



# DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

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

Telephone: (01305) 266861

**Steve Newman, Town Clerk**

17<sup>th</sup> July 2024

You are invited to a meeting of the **DORCHESTER HERITAGE JOINT COMMITTEE** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, HIGH EAST STREET, DORCHESTER DT1 1HF** on **TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2024** commencing at **5.30pm**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Newman'.

Town Clerk and Secretary to the Committee

## Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to disclose interests where appropriate. A Member who declares any interest must leave the room. A Member who declares a registerable interest as a Council nominee to a partner organisation may first address the meeting as a member of the public.

## Membership

Dorset Council: R. Biggs, A. Canning, L. Fry, R. Major and R. Tarr.

Dorchester Town Council: S. Biles, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, G. Jones and D. Taylor.

The following Members may attend and speak but not vote:

Mr B Murphy (Duchy of Cornwall), I. Gosling (Dorchester Civic Society), Vacancy (Dorchester Chamber for Business), M. Woodgate (Dorchester Heritage Magazine), E. Metcalfe (The Keep Military Museum), L. Poulsen (Dorchester Local Nature Reserve), C. Dixon (Dorset Museum & Art Gallery), J. Wallis (Blue Badge Tourist Guides) M Rice (Dorchester Association), Maria Gayton or S. Johnson (Dorset History Centre), R. Raine (National Trust (for Max Gate and Hardy's Cottage)), T. Little (Shire Hall), A. Worth (Keep 106 Community Radio), M. Chutter (Thomas Hardy Society), S. Wallis (Dorset Council – Archaeologist), and A. Harrison (Town Crier).

## AGENDA

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

To elect a chairman for the remainder of the 2024-25 council year.

3. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

To elect a vice chairman for the remainder of the 2024-25 council year.

4. **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*

5. **MINUTES**

To read, confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 16 April 2024 (**enclosed**).

6. **BUDGET UPDATE**

To receive a report from the Finance Officer (**report enclosed**).

7. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY - UPDATE**

- a) To receive an update on the work of the Tourism Partnership (**report enclosed**).
- b) To receive a report on an outline long-term tourism strategy.

8. **HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2024 - UPDATE**

To receive a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (**report enclosed**).

9. **ONGOING PROJECTS**

To received update reports on the following matters:

- a) Millstream Paths information boards.
- b) Roman mosaic project – The Walks (**report enclosed**).
- c) Dorchester Sheroes Project (**separate report attached**)
- d) Roman baths interpretation project.
- e) Refurbishment of Treves monument in Weymouth Avenue Cemetery.

10. **FUNDING REQUEST FROM NEW HARDY PLAYERS**

To consider a funding request from the New Hardy Players / Shire Hall (**report enclosed**).

11. **PROPOSAL FOR BLUE PLAQUE AT TOP O' TOWN HOUSE**

To consider a request for the committee's support for a new Blue Plaque (**report enclosed**).

12. **FUTURE PROJECTS**

To discuss the following potential projects:

- a) Water meadows – liaison with Stinsford Parish Council
- b) History of Dorchester online content - <https://discoverdorchester.co.uk/unveiling-dorchester-a-journey-through-12-historic-artifacts/>
- c) Town Pump enhancement proposals from Civic Society
- d) Heritage information panels on Fairfield public realm area.

13. **UPDATE FROM MEMBERS**

14. **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.

15. **URGENT ITEMS**

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

## ITEM 5: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

16 APRIL 2024

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024:

#### **PRESENT:**

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	G. Jones (Chairman) A. Chisholm S. Biles
	Officers:	T. Hurley M. Manley
Dorset Council	Councillors:	S. Jones
Dorchester Association		M. Rice
Local Nature Reserve		L. Poulsen
Dorset Museum & Art Gallery		C. Dixon
Dorset Council - Archaeology		S. Wallis
Thomas Hardy Society		M. Chutter
Dorchester Civic Society		I. Gosling
Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum		T. Little
Dorset History Centre		M. Gayton
Blue Badge Tour Guide		J. Wallis
Town Crier		A. Harrison

#### 1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs F. Hogwood and (Dorchester Town Council), Cllrs L. Fry, A. Canning and R. Biggs (Dorset Council), R. White (National Trust), A. Worth (Keep 106), Joy Wallis (Blue Badge Guide) and E. Metcalfe (The Keep Military Museum).

#### 2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2023, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

#### 3. **BUDGET UPDATE**

A report on the budget position as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 was presented. Cllr Tarr commented on how good the millstream information signs looked.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the budget update be noted.

4. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY - UPDATE**

Matilda Manley provided an update on the work of the Tourism Partnership. The Spring campaign was coming to an end and had included a paid for article in Good Housekeeping magazine. Future activities included pop-up crazy golf in South Street, the Walking Festival and the D-Day 80 celebrations which would include readings of the Terry Parker's diary – a local man who saw active service at the D-Day landings. Tamsin Little mentioned a book by a local woman who worked in the D-Day control room.

**RESOLVED**

The Committee report on the activities of the Tourism Partnership were noted.

5. **HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2024**

Tony Hurley presented an update on emerging plans for Heritage Open Day on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The committee proposed that any publicity would clarify the timing for the lifting of the IronMan road closures and provide other transport information. The issue of access to the Oak Room in Antelope Walk was discussed.

**RESOLVED**

That the proposals for Heritage Open Day 2024 on 15<sup>th</sup> September were noted.

6. **ONGOING PROJECTS**

Updates on the following were received:

- a) **Millstream information boards.** Tony Hurley presented a proposal for the location of the final information board close to the town mill, however members preferred a location closer to the mill and it was agreed that Cllrs Gareth Jones and Stella Jones would meet on site to decide on a more appropriate location.
- b) **Roman mosaic project.** Matilda Manley reported that there not capacity to take the project forward at present but a brief for an artist to take forward the project would be presented to the next meeting. It was agreed to reconvene the working group that originally developed the project to help refine the brief.
- c) **Dorchester Sheroes Project:** M. Chutter and Anya Pearson presented the results of school's consultation so far and the six leading nominees. Further consultation will be undertaken as part of the Chesil Pride and the Shire Hall Pride festivals.

7. **FUTURE PROJECTS**

- a) **Roman baths interpretation project.** Tony Hurley presented an update on research into the Roman bath excavation archive at Dorset Museum and the development of online content. Members welcomed the update and were keen to see the existing design for the on-site interpretation panel fabricated and installed as soon as possible.

- b) **Water meadows project.** Stinsford Parish Council has responded positively to the suggestion of a meeting to discuss the better interpretation of the water meadows. Both Cllr David Taylor and Ian Gosling were keen to attend the meeting. It was also suggested that the information panel at Handman’s Cottage be redesigned.
- c) **History of Dorchester online content.** Matilda Manley reported that the web-content regarding the history of Dorchester in 15 objects was now ready to go online.
- d) **Town Pump enhancement proposal.** Ian Gosling reported on a very positive meeting with Wessex Water regarding the installation of a water fountain in the Town Pump – based on the design in old photographs. Ian will now discuss with Dorset Council’s conservation officer.
- e) **Refurbishment of Treves memorial in Weymouth Avenue cemetery.** Ian Gosling reported on fundraising to have the memorial cleaned and refurbished – and members agreed to allocate a grant of £500 towards the project from the Committee’s budget.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That the interpretation board for the Roman baths be fabricated and installed on site as soon as possible.
- (b) That the interpretation panel near Hangman’s Cottage be re-printed/redesigned.
- (e) That a grant of £500 be awarded to the Civic Society’s project to refurbish the Treves memorial in Weymouth Avenue cemetery.

8. **QUESTIONS**

None were raised.

9. **URGENT ITEMS**

None were raised.

10. **UPDATES FROM PARTNERS**

- Maria Gayton reported that the Salisbury Diocese is developing a Heritage Lottery bid to install electronic information points in any church linked to Thomas Hardy. Maria will provide an update at the next meeting.
- Shire Hall reported on the success of its new Friends group.
- Steve Wallis reported on the considerable press interest in the cleaning of the Roman Town House.
- Mark Chutter reported on the forthcoming Thomas Hardy Society annual conference starting on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Chairman.....

**ITEM 6: BUDGET UPDATE**

**DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2024-25**

		<b>Activities</b>	<b>Events</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Balance brought forward as at 1st April 2024	5,863.59	7,938.00
	<b><u>Income and Expenditure</u></b>		
	<b>Contributions in year</b>		
4/1/2024	DTC Contribution to activities	3,000.00	
4/1/2024	DTC Contribution to events		8,500.00
		3,000.00	8,500.00
	<b>Expenditure in year</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Events</b>
4/2/2024	Wallis Agency - Hosting Town Trail minisites	60.00	
4/3/2024	Dorset Council - HOD Road Closures		130.00
4/19/2024	Grassby & Sons - Treves Grant	500.00	
6/4/2024	Rural Market Town Membership	137.00	
	<b>Expenditure – sub-total</b>	697.00	130.00
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>8,166.59</b>	<b>16,308.00</b>
	<b><i>Outstanding Commitments</i></b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Events</b>
	Blue Plaque / Pub Scheme / Information Boards	1,420.00	
	Mill Stream Boards	19.42	
	<b>Available balance</b>	<b>6,727.17</b>	<b>16,308.00</b>

## ITEM 7 (a)

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE UPDATE FROM TOURISM STRATEGY

1. The last Tourism Partnership meeting was held at Borough Gardens house. It was well attended with 20 partnership members attending.
2. At the meeting the tourism partnership reviewed work and progress since that last meeting, confirmed plans for Autumn/Winter, discussed the work plan for 2025, and discussed the developing marketing plan for 2025 – 2028.
3. Full meetings notes and slides from the meeting can be viewed at:  
<https://discoverdorchester.co.uk/about-us/>
4. Service highlights:
  - Discover Dorchester’s Instagram now has over 1000 followers and Facebook now has over 3,600 followers. Over half of the followers in each account are NOT based in Dorchester.
  - Discover Dorchester website hits in the last three months have doubled last years figures.
  - The partnership hosted Archer’s actor Andrew Wincott. He is a huge Hardy fan and enjoyed his time in Dorchester immensely. This trip resulted in a half page article in The Daily Mail.
  - We have had the Walking Festival – this included 42 walks over a nine-day period. 425 tickets for walks were purchased. 244 tickets were purchased by participants from Dorset. 181 tickets were purchased by people outside the Dorchester Area.
  - D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative events were well received by the town. It is estimated that 1000 people came to watch the immersive theatre trail. It was much more popular than anticipated and the feedback was fantastic.
  - Events and Experience Grant Update –
    - Hardy Har Comedy Festival - Saturday 13th July 2024
    - Dorchester Drawing Festival - Sunday 29th September 2024 at Corn Exchange
    - Courtroom Opera - ‘The Trial of Iago’. Thursday 10th and Friday 11th October 2024 at Shire Hall Museum.
  - New Summer leaflet has been created and distributed
  - Hanging baskets have returned to South Street
  - For Autumn/ Winter 2024 the tourism partnership agreed to:

Month	Marketing
September	Continuation of summer campaign. Social media influencer and holiday cottage company offers and competition.
October	Half-term activities promotions Halloween activities promotion
November	Christmas markets promotion



December	Look back at 2024 and look forward to 2025 - build momentum for 2025
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5. The Dorchester Tourism Partnership would like to request approval for the following spend from the Heritage Tourism Budget (£30,800.06):
- Dorchester Museums passport postcard. Cost for design and print - £559. One side would be a map with the 7 museums located. The other side would be 8 squares, one for Discover Dorchester logo and then one per venue, which would be stamped. Passport gets you 10% discount at all of the museums, one visit per venue. They would like to print 5,000 to hand out across the venues.
  - Reprint of the Dorchester Walking Leaflet - £1,399 for 7500 leaflets
  - Google integration on Discover Dorchester website - £650 – Proposal to add auto-Google address and opening hours to existing business profiles (web and app). This will mean that the following information will be automatically up today rather than relying on officer time:
    - Business name
    - Map Location
    - Address
    - Opening times
    - Website
    - Email
    - Telephone number
    - Google Review score rating

**Matilda Manley**  
**Tourism Development Officer**  
**Dorchester Town Council**

## ITEM 7 (b)

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE TOURISM PARTNERSHIP FORWARD PLANNING 2025–2028

1. The Tourism Partnership is currently working on their Marketing Plan and Visitor Experience Plan for 2025-2028. The draft aims for these plans are:

#### **Aim of Marketing Plan -**

- Priority 1 - Raise the profile of the Dorchester locally, regionally and nationally to the short break market in the shoulder months
- Priority 2 - Raise the profile of the Dorchester locally and regionally to the day trip market during the school holidays
- Priority 3 - Raise the profile of Dorchester regionally and nationally as base for a Dorset adventure throughout the year
- Priority 4 - Increase the number of visitors to Dorchester for group travel via Cruise and Coach

#### **Aim of Visitor Experience Plan -**

- Priority 1 - Ensure that visitors get information need/want before they get here - websites and leaflets
  - Priority 2 - Ensure that visitors get the information they need/want whilst in Dorchester - way marking, signage, leaflets, TIP, ambassadors, partnership members
  - Priority 3 - Ensure that visitors feel welcomed in Dorchester - ambassadors, partnership members, planting, signage
  - Priority 4 - Ensure that visitors have an excellent experience in Dorchester - food, drink, attractions, events, culture, heritage, accommodation, transport, public toilets, accessible facilities, safe
2. It is acknowledged that Dorchester isn't just for visitors. It is important the local residents feeling pride and ownership of the town. A great visitor experience should not create a detrimental resident experience. The number of visitors should not have a detrimental economic, societal or environmental impact on the town.
  3. Through the marketing plan the Tourism Partnership will be focusing on selling the sizzle not the sausage of Dorchester - We need our target audiences to visualise themselves in Dorchester and visualise an experience they want to have in Dorchester.
  4. The marketing plan will use the Visit Dorset Segmentation Research (<https://www.visit-dorset.com/industry/research/destination-performance/dorset-market-segmentation-research/>) to help us decide who to target, how to access them, how to attract them, how to engage them, and how to build loyalty.
  5. The following draft themes for the year were discussed at the Tourism Partnership. The heritage themes have the potential to tie in with the work of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Headline reasons to visit - heritage</b>	<b>Headline reasons to visit – non-heritage</b>
2025	Experience Roman Britain in Dorchester. VE Day 80 <sup>th</sup> celebrations.	Quiet luxury - food, drink, travel, experiences, shopping
2026	Poundbury scheduled for completion -Architectural experiences - Immerse yourself in King Charles’ vision.  Thomas Hardy Victorian Fayre	Walkable weekend, Car free travel, UK sustainable destination
2027	Neolithic Dorchester? Roman again? 90 years since the Roman Town House was discovered 50 years since the Roman baths were discovered (1977).	Base for your Dorset Adventure
2028	Hardy theme - 100 years since Thomas Hardy died.  Thomas Hardy Victorian Fayre	Most accessible town in the South West

6. The scheduled completion for Poundbury has now been pushed back so this could not be a theme for 2026 anymore.
7. The tourism partnership has agreed to suggest alternative/additional themes via email to Matilda Manley.
8. The tourism partnership noted that themes and marketing campaigns should have a measurable positive economic impact on the town, increasing footfall and spend.

**Matilda Manley,  
Tourism Development Officer  
Dorchester Town Council**

## ITEM 5.

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2024 - UPDATE

As previously agreed, Heritage Open Day in Dorchester will take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am until 4.00pm. This report provides an update on the events, discounts and activities that will be on offer on that day.

#### Museums and attractions:

**Dorset Museum & Art Gallery** will be offering tours of their Collections Discovery Centre and a Thomas Hardy themed tour – all tours will be free of charge but you will need to pay for general entry to the museum.

- **2 x free Collections Discovery Centre Tours** ([Dorset Museum and Art Gallery Collections Discovery Centre Tour \(heritageopendays.org.uk\)](#))  
*Join the collections team at Dorset Museum and Art Gallery for an exclusive opportunity to explore behind the scenes at our state-of-the-art Collections Discovery Centre.*
- **1 x free Thomas Hardy Tour** ([Dorset Museum and Art Gallery Thomas Hardy Tour \(heritageopendays.org.uk\)](#))  
*Join us at the Dorset Museum and Art Gallery to explore the galleries and learn about the life and works of Thomas Hardy through a carefully curated tour of objects from our collections.*

**The Keep Military Museum:** The Keep will be offering free entry all day.

**Shire Hall Museum:** Shire Hall Museum will be offering free, **bookable** guided tours. These will be taking place throughout the day (places are limited) and will give visitors an insight into Shire Hall's fascinating history - from the architectural value of the building to the important stories of people who were tried at Shire Hall.

**Dorset History Centre:** An exhibition of architectural plans which shaped Dorset, alongside a selection of Dorset's archaeological finds curated by the Portable Antiquities Scheme. A family activity and behind the scenes tours will run every hour from 10.00am – 3.00pm.

#### **Dorchester Corn Exchange (Municipal Buildings):**

- Exhibition in the Corn Exchange about the new plans for improving the front-of-house area.
- Guided tour of upstairs Town Hall and Council Chamber including the Civic Memorabilia ranging from the silver maces to prehistoric artefacts.
- 3 guided tours of the Corn Exchange (11am, 1pm and 3pm): *'The Corn Exchange: a heritage building for the 21st century'*. Tours led by Mark Tattersall (and Anthony Williams/Rachel Osborne?) looking at the recent renovations and extensions to the Corn Exchange and how they inform and complement its history and heritage.

### **Guided walks/tours:**

- **Roman aqueduct walk in Poundbury** – with Steve Wallis. 10.00am at the Pavilion in the Park at The Great Field. Maximum 20 participants.
- **Roman town walk** with Steve Wallis. 2.00pm meet at the Kings Arms for an introductory talk. Maximum 20 participants.
- **Town heritage walks** with Joy Wallis and other Blue Badge guides.
- St Peter's Church tower tour. TBC.
- **Poundbury** architecture and urban design tour. TBC

The details for Heritage Open Day 2024 will be finalised over the coming weeks with a programme of promotion via posters, press releases and online marketing by Dorchester Town Council and the partners taking part in the event.

**Tony Hurley**  
**Assistant Town Clerk**  
**Dorchester Town Council**

## ITEM 9 (b)

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE CREATIVE BRIEF FOR ROMAN HERITAGE PROJECT

**A creative project working with the Dorchester Heritage Committee to help boost pride and knowledge of the link between Dorchester's Roman past and the tree lined walks around Dorchester.**

- **Objective:** To celebrate Dorchester's Roman past along Dorchester's tree lined walks in a way that helps to instil pride of place for local residents and inspires visitors to come and visit and enjoy learning more about our towns Roman heritage.
- **Location:** Dorchester in West Dorset
- **Who:** Commission is open to visual artists working in mural art, mosaic art and/or graphic design
- **Budget:** £3,000 (including development, delivery, travel, all expenses)
- **Timescale:** Work must be completed by February 2025 Half Term

#### BACKGROUND

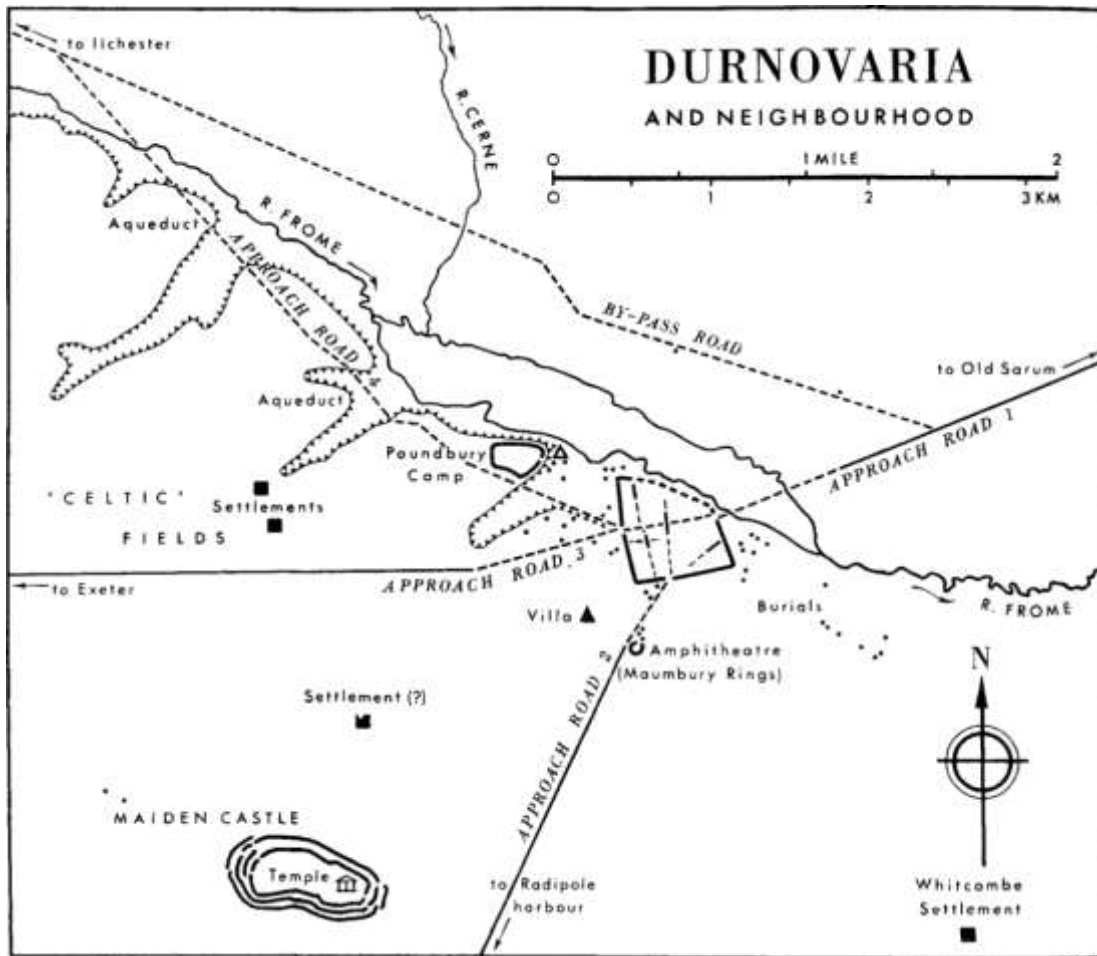
Dorchester in the County Town of Dorset. It has a very rich and compelling heritage and vibrant community.

Dorchester was founded by the Romans around 60AD under the name Durnovaria. We've still got tons of fabulous Roman history dotted around our town, and in our museums.

Roman features in Dorchester include:

- Maumbury Rings Roman amphitheatre - <https://discoverdorchester.co.uk/place/maumbury-rings/>
- Roman Town House - <https://discoverdorchester.co.uk/place/roman-town-house/>
- Roman collection at Dorset Museum and Art Gallery including mosaics - <https://discoverdorchester.co.uk/place/dorset-county-museum/>
- Roman temple at Maiden Castle - <https://discoverdorchester.co.uk/place/maiden-castle/>
- Aqueduct at Poundbury Hill fort
- Aqueduct fountain on Princes Street (20th anniversary of this next year) - <https://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk/docs/downloads/RomanFountain.pdf>
- The walks marking the Roman boundary and a section of remaining Roman wall - <https://discoverdorchester.co.uk/the-roman-walls/>
- Three entrances to Durnovia still remaining in current Dorchester road layout
- Site of coin hoard at old Marks and Spencer - <http://www.hadriancoins.co.uk/Hoards.pdf>
- Roman Baths under Car park - <https://discoverdorchester.co.uk/the-roman-baths/>

Map 1 – Illustration of Durnovaria and Neighbourhood



Map 2 – Illustration of Durnovaria showing finds and the old boundary walls of Roman Durnovaria which is now a tree lined walk around the town.



The Walks are a prominent feature of the town that the Heritage Committee would like increase interpretation on to enhance their links to Dorchester's Roman Heritage. The best way to visualise and understand The Walks is to watch this video created in 2020 -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrAeiMat\\_RY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrAeiMat_RY)

Listings and constraints around the Roman Walls which need to be considered:

- [Dorchester Roman walls, Dorchester - 1002449 | Historic England](#)
- [ROMAN WALL, Dorchester - 1220733 | Historic England](#)
- [TOWN WALKS, DORCHESTER, Dorchester - 1001594 | Historic England](#)

## **COMMISSION OUTLINE**

We would like the successful applicant to boost pride and knowledge of the link between Dorchester's Roman past and the tree lined walks around Dorchester.

We would then like the successful applicant to deliver this work physically along the walks (either on the pavement on or the walls). The works need to last for at least 20 years.

Applicants who engage the community through the project delivery would be favoured.

## **PROCESS FOR SELECTION:**

- Outline proposals will need to be submitted by 10 pm Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024
- Decisions will be made within two weeks of the closing date.

## **PROPOSALS WILL NEED TO OUTLINE WHAT YOU INTEND TO DO, INCLUDING:**

- The approach you want to take and how you would deliver it
- How you would involve the community the project
- How your proposal will achieve the target outcomes
- Description of your practice/artist statement and career summary or CV
- Documentation of previous relevant work (images, DVDs, weblinks, sound files, catalogues etc). Maximum attachments of 6MB
- Proposals should be formatted as a PDF and sent by email only to [m.manley@dorchester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:m.manley@dorchester-tc.gov.uk) no later than 10 pm on 10 pm Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Note: This piece of work is part of a wider effort to improve Dorchester Roman heritage interpretation around the town and online. If you have any additional ideas to do this that you would like to pitch to the Heritage Committee please do so in your application.

If you would like to discuss the project further please contact Matilda Manley at:

[m.manley@dorchester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:m.manley@dorchester-tc.gov.uk)



## ITEM 10

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE FUNDING REQUEST FROM NEW HARDY PLAYERS

A request for a grant from the Committee has been received from the New Hardy Players in collaboration with Shire Hall Museum and Dorchester Arts with the aim of helping to fund a reprisal of *Six Men of Dorset*- the successful theatre production on the story of the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

The funding request states the following:

*The production started at the Corn Exchange before heading up to Shire Hall Museum to perform the trial in the historic courtroom. It was an outstanding production, and a real credit to Dorchester's rich heritage, culture and community. The five performances sold out incredibly quickly and feedback from audiences was amazing.*

*As the show sold out so quickly, we've had a lot of people disappointed they were unable to attend. As such, we have been in discussions about reprising the production for an additional three performances in September. Whilst we're so excited to be reprising the production, it does have a cost to all of the organisations involved. As Shire Hall Museum and Dorchester Arts are both charities and the New Hardy Players are a community group, any financial support would make such a difference.*

*We are hoping, therefore, that the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee will be happy to donate £150 to each organisation (a total of £450). This would support the rehearsal process, updated promotion and help cover resources. The Tolpuddle Martyrs are an important part of Dorchester's heritage, and this production is engaging more people with this history in an engaging way.*

The committee is invited, therefore, to consider this request and formulate a response.

**Tony Hurley**  
**Assistant Town Clerk**  
**Dorchester Town Council**

## ITEM 11

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR BLUE PLAQUE

1. The following request has been received and is presented to the Committee for its consideration:

*Dear Dorchester Heritage Committee,*

*We are entering the final stages of repurposing Top o' Town House into flats and are aware this property is proudly included on the town Poppy Trail, being the historic home of the Marabout Camp Commandant.*

*In addition to reinstating Top o' Town House's fabric and features, we are keen to promote the historic relevance of this profile property, upholding the war time heritage of Dorchester. With this in mind, we would enquire whether the Committee would offer its support in us submitting an application to English Heritage for consent to install an official commemorative Blue Plaque, proclaiming Top o' Town House key ancestral role in officially housing head military figures of the WW1 Dorsetshire Regiment.*

*We also happen to note that the enlistment centre at this time appears to have been number 57 High West Street. Crickmay Stark Architects hold a similar passion to ourselves in WW1 commemoration.*

*A comparable WW1 initiative was successfully delivered at Rowan House in May 2019, which itself could also merit consideration for later inclusion on the town's official Poppy Trail.*

*We most respectfully await any thoughts you may wish to share on this proposal.*

*With thanks.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*John and Antoinette  
Proprietors  
Top o' Town House*

2. Although the owners of the property will only need the permission of the Planning Authority (due to the property being in a Conservation Area) to erect the plaque, clearly the support of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee would be appreciated. The committee is invited, therefore, to consider this request for support.

**Tony Hurley**  
**Assistant Town Clerk**  
**Dorchester Town Council.**