



SHIRE HALL HISTORIC COURTHOUSE MUSEUM

Accessibility Guide

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






















Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum
High West Street
Dorchester
Dorset DT1 1UY

info@shirehalldorset.org, [01305 261849](tel:01305261849), www.shirehalldorset.org
Contact for accessibility enquiries: Anna Bright

Shire Hall | High West Street | Dorchester | DT1 1UY • www.shirehalldorset.org • 01305 261849

Registered Charity N^o: 1163252 • PATRONS: Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury and Caroline Montagu, Countess of Sandwich

Contents

Contents.....	2
1 Introduction	3
2 At a glance.....	3
2.1  Level Access	3
2.2  Hearing	3
2.3  Visual.....	3
2.4  General.....	3
3 Getting Here.....	4
3.1  Travel by public transport.....	4
3.2  Travel by taxi	4
3.3  Parking	4
4 Arrival.....	4
4.1  Path to main entrance.....	4
4.2  Main entrance	5
5 Getting around inside.....	5
5.1 Visual Impairment - General Information	5
5.2  Lift.....	5
5.3 Narrow doorways.....	6
6  Reception/ticket desk	6
7  Gift Shop	6
8  Public toilet.....	7
9  Shire Hall Café.....	7
10  Museum Introductory Gallery.....	8
11  Film Room.....	8
12  The Cells	9
13  The Courtroom	9
14  Temporary Exhibition Gallery.....	10
15 Customer care and support.....	10
15.1 Accessibility equipment.....	10
15.2 Emergency evacuation procedures.....	10
15.3 Customer support.....	10

1 Introduction

Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum brings over 200 years of justice and injustice to life. Follow the footsteps of people whose lives were forever changed in the historic court at Dorchester's Shire Hall. Immerse yourself in the cells before ascending to the Courtroom. Experience it for yourself.

Shire Hall is located in the centre of Dorchester. The surrounding area has pavements and curb cuts. Volunteers and members of staff are on hand throughout the Museum should you have any questions or require assistance.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01305 261849 or email info@shirehalldorset.org.

2 At a glance

2.1 Level Access

- There is level access, via the lift, from the main entrance to the entire building

2.2 Hearing

- The fire alarm has flashing lights
- Subtitles are provided on the introductory film – for the best view of them, please sit on the front bench or stand
- The multimedia guide includes transcripts of all audio content
- There is a hearing loop at the Reception desk and in the Café
- Please note that the entrance, reception and cafe areas are large, open spaces and some visitors may find the acoustics challenging

2.3 Visual

- The walls and the doors have high colour contrast
- Some parts of the museum have low lighting
- There is a visually-descriptive audio guide, on headsets with raised buttons
- Large print versions of both paper and digital interpretation are available
- Braille books of tactile images, produced by the RNIB, are available

2.4 General

- We have a complimentary ticket policy for companions
- There are accessible toilets on the ground and second floors.
- Assistance dogs are welcome at the museum. Water bowls are available on request from the Reception desk
- If you require a guide to assist you around the building, please book in advance. Unfortunately, assistance cannot be guaranteed without a booking. Please call 01305 261849 or email info@shirehalldorset.org

3 Getting Here

3.1 🚉 Travel by public transport

- You can get to the Museum by bus and train
- The closest bus stop is outside Dorset County Museum on High West Street. Buses 2, 5, 6, 10, 187, 701, X11, X12 and X51 all stop there
- The bus stop is 400 ft from Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum
- The nearest train stations are Dorchester South or Dorchester West. Both stations are 0.5 miles from the Museum.

3.2 🚗 Travel by taxi

- Local taxi services, which provide accessible taxi services, are ALine Taxis (tel: 01305 264747) and Bob's Cars (tel: 01305 269500).

3.3 🚗 Parking

- The nearest drop-off point is on Glyde Path Road, which is approx. 200 ft from the Museum entrance
- The nearest public disabled parking is at Colliton Park car park. It is run by Dorset Council, and charges apply. It is 650 ft from the Museum entrance.
- One disabled space at the rear of the building is available for Blue Badge holders to book in advance. It is 650 ft from the Museum entrance. Please call us ahead of your visit on 01305 261849 to book and get directions – it is quite hard to find.

4 Arrival

4.1 🚶 Path to main entrance

- From the street to the main entrance, there is level access.
- The pavement is around 3m wide, on a slight slope.



Outside Shire Hall

4.2 Main entrance

- The main entrance has level, non-ramped access.
- The main doors are side hung and automatic.
- The door is 1400mm wide.



Front door

5 Getting around inside: general information

5.1 Lift

- There is a lift to all floors
- The lift doors are 900mm wide and open on three sides of the lift, depending on the floor
- The lift is 1100mm wide and 1400mm deep.
- The lift says the floor number at each floor.
- The lift buttons have raised numbers or letters.
- The lift shows the floor number, at each floor.

5.2 Visual Impairment

- There is high colour contrast between walls and doorframes.
- The basement cells have low lighting.



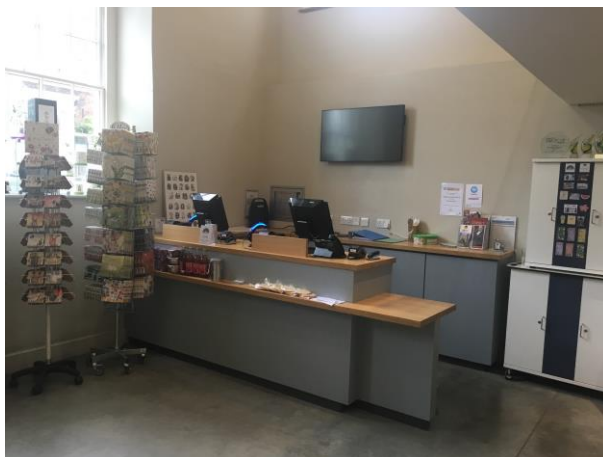
Georgian cells

5.3 Narrow doorways

- The historic nature of the building, and its Grade 1 listed status, means that there are some narrow doorways and corners.
- The minimum door width is 7500mm.
- Wheelchairs that are up to 60 cm wide, and up to 140 cm from front to back, should not have a problem accessing all areas of the building.

6 🏰 Reception/ticket desk

- There is level access from the main entrance to the desk.
- The entrance doorway is 1300mm wide
- The desk has a low section
- There is a hearing loop



Reception desk

7 🛒 Gift Shop

- There is level access from the main entrance to this area.
- The route is 1300mm wide, or more.



Gift shop

8 Public toilet

- There is a public toilet for disabled visitors.
- From the main entrance to the public toilet, there is level access. The route is 1200mm wide, or more.
- The toilet door is 900mm wide.
- The direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the right.
- The toilet seat is 500mm high. The toilets have handrails.
- There is 800mm space to the left of the toilet, and 1500mm in front of it.



Accessible toilet

9 Shire Hall Café

- There is level access from the main entrance to the Café, via the lift. The lift door is 900mm wide.
- There are no steps to get to a table
- The menu is offered in large print.

- The route through the Café is 800mm wide, or more.
- There is no background music.
- The table and plates have high colour contrast.
- We cater for sugar free (diabetic), vegetarian, gluten free (celiacs), nut free and vegan specific diets.



Café

10 Museum Introductory Gallery

- There is level access from the main entrance to this area.



Introductory Gallery

11 Film Room

- There is level access from the main entrance to this area. The door is 7500mm wide.
- The introductory film is 4 minutes long and has subtitles



Film room

12 The Cells

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. There is a lift.
- The door is 7500mm wide.



Tolpuddle Cell

13 The Courtroom

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. There is a lift.
- From the lift to this area, the route is 1400mm wide, or more. The door is 1050mm wide.



Looking into the Courtroom

14 Temporary Exhibition Gallery

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. There is a lift.
- From the lift to this area, the route is 1000mm wide, or more. The door is 1000mm wide.

15 Customer care and support

15.1 Accessibility equipment

- There are wheelchairs available to borrow, on a first-come, first-served basis, or you are welcome to book one in advance by calling 01305 261849.
- There is a hearing loop at the Reception desk and in the Café
- You can hire mobility equipment from Shopmobility, Charles Street, Dorchester by calling 01202 661770.
- There is a parking area for mobility scooters next to the shop. Mobility scooters are not permitted in the museum, except in the gift shop.
- A variety of seating is available throughout the museum, some with backs. Please feel free to sit on any of the historic benches in the cells or courtroom.
- Interpretation is available large print, braille, in audio-descriptive handsets with raised buttons. All audio information has subtitles or transcriptions.

15.2 Emergency evacuation procedures

- There are emergency evacuation procedures for disabled visitors.
- The fire alarm has flashing lights.

15.3 Customer support

- Staff and volunteers have had disability awareness training.
- Volunteers are available to show disabled visitors round the museum and assist them with their visit, if required.