

Hardy Monument Access Statement

Hardy Monument
Blackdown Hill
Portesham
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Introduction

1. The Hardy Monument stands on an exposed location above the village of Portesham in Dorset. It was built in 1844 in memory of Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy, Flag Captain of HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. The ground around the monument is generally uneven and unmade. There are many natural loose earth paths and trails, offering opportunities to explore the surrounding heathland; these can be steep in some places.
2. Mobile reception at the site is generally good depending on service provider.
3. All dogs are welcome including assistance dogs.
4. The monument itself consists of a small entranceway and a tight spiral staircase of 120 steps. The top of the tower is 72ft from ground level.

Arrival & Parking Facilities

1. The site is located on the Martinstown-Portesham road. There are brown signs in Martinstown and on the road from Portesham to Winterbourne Abbas.
2. There are no designated spaces in the car park.
3. The car park surface is a mainly loose stone, with exposed earth and grass in some areas.
4. The car park is approximately 10 metres from the monument across loose gravel.

WCs

1. There are no toilet facilities at the monument or in the car park. The nearest public conveniences are located in Abbotsbury. The King's Arms and the Duck Farm Shop in Portesham have WCs.

Visitor Reception

1. There is no dedicated visitor reception. Visitor welcome to the monument is held within the entrance to the monument.
2. The entrance surface is flat flagstones which may be uneven in places.
3. There is no visitor reception desk. The entrance is always manned during open hours. There is artificial fluorescent light at the base and at the top of the staircase.
4. Due to size restrictions, only 10 people shall be allowed to the top of the monument at any one time.
5. There is a section of low ceiling at the top of the stairs that visitors may need to duck under to avoid hitting their head and a low doorframe when stepping onto the viewing platform.

6. In adverse weather, rain may enter the stairwell from the top making the steps at the top wet.
7. All access to the monument is weather dependant.

Catering

1. There are currently no catering facilities at the monument.

Retail

1. There are currently no retail facilities at the monument.

Heathland

1. None of the paths have steps or stiles to navigate.
2. The paths are natural; there are no man-made surfaces. All paths are a mixture of loose stone, earth and grass.
3. The gradient of slopes varies; some slopes can be quite steep but there are other gentler gradients which will prove less challenging.
4. There is a stone semicircle used as a seating area from which to admire the heathland. The stones are approximately 45cm (1.5ft) from floor level. There is also a stone bench at the east end of the site with back rest. There are picnic tables located near the car park where the public can enjoy their lunch.



Contact details for more information

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