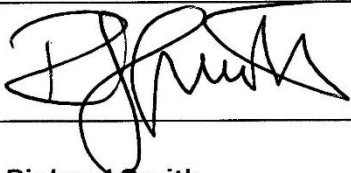


# Beaminster Museum Access Plan May 2026 – May 2028

APPROVAL OF DOCUMENT	
Changes	First Issue
Signed	
Name (print)	Richard Smith
Position	Chair of Management Committee
Date	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2026

## 1. Introduction

This document summarises recent progress regarding access to the museum and the plans for the next 2 years. It contains plans to maintain and, where possible, improve:

- the physical access to our collections
- sensory and intellectual access to our collections
- access to the building housing our collections

It also includes information not included in our Forward Plan 2025-29 on growing our audience, as this is relevant to the rest of the access plan.

In future this document may be incorporated into the Forward Plan and the latter document should be consulted for background and context.

## 2. General access around museum

Prior to April 2024 the museum already had in place:

- Double door opening on to ramp to street level
- Two stairlifts with wheelchair upstairs
- Cloakroom facilities
- Oral histories for visually impaired
- Spaces preserved for ease of wheelchair movement around the museum

## 3. Access Assessment

In December 2025 Chloe Hixson, consultant for Centre for Accessible Environments (CAE), visited the museum in December 2025 and gave us advice regarding accessibility at our museum. We have incorporated that advice into the actions for 2026-27, where improvements were suggested.

## 4. Access Items Completed 2024-25

Objective	Achievements 2024-25
Improve physical access to museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performed an Access Review with a wheelchair user</li> <li>• Special parking arrangements for blue badge holders by prior arrangement</li> </ul>
Improve access to displays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Then-and-now photos of Beaminster moved to bigger screen to improve viewability</li> <li>• Created child-friendly fossils digital content</li> <li>• Planned and executed new display for new acquisitions and hidden gems and placed at entrance to Chesterman room</li> <li>• Planned and executed new prehistory display to accommodate an important new local artefact</li> <li>• Started to create displays at different heights for different needs</li> <li>• Started use of BCE and CE rather than BC, AD in our new displays</li> <li>• Implemented larger font files for exhibition displays with chairs to be able to sit and read</li> </ul>
Improve access to museum resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside researchers have used the digital and physical reference resources in the Chesterman room</li> <li>• Worked with Bridport Museum, The Ashmolean, Poole Museum, Stoke Abbott Parish Hall, and DMAG on 3D modelling and loan-in of Waddon Hill finds</li> <li>• Developed a School Loan Box on Romans</li> <li>• Held training on family history research</li> </ul>
Grow diverse on-site, off-site and on-line audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family-friendly area introduced in Rose Gallery</li> <li>• Family craft afternoons held during 2025 season</li> <li>• Updated children's activity sheets (e.g. photo trail and location of bees) and increased number of hands-on activities</li> <li>• Introduced welcome basket for SEND to support their visit, e.g. puppets, torches, fiddle toys</li> <li>• Continued to use social media, now with video content to promote museum artefacts and family-friendly events</li> <li>• Schools links continued and built on via loan boxes and visits (eg Year 7 visits in November which have happened now for 3 years running, on WW1)</li> </ul>

Objective	Achievements 2024-25
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued to work with Town Council and other local organisations on participation in local events</li> <li>• Distributed posters and flyers in tourist information points, cafes, shops and community venues within the museum’s catchment area</li> <li>• Continued to circulate press releases and build relationship with local print and broadcast media, eg West Dorset Magazine and Bridport News and through national heritage publications, eg Current Archaeology</li> <li>• Partnered with other heritage organisations, eg Beaminster Festival, Heritage Open Days to build awareness of the museum</li> </ul>

## 5. Access Plan May 2026 To May 2028

Objective	2026-7 Actions	Estimated cost* / £
Improve physical access to museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement additional assistance handle in toilet</li> <li>• Create access information for new website including visual tour and information to aid those planning a visit</li> <li>• Install bolt to extend area for privacy for facilities</li> <li>• Purchase threshold ramp for wheelchairs to navigate over door jamb more easily</li> <li>• Consider how entrance &amp; reception area could be altered to create easier access and a better flow around the ground floor</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">100 0 5 100</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Part of larger project - see Forward Plan</p>
Improve access to displays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New digital content kiosk to be created with adjustable height viewing for children / wheelchair users (Royal Society grant)</li> <li>• Display height considered where cabinets allow</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">1737 (grant obtained) 0</p>
Improve access to museum resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make use of the skills we have developed in 3D scanning and digital model display to provide training for Bridport Museum and provide 3D scans of their artefacts</li> <li>• Provide IT training and support for volunteers</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">0 0</p>

Objective	2026-7 Actions	Estimated cost* / £
Grow diverse on-site, off-site and on-line audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to collect home location information on visitors</li> </ul>	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an audience development plan</li> </ul>	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to use social media actively</li> </ul>	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a seasonal marketing plan</li> </ul>	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to distribute posters and flyers in tourist information points, cafes, shops and community venues</li> </ul>	100
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with local tourism partners to include the museum in wider visitor promotion initiatives</li> </ul>	100
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities to promote the museum through organisations including Prout Bridge Project and local dementia-friendly and family support networks to widen participation amongst young people, SEND families, isolated rural residents and older audiences.</li> </ul>	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include more photographs of families, young people and community participation on the website, on social media and in marketing materials to reflect a welcoming and inclusive environment</li> </ul>	0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning to arrange 2027 Festival of Archaeology Open day at Waddon Hill</li> </ul>	200

\*Where an estimated cost of £0 is provided, this activity is still dependent on sufficient volunteer time being available