



DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices, 19 North Square, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1JF

Telephone: (01305) 266861

Adrian Stuart, Town Clerk

5 April 2017

You are invited to a meeting of the **DORCHESTER HERITAGE JOINT COMMITTEE** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, NORTH SQUARE, DORCHESTER** on **MONDAY 10 APRIL 2017** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Town Clerk and Secretary to the Committee

Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded that the Code of Conduct requires Members to declare any interest which they have in any matter under discussion. If the interest is regarded as a Personal Interest the Member may remain and take part in the consideration of the item but if the interest is a Prejudicial Interest the Member must withdraw from the Chamber during the consideration of it.

Membership

West Dorset District Council: A. Canning, J. Dunseith, S. Jones

Dorchester Town Council: C. Biggs, G. Jones, T. Loakes

The following Members may attend and speak but not vote:

Mr S Conibear (Duchy of Cornwall), Mr P Mann (Dorchester Civic Society), Mr A Chisholm (Dorchester Chamber for Business), Mr C Copson (The Keep Military Museum), Ms C M Hebditch (Dorchester Local Nature Reserve), Dr J Murden (Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society), Mr T Loasby (Blue Badge Tourist Guides) Mr J Smith (Dorchester Association), A Bright (Shire Hall), Mr R M Biggs and Mr D T Jones (Dorset County Council)

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. **MINUTES**

To read, confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 16 January 2017 (copy enclosed).

3. **DECLARATIONS OF PREDETERMINATION**

Members to declare if they consider that they have predetermined or may predetermine in the relation to the following items and to indicate the action they will be taking when the item is considered.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of individual Members to decide whether they have predetermined in relation to an item. Members who make a declaration should leave the room during the discussion and voting.

Members who may wish to take part in the decision making process as a member of another committee, at which the item is to be considered, should decide whether they wish to participate at this stage.

4. **NEW TOWN MAP**

To welcome Les Ball, Managing Director, Cityscape Maps to the meeting, to discuss further the proposal for a new town map. Mr Ball is attending the meeting at the request of Members.

5. **PEDESTRIAN WAYFINDING SIGNS**

The Committee will be informed that the full application to the South Dorset Local Action Group Leader Rural Development Programme for a grant towards a new pedestrian wayfinding scheme for Dorchester has now been submitted. The result of this important application will be known in early June 2017.

6. **FRINKS SCULPTURE – SOUTH WALKS**

The Committee will be informed that Historic England has determined that the Frinks Sculpture should be Grade II Listed. A copy of Historic England's advice report is enclosed for information.

7. **THOMAS HARDY TRAIL**

The representative from the Dorchester Chamber for Business to report on an idea for a Thomas Hardy trail.

8. **DORSET ARCHITECTURAL WEEK**

To consider whether the Committee wishes to contribute towards Dorset Architectural Week (information enclosed). For example contributing towards funding for some guided tours in the town etc.

9. **'A' BOARDS**

The Chairman of the Committee has received a response from Dorset County Council confirming that businesses have yet to be contacted with regards to A Boards. Discussions are ongoing with the County Council's Legal Section regarding wording to be used particularly in respect of reminding businesses of their responsibility to insure the boards whilst at the same time not implying that they have permission to have the boards in place.

10. **BOUNDARY STONE**

There is an original Dorchester Boundary Stone located in the area of the end of Came View Road which appears to have been vandalised – the cast iron plate has been broken and removed. It is understood that it is one of the 1835 boundary stones (actually installed in 1857) and Members will be asked if they wish to fund a new plate to be placed on the stone. A photo of the stone is attached together with an image showing how it should look with the plate. The letters M B stand for Municipal Bounds and B of D stands for Borough of Dorchester.

11. **INFORMATION SIGNS - UPDATE**

Maumbury Rings – The new information boards have now been installed and the work to improve the steps to the top of the Rings completed.

Draft new ‘Welcome to Maumbury Rings’ signs and ‘Looking After Maumbury Rings’ are enclosed for consideration (larger versions will be available at the meeting).

Dorchester South and West Railway Stations – The proposed ‘you are here’ boards are being significantly updated so they include key areas such as Brewery Square and the new location for the Dorchester TIC. These have now been received and will be installed soon.

12. **QUESTIONS**

To receive questions submitted by Members in writing to the Dorchester Town Clerk and in respect of which the appropriate notice has been given.

13. **URGENT ITEMS**

To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To consider a date for the next meeting of the Committee.

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

16 JANUARY 2017

At the Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 16 January 2017:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors: C. Biggs G. Jones
	Officers: S. Newman E. Scott
West Dorset District Council	Councillors: A. Canning (Chairman) J. Dunseith S. Jones
Dorset County Council	Councillor: T. Jones
Blue Badge Tourist Guides	T. Loasby
Dorchester Association	J. Smith
Dorchester Civic Society	P. Mann
Dorchester Chamber for Business	A. Chisholm
Dorchester Local Nature Reserve	C.M. Hebditch
Shire Hall	A. Bright
The Keep Military Museum	C. Copson

29. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R. Biggs (Dorset County Council).

30. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2016, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

31. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

32. **SHIRE HALL**

Anna Bright, General Manager of Shire Hall gave the Committee a presentation on progress with Shire Hall – A historic courthouse museum. Members were updated on building work progress and informed that hard hat tours were available if any Member wished to visit.

The presentation also included:-

- The Shire Hall Trust's established Core and Other Aims
- Planned areas of activity
- Permanent display aims
- Justice in the balance: key themes
- Storytelling: tools and techniques
- Permanent display: narrative strands
- Learning, events and changing exhibitions

Anna responded to Members detailed questions in respect of Trust membership, project funding, forward business planning robustness, joint working with other museums, admission charges, number of staff and volunteers and whether there might be an opportunity to link somehow with the forthcoming prison development.

The Committee thanked Anna for a very informative presentation.

33. **DORCHESTER COMMUNITY PLAN**

The Town Council's Community Development Officer explained the process being undertaken to produce a new relevant Community Plan for the town. A mind map of ideas, previously identified by the community, related to Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Leisure was circulated and Members were asked individually to identify the eight ideas they felt were the highest priority.

The Community Development Officer then explained the next steps which included producing a draft Community Plan which would be presented to Committee for comment in due course.

34. **HERITAGE TOURISM FORUM**

The Committee considered the notes of the last meeting of the Heritage Tourism Forum held on 3 October 2016. It was noted that no response had been received from Dorset County Council regarding the letter to town centre traders with regard to A Boards and it was agreed that the Chairman write to the County Council seeking a copy of the letter.

The Vision Group had yet to meet but it was hoped that a meeting could be arranged in the near future.

The Chairman responded to Members detailed questions regarding how the Tourism Forum and Vision Group related to the Heritage Committee.

It was reported that the Community Carnival Committee had agreed that the date for this summer's carnival would be 17 June 2017 and the theme chosen was 'A Night at the Movies'. It was noted that the Carnival Committee was seeking volunteers to help with organising the carnival this year. It was felt that an article in the Town Council newsletter would be beneficial.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Heritage Tourism Forum held on 3 October 2016 be received.

35. **FRINKS SCULPTURE – SOUTH WALKS**

Members noted that an application had been made to Historic England for the Frinks sculpture to be Listed during the summer of 2016. Notification had very recently been received from Historic England that a consultation regarding the proposed Listing was now being undertaken.

It was reported that a Frinks Festival was taking place in Bruton during the summer and it would be good to link with that in some way. Members were also informed that a 3D scan had been made of the Martyr's statue and that this could be used as a part of its interpretation.

Members also received an update with regard to the new information board and agreed that a quote should be obtained from John Hodgson for him to prepare a historical painting of the gallows. It was noted that a resident from South Walks had been closely involved in the original information board and it was agreed that it would be worthwhile liaising with her regarding the new board.

RESOLVED

(1) That Listing consultation be noted.

(2) That the Deputy Town Clerk following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee be authorised to decide upon whether or not to contract John Hodgson to prepare a historic painting of a set of gallows for use on the information board.

33. **A NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR DORSET AND EAST DEVON**

Members were informed that the Town Council had now considered whether or not Dorchester should be included within the proposed National Park for Dorset and East Devon and had resolved that it did not wish to advocate that Dorchester should be in it at the present time.

The Committee felt that it was unlikely that West Dorset District Council or the Dorset County Council would be pursuing this matter until local government reorganisation had been implemented in the County.

RESOLVED

That the position be noted and that no further action be taken at present.

34. PEDESTRIAN WAYFINDING SIGNS

The Committee was informed that the application to South Dorset Local Action Group Leader Rural Development Programme for a grant of £81,347 to contribute towards a new pedestrian wayfinding scheme for Dorchester, had been assessed, and had been chosen to go to the next stage of the process – full application. The full application needed to be submitted by 6 April 2017.

A part of the application process was to provide evidence in respect of the need and anticipated outcomes of such a scheme and Members were asked to share any information which they might have in respect of this which could help with the application.

35. NEW TOWN MAP

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on a proposal for a new town map. Members noted that maps were dispensed by a vending machine and some concern was expressed regarding the time needed to keep the machines in good repair, collect money and restock the machines. It was felt that a debit card system would be preferable. It was also noted that any new scheme would need to fit with the proposed new pedestrian wayfinding scheme.

Members felt that it would be useful for a representative of the company to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the matter in further detail.

RESOLVED

That a representative from Cityscape be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the matter in further detail.

36. INFORMATION SIGNS - UPDATE

Maumbury Rings

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that Historic England had issued Scheduled Monument Consent for the new information boards and improvements to the two sets of steps to the top of the Rings. A contractor had been appointed to install the boards and undertake the work to the steps during February 2017. Members were also updated with regard to the welcome to Maumbury Rings signs. It was felt that once the work had been completed there should be a ribbon cutting ceremony – possibly around Easter time.

It was felt that a welcome board should be located at each entrance to the Rings.

Dorchester South and West Railway Stations

Members were informed that the 'you are here' boards were presently being updated by West Dorset District Council to include such key areas as Brewery Square.

37. **QUESTIONS**

No formal questions had been submitted.

38. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Committee was informed that the Mill Street Exhibition was still on show at Dukes Auction Rooms but that it would be closing shortly. Those Members that had not seen the exhibition were encouraged to attend.

It was noted that Dorchester's first full and half marathon would be taking place on 28 May 2017.

39. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 10 April 2017 commencing at 7.00pm.

Case Name: Public Sculpture 1945-1985 Phase II: Frink's Martyrs Statues, Dorchester

Case Number: 1439784

Background

In response to the Historic England's call to the public earlier this year to alert us of public sculptures in England that may merit listing as part of a second phase of its Post War Public Sculpture Project, we have received an application for the listing of the Dorset Martyrs Memorial in Dorchester.

Asset(s) under Assessment

Facts about the asset(s) can be found in the Annex(es) to this report.

Annex	List Entry Number	Name	Heritage Category	HE Recommendation
1	1439805	The Dorset Martyrs Memorial	Listing	Add to List

Visits

None: Data from other sources.

Context

The sculpture stands on top of the underground remains of part of the Dorchester Roman Walls (a Scheduled Monument), and it stands also within the Dorchester Town Walks, an area designated as a Registered Park & Garden (Grade II). It is also located within the Dorchester Conservation Area.

Assessment

CONSULTATION

A report outlining the factual details of the case was sent to all relevant parties. Dorset County Council responded in support of listing but had no further comments. One internal interested party responded, but had no further comments. No other responses were received.

DISCUSSION

The Principles of Selection for Listing Buildings (DCMS, March 2010) state that particularly careful selection is required when considering structures which post-date 1945 for listing. Further advice on public sculptures is found in the Historic England Listing Selection Guide on Commemorative Structures (April 2011) and Historic England's Introductions to Heritage Assets: Public Art 1945-95 (2016).

Recognition through listing of the finest works of public sculpture is well established on the basis of artistic interest and, in many cases, historic significance. The post-Second World War period marked a particularly important period for public sculpture, as its function shifted from being largely commemorative to making an active, but primarily aesthetic, contribution to the public building and rebuilding programmes of the time. The integration of art into public spaces continued into the later decades of the C20, becoming a well-established principle. This has left an important artistic legacy, but one in danger of being taken for granted; the threats of neglect, redevelopment and sale have left it vulnerable. For this reason the best and most significant examples of public sculpture are recognised through listing for their important contribution to our built environment and artistic heritage. In identifying public sculpture for listing, aesthetic factors such as the choice and use of materials, quality of workmanship, physical relationship between the work and its site, and the broader artistic context of its expression, will be of importance. Overlapping with this will be the factors which impact on a work's historic interest, such as the reputation and importance of its artist, its position

within his/her oeuvre, the circumstances of its commission, and its function in communicating important social, historical or cultural ideas.

There are currently over 130 public sculptural works (including statues, memorials, reliefs and murals) listed, dating from after 1945 listed for their artistic and/or historic significance. Others of comparable importance remain to be identified and added to the List, and many, though not meriting statutory listing, should be recognised and valued for the contribution they make to their location.

Dame Elisabeth Frink (1930-1993) was an artist of national, and arguably international, reputation, whose listed sculptures span the chronological range of her work from the Blind Beggar and Dog, Tower Hamlets of 1958 to the Desert Quartet, Worthing of 1989; both are listed at Grade II*. Her work exemplifies the contribution public art can make to the public realm.

There can be no doubt that her Martyrs sculpture in Dorchester is an accomplished piece of art reflecting a theme that was close to her heart since she had moved to Dorset, where the rich landscape, culture and history inspired much of her later work. Funded in the early 1980s by institutions and individuals of different denominations and the Arts Council of Great Britain through South West Arts, it is an interesting and significant example of a public sculpture commission of that period with a commemorative function. The finish of the sculpture is of a high quality, the varying textures adding depth; there is a serene and poignant quality to the three larger than life size figures which are subtly but masterfully composed. The prominent heritage location of the installation on the site of the old gallows in Dorchester, where the commemorated martyrs were executed, is highly relevant to its artistic expression and intention. As a piece of public art of unquestionable high quality by the internationally renowned Dame Elisabeth Frink, it fully meets the criteria for listing. Note that the three figures together with the circular stone set paving and bronze plaque all form part of the installation and as such are all listed, which is clear from the List entry.

In recommending the extent of designation we have considered whether powers of exclusion under s.1 (5A) of the 1990 Act are appropriate, and consider that they are not.

CONCLUSION

After examining all the records and other relevant information, and having carefully considered the architectural and historic interest of this case, the criteria for listing are fulfilled.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION DECISION

The public sculpture of the Martyrs by Dame Elisabeth Frink, commissioned and funded in the early 1980s, designed in 1983 and installed on the site of the old gallows in Dorchester in 1986, is recommended for listing at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

* Artistic interest: as a public sculpture of high artistic and aesthetic quality, cast in bronze from plaster, subtly detailed and well-composed;

* Historic interest: as a commemorative piece of public art commissioned in the early 1980s by institutions and individuals of different denominations and the Arts Council of Great Britain through South West Arts from the internationally renowned artist Dame Elisabeth Frink, representative of her later work which was inspired by the history, culture and landscape of Dorset where she lived;

* Group value: it forms an important group with the underground remains of the Roman Walls (scheduled), including the site of the former gallows in Dorchester and with the subsequent C18 Town Walks (registered Grade II), to which the sculpture has become an important focal point.

Countersigning comments:

Agreed. The public sculpture of the Martyrs by Dame Elisabeth Frink, commissioned and funded in the early 1980s, designed in 1983 and installed on the site of the old gallows in Dorchester in 1986, is a powerful and expressive work by one of the most significant sculptors of the C20. Given its quality and strong artistic interest, it merits listing at Grade II.

Deborah Williams
9th December 2016

Annex 1**List Entry****List Entry Summary**

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: The Dorset Martyrs Memorial

List Entry Number: 1439805

Location

Gallows Hill, South Walk, Dorchester, Dorset,

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
Dorset	West Dorset	District Authority	Dorchester

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed:

Date of most recent amendment:

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy Number: Not applicable to this List entry.

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description**Summary of Building**

A public sculpture by Elisabeth Frink commemorating those who in the C16 and C17 had been executed for their religious beliefs at Gallows Hill in Dorchester, designed in 1983 and installed on the site of the former gallows in 1986.

Reasons for Designation

The public sculpture of the Martyrs by Dame Elisabeth Frink, commissioned and funded in the early 1980s, designed in 1983 and installed on the site of the old gallows in Dorchester in 1986, is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- * Artistic interest: as a public sculpture of high artistic and aesthetic quality, cast in bronze from plaster, subtly detailed and well-composed;
- * Historic interest: as a commemorative piece of public art commissioned in the early 1980s by institutions and individuals of different denominations and the Arts Council of Great Britain through South West Arts from the internationally renowned artist Dame Elisabeth Frink, representative of her later work which was inspired by the history, culture and landscape of Dorset where she lived;
- * Group value: it forms an important group with the underground remains of the Roman Walls in Dorchester (scheduled), which incorporates the site of the former gallows, and with the subsequent C18 Town Walks (registered Grade II), to which the sculpture is an important focal point.

History

In the early 1980s, following funding received from the Art Council's 'Art for Public Places Scheme', the Council of Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, and the Catholic Community in Dorset, commissioned Elisabeth Frink to make a public sculpture for the site of Dorchester's former gallows on Gallows Hill. The brief was for a memorial to those who had been executed there for their beliefs. Having been brought up a Catholic, Frink was familiar with the Roman Catholic Church's history in England during the C16 and C17, and in particular the executions of Catholic recusants in Dorset at that time. She was also impressed by the Roman Catholics' political intervention of priests and nuns in the later C20, in particular in Central America (Somerville, 2000). In 1983 maquettes for the sculpture, named the Dorset Martyrs, were exhibited at the Dorset County Museum, and in 1986 the final installation of three standing bronze figures on Gallows Hill was completed.

Dame Elisabeth Frink (1930-1993) was a world renowned C20 artist and a number of her public sculptures are listed. She was born in Suffolk, and attended the Guildford School of Art and subsequently the Chelsea School of Art in London, where she lived during the 1960s. In 1956 she had her first exhibition in the United States. Between 1967 and 1973 she lived and worked in France, and in 1976, after her return to England she moved to Dorset where she lived and worked until her death in 1993. She confirmed that she was greatly inspired by the Dorset landscape and its history. A collection of her work, including personal artifacts and archival documents, are now held by the Frink Estate in Dorset.

Details

A public sculpture by Elisabeth Frink commemorating those who in the C16 and C17 had been executed for their religious beliefs at Gallows Hill in Dorchester, designed in 1983 and installed on the site of the former gallows in 1986.

The installation comprises three larger than life bronze cast figures each with a flat rectangular shaped base, placed in triangular formation, looking inward. They are placed on stone setts laid in a circle, with at the centre a circular bronze plaque, with, in raised lettering, the words 'FOR / CHRIST / AND / CONSCIENCE / SAKE'.

Selected Sources

Books and journals

Somerville, M, 'Frink's Martyrs' in Dorset, (February 2000), 20-21

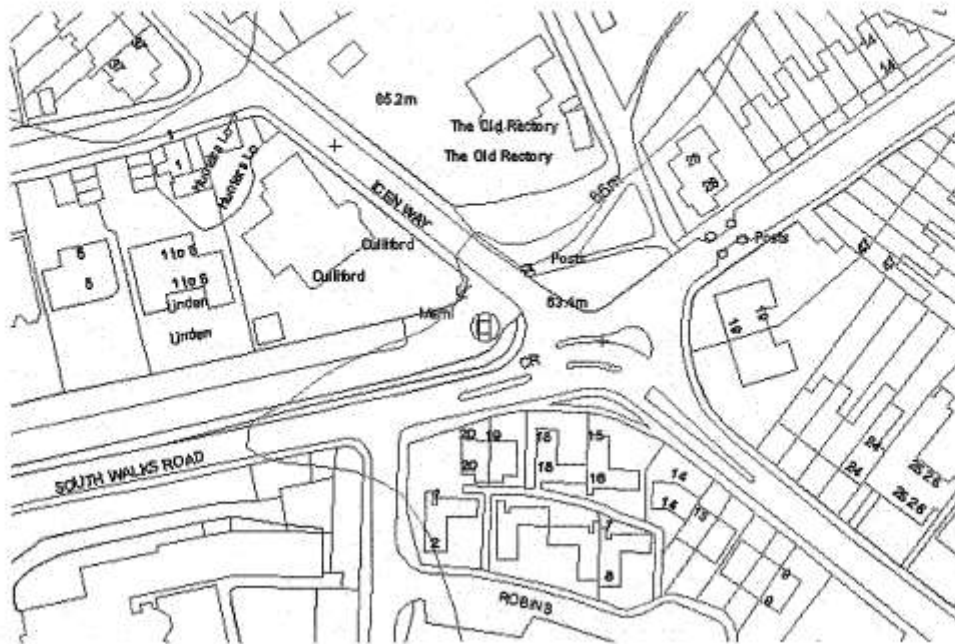
Websites

Elisabeth Frink Estate - website - incl biography and index, accessed 14 Nov 2016 from
<http://www.elisabethfrink-estate.com/index.php?act=bio>

PMSA Database entry for Frink's Martyrs - public sculpture record, accessed 14 Nov 2016 from
<http://www.pmsa.org.uk/pmsa-database/12292/>

Map

National Grid Reference: SY6962490443



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The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - 1439805_1.pdf

From: Ian Utley [<mailto:dahwoffice@gmail.com>]

Sent: 06 March 2017 09:22

To: dahw@edht.org.uk

Subject: Invitation To Take Part In Dorset Architectural Heritage Week (Heritage Open Days) 2017

Dorset Architectural Heritage Week (*Heritage Open Days*) 2017
Thursday 7th - Thursday 14th September
Event Registration Now Open

Dear Event Holder

It may seem like a long time until September but I am writing to invite you to take part in **Dorset Architectural Heritage Week 2017**. You have received this email as you have either taken part in previous years, requested to take part in this year's program for the first time or you have been recommended for inclusion by someone else.

If you **WOULD** like to take part this year please complete the attached Event Registration Form and return it to us as soon as you can, by email or by post. Registration closes on **Friday 28th April** so please make sure you have submitted your completed form by that date to guarantee your entry in this year's booklet. Don't worry, you will still have the chance to confirm or change your details before the booklet is published in July. If you require a copy of an event listing from a previous year for reference these are available on request.

If you **DO NOT** want to take part please reply to this e-mail, clearly stating if you are not taking part for this year only or if you would like to withdraw from all future Heritage Weeks.

The booklet is produced in full colour and we like to include as many pictures as possible so if you have any high quality photos of your property or venue that you would like to see included please send them in.

We appreciate all of the time and effort that is so willingly given by all our event holders and greatly look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best Regards

Ian Utley
Event Manager

Booking Office
Dorset Architectural Heritage Week
Allendale House
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Facebook: [heritageweekdorset](https://www.facebook.com/heritageweekdorset)
Twitter: @DorsetAHW



DORSET ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE WEEK

East Dorset Heritage Trust, Allendale House, Hanham Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1AS

T 01202 888992

E dahw@edht.org.uk

W dahw.org.uk



What Is Heritage Week?

Dorset Architectural Heritage Week is a week long celebration of the architecture of Dorset, both historic and contemporary, that takes place every September.

Originally a part of the national **Heritage Open Days** programme organised by the Conservation Officers Group of Dorset the event has grown into a whole week of events organised by **East Dorset Heritage Trust**.

All of the events within the annual programme are completely free of charge to visitors. Some event organisers arrange special events for the week while others offer free entry to a property that normally charges. The only requirement for an event is that it must be something that the visitor could not access or experience during the rest of the year.

Event registration takes place during March and April and the programme is assembled during May and June. The full programme is then available in print and online during July.

Properties with limited space or particular security issues can opt to have entry to their event by pre-booking only. In this instance visitors have to submit a booking form with their full address and other contact details in order to be entered into a ballot for tickets. The event organisers/property owners are then given a full list of attendees before the visitors arrive.

All events receive free public liability insurance, risk assessment guidance and promotional posters.

If you have any questions about the Week or the way it is organised please contact

Ian Utley, Event Manager on 01202 888992



How the Boundary Stone should look



How the Boundary Stone looks at present

Looking after Maumbury Rings



Please help us to look after this historic site!



Maumbury Rings is specially protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is owned by the Duchy of Cornwall and leased to Dorchester Town Council, who are responsible for its maintenance. You can find out about the history of the site inside.

Please help us look after it by:

- Keeping the Rings free of litter
- Ensuring that you – or your dog – don't cause damage to the banks.

It is illegal to use a metal detector or to dig here without a licence from Historic England.
It is also illegal to remove artefacts found here without written permission from Historic England.

Wildlife at Maumbury Rings

The steep banks and some of the surrounding grassland support a surprising variety of different wild plants and animals found on chalk downland – a habitat that has disappeared from most of Dorset. Flowers include salad burnet, red clover (important for bumble bees), greater knapweed and smaller plants such as fairy flax and the rare squinancywort.

The Rings provide a haven for butterflies and moths – marbled white, burnet moths and common blue butterflies feed on the wild flowers. The banks also support slow-worms, common lizard as well as a large population of bank voles. Badgers, foxes and hedgehogs may also visit the Rings to feed.

The steep banks of the Rings are cut once or twice a year by a special mower and the hay is removed by raking. This mowing removes bulky grass and also reduces fertility in the soil, encouraging wildflowers to thrive instead of the larger coarse grasses.

Find out more about the nature in Maumbury Ring and events held here – scan the code.

Your dog is welcome to visit Maumbury Rings. Ask 'pawcans' staff for the rules and get an electronic Poona tag and for more.

It is essential to do so by an officer of the Council, please see where your dog on a lead.



WELCOME

to Maumbury Rings
Roman amphitheatre

