

Empty Properties Report for Place & Resources Scrutiny 18 September 2025

Definitions relating to appendix 1

1. Site type definitions

Site Type	Definition
Academy Schools	Schools leased or run by academy trusts.
Access Roads & Footpaths	Non-highway roads or footpaths to provide access to a location.
Commercial Economic Development	Sites leased out for commercial development including industrial sites, commercial units and garage/storage locations.
Cemeteries & Crematoria	Closed graveyards or cemeteries maintained by Dorset Council and one crematorium.
Commercial Retail/Leisure/Offices	Sites leased out for commercial interest within retail, leisure or office properties.
Depots & Waste & Storage	Dorset Council run depots, waste and recycling facilities and highway equipment and material storage locations.
Disability Equipment	Showers and lifts for disability maintained by Dorset Council within private residential properties.
Drainage & Flood Alleviation	Drainage easements for water pipes and surface water drains and locations for flood alleviation schemes.
Farms & Grazing	County farms and farmland leased to farmer tenants and grazing land for horses or other animals.
Gypsy & Traveller	Specific sites leased to travellers on a plot-by-plot basis and maintained by Dorset Council.
Harbour & Coast	Harbour locations, slip ways and coastal defence schemes.
Highway Improvements	Land acquired either freehold, leasehold or dedicated for highway improvement schemes.
Highway Agreements	Agreements including section 278, 38 and others of the Highways Act 1980, but not a complete record.
Hotels & Guest Houses	Sites leased as hotels and guest houses entirely located in the Weymouth Esplanade area.
Housing	Residential properties acquired and utilised for housing as temporary accommodation or leased out to housing associations.
Infrastructure Assets	Standalone assets relating to infrastructure such as bridges, electricity substations, sewage treatment, pump control cabinets, etc, that are not part of another site.
Significant Land	Land identified either significant enough to be developable or of some use.
Monuments & Boundary Stones	Standalone monuments, memorials, statues, clocks and stones identifying county boundaries as maintained by Dorset Council.

Multi-Use Hubs	Sites used and maintained by Dorset Council with multiple uses or occupancy including libraries, office accommodation, children's centres, day centres, etc.
Parking & Public Conveniences	Car and coach parking and public conveniences as maintained by Dorset Council.
Recreational Sites	Sites offering recreational purpose including country parks, play areas, wildlife sanctuary, etc and maintained by Dorset Council.
Residential Care	Sites used for care within residential buildings.
Schools & Education	Schools and other educational establishments as maintained by Dorset Council.

2. Column description definitions

Column Header	Definition
Code	This unique reference required to identify the site within the corporate property database.
First Description	A short description of the site location including nearest village and/or town.
Vacant	A yes/no to indicate whether site property or land is identified as empty or vacant.
Site Active	Within property database sites that have been sold, transferred or leases given up are marked as inactive, whilst active represents relevant sites as of today.
Site Type Desc	This category helps to distinguish the primary use of the site location.
UPRN	The unique property reference number is a nationally recognised reference associated to the address or occupancy of a building and sometimes land.
Postcode	Nationally recognised reference to assist sorting of mail.
Tenure Description	The legal status of how the site was acquired by the Council (i.e. freehold, leasehold, dedication, easement, etc).
Area	The calculated area of the site in hectares as generated from the polygon displayed via the site register layer on Dorset Explorer.