Support Dogs, Canine Partners for Independence are permitted anywhere on the beach at any time if being used for their given purpose.

- Less than 1km from Weymouth Central beach is Weymouth Community Hospital. Including a Community Urgent Care Centre opening from 8:00am-11:00pm and a Minor Injuries unit. Reception 01305 760022.
- Weymouth has an accessible beach hut just outside of the main award-winning beach at the Pier Bandstand. This is a great facility and includes its own child sized beach wheelchair; only registered members of the Dorset Parent-Council Council can hire this hut. [www.dorsetparentcarercouncil.co.uk/our-beach-huts](http://www.dorsetparentcarercouncil.co.uk/our-beach-huts)

### **Future Plans**

- We are in the process of updating promoting the use of E-forms and QR codes for easier access.
- Looking at buying an additional 2 x Beach Wheelchairs for free hire for members of public.
- Look to trial an area of beach access matting for the shingle part of the beach towards Greenhill.

### **Contact Information**

Address (Inc postcode):	Beach Office The Esplanade Kings Statue Weymouth Dorset DT4 7AN
Telephone:	01305 239832
Email:	Resort@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk
Website:	<a href="http://www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk/services/the-beach">www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk/services/the-beach</a>
Grid Reference:	SY 68022 79304

Hours Of Operation: Open access to the beach all year. Beach Office - full time from May to Sept, at all other times call ahead on 01305 239832.

Local Equipment Hire: Active Mobility Weymouth 01305 774422  
Active Mobility Dorchester 01305 213141

Local Accessible Taxi: Weyline 01305 777777

Local Public Transport: For local public transport information please visit Travel Dorset  
(<http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/traveldorset>)