

## Outdoor Learning on the Jurassic Coast



Durlston Country Park in Swanage Photo: DCP

Durlston Country Park is a superb outdoor classroom, providing a wealth of opportunities to enhance the study of geography, science, history, art and more.

Whether bringing students face-to-face with Britain's biggest insect on a mini-beast safari, leading a workshop on balancing the needs of visitors and wildlife, or exploring 'life on the edge' in one of the largest Guillemot colonies on the south coast, the Rangers offer students an unforgettable day.

Durlston is a key gateway to the World Heritage Site – it offers a rich geological record and a unique Victorian legacy. The spectacular coastal scenery includes examples of headlands, bays, coastal erosion and sea defence.

Our Visitor Centre features interactive displays, including live images of breeding seabirds, sound from the seabed, a hide, a daily wildlife diary and a small shop.

## School Boat Trips – New for 2008

This year, Durlston have teamed up with the 'Western Lady' to provide Jurassic Coast Boat Trips to school groups, on board the historic ex-World War 2 'Western Lady 3'. Guided trips depart from Swanage Pier during May and June and last 90 minutes.

A Ranger will help your school discover the amazing coastal landscape and seabird colonies of Durlston and link the trip to the Geography and Science curriculum.

At just £4.50 per student (free to accompanying staff), including work sheets, the trips offer a unique learning experience.



The Western Lady 3 Photo: Ian Boyle

For more information and to book, visit [www.durlston.co.uk](http://www.durlston.co.uk) or call 01929 424443.

### Welcome...

... to the first issue of the termly Durlston Teachers' Newsletter. This newsletter provides the latest news on outdoor learning opportunities at one of the most inspiring and varied places on the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.

### Diary Highlights

**April:** Guillemots are on the cliffs, the rare Early Spider Orchid in flower, and Skylarks are beginning to sing above the meadows.

**May:** The meadows are covered with Cowslips, Cinnabar moths on the wing and the Downland blazes with colourful flowers.

**June:** Many of Durlston's 34 species of butterfly are on the wing, Peregrine Falcon chicks are learning to fly and Guillemot chicks are leaving the ledge for the first time.

**July:** Thousands of Pyramidal Orchids across the Meadows and Downs, Great Green Bush Crickets sing from the grass and large flocks of Linnets gather for the long journey south.

### Contact Us

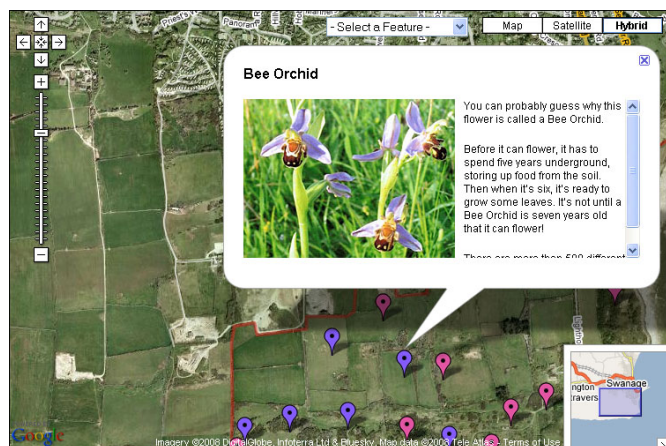
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## Durlston On-line



Interactive wildlife map Image: DCP

The Durlston website offers a great selection of resources to enhance geography or science teaching in school, or a visit to Durlston.

Live pictures from on-site cameras bring the Park's amazing wildlife into the classroom, while a 'Schools Blog' gives students the chance to chat with the Rangers. New Virtual Field Trips use 'Google Maps' to help students explore wildlife and habitats, coastal geology, history and how we can care for our environment. A Resources page features a KS2 Science lesson, based on Durlston's Guillemot colonies. Data on Durlston's weather, butterflies and seabirds is also available on-line.

## Designosaur



'Designosaur' artwork on display Photo: DCP

In November 'Designosaurs' from St. George's and St. Mark's First Schools spent a day with the Rangers, World Heritage Site staff and artist Antonia Phillips exploring Durlston's past and present wildlife.

## Bringing Durlston to Your School

A group of trained volunteers can provide short talks to bring Durlston into your classroom. Whether you are planning a trip to Durlston, or would like to help students discover more about their local heritage, this free service is now available to Dorset schools.

To find out more or to book a talk, call us on 01929 424443 or email [info@durlston.co.uk](mailto:info@durlston.co.uk).

## Discovery Sessions



Park Ranger Ali Tuckey leads a school group DCP

To get the most out of a visit to Durlston, Ranger-led Discovery Sessions are available throughout the year for KS 1-4 and A-level. They provide an inspiring and entertaining mixture of investigation, exploration and active learning, covering topics across the Curriculum with lots of ideas for further work back in school.

With over 20 years experience of providing outdoor learning at Durlston, the Rangers are happy to work with teachers to tailor sessions to your learning needs. For more information, visit [durlston.co.uk](http://durlston.co.uk) or call 01929 424443 for a copy of our Education Leaflet.

### Discovery Sessions 2008

	Key Stage	Geography	Science	History	Citizenship
Meet a Ranger	1-4	✓	✓		✓
Birds of the Cliff	1-4	✓	✓		
Limestones and Quarries	2-4	✓	✓	✓	
Dolphins and the Marine Env.	1-4	✓	✓		✓
Durlston Mini-tour	1-4	✓	✓	✓	
Victorian Durlston	1-3	✓		✓	
Adaptations and Ecosystems	2-4	✓	✓		
Coastal Processes	2-4	✓	✓		
Country Park Management	3-4	✓	✓		✓