

BLACKPOOL and START PARTNERSHIP

ACCESS STATEMENT for Blackpool Sands

Introduction

Blackpool Sands is located on the A379 coastal road between Dartmouth and Kingsbridge, around 3 miles from Dartmouth, the nearest villages being Stoke Fleming and Strete.

Situated in a valley, surrounded by hills, Blackpool Sands sits on a Heritage Coast within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It is a privately managed, 'Blue Flag' beach with access to the general public during open hours, 9am to 6pm daily. There are two car parks, both chargeable from March to November. The beach is shingle, as are all the main beaches along this stretch of the coast and all incorporating 'Sands' as part of their historical name, e.g., Slapton Sands, Beesands, Hallsands etc.

Pre-Arrival

The nearest mainline railway station is at Totnes, approximately 14 miles away, the nearest bus stops are adjacent to the driveway to the beach, on the Stagecoach No 3 route from Dartmouth – Kingsbridge - Dartmouth. The buses run approximately hourly in both directions. Full public transport journey plans are readily available from <http://www.traveline.info/>

Arrival and Car Parking Facilities

The beach is approached from a private, tarmac driveway; there is a sloping hardstanding car park to your left, and, if it is open, a gateway to the field car park to your right. The designated disabled car parking spaces in the hardstanding car park are on the left adjacent to the toilets and in the field car park are against the low rail separating the car park from the beach. The surface of the field car park near the entrance gate is firm but not tarmac and therefore at certain times of the year, and after rainfall, the ground may become soft. All disabled spaces are filled on a first-come basis, at certain times of the year, e.g., summer school holidays and especially if the weather is good, these spaces can become full early in the day. All disabled car spaces are charged at the going rate, which varies throughout the season, but can be found on our recorded telephone info line on 01803 771800. A car park attendant will greet you on entry and provide you with a ticket for a cash payment. He will direct you to available parking spaces and is on hand to offer advice during your stay. You will find a beach map and safety features on the information boards near the flagpole and also at the far end of the field car park.



Toilets and showers in the pink building situated in the hardstanding car park with entrance driveway to the left. The white car parked closest to the toilets is in one of the disabled spaces. The walkway from the toilets leads to the promenade, beach, shop and café.

Areas Adjacent to the Beach

The promenade, with handrails on the beach edge, has level access for wheelchair users from the hardstanding car park. From here there is easy access to the beach shop, the takeaway and Beach Café where there is indoor seating. There is a large selection of bench style café tables on the promenade, where you can park a wheelchair. In the field car park, the ground by the beach rails is firm and many visitors use their own seating here as this area is literally on the edge of the beach.



The western end of the promenade with takeaway and outside café seating.

Beach Access Points

There are access ramps onto the beach at each end of the promenade and at the far end of the field car park. However, these ramps can become covered in sand and shingle creating a slippery surface. The beach itself is not very suitable for wheelchairs as the surface is not hard packed, but loose shingle.



The beach access ramp at the end of the promenade, naturally covered in shingle.

On the Beach

There are three RNLI lifeguards on duty each day for the high season, from 10am to 6pm, who also provide a first aid service. Their base hut is well identified and situated on the highest ridge of the beach, but more often they will also be found closer to the waterline. During busy times Lifeguards will patrol the beach.

Toilets

All toilets and outdoor showers are found within the pink 'cottage' style building situated at the lower end of the hardstanding car park. The disabled toilet is on the side of the entrance driveway and is accessed via a flat paving slab surface from the car park. This well-lit toilet has a single door entry approximately 84cm wide, and pull cord lighting. All toilets are open every day during the season from approximately two weeks before Easter to the end of October, from 9am to 6pm. At other times or off season, providing the café is open, access to the disabled toilet is gained via the café staff.



The disabled toilet entrance via a level, paving slab surface.

Food and Drink Outlets

There is a Beach Café and a takeaway situated on the promenade and a seasonal ice cream kiosk at the far end of the field car park, at the top of the ramp leading down to the beach. The Beach Café operates a counter service, with indoor seating for its customers. It is well lit with large glass windows looking out over the beach and sea. It has moveable chairs so you can easily accommodate a wheelchair at a table. Vegetarian, gluten-free and other dietary requirements can be catered for, please ask the Café staff for details. Any help with carrying food or drinks can be organised from either the takeaway or Beach Café counters. The takeaway counter is just before the entrance to the Beach Café, and is approximately 103cm high. The promenade seating is predominantly for takeaway customers.



The takeaway counter (with shutters closed as off-season) and Beach Café entrance door. During off-season, takeaway orders are taken from within the Beach Café.

Beach Shop

The Beach Shop, also on the promenade, has a single ramped entrance door plus separate double doors offering flat access and is situated just before the takeaway. It sells a very wide range of beach goods, accessories, clothing and gifts.



The promenade seating with handrails, and the Beach Shop, takeaway and Beach Café are on the left.

Additional Information

- A drinking water fountain is situated on the beach end of the pink toilet building.
- A well marked building with an emergency 999 telephone is situated halfway down the entrance driveway and car park staff are on hand to help when on duty
- By public demand and in order to preserve the Blue Flag status, there is a dog ban from mid March to the end of October each year, but working assistance dogs are permitted at all times. Dog waste bins are provided in two locations during the months that dogs are allowed, i.e., over the winter period. In the summer months, working dog waste can be deposited in the ordinary waste bins, provided it is securely wrapped.
- The beach operates a good recycling system; glass, tin cans and plastics can be deposited in recycling bins, all other rubbish is hand sorted.
- The field car park is locked each night at 6pm and cars need to be removed by that time.
- Public overnight parking and camping are not permitted.
- Overnight on-site security is provided March to October.



The drinking water fountain is situated on this side of the pink building, in an alcove to the left of the green shutter, and the emergency 999 phone is the smaller pink building on the left.