

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**1 Bell Street:** Many of these stone houses were quarrymen's homes.

**2 The Priests Way:** This was used to travel between the churches of Worth Matravers and Swanage.

**3 Weighbridge:** This was used to weigh the road aggregate quarried from the Newton Stone Quarries from 1920s-1950s. The site is now the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park (so stop here for some refreshments!)

**4 Townsend Local Nature Reserve:** Owned by Dorset Wildlife Trust, the old quarry workings, hollows and scar banks are now wonderful limestone grassland habitats.

**5 Former Landfill Site:** (closed 2005): This 'hill', the highest point in Swanage, is actually made up of rubbish! This was covered in a 1m thick clay cap. It is now managed for wildlife as part of the Durlston National Nature Reserve.

**6 Stone Quarries:** The 'Warren' field was, until 1995, an open-cast limestone quarry where Dinosaur tracks were found. With excavation complete, the land has been allowed to naturalise, and is now home to rare orchids, beetles and birds.

**7 Glacial Valley:** This gully was scoured out about 10,000 years ago, by melt-water travelling towards the sea at the end of the last ice age. It is now a wonderful sheltered wildlife habitat. The surrounding small fields are enclosed by miles of dry-stone walls.



Photo credits: © Durlston CPNNR, Simon Kidner, Debbie Welham

## SWANAGE WALKABOUTS

### WALKABOUT 1: THE HERSTON TRAIL Herston Halt / Herston Village Hall / Priests Way / Swanage Bay View Caravan Site / Durlston

Working with the Herston community, this route (waymarked both ways) provides a gentle walk between these two corners of Swanage via easy-to-follow grassy and tarmac paths, with no stiles and no large hills (approx. 3 miles).

This is one of a series of trails to help you explore Durlston, Swanage and the local natural and historic environment. Durlston Country Park National Nature Reserve is full of wonderful habitats from flower-rich downland and meadows, scrub, dry-stone walls and woodland. The sea cliffs are part of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, making it a hugely diverse site, owned by Dorset Council and managed for 'conservation for public enjoyment'.

To the west, Durlston meets land owned by the National Trust and together forms the 'Common Ware', the whole area being a Special Area of Conservation.

With funding from the National Lottery, Durlston has restored, renovated and improved its Victorian heritage. The woodland has been reinvigorated, improving the paths, restoring views, allowing light into the glades, improving seating, installing a wild play trail and providing new opportunities for volunteering and quiet enjoyment.

When walking, please remember:

- leave gates, waymarkers and property as you find them
- leave no trace of your visit and take your litter and dog waste away with you
- keep dogs under very close control or on leads
- no cycling or horse riding is allowed on the reserve
- appropriate footwear is recommended - rough, wet or muddy conditions can be encountered at any time

#### Durlston Country Park Visitor Centre at Durlston Castle

Open Daily: 10am – 5pm Apr-Oct; 10am - 4pm Nov-Mar  
Entry is free. Parking charges apply.  
01929 424443 [www.durlston.co.uk](http://www.durlston.co.uk)

Walkabout leaflets can be downloaded from [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/walkabouts](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/walkabouts)



# SWANAGE WALKABOUTS

Herston Halt / Herston Village Hall / Priests Way / Swanage Bay View Caravan Site / Durlston





# HERSTON HALT TO DURLSTON CASTLE

This gentle route has been designed to encourage people to walk between these two corners of Swanage via an easy-to-follow route on grassy paths, with no stiles and no large hills (approx. 3 miles).

## STARTING POINT

Herston Halt or Durlston Castle

## DISTANCE

approx.  
3 miles



**This route is waymarked and can be walked from either direction.**

If starting at Herston Halt Railway Station (grid ref SZ 014 792), walk over the bridge and onto the Village Green.

**Historic Herston:** the core of the Domesday Manor and former quarrying village of Herston.

Many of the buildings here are 18th century traditional Purbeck stone cottages with stone roofs.

It still contains a church, pub, shop, chip shop, village hall and village green, although the small primary school closed in 2010s.

Why not stop at **Swanage Bay View** on the way for some refreshments and to enjoy the wonderful view?

**Finish at Durlston Castle:** an extraordinary Victorian building, built by George Burt as a tea-room in the 1880s; and now the visitor centre for Durlston Country Park National Nature Reserve.

Visit the Castle (free entry) to enjoy the displays, Rangers Daily Wildlife Diary, art exhibitions, gift shop and spectacular views. Seventh Wave café and restaurant serves ice cream, hot and cold drinks, cakes and freshly prepared meals.



### KEY

- - - Walkabout
- • • Alternative route

### Visit Durlston for:

- Visitor Centre
- Seventh Wave Café
- Toilets
- Parking
- Picnic benches
- Play Trail

200 m  
500 ft