

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 guests/visitors.

## **Access Statement for The Etches Collection**

### **Introduction**

The Etches Collection is a brand new building, located on the coast (1.2 miles away from Kimmeridge Bay) and within 8 miles south of Wareham. It spans two floors, serviced by a lift, and easily accessed by wheelchair users. The entrance is step free, and there are disabled toilets on each floor.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01929 270 000 or email [info@theetchescollection.org](mailto:info@theetchescollection.org).

### **Pre-Arrival**

- The nearest train station is Wareham Train Station, however from there the site is best accessed by car/taxi. There are a few taxi services in Wareham offering wheelchair accessible services (E Z Riders, Phil's and Excel Taxis), as well as a taxi service in Kimmeridge itself (KBay Taxis). The site is not accessible by bus services.
- The surrounding area is countryside, with a route directly down to the bay, and the cafe across the street, Clavell's, is accessible via wheelchair as well, including curb cuts and step free access.
- We regret to inform visitors that there are no local services for disabled people, such as shopmobility, wheelchair repair or equipment hire.

### **Car Parking and Arrival**

- There are two disabled parking spaces on site, and are open to any disabled persons including Blue Badge holders.
- From the car park to the main entrance, the surface is gravel, with a tightly packed and more accessible gravel path surrounding the disabled space and leading directly down to the main entrance. However, the lighting here is only daylight, so please exercise caution. These spaces are 32 metres away from the museum entrance.
- There is a drop off point, with no kerb.
- The entrance itself is step free, as is the entire ground floor. The front doors are both accessible via a button next to the doors, and there are two sets, clearly labelled. Both doors are 1.03 metres wide.

### **Main Entrance, Reception and Ticketing Area**

- The ticketing area/reception is on the ground floor, and is step free. This floor is level throughout.
- There is seating available in this area, and is visible from the entrance, located by the stairs.
- The floor surface is stone, and the area is well lit by multiple fluorescent tube lights.
- There is a low counter area located if you turn left at the desk, measuring 0.80m from the floor, towards the Shop, but visitors will be directed to its location. It is an open space with no glass.
- Carers can visit for free, a complimentary ticket policy is in place.

### **Attraction (displays, exhibits, rides etc.)**

- The exhibition is located on the First Floor, and accessible via a lift. The doors into the exhibition are 0.80m wide each, and are light/medium weight.
- The interpretation boards are all in a hand-written style, with the font ranging from 28 pt - 78 pt.

- We do have interactive touch screens throughout, and they can all be accessed from a sitting or standing position. They are 0.82 - 1.39m from the floor.
- The interactive touch screens have clear text and are at reasonable heights.
- The exhibition is well lit from multiple LED cluster spot lights in the ceiling, with even coverage throughout the area. There are wide spaces between the cabinets in the middle and the main exhibition on the walls surrounding.
- There are low water sounds in the exhibition, with occasional louder noises which accompany the projections above the cases (showing marine animals).

### **Public Toilets**

- The public toilets are located on the ground floor, through one door on the right side of the building, and have level access from the main entrance. In the public toilets, one stall in each has hand rails and is slightly larger than the other stalls.
- The disabled toilets are located on both floors. The disabled toilet on the ground floor is located through the main door to the toilets and on the right side of the corridor. They are not locked and are unisex. The door is light, and is 1.03m wide. The height from the floor to the seat of the toilet is 0.49m. There are two vertical hand rails on either side of the wash basin, one horizontal hand rail 0.69m from the floor level on one side of the toilet, one fold down horizontal hand rail, and one vertical hand rail 0.86 - 1.38m from the floor. There is an electronic hand drier, which is not loud. The disabled toilet is well lit two spotlights. There is a lever tap on the sink.
- There is an emergency call button on the left side of toilet when facing it.

### **Shop(s)**

- There is a shop with a range of souvenirs, fossils and books etc. which can be accessed directly from the main entrance/ticketing area. The shop is level throughout, and does not have a door. The low level counter is on the left-hand side.
- The shop display cases are 0.82m from the floor, and have five shelves.
- There is no background music in this area.
- Staff are happy to assist if required.

### **Additional Information**

- Assistance dogs are welcome.

### **Future Plans**

- We are aware that as yet we do not have any large print guides, or audio guides, for the exhibition, but we are working on producing: Braille books/tactile guides/hands on tours/large print guides/audio guides.
- Currently we are working to install a hearing loop in the reception area.
- We welcome any comments or concerns from our visitors.

### **Contact Information**

Address (Inc postcode): The Etches Collection, Kimmeridge, Dorset  
BH20 5PE

Telephone: 01929 270 000

Email: [info@theetchescollection.org](mailto:info@theetchescollection.org)

Website: [theetchescollection.org](http://theetchescollection.org)

Hours Of Operation: Daily, 10am - 5pm