

## **Ellwood Cottages - Access Statement**

### **Introduction**

Ellwood Cottages comprises three tastefully furnished cottages, named after Dorset literary figures, Hardy, Barnes and Blyton, in a courtyard setting in lovingly restored single storey former farm buildings full of character and charm. Adjacent to the cottages is a heated indoor splash-pool. There is also a large recreation room with libraries for both children and adults, with some large print books, a selection of games and toys and a piano. Next door is a therapy room, where visiting therapists offer 'pure-pampering' - with no journey home afterwards! Utter bliss!

Everywhere is fully wheelchair accessible. There are no steps and all doors have 760mm clear opening. All showers are wet-room style, kitchens have accessible hob and sink with front controls and 850mm wide x 350mm deep and 700mm high clear space under for wheelchair access. Light switches are at 1100mm and electrical sockets at 900mm. Push-pull doors for easy opening and closing rather than awkward handles to be turned.

Available for guests' use are Oxford Advance mobile hoists (please bring your own sling/harness) wheeled shower chairs, shower-chair commode, high back chairs with arms, bed height raisers, toilet seat raisers, a pouf-footrest, kitchen perching stool and child's step-stool. Smaller items include a pick-up reacher/grabber, magnifier, and a shoe-horn in each cottage. Other more specialist equipment can be hired from a local supplier – please enquire for details.

Wi-Fi is available in the cottages. Do please note that because we are in the countryside the signal strength and speed are very slow. Accessing Email and search engines is usually Ok, but online viewing/streaming may be intermittent. BT has been promising superfast broadband for some time!

### **Pre-Arrival**

- Large print booking forms, access statement, directions 'how-to-find-us' and other information is available.
- Bookings can be made by telephone, post or e-mail.
- Groceries and frozen meals can be pre-ordered and will be in your cottage when you arrive.
- We are in the heart of the countryside so it is advisable to stock up with food and petrol on the way here.
- We could collect you from the nearest railway station but with only one bus a week through Woolland you really need your own transport.
- The access statement is available on our website.

### **Arrival & Car Parking Facilities**

- We suggest you follow the directions you will be sent, rather than relying on a sat-nav. We are in a remote area; there aren't many road/direction signs and certainly no street-name signs, or street lighting!
- You will be able to drive up to the front door of your cottage to unload your luggage, which we can help with.

- Adequate undercover parking is available at the rear of your cottage and there is a level hard surface route, without kerbs, from the car to the cottage - a distance of approximately 30 metres. The gravel in the courtyard is also wheelchair friendly.
- We will meet you on arrival and show you around your cottage, the recreation room, pool and gardens.

### **Public Areas**

- A large recreation room is provided for guests use. There are books (some large print), magazines, games, puzzles, a piano and an information section with leaflets and brochures of places to visit.
- Mobile phone reception is very poor in our area, with only isolated areas where it is possible to get a signal.

### **Laundry**

- Your cottage is equipped with a washer/dryer, a drying rack, pegs, iron and ironing board. There is a washing-line for use in the garden.

### **Treatment room**

- The beautiful treatment room is comfortable and has an adjoining wheelchair accessible cloakroom. Visiting therapists offer a range of therapies including reflexology, massage and hypnotherapy. Therapists will however, on request, treat guests in their cottage.

### **Leisure Facilities**

- The splash pool is 6.0 metres x 3.0 metres x 1.4 metres deep and the pool water is kept at a comfortable temperature - circa 30°C. Do please note the water temperature in a Hydrotherapy pool is much higher, but ours is not a hydrotherapy pool. Please check the water temperature of the pool you regularly use and if it is higher than 30°C consider whether our pool is appropriate for you to use.
- There are two changing rooms, each fully wheelchair accessible with wet room shower and side access WC facilities. There are guide rails all around the pool at the water line and easy access steps. There is an Oxford Dipper hoist - please be sure to bring your own harness/sling.

### **Bedrooms**

- Beds have a mattress height of 540mm and 250mm (min) clear space beneath for mobile hoist access. Bed height raisers are available by request.
- Main bedroom lighting operable from bedside.
- Wheelchair turning circle of 1300mm.
- Doors have 760mm clear opening.
- Carpet flooring with anti-ruck underlay.
- Light switches at 1100mm and electrical sockets at 900mm.
- One bedroom in Blyton cottage has a ramp 1000mm wide x 2400mm long x 200mm rise.

### **Shower-rooms & WCs**

- Each shower-room is wet room style with slip resistant vinyl flooring.
- Doors have 760mm clear opening.
- Fully adjustable thermostatically controlled shower.
- Wheeled shower chairs and mobile hoists are available, please enquire.
- Basins have rims between 740mm and 760mm from floor level, quarter turn lever action taps and wheelchair access beneath.
- Wheelchair turning circle of 1500mm.
- Toilets have a drop-down support arm and side grab rail.
  - Hardy Cottage left transfer.
  - Barnes Cottage left transfer.
  - Blyton Cottage one left and one right transfer.
- Light switches at 1100mm.
- Shelving trolley on wheels.

### **Kitchens**

- Each cottage has a purpose designed fully fitted kitchen with dishwasher, washer/dryer, fridge/freezer, microwave etc.
- Wheelchair turning circle of 1400mm.
- Ceramic hob and sink with front controls and 850mm wide x 350mm deep and 700mm high clear space under for wheelchair access.
- Oven at mid height with side opening door.
- Light switches at 1100mm.
- Slip-resistant vinyl flooring.
- Worktops at 900mm. Hob and sink at 850mm.
- Doors have 760mm clear opening.

### **Gardens**

- The landscaped gardens have a seating area for each cottage, sensory planting and some raised beds. The pathways are wheelchair friendly and the views over farmland towards Bulbarrow Hill and Ibberton Hill are just beautiful and you will be tempted to remain there for hours.
- The route from your cottage to the garden is along a level wheelchair friendly surface.

### **Additional Information**

- As mentioned previously, mobile hoists, wheeled shower chairs, bed height raisers, toilet seat raisers, high back chairs and kitchen perching stools are available for guest use without charge. More specialist equipment can be hired from a local company, please enquire.
- Pets are not allowed - assistance dogs only, by prior approval.
- There is a 'no-smoking' policy in all of the buildings.
- Mobile phone reception is poor in the area.
- A child's travel cot and high chair are available.
- A manual wheelchair is available.
- Basic cleaning materials are provided and there is a vacuum cleaner in the recreation room cupboard.

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- A stand for disposable BBQ's is available
- There is a hairdryer in each cottage.
- There is an umbrella in each cottage.
- An electric shaver adaptor is available – please ask.
- A long-handled shoe-horn.
- Automatic external lighting extends to the cottages and car park areas.
- The courtyard surfacing has been specially selected to be suitable for cars and wheelchairs.

Our address is:  
Ellwood Cottages  
Woolland  
Blandford Forum  
Dorset, DT11 0ES

Telephone: 01258 818 196

Email: [admin@ellwoodcottages.co.uk](mailto:admin@ellwoodcottages.co.uk) Website: [www.EllwoodCottages.co.uk](http://www.EllwoodCottages.co.uk)

**Hours of operation:** All are welcome at Ellwood Cottages 365 days of the year. Three night short breaks are available, please enquire. Please see our website for further details. [www.EllwoodCottages.co.uk](http://www.EllwoodCottages.co.uk).

**Emergency contacts:** In case of emergency please contact:

Ann and John - 01258 818 196 or 07802 527 757

Or either:

Sheila Pilkington - 01258 880 533 or Pam Mossman - 01258 818 166

**Local carers:** The following are able to provide a visiting care service.

Apex Prime Care  
Blandford@Apexprimecare.org  
T: 01258 330 110  
W: <https://www.apexprimecare.org>

Bluebird Care – Ferndown  
Lorraine Maher  
ferndown@bluebirdcare.co.uk  
T: 01202 977 200  
W: <https://www.bluebirdcare.co.uk/ferndown/home>

Home Instead  
Caroline Flay  
caroline.flay@homeinstead.co.uk  
T: 01202 912 826  
W: [www.homeinstead.co.uk/eastdorset](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/eastdorset)

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Agincare  
Claire McQuillan (Dorchester Branch Manager)  
dorchestermgr@agincare.com

**Local equipment hire company:**

Mr Jem Dicken  
Weymouth Mobility – electric bed hire  
<http://weymouthmobilityltd.co.uk/hire.htm>  
42, St Mary Street, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8PU  
Email: [sales@weymouthmobilityltd.co.uk](mailto:sales@weymouthmobilityltd.co.uk)  
Tel: 01305 760575

**Contact Telephone and Email Address**

We welcome your feedback to help us continually improve our service. If you have any comments please phone 01258 818 196 or email [admin@EllwoodCottages.co.uk](mailto:admin@EllwoodCottages.co.uk).

We look forward to welcoming you to Ellwood Cottages.

Ann and John.

Revised 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019.