

= Weymouth , Dorset =

Weymouth / we?m?? / is a seaside town in Dorset , England , situated on a sheltered bay at the mouth of the River Wey on the English Channel coast . The town is 11 kilometres ( 7 mi ) south of Dorchester and 8 kilometres ( 5 mi ) north of the Isle of Portland . The town 's population is 52 @, @ 323 ( 2011 ) . The town is the third largest settlement in Dorset after the unitary authorities of Bournemouth and Poole .

Weymouth is a tourist resort , and its economy depends on its harbour and visitor attractions ; the town is a gateway situated halfway along the Jurassic Coast , a World Heritage Site on the Dorset and east Devon coast , important for its geology and landforms . Weymouth Harbour is home to cross @-@ channel ferries , pleasure boats and private yachts , and nearby Portland Harbour is home to the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy , where the sailing events of the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games were held .

The A354 road bridge connects Weymouth to Portland , which together form the borough of Weymouth and Portland . The history of the borough stretches back to the 12th century ; including involvement in the spread of the Black Death , the settlement of the Americas , the development of Georgian architecture , and preparations for World War II .

= = History = =

Weymouth originated as a settlement on a constricted site to the south and west of Weymouth Harbour , an outlying part of Wyke Regis . The town developed from the mid 12th century onwards , but was not noted until the 13th century . By 1252 it was established as a seaport and became a chartered borough . Melcombe Regis developed separately on the peninsula to the north of the harbour ; it was mentioned as a licensed wool port in 1310 . French raiders found the port so accessible that in 1433 the staple was transferred to Poole .

Melcombe Regis is thought to be the first port at which the Black Death came into England in June 1348 , possibly either aboard a spice ship or an army ship . In their early history Weymouth and Melcombe Regis were rivals for trade and industry , but the towns were united in an Act of Parliament in 1571 to form a double borough . Both towns have become known as Weymouth , despite Melcombe Regis being the main centre . The villages of Upwey , Broadwey , Preston , Wyke Regis , Chickerell , Southill , Radipole and Littlemoor have become part of the built @-@ up area .

King Henry VIII had two Device Forts built to protect the south Dorset coast from invasion in the 1530s : Sandsfoot Castle in Wyke Regis and Portland Castle in Castletown . Parts of Sandsfoot have fallen into the sea due to coastal erosion . During the English Civil War , around 250 people were killed in the local Crabchurch Conspiracy in February 1645 . In 1635 , on board the ship Charity , around 100 emigrants from the town crossed the Atlantic Ocean and settled in Weymouth , Massachusetts . More townspeople emigrated to the Americas to bolster the population of Weymouth , Nova Scotia and Salem , Massachusetts ; then called Naumking . There are memorials to this on the side of Weymouth Harbour and near to Weymouth Pavilion and Weymouth Sea Life Tower .

The architect Sir Christopher Wren was the Member of Parliament for Weymouth in 1702 , and controlled nearby Portland 's quarries from 1675 to 1717 . When he designed St Paul 's Cathedral , Wren had it built out of Portland Stone , the famous stone of Portland 's quarries . Sir James Thornhill was born in the White Hart public house in Melcombe Regis and became the town 's MP in 1722 . Thornhill became an artist , and coincidentally decorated the interior of St Paul 's Cathedral .

The resort is among the first modern tourist destinations , after King George III 's , brother the Duke of Gloucester built a grand residence there , Gloucester Lodge , and passed the mild winter there in 1780 ; the King made Weymouth his summer holiday residence on fourteen occasions between 1789 and 1805 , even venturing into the sea in a bathing machine . A painted statue of the King stands on the seafront , called the King 's Statue , which was renovated in 2007 / 8 by stripping 20 layers of paintwork , replacing it with new paints and gold leaf , and replacing the iron framework with a stainless steel one . A mounted white horse representing the King is carved into the chalk hills

of Osmington .

Weymouth 's esplanade is composed of Georgian terraces , which have been converted into apartments , shops , hotels and guest houses . The buildings were constructed in the Georgian and Regency periods between 1770 and 1855 , designed by architects such as James Hamilton , and were commissioned by wealthy businessmen , including those that were involved in the growth of Bath . These terraces form a long , continuous arc of buildings which face Weymouth Bay along the esplanade , which also features the multi @-@ coloured Jubilee Clock , erected in 1887 to mark the 50th year of Queen Victoria 's reign . Statues of Victoria , George III and Sir Henry Edwards , Member of Parliament for the borough from 1867 to 1885 , and two war memorials stand along the Esplanade .

In the centre of the town lies Weymouth Harbour ; although it was the reason for the town 's foundation , the harbour separates the two areas of Melcombe Regis ( the main town centre ) and Weymouth ( the southern harbourside ) from each other . Since the 18th century they have been linked by successive bridges over the narrowest part of the harbour . The present Town Bridge , built in 1930 , is a lifting bascule bridge allowing boats to access the inner harbour . The Royal National Lifeboat Institution stationed a lifeboat at Weymouth for the first time on 26 January 1869 . A boathouse was built with a slipway by the harbour and is still in use , although the lifeboat is now moored at a pontoon .

During World War I , approximately 120 @,@ 000 ANZAC personnel convalesced in Weymouth after being injured at Gallipoli or other theatres of the war . Weymouth and Portland were bombed by German planes in World War II ; Portland harbour had a large naval base , and Weymouth was home to Nothe Fort , next to Nothe Gardens . 517 @,@ 816 troops embarked through the borough to fight at the Battle of Normandy . The Bouncing bomb was tested in the Fleet lagoon to the west of town . The history of the area is documented at the Timewalk museum in Brewers Quay .

= = Governance = =

The district of Weymouth and Portland was formed on 1 April 1974 under the Local Government Act 1972 , and merged the borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis and the nearby Portland urban district . For local elections the district is divided into 15 wards , 12 of them in Weymouth . Elections take place in a four @-@ year cycle ; one third of the councillors in all but three wards retire or seek re @-@ election in years one , two and three , and county council elections are held in year four . The Mayor of Weymouth and Portland is Ray Banham ( Liberal Democrat ) , Kate Wheller ( Labour Party ) is Deputy Mayor .

Weymouth , Portland and the Purbeck district are in the South Dorset parliamentary constituency , created in 1885 . The constituency elects one Member of Parliament ; currently Richard Drax ( Conservative ) .

For European Parliament elections , South Dorset , the rest of South West England , and Gibraltar form the South West England constituency .

Dorset South was the most marginal Labour seat in the 2001 general election , won by 153 votes . Jim Knight was expecting to have a difficult 2005 election , yet he won with a margin of 1 @,@ 812 votes ? this was in contrast to other areas , where Labour suffered a decline in popularity . This was helped by a high @-@ profile anti @-@ Conservative campaign by musician Billy Bragg . The seat was gained from Labour by Drax for the Conservatives at the 2010 General Election .

Weymouth and Portland have been twinned with the town of Holzwickede in North Rhine @-@ Westphalia , Germany since 1986 , and the French town of Louviers , in the department of Eure in Normandy , since 1959 .

= = Geography = =

Weymouth is situated on the western shore of Weymouth Bay on the south coast of England , 195 kilometres ( 120 mi ) west @-@ southwest of London , at 50 ° 37 ? N 2 ° 27 ? W ( 50 @.@ 613 , ? 2 @.@ 457 ) . The town is built on weak sand and clay rock which in most places along the Dorset

coast , except for narrow bands at Lulworth Cove , Swanage and Durdle Door , has been eroded and transported away . This weak rock has been protected at Weymouth by Chesil Beach and the strong limestone Isle of Portland that lies offshore , 3 kilometres ( 2 mi ) south of Wyke Regis . The island affects the tides of the area , producing a double low tide in Weymouth Bay and Portland Harbour . The maximum tidal range is small , at around 2 metres ( 7 ft ) .

There are two lakes in the borough , both RSPB Nature Reserves ? Radipole Lake in the town centre , and Lodmoor between the town centre and Preston . Radipole Lake , the largest nature reserve , and mouth of the River Wey before it flows into Weymouth Harbour , is an important habitat for fish and migratory birds , and over 200 species of plants . Radipole is an important tourist attraction ; it and Weymouth Beach are situated very close to the main town centre . There are 11 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the borough , which cover an area of 800 @. @ 87 hectares ( 1 @. @ 979 acres ) , and there are 37 other Nature Conservation Designations .

Situated approximately halfway along the Jurassic Coast , Weymouth is a gateway town to the UNESCO World Heritage Site , which includes 155 kilometres ( 96 mi ) of the Dorset and east Devon coast that is important for its geology and landforms . The South West Coast Path has two routes around Weymouth and Portland ? one around its coast , and one along the South Dorset Downs , which reduces the path 's length by 31 @. @ 0 kilometres ( 19 @. @ 3 mi ) . The path is the United Kingdom 's longest national trail , at 1 @. @ 014 kilometres ( 630 mi ) .

Weymouth is the largest town in the area , larger than the county town of Dorchester , which lies just to the north , and hence is a centre of activity for the nearby population . A steep ridge of chalk called the South Dorset Downs , locally known as The Ridgeway , separates Dorchester and Weymouth ; they are less agricultural than the valleys in the centre and north of Dorset , but have dairy and arable farms . The nearest villages to Weymouth are part of the built @-@ up area , including Wyke Regis , Chickerell and Preston .

The sand and clay on which Weymouth is built is very low @-@ lying ? large areas are below sea level , which allowed the eastern areas of the town to flood during extreme low pressure storms . In the 1980s and 1990s a sea wall was built around Weymouth Harbour and along the coast road in Preston ; a rip rap groyne in Greenhill and beach nourishment up to Preston have created a wide and artificially graded pebble beach , to ensure that the low @-@ lying land around Lodmoor does not flood . The defences at Preston , the extended ferry terminal and the widening of the Esplanade have changed the sediment regime in Weymouth Bay , narrowing the beach at Greenhill and widening the sands in Weymouth . A study conducted as part of the redevelopment of the Pavilion complex showed that the proposed marina will contribute slightly to this effect , but sand dredged out of the marina could be used to make the beach up to 40 metres ( 130 ft ) wider .

## == Climate ==

Due to its location on the south @-@ west coast of England , Weymouth has a temperate climate ( Köppen climate classification Cfb ) , with a small variation in daily and annual temperatures . The average annual mean temperature from 1981 to 2010 was 11 @. @ 2 ° C ( 52 @. @ 2 ° F ) . The warmest month is August , which has an average temperature range of 14 @. @ 1 to 20 @. @ 1 ° C ( 57 @. @ 4 to 68 @. @ 2 ° F ) , and the coolest is February , which has a range of 3 @. @ 7 to 8 @. @ 4 ° C ( 38 @. @ 7 to 47 @. @ 1 ° F ) . Maximum and minimum temperatures throughout the year are above England 's average , and Weymouth is in AHS Heat zone 1 . Mean sea surface temperatures range from 7 @. @ 0 ° C ( 44 @. @ 6 ° F ) in February to 17 @. @ 2 ° C ( 63 @. @ 0 ° F ) in August ; the annual mean is 11 @. @ 8 ° C ( 53 @. @ 2 ° F ) .

The low @-@ lying nature of the area , and the ameliorating effect of the lakes and mild seas that surround the town , act to keep night @-@ time temperatures above freezing for much of the winter , though frosts are recorded . The lowest temperature of ? 9 @. @ 8 ° C ( 14 @. @ 4 ° F ) was recorded on 13 January 1987 . Days with snow lying are equally rare : on average zero to six days per year ; almost all winters have one day or less with snow lying . It may snow or sleet in winter , yet it rarely settles on the ground ; low @-@ lying coastal areas on the South Coast of England such as Weymouth experience milder winters than the rest of the United Kingdom . The growing season

in Weymouth lasts for more than 310 days per year , and the borough is in Hardiness zone 9b .

Weymouth and Portland has one of the sunniest climates in the United Kingdom , along with many south coast towns . The resort averaged 1869 @. @ 8 hours of sunshine annually between 1981 and 2010 , which is 43 % of the maximum possible , and 40 % above the United Kingdom average of 1339 @. @ 7 hours . December is the cloudiest month ( 62 @. @ 9 hours of sunshine ) , November the wettest ( 88 @. @ 7 millimetres ( 3 @. @ 5 in ) of rain ) and July is the sunniest and driest month ( 243 @. @ 6 hours of sunshine , 35 @. @ 9 millimetres ( 1 @. @ 4 in ) of rain ) . Sunshine totals in all months are well above the United Kingdom average , and monthly rainfall totals throughout the year are less than the UK average , particularly in summer ; this summer minimum of rainfall is not experienced away from the south coast of England . The average annual rainfall of 730 @. @ 3 millimetres ( 28 @. @ 8 in ) is well below the UK average of 1 @. @ 125 millimetres ( 44 @. @ 3 in ) .

= = Demography = =

The mid @- @ year population of Weymouth in 2011 was 52 @, @ 323 , in a built @- @ up area of 18 @. @ 5 square kilometres ( 4 @, @ 600 acres ) , giving an approximate population density of 2 @, @ 800 residents per square kilometre ( 11 per acre ) , in 25 @, @ 174 dwellings . The population has grown steadily since the 1970s , mainly as a result of migration . There is an above average number of residents aged 60 ? 84 ( 27 @. @ 4 % ) , however this is less than the Dorset average of 30 @. @ 2 % , and the proportion of the population between 18 and 59 is also above the Dorset average . The population is largely native to England ? 94 @. @ 9 % of residents are White British , slightly below the Dorset average of 95 @. @ 5 % , and well above the England and Wales average of 80 @. @ 5 % . The most common religious identity in Weymouth and Portland is Christianity , at 61 @. @ 0 % , which is slightly above the England and Wales average of 59 @. @ 3 % . The next @- @ largest sector is those with no religion , at 29 @. @ 3 % , slightly above the average of 25 @. @ 1 % .

House prices in Weymouth and Portland are relatively high by UK standards , yet around average for the south of England ? the average price of a detached house in 2010 was £ 303 @, @ 622 ; semi @- @ detached and terraced houses were cheaper , at £ 204 @, @ 647 and £ 203 @, @ 207 respectively , and an apartment or maisonette cost £ 155 @, @ 056 . The crime rate in Weymouth of 7 @. @ 6 burglaries per 1000 households is lower than that of England and Wales ( 11 @. @ 6 per 1000 ) , but above that of Dorset ( 3 @. @ 6 per 1000 ) . Unemployment levels are low , particularly in summer , at 2 @. @ 5 % of the economically active population in July 2011 , compared to the UK average of 7 @. @ 7 % .

= = Economy = =

Tourism has been the largest industry in Weymouth for decades , though the number of people employed in the sector has declined slightly since its peak in the late 1990s . Weymouth 's coast and beaches , lakes , museums , aquarium , and two shopping centres are the main attractions for visitors . The visitor accommodation consists of hotels on the seafront , guest houses around the town centre , and caravan and camping sites just out of town , including three sites owned by Haven and British Holidays : Littlesea , Seaview and Weymouth Bay .

There are over two hundred events held throughout the year in the borough , including firework festivals , dragon boat racing , beach volleyball , handball and motocross , and the annual carnival in mid @- @ August , which attracts around 70 @, @ 000 people each year . Weymouth is the only port in the world to have hosted the start of The Tall Ships ' Races three times ? in 1983 , 1987 and 1994 ; the 1994 race attracting 300 @, @ 000 spectators .

The Pavilion Theatre was built in 1960 on a peninsula of reclaimed land between the harbour and the esplanade , after the Ritz Theatre was destroyed by fire in 1954 . The Pavilion was owned and operated by Weymouth and Portland Borough Council , providing a venue for local community groups and schools , and hosting seasonal ' end @- @ of @- @ the @- @ pier ' entertainment and

year @-@ round shows and events . It was announced in 2006 that the Pavilion complex and 4 hectares ( 10 acres ) of its surroundings would be entirely redeveloped from 2008 to 2011 , in time for the 2012 Summer Olympics . The proposed complex was to include a refurbished theatre , a World Heritage Site visitors ' centre , a new ferry terminal , a 140 bed 4 @-@ star hotel , an underground car park , a shopping arcade , offices , around 340 luxury apartments , 110 affordable homes , public squares , promenades , and a 290 @-@ berth marina . Delays to the project mean it was unlikely to be completed in time for the 2012 Summer Olympics and the redevelopment never took place . In November 2012 Weymouth and Portland Borough Council announced the intended closure and demolition of the theatre , with the site closing on 31 May 2013 . Following a formal tender process the theatre was leased to local businessman Phil Say and reopened on 13 July 2013 . Weymouth Pavilion is now operated by Weymouth Pavilion CIC as a not @-@ for @-@ profit organisation .

As part of the regeneration of Weymouth and Portland , it was decided in 2007 that Weymouth 's esplanade will be redeveloped in time for the 2012 Olympic Games . Planned improvements include a public square around the restored statue of King George III , the restoration and extension the Art Deco pier bandstand , a Tourist information centre and café , Victorian @-@ style shelters and seasonal kiosks , a beach rescue centre , and a sand art pavilion for the sculptures of Mark Anderson . Other alterations to the promenade were made , particularly around key areas such as the Jubilee Clock and the pier bandstand , with the introduction of new cafes and bars that connect the promenade and beach using innovative design , shaped like an upturned boat , also including a lighting scheme and seating areas with planting , fountains and trees . A 2010 council report said there are " venues with an emphasis on an alcohol @-@ led night out . While these uses area positive attribute to the town , popular with both residents and visitors , they are also closely linked to a well @-@ documented crime and disorder problem in the town centre . "

Weymouth Harbour is long and narrow , and formed the estuary of the River Wey until the building of a bridge to Westham , which separated the harbour 's backwaters from Radipole Lake . For centuries the harbour was a passenger terminal and trade and cargo port : goods handled included wool and spices , and in the 20th century Weymouth was a bulk importer of fertiliser and cars . The old harbourside , on both sides of the seaward end of the harbour , still hosts a fishing fleet , with docks , unloading areas , and a cross @-@ channel ferry terminal . Fishing and cargo trading employ fewer people in the area since their peak in earlier centuries , but local fishermen catch the largest mass of fish in England and the third largest in the United Kingdom . The inner harbour has been refurbished in two phases , in 1994 ? 1996 and in 2002 , to include a new marina with hundreds of berths for pleasure boats , cruisers and sailing boats . Local boats offer fishing and diving trips , pleasure cruises along the Jurassic Coast , and thrill @-@ rides to the Isle of Portland .

The main shopping centre in the area is in Melcombe Regis , consisting of two pedestrianised streets ( St. Thomas 's and St. Mary 's Street ) , shops along the esplanade , and a new precinct stretching from St. Thomas 's Street to the harbourside , built in the 1990s . There are shops and restaurants in the pedestrianised Hope Square and Brewers Quay , which are linked to the town centre by town bridge and a small passenger ferry service across the harbour . In 2005 the town centre had 292 shops and 37 @,@ 500 square metres ( 404 @,@ 000 sq ft ) of floorspace , and there was 0 @.@ 4 square kilometres ( 100 acres ) of industrial estate in the area . The shopping catchment area , which extends for approximately 3 miles towards the north and seven miles east and west , has a population of 71 @,@ 700 ( mid @-@ 2001 ) . Weymouth , Portland and Chickerell have been a Fairtrade Zone since 2007 . Fashion company New Look has its global headquarters in Weymouth , and until 2005 the company 's regional distribution centre was based at the same site . Plans were approved in 2007 to develop the New Look site to include new headquarters , retail warehouses and industrial units , a hotel , fire station , and a medical centre with ambulance station .

= = Transport = =

Weymouth railway station is the terminus of a route from London Waterloo and of a route from

Westbury and Bristol . There used to be a station to handle summer tourist traffic , but this traffic declined and it was demolished in 1986 . A smaller station took up part of the site , and the rest was given over to commercial development . Part of the South West Main Line west of Moreton Station to east of Dorchester South Station has been reduced from dual to single track . Local councils lobbied the Department for Transport , in connection with the 2012 Olympic Games , to relay the double track and increase services . Services to London Waterloo began running every 30 minutes from December 2007 , but services through Bristol to Cardiff were reduced .

An unusual feature of the railways in Weymouth was that until 1987 main @-@ line trains ran though the streets and along the Weymouth Harbour Tramway to the Quay station at the eastern end of the harbour , to connect with ferries to mainland Europe . Due to declining business , goods traffic ceased in 1972 , but passenger services continued until they ceased in 1987 from lack of use .

Local bus services are run by First Hampshire and Dorset , which bought the local Southern National company . Buses run from Weymouth to the Isle of Portland , Dorchester , Bournemouth , Wool , Beaminster , Axminster , and to other villages and the town 's holiday parks . Weymouth is connected to towns and villages along the Jurassic Coast by the Jurassic Coast Bus service , which runs for 142 kilometres ( 88 mi ) from Exeter to Poole , through Sidford , Beer , Seaton , Lyme Regis , Charmouth , Bridport , Abbotsbury , Weymouth , Wool , and Wareham . This service is convenient for walkers who can ride the bus to connect with the South West Coast Path for a walk along the coast .

The A354 road connects the town to the A35 trunk road in Dorchester , and terminates at Easton on the Isle of Portland . The A353 road runs east from Weymouth to the south of Warmwell , where it connects with the A352 to the Isle of Purbeck and Wareham . The B3157 road runs west from Weymouth to the south of Bridport where it terminates and connects to the A35 . In the 1980s the town centre was bypassed by the A354 to Portland , but the government 's road building policy changed before a proposed relief road could be completed . Before completion of the relief road , the A354 followed its original route through Upwey and Broadwey , where traffic problems were common at peak tourist times , particularly on event days such as the carnival .

The relief road 's construction was delayed by opposition from residents and environmental groups , including Transport 2000 and the Campaign to Protect Rural England , who objected to the route 's partial destruction of a nature reserve , which is an AONB and SSSI . With Weymouth and Portland scheduled to host 2012 Olympic sailing events the project reopened ; the local authorities favouring a more environmentally friendly proposal than in the 1990s . On 5 April 2007 , Dorset County Council granted planning permission for a modified proposal including a single carriageway running 7 kilometres ( 4 mi ) north , and a 1000 @-@ space park @-@ and @-@ ride scheme , costing £ 84 @. @ 5 million . Work commenced in 2008 ; and was completed by mid @-@ 2011 , in time for the 2012 Olympic sailing events . During archaeological excavations carried out in advance of the relief road construction , a burial pit containing 51 dismembered skeletons of Viking men was discovered on Ridgeway Hill .

= = Culture = =

= = = Writers = = =

Thomas Hardy lived and worked in Weymouth in 1869 , and in 1871 @-@ 2 lodging at 1 West Parade , now Park Street , returning to the Bockhampton cottage to complete Under the Greenwood Tree . Diggory Venn in Hardy 's The Return of the Native describes the excitement of Weymouth , where " out of every ten folk you meet nine of ? em in love " . Weymouth 's Esplanade , the Gloucester Lodge Hotel and Old Rooms are featured in The Trumpet @-@ Major ( 1880 ) , renamed Budmouth in the 1895 edition , to bring the novel within fictional ? Wessex ? . Thomas Hardy walked on Chesil Beach many times , and it is featured in The Well @-@ Beloved ( 1897 ) .

Joseph Drew wrote a historical novel The Poisoned Cup " a quaint tale of old Weymouth and

Sandsfoot Castle " ( 1876 ) , The Rival Queens , an account of the life of Mary Queen of Scots ( 1880 ) , and several other popular works on religion , history and science .

The novelist John Cowper Powys 's novel Weymouth Sands ( 1934 ) is set in Weymouth , where he " was more at home than anywhere else in the world " . Powys 's paternal grandmother lived in Weymouth and the family lived in nearby Dorchester from 1880 to 1885 .

The novelist Gerald Basil Edwards spent the last years of his life in Weymouth . In nearby Upwey he met the art student Edward Chaney , who encouraged him to complete The Book of Ebenezer Le Page .

= = = Media = = =

Westcountry Television and Meridian Broadcasting are the local ITV television franchises . Westcountry is received from the Stockland Hill transmitter or from one of its three relay transmitters in the town ( Wyke Regis , Bincombe Hill and Preston ) . Meridian is received from the Rowridge transmitter . The local newspaper is the Dorset Echo . Weymouth was used as location to film The Boat That Rocked , alongside nearby Portland Harbour , and Channel 4 's Hugh 's Fish Fight .

= = Education = =

The Chesil Education Partnership pyramid area operates in south Dorset , and includes three infant schools , two junior schools , fourteen primary schools , four secondary schools and two special schools . 77 % of Weymouth Town residents over 16 have qualifications , which is slightly below the Dorset average of 78 % ; about 20 % of adult residents have higher qualifications ( Level 4 + ) , which is lower than the Dorset average of 27 % .

There are three secondary schools in Weymouth ? All Saints ' Church of England School in Wyke Regis ; Budmouth College in Chickerell ; and Wey Valley School and Sports College in Broadway . Wey Valley was added to the Government 's Failing Schools list in 2007 as only 27 % of the students achieved 5 A \* to C passes . The fourth secondary school in the Chesil Education Partnership is Royal Manor Arts College on the Isle of Portland . All Saints ' has 921 students on roll , Budmouth has 1560 and Wey Valley 1171 . In 2006 , 31 % of students at Wey Valley , and 58 % of students at All Saints ' and Budmouth , attained five or more A \* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics .

Budmouth College also has a sixth form centre which had 296 students in 2006 . Weymouth College in Melcombe Regis is a further education college which has around 700 students from South West England and overseas , about 1500 studying A-Level courses . In 2006 , Budmouth students received an average of 647 UCAS points , and Weymouth College students gained 614 . Some secondary and A-Level students commute to Dorchester to attend The Thomas Hardy School ; in 2007 , 79 % of Hardy school students received five or more A \* to C GCSEs , and 78 % of all A-Level results were A to C grades .

= = Sport and recreation = =

Weymouth 's wide and shallow sandy beach is used for swimming and sunbathing during the tourist season , and for beach sport events throughout the year , including beach motocross , the International handball championships and the beach volleyball classic . The international kite festival , held in May each year on Weymouth Beach , attracts around 40 000 spectators to the esplanade from around the world .

Weymouth Cricket Club is sponsored by local business and runs in partnership with nearby schools .

The local football club , Weymouth F.C. or ' the Terras ' , are outside the Football League but , in common with some other non-league clubs , they became professional in 2005 . The team enjoyed erratic success at their level ; twice playing in the third round of the FA Cup , the highest club competition level . At the end of the 2005-06 season the team became champions of the

Conference South ( the sixth level of English football ) and moved up to the Conference National ( the fifth level ) for the first time since 1989 . However the club were relegated at the end of the 2008 ? 09 and 2009 ? 10 seasons and now play in the Southern League Premier Division ( the seventh level ) . The Terras ' ground is the Bob Lucas Stadium ; its record attendance is 6 @, @ 500 against Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup 2005 ? 2006 season .

The Wessex Stadium is out of town , but until 1987 the team played at a ground near the town centre , which is now an Asda supermarket . The club 's move pre @-@ dated the move to new out @-@ of @-@ town grounds by professional league clubs , and was the first football stadium opened in England in 32 years . Motorcycle speedway racing was staged at the stadium from 1954 until the redevelopment ; Weymouth 's team was revived in 2003 , and ' the Wildcats ' race at a track adjacent to the stadium . However , the club closed early in 2011 , following disputes with the landlords owning the stadium . In 2005 a scheme was proposed to rebuild the Wessex Stadium to occupy a pitch @-@ and @-@ putt golf course , coincidentally with Asda building on the previous stadium site . Although the plans were to move by August 2007 , the scheme was shelved before construction could begin .

On the shores of Portland Harbour , 3 kilometres ( 2 mi ) south of Wyke Regis , is Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy , where the sailing events of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games were based . The main reason that the resort was chosen to be an 2012 Olympic venue was because the National Sailing Academy had only recently been built , so no new venue would have to be built . However , as part of the South West of England Regional Development Agency 's plans to redevelop Osprey Quay , in which the academy is built , a new 600 @-@ berth marina and an extension with more on @-@ site facilities was built . Weymouth and Portland were one of the first locations in the United Kingdom to finish building a venue for the Olympic Games , as construction started in October 2007 and finished at the end of 2008 .

The waters of Weymouth and Portland were credited by the Royal Yachting Association as the best in Northern Europe for sailing . Local , national and international sailing events are regularly held in the bay ; these include the J / 24 World Championships in 2005 , trials for the 2004 Athens Olympics , the ISAF World Championship 2006 , the BUCS Fleet Racing Championships , and the RYA Youth National Championships . Tall ship Pelican , built as an Arctic fishing trawler in 1948 , offers sail training voyages for youth . Weymouth Bay is a venue for other water @-@ sports ? the reliable wind is favourable for wind- and kite @-@ surfing . The sheltered waters in Portland Harbour and near Weymouth are used for angling , diving to shipwrecks , snorkelling , canoeing , jet skiing , water skiing , and swimming .