The Teachers' Guide to PURBECK
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Purbeck

Purbeck

Here is a place where sand lizards shuffle in spring sunshine, dragonflies hawk over lily topped pools, where deer tread dew-soaked meadows, nightjars serenade the sunsets, dolphins frolic and rare orchids shiver in the crisp sea breeze. This corner of southern England is incredibly rich in wildlife of all kinds due to its great diversity of habitats, coastal aspect and proximity to mainland Europe. Thus Purbeck is not only a magnet for naturalists, but also a destination for thousands of young people who come to taste these riches for the first time. Against a backdrop of rolling hills, yellow beaches, bruised heathlands and spectacular cliffs, they are able to safely enjoy access to this globally unique environment on a network of nature reserves, country parks and estates, and over a web of some of the best footpaths anywhere in Britain. From a bevy of Sites of Special Scientific Interest to the nations only natural World Heritage Site this has to be the best outdoor classroom anywhere in Britain!

This Teachers’ Guide is designed to outline some of the key features and opportunities this resource has to offer. It spans the many interests of the partners in this project from heritage to natural history and I hope that it will excite teachers and pupils alike. Once stirred into action I hope they will explore the area with keen, fresh eyes and realise its great value and the need to protect and conserve the people, places and wildlife of Purbeck for future generations of young Darwins and Attenboroughs. So come on, get down on your knees, peer through the heather and spy on the secret antics of those sand lizards. Ooohh! . . . Quite literally brilliant!

Chris Packham
Naturalist and Broadcaster
2006
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Purpose of Guide

The Teacher’s Guide is intended to alert teachers to the exceptional educational opportunities and facilities in Purbeck and to assist in planning outdoor educational visits to the area.

The Purbeck educational centres listed in this guide have an excellent reputation for delivering innovative, enjoyable and safe learning experiences to students of all ages from 4 to 80 years old! The qualified and experienced staff are experts in the Purbeck region. The centres are also committed to operating to high standards to preserve the unique environment that make Purbeck so special. All the education centres will support individual groups to organise a customised study programme.

Why Purbeck?

Purbeck forms the most accessible eastern end of ‘The Jurassic Coast’ and is internationally renowned for its geology and geomorphology. The coast is designated a World Heritage Site and is one of the most significant earth science sites in the world, displaying a remarkable combination of internationally renowned features. www.jurassiccoast.com

The landscape and wildlife of Purbeck are shaped by interaction between the geology, natural processes and human influence, resulting in an environment of exceptional quality and unrivalled diversity. Purbeck has one of the highest concentrations of protected habitats of any area in the Britain with over 30 habitats identified and protected by national and international conservation designations.

Purbeck also has a rich human history with over 512 listed archaeological sites including Neolithic and Iron Age hill forts, medieval castles and field systems, a Victorian tourist town, steam railway and WW2 defences. Stone quarrying has operated in Purbeck since Roman times and continues to this day. The famous Purbeck stone has been used in many buildings including Westminster Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral. Purbeck also has a fascinating history of smuggling and was the centre for this illicit trade during the 1700s.

Such a beautiful region has been the inspiration for some well known authors including Thomas Hardy, Jane Austen, PD James and Enid Blyton. Lawrence of Arabia also made his home in Purbeck.

The Purbeck area offers numerous opportunities for adventure activities including dragon boat racing, rock climbing and abseiling, orienteering, kayaking, sailing, high ropes, survival training, team building and many more.

120,000 students visit Purbeck each year. The following pages in this guide will give you a taste of their experiences and examples of the topics being studied. Each visiting group has unique requirements, the experienced staff at the educational centres will help you plan a visit to meet all your objectives.
Check List for Planning an Educational Visit to Purbeck

1. Set clear objectives for your trip and prioritise these.
2. Check your school and LEA policies on educational visits.
3. Liaise with your school’s EVC (Educational Visits Coordinator) and colleagues for additional advice.
4. Use the Teachers’ Guide to find a suitably located centre for your visit.
5. Involve your students in the planning of the visit where possible.
6. Contact the Purbeck educational centres to explain your objectives, receive advice and begin to plan your visit in detail.
7. Arrange a pre-visit with the centres to confirm your objectives will be met and prepare written risk assessments with support from the education centre staff.
8. Consider and develop contingency planning with the education centre staff.
9. Consider competence of staff from your school and enquire about the qualifications of the staff at the education centres.
10. Ask the educational centres for pre-visit information and activities to prepare your students for their visit and also ask about follow-up activities for when you return from Purbeck.
11. Review and evaluate with your students if the visit met your objectives and give this feedback to the Purbeck educational centres.

Education is not something to keep in a box, even when the box is classroom-shaped. The habit of learning, an urge to find out more, is developed when we feel inspired. The world outside the school is richly inspiring, constantly re-energising what takes place within the classroom. It is the source of all our learning - about our history, about our culture, about our place in the natural world and our relationships with each other.

- Real World Learning Campaign
Purbeck’s wide range of habitats across a small area encourages an incredible biodiversity and has led to the region being described as the ‘rainforest’ of the UK. Purbeck is also blessed with world famous geology creating stunning rocky coasts of high cliffs, steep valleys and clean sandy beaches (this part of the coast is a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Looking into the rock pools allows children a glimpse of the hidden riches of the seas which support dolphins, whales and large colonies of sea birds.

Purbeck provides the perfect opportunity for many science and geography based topics. Habitat comparison, feeding relationships, coastal processes and environmental issues can be brought to life and concepts that are difficult to put into context can be seen or demonstrated first hand.

The area also boasts a rich history from ancient settlements, medieval castles, Victorian towns and WW2 defences. Students can step into the shoes of pirates and smugglers, become a soldier in the English Civil War or experience Victorian Swanage through the eyes of the rich and poor.

Purbeck has a long history of quarrying and fishing which shaped the settlements of the area. Today it is the millions of tourists, introduced by the Victorians, that influence development making Purbeck an ideal place to study changes in villages and towns. Groups also study the impact all these visitors have on the environment.

Many artists and authors have chosen Purbeck as their inspiration and the breathtaking surroundings of Purbeck are perfect for stimulating your students’ more creative sides. Explore the works of Enid Blyton, in the area she called home or create an environmental masterpiece in the style of Andy Goldsworthy.

Examples of outdoor adventure activities in Purbeck are listed in this guide and a school visit will help develop team skills, confidence building and above all is great fun. Students can also get their hands dirty and experience practical habitat conservation, learning the importance of human influence on the environment.

The residential and day visit centres listed in this guide work to the highest standards to support schools achieve their objectives for their visit to Purbeck.

Primary
Purbeck will really introduce the ‘wow’ factor into primary teaching. Do you want to explore the gruesome reality behind castle living, investigate who eats who in the heathland ‘jungle’ or challenge your students to push their boundaries on a high ropes course? The possibilities are endless, providing an amazing array of topics, subjects and cross curriculum opportunities, Purbeck has it all!

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Examples of Topics Studied by Primary Students in Purbeck

- Features
- Defence
- Habitat loss
- Footpath erosion
- Honey-pot tourism
- Villages and towns
- Changing employment
- Romans
- Anglo-Saxon
- Vikings
- Castles
- Domestic life
- Corfe Castle
- Smugglers and pirates
- ‘Wreckers’
- Origins of coastguard
- Rivers
- Coasts
- Environment
- Settlement
- Ancient settlement of Britain
- Medieval
- English Civil War
- Victorian
- Defences against invasion
- Invention of radar
- Land for military exercises
- Rich and poor
- Children in quarries
- Railways
- Tourism, holidays
- Digital multimedia
- Sculpture in natural materials
- Beach litter collages
- Art
- Rocks and soils
- Life cycles
- Variation and classification
- Feeding relationships
- Adaptation
- Habitats
- Marine
- Freshwater
- Grassland
- Heathland
- PS.H.E.
- Defence
- Thomas Hardy
- Enid Blyton
- Famous authors
- Confidence
- Responsibility
- Team building
- Outdoor adventurous activities
- Literacy
- Drama
- Myths & legends
- Story telling / writing
- Poetry
- Experts cross-curricular assistance for planning your visit is available by contacting any of the centres listed in this guide.
The short journey of discovery begins on the discordant coastline in the east, where you cruise the meandering River Frome to spill into Poole Harbour. Beyond the entrance, follow the shifting sand dunes of Studland as you surf along to the stacks of Old Harry Rocks. Sail round the headland to the sweeping bay of Swanage and up onto the craggy limestone cliffs of Durlston. Stride the concordant cliff tops perched above the pounding waves at Dancing Ledge, and dip down to the oil and fossil rich clays of Kimmeridge. Soar over towering vertical cliffs of pure white chalk and dive into the turquoise seas of Lulworth Cove. Emerge to view the awe-inspiring folds of the Lulworth Crumple, and gently float through the massive arch at Durdle Door. Finally, land on the beach with a new wealth of knowledge to take from this bountiful trip.

With such a rich abundance of sites within a small area, ranging from the most south westerly chalk streams in Britain to spectacular coastal landforms, Purbeck can offer a great variety of learning opportunities, set in a natural and exhilarating environment. Purbeck has the most northerly evidence of the alpine mountain building period, as well as one of the finest examples of late Jurassic-early Cretaceous rock sequences in the world. This contains a treasure trove of fossils, ranging from a well preserved Jurassic forest to some of the longest dinosaur trackways ever found. Being one of the best understood sedimentary basins in the world, this region is an ideal place to learn about physical geography, whether your students are new to the subject, or looking to add to the list of over 3,000 species of cretaceous insects found at Durlston.

Come to Purbeck and with the aid of local expertise study: geological timescales; formation of rocks; plate tectonics; folding; processes of erosion and weathering; coastal landforms of erosion and deposition; future coastal evolution and coastal management. River profiles, flows, and features of erosion and deposition can also be explored.

Practise field techniques such as: sketching; transects; quadrats; measuring longshore drift; beach and sand dune profiles; as well as river profiles and flow rates.

Physical Geography
A premier place in the Britain for studying physical geography, a trip to the Isle of Purbeck is an adventure through a beautiful and varied landscape, rich in learning opportunities. The coastline features in textbooks globally and in 2001 it was designated part of England’s first natural World Heritage Site for its geology and geomorphology.
Examples of Physical Geography Topics Studied in Purbeck

- Coastal landforms of erosion and deposition
- Processes of erosion and weathering
- Plate tectonics, folding and faulting
- Future coastal evolution
- Beach profiles
- Longshore drift
- River profiles and flow rates
- Sediment grading and sorting
- Field sketches
- Formation of sedimentary rocks
- Fossils
- Geological time scales
- Rocks and soil
- Soils structure and condition
- Sand dune profiles
- Primary data collection
- Kite diagrams
- Data analysis
- Statistical tests
- Graphs
- Management issues
- Coastal defences / cliff stabilisation
- Beach replenishment
- Conservation and habitats
- Development / migration
- Features of erosion and deposition
- Water quality
- Flood protection and drainage
- Freshwater ecology
- Rivers
- Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site

**Expert cross curricular assistance for planning your visit is available by contacting any of the centres listed in this guide.**
The Isle of Purbeck is made up of many small villages, ideal for rural studies. These come in both nucleated form (e.g. Corfe Castle, spreading out from the original castle) and linear, such as Langton Matravers whose origin lies in quarrying. Many of the villages and towns are within easy reach of each other, making an ideal day for comparing and contrasting the differences, their services and resident needs and how this has gone on to affect the future development of the area.

Swanage itself is a former fishing village, which then made its fortune from Purbeck stone and later from tourism. There are two aspects to urban studies in Swanage which can be applied separately or as part of a package: town morphology and tourism study. Concentrating on central Swanage the students can study the service provision in the town and see for themselves the effects of tourism. Students can explore the impacts of tourism on the social, environmental and economic sustainability of Swanage and propose solutions for some of the problems they have identified. It is possible to study the variety of impacts on this seaside resort, especially how the age demographics are catered for, and differing opinions regarding the tourist versus local services debate.

There are plenty of locations for investigating a variety of coastal management schemes. The highly defended town of Swanage can be compared with Lulworth where management dictates no sea defences. Good comparisons can be made with the management strategies at Lulworth Cove and Knoll Beach, Studland; two sites managing high numbers of visitors from a variety of user groups. Both sites provide excellent opportunities for data collection when looking at the impacts of footpath erosion on the local area causing visual scars and disturbance of habitats.

Practise field techniques such as: visitor surveys, mapping, bi-polar analysis and landscape evaluation.

Human Geography

Purbeck is an ideal area in which to study human influence over the landscape, a 2000 year old stone industry that has seen boom, bust and a recent renaissance, a depressed fishing industry and a thriving tourist industry serving 5 million visitors each year. Study how the settlements have changed and how pressures from tourism challenge communities and services.
Examples of Human Geography Topics Studied in Purbeck

- Concentric and linear
- Demographics
- Services
- Villages and towns
- Employment
- Transport
- Footpath erosion
- Interpretation
- Habitat loss and disturbance
- Coastal zone management
- Primary data collection
- Bi-polar analysis
- Visitor survey
- Landscape evaluation
- Footpath studies
- Travel and tourism
- Conflict between landscape user groups
- ‘Honey-pot’ sites and issues
- Positive and negative effects of tourism
- Practical solutions to management issues
- Comparison of different tourist locations (rural / urban)
- Transport
- Accommodation
- Develop or conserve?

Expert cross curricular assistance for planning your visit is available by contacting any of the centres listed in this guide.
A days walk can take you from the mudflats and waders of Poole Harbour, across the dunes and heaths of Studland, where sand lizards laze amongst the heather, to the chalk ridge of Ballard Down. From there, stroll across the flower-filled downland from Durlston to Lulworth, listening to the noisy babble of guillemots and puffins on the cliffs.

Purbeck’s seas are also bursting with life - from the Sabellaria reefs of Swanage Bay, Durlston’s dolphins and the beautiful “underwater gardens” and accessible and diverse rockpools of Kimmeridge Bay. Purbeck is also the home for the rare black-faced blenny and the most easterly known stronghold for our native soft coral the pink seafan.

The South Purbeck Coast forms the longest uninterrupted stretch of coastal limestone grassland in Europe. The short grazed turf and scrub is of global importance for plant life, from the tiny pink stars of the endemic early English gentian to Purbeck’s speciality - the bizarre and beautiful early spider orchid (with over 80% of the British population occurring between Durlston and Lulworth). In spring and summer, the air is filled with butterflies (over 40 species breed in Purbeck), including nationally important populations of Adonis blue and Lulworth skipper.

More than 5% of Britain’s remaining lowland heath occurs in Purbeck - a stronghold for species such as nightjar and smooth snake, while the chalk streams of the Frome support a huge variety of invertebrate species.

This dizzying variety of habitats and species makes Purbeck the ideal place to study science; adaptations, food webs, contrasting habitat types, life processes and classification, contrasting localities and habitats and human impacts on the environment.

Purbeck’s wildlife is matched by a wealth of field studies expertise. For more than 30 years, rangers, wardens and education staff have been inspiring students with awe and wonder at the beauty, complexity and uniqueness of Purbeck’s incredible natural heritage.
Examples of Science Topics Studied in Purbeck

- Managing conflicts
- Sustainable development
- People and wildlife
  - Practical conservation work
  - Farming
- Feeding relationships
  - Competition and predation
    - eg. Rock pooling
  - Food webs
    - eg. Bug hunting
- Tourism management
- Land management
- Human impacts
- Marine
- Classification
- Biodiversity
- Evolution / fossil record
- Adaptation
- Compare contrasting habitats
- Diversity
- Habitats
  - Marine and coastal
    - Sand dunes
      - Sea cliffs
      - Mud flats
      - Rockpools
      - Eel grass
      - Sabellaria reefs
  - Grassland
    - Traditional hay meadows
    - Grazed downland
    - Farmland
  - Woodland
    - Ancient woodland
    - Woodland pasture
    - Conifer forest
  - Heathland
    - Scrub
    - Maritime heaths
    - Wet heaths
    - Bogs and fens
- Expert cross curricular assistance for planning your visit is available by contacting any of the centres listed in this guide.
Spectacular footpaths give access to prehistoric burial sites and hill forts, and over much of Purbeck there is visible evidence of former agricultural systems, such as banks, ditches, lynchets and field boundaries.

The evocative ruins of Corfe Castle dominate the area, and visiting the castle and its associated hands-on facilities provides excellent access to medieval and Civil War history. And while the Castle was for the posh folk, the village settlements which are such a feature of Purbeck were developing for the working folk.

The link which connects all aspects of Purbeck’s past is stone - Kimmeridge shale in Roman times, and then Purbeck’s limestones: medieval Purbeck ‘Marble’, Portland limestone for 17th Century London, export from Swanage in Victorian times, and paving, roofing and building stone throughout.

In the 18th Century, extraction, carriage and export of ball clay by Wedgewood et alia became a major industry and lead to Purbeck’s first railways; many of these can still be followed as footpaths and bridleways.

Swanage is an excellent example of a small Victorian seaside resort; a surprising amount of the town’s well-documented Victorian heritage remains clearly visible.

The stunning coastline has had its own impact on Purbeck’s past. The cliffs have been quarried for stone and minerals, the headlands used as lookouts, and caves and quarries used by smugglers for storing contraband. Countless ships have foundered on the reefs and rocks, from the time of King Alfred to the present day. Relics of defensive structures from the two World Wars, notably at Studland and Durlston, indicate the importance of this coastline for the nation.

Although many publications describe the fascinating history of Purbeck, nothing beats making use of the local experts to interpret this rich tapestry. As well as museums and interpretation centres, the rangers, wardens and education staff of the field centres of Purbeck are available to bring the past to life and thus illuminate the present.
Examples of History Topics Studied in Purbeck

- Barrows
- Hillforts
- Field systems (strip lynchets)
- 'Beaker' people
- WW2
- Threat of invasion (pill boxes and tank traps)
- Army ranges (Tyneham village)
- Radar
- Britain after 1900
- Fishing
- Decline in quarrying
- Preservation versus development
- Tourism
- • Restoration of cathedrals
  • Apprenticeships
- • Sustainability
  • Current issues - Marine Bill
- Quarrying
- Cathedrals / religion
- Britain 1066 - 1500
- Medicine
- Costumes
- Village and castle life
- Britain 1500 - 1750
- Monarchists / royalists
- Siege of Corfe Castle
- English Civil War
- Parliamentarians
- Britain 1750 - 1900
- Smuggling
- Agricultural revolution
- Tourism
- Industrialisation (John Mowlem, George Burt)
- Archaeology
- Britain 1066 - 1500
- Archaeology
- Britain 1500 - 1750
- Archaeology
- Britain 1750 - 1900
- Architecture

Expert cross curricular assistance for planning your visit is available by contacting any of the centres listed in this guide.
Creative Arts

"On the left, Durlston Head roaring high and low like a giant asleep. On the right a Thrush. Above the bird hangs a new moon and a steady planet." Thomas Hardy, 1875.

The Isle of Purbeck has always been a source of inspiration for artists, writers, sculptors and poets.

A rich diversity of landscapes has inspired many works of art and literature, from the wild, open downs - jewelled with wildflowers in summer with spectacular views, lonely and mist shrouded in winter. The "iron coast and angry waves" of the south Purbeck coast are in contrast to the quiet shores of Poole Harbour and the wet woods and reedbeds at Arne, providing students with opportunities to explore landscapes in visual arts, in the company of celebrated artists like Graham Sutherland, John Piper and Paul Nash, whose seminal "Swanage and Seaside Surrealism", described the power of the landscapes of Purbeck.

A rich tapestry of history, myth and folklore is woven around the Isle of Purbeck, inspiring writers from Thomas Hardy, John Galsworthy, Enid Blyton and more recently, Paul Hyland.

Smugglers’ tales of the coast, the curious Victorian history of Swanage and a wealth of Civil War stories woven around Corfe Castle provide a rich vein of inspiration for young writers.

Art and design play a vital role in interpreting Purbeck’s natural heritage, through interpretation and displays. Many sites in Purbeck offer the chance to work with students to analyse existing displays and help them create their own.

Other opportunities include the use of creative work to explore environmental themes, the opportunity to display work to visitors or contribute new artwork and use field sketching to understand Purbeck’s incredible wildlife.
Examples of English Language and Art Topics Studied in Purbeck

- Science
- School ‘newspaper’
- Posters
- Information leaflets
- Reports
- Famous authors
- Enid Blyton
- Jane Austin
- William Barnes
- Henry Fielding
- Thomas Hardy

- Discuss / Argue
- Creative writing
- Story walks
- Story telling
- Poetry

- Video
- Images
- Multimedia
- ICT

- Observational drawing and field sketches
- Creative art and design
- Stone carving
- Environmental art

- Natural and built landscape
- Making musical instruments
- Kite making
- Purbeck masons and sculptors
- Famous artists

- Geology
- Science / Ecology
- Natural collage and sculpture

- Famous authors
- Creative writing
- Story walks
- Poetry

Tip: Expert cross curricular assistance for planning your visit is available by contacting any of the centres listed in this guide.
The Jurassic coastline provides stunning locations for climbers of all abilities. Dancing Ledge near Langton Matravers offers great climbing for novices, whereas other areas on cliffs near Swanage and Worth Matravers offer harder grades on bolted and traditional routes. It is also recognised as one the UK’s leading areas for deep water soloing and Conner Cove is well known as a venue for climbing festivals.

The coastline, the Purbeck Hills and Rempstone Forest are ideal for walking and mountain biking excursions of all distances, exercising navigation skills and making use of the popular Purbeck footpaths and cycle routes. The area is also frequently used by groups participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme as an expedition location. Throughout the area the landscape views are spectacular.

There are many opportunities to take to the water, either on the River Frome at Wareham, within the sheltered waters of Poole Harbour, or along the coast. Local watersport providers offer the full range of leisure sessions, approved training and Jurassic Coast Tours. The River Frome offers an opportunity to kayak or canoe on calm water between picturesque riverbanks, or as a starting point for longer trips out into Poole Harbour and beyond. The coastline offers more advanced waters with stunning cliffs and overfalls for advanced paddlers and sailors. The Harbour and Studland Bay provide excellent water for sailing, wind and kitesurfing, waterskiing and wakeboarding.

Surf can be found on occasion in Swanage and Durlston Bays. Kimmeridge also offers an excellent reef break, particularly during the winter months.

Paragliders can take advantage of the south easterly winds at Ballard Down near Swanage and have the option of landing either back on the cliff or on the beaches in Swanage Bay.

Please contact the Purbeck education centres to find out the full range of suitable activities on offer for your students.
Examples of Adventure Activities in Purbeck

- Confidence
- Healthy lifestyle
- Challenge
- Co-operation
- Independence
- P.S.H.E.

Individual
- Climbing
- Kayaking
- High and low ropes course
- Trampolining

Team
- Pioneering
- Orienteering
- Camping
- Bush craft
- Initiative exercises
- Canoeing
- Dragonboat racing
- Raft building

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

Advice for planning your visit is available by contacting any of the centres listed in this guide.
Allnatt Centres
35 Ulwell Road, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 1LG.
Tel/Fax: 01929 421075.
Email: bookings@allnatt.co.uk
Web: www.allnatt.co.uk

A centre of excellence, leading the way in the provision of innovative and inspiring programmes of outdoor learning accessible to all people. Genuine customer service from people who aim to exceed your expectations and make your visit special.

Programmes:
Coastal discovery and adventure; outdoor adventure; team challenge; field studies; environmental creativity.

Benefits:
• own self contained buildings;
• a warm welcome with friendly, courteous service;
• situated 5 minutes from the beach & open countryside;
• 10 minutes from the town centre;
• a wide range of outdoor activities led by qualified, enthusiastic and friendly staff;
• Internet access and private lounges for adults;
• qualified, friendly tutors with local knowledge;
• fully risk assessed courses;
• all inclusive pricing means there are no hidden extras.

As members of the Institute for Outdoor Learning, we aspire to the highest standards of professionalism. • Competitive prices representing excellent value for money • Every child & adult really matters and is included.


Arne Nature Reserve
Arne, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5BJ.
Contact: The Information Officer,
Tel: 01929 553360.
or write to the RSPB nature reserve.

Arne nature reserve is the RSPB's flagship heathland reserve on the edge of Poole Harbour. It has stunning wildlife including heathland birds such as nightjars and Dartford warblers, coastal birds like little egrets and avocets, as well as the chance of seeing rarer creatures like seals and sand lizards.

The reserve is also known for its fantastic variety of dragonflies. Access around the reserve is easy along the way-marked trails and there is a lot to see at any time of year with beautiful views across Poole Harbour and the Purbeck hills. Watch the wildlife at close quarters from one of our two hides. Our annual programme of events includes something for everyone from guided walks to family fun days.

The reserve is open all year round with the Shipstal point and Coombe birdwatcher's trails open daily, starting from the reserve car park. The car park is locked at dusk. A car park charge is made for non-members. RSPB members are free at all times - please display a membership card in the car window. We have a small information hut in the reserve car park that is staffed from 1 April to 30 September with a whole host of information on birds and wildlife, events, volunteering and joining the RSPB. There are public toilets by the car park. Coaches, groups and educational centres by prior arrangement. We have a small resource for running educational trips including helping with habitat management, data collection and guided tours around the reserve.
Brenscombe Outdoor Centre
Studland Road, Corfe Castle, Dorset, BH20 5JG.
Tel: 01929 481222.
Email: info@brenscombeoutdoor.co.uk
Web: www.brenscombeoutdoor.co.uk

Brenscombe is in the heart of the Isle of Purbeck, on the south side of Poole Harbour. The Centre is 1.5 miles from Corfe Castle and 5 miles from Wareham.

The Centre is situated in an attractive group of converted farm buildings on the slope of a spectacular chalk ridge overlooking Poole Harbour. We can accommodate up to 80 people in attractive, warm and comfortable rooms. A separate staff area with bedrooms, bathroom and TV lounge is also available. We have three well-equipped lecture/study rooms. The largest study room can seat 50 people within a spacious and atmospheric environment.

As well as the 30 different outdoor adventure activity sessions we can provide, we also run Britain’s most popular ropes course, situated within Rempstone forest. This has over 55 different low and high ropes activities as well an amazing cows tail course and a 300ft zip wire. Opposite the ropes course, we also have a huge meadow in the forest that can be used for activities as well as group camping.

Carey Outdoor Education Centre
Carey Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 7PB.
Tel: 01929 552265.
Email: careyoec@dorsetcc.gov.uk
Web: www.dorsetforyou.com/outdoored

Carey Outdoor Education Centre is open all year round to school and youth groups of all ages. The centre offers day and residential courses individually planned to support the needs of teachers and pupils working to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum.

The site is situated on the edge of Wareham Forest in sheltered woodland and is ideal for camping. The extensive grounds provide an attractive setting suitable for a range of environmental studies and outdoor activities. The River Piddle, Wareham town and the Purbeck area also provide a range of excellent study sites.

Residential accommodation is provided in standing patrol tents for groups of up to 120 between Easter and October. Groups are fully catered for by the Centre.
Castle View Study Room
Castle View, Corfe Castle, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5DR.
Tel: 01929 480609.
Email: clv@nationaltrust.org.uk
Web: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Castle View Visitor Centre houses the award-winning Study Room packed with activities to bring Corfe Castle's turbulent past to life. The activities are ideally suited to Key Stage 1, 2 and early KS3, led by National Trust staff and volunteers.

Children can try medieval building technology, sort archaeological finds, and complete jigsaw puzzles of medieval scenes. They can wear royal apparel, peasant garb or the arms and armour of a medieval or Civil War soldier. Replica pitch-lined leather buckets, medieval pattens (shoes) and authentic aromatic herbs complete this unforgettable experience of castle life. National Trust staff and volunteers can lead guided tours of the castle to complement the study room experience.

The public Visitor Centre adjacent to the Study Room has interactive displays illustrating the story of the Castle within the Isle of Purbeck.

The Study Room is also a good base for studies of Corfe Castle village for any age.

Durlston Country Park
Lighthouse Road, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2JL.
Contact: Countryside Rangers, tel/fax: 01929 424443.
Email: info@durlston.co.uk
Web: www.durlston.co.uk

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

Whether bringing students face to face with Britain’s biggest insect on a mini-beast safari, leading a discussion on balancing the needs of visitors and wildlife, or exploring “life on the edge” in one of the largest guillemot colonies in the south of England, the rangers can offer students an unforgettable day.

The spectacular coastal scenery includes headlands, bays, coastal erosion and sea defence and as a key gateway to the World Heritage Site, a rich geological record and unique Victorian legacy.

The Visitor Centre features interactive displays, including live images of breeding seabirds, sound from the seabed, a hide and a daily wildlife diary. A shop provides souvenirs, snacks and educational material.

The rangers work with teachers to tailor sessions to your learning needs. For details visit www.durlston.co.uk
Leeson House has been providing field studies courses in Purbeck for nearly forty years. The accommodation and domestic provision are of a high standard and can house sixty students plus staff.

The extensive grounds contain a wide variety of habitats including ponds, meadows, woodlands, a bird hide and games field. The biodiversity of the grounds is very healthy with all three species of newt present in the ponds. There are 3 classrooms, a library and IT room and the centre is stocked with a very wide range of high quality field equipment.

All courses at Leeson House are planned individually by one of the teaching staff following almost any topic or theme. We provide courses for primary schools through to GCSE and A Level fieldwork in biology, geography and geology. We can also accommodate colleges, universities and many other special interest groups.

Lulworth Heritage Centre
Main Road, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5RQ.
Tel/fax: 01929 400155
Email: rangers@lulworth.com
Web: www.lulworth.com

The beautiful and dramatic coastline of Lulworth creates a tremendous outdoor learning environment. Our experienced rangers, with the benefit of local knowledge, teach curriculum orientated topics from KS1 to A2 level and beyond!

We specialise in:
- **Coasts** - Erosional processes and landforms
- **Tourism** - Management and solutions
- **Ecology** - Habitats and adaptation
- **Keystage 1 and 2** - Cross curricular studies

and can create tailor-made sessions for all age groups on a range of subjects.

Flexible sessions using audio visual and field teaching are complemented by practical and written activities. These are based at our Heritage Centre which contains superb illustrative displays of the coast.
Purbeck Marine Wildlife Reserve

The Fine Foundation Marine Centre, Kimmeridge Bay, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5PF. Tel: 01929 481044.
Email: kimmeridge@dorsetwildlife.co.uk
Web: www.coastlink.org/kimmeridge

The rocky shore is the ideal place to study the interaction between marine life and their environment. The ledges of Kimmeridge, in Purbeck Marine Wildlife Reserve, provide the opportunity for a memorable face-to-face encounter with local marine life.

The Fine Foundation Marine Centre houses an array of educational interpretation and native aquaria enhanced with a live underwater camera (weather permitting). A dedicated school room is available for booking curriculum based audio visual talks and there are opportunities for a variety of warden led shore activities enabling first hand encounters.

Dorset Wildlife Trust wardens educate visitors from a wide range of ages and backgrounds in caring for the diverse marine environment, ensuring it remains as exquisite today as it will in years to come.

Topics covered; adaptations of marine life, species identification, food chains/webs, marine conservation, rocky shore zonation.

"I learnt about lots of different creatures and the seashore code. My favourite animal was the beadlet anemone and it's sticky tentacles", Bethony Clasby

"I loved the blennies watching us through the water when we were looking for the magic blue seaweed", Ayisha Newman

Studland Study Centre, Beach & Nature Reserve

Castle View, Corfe Castle, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5DR. Tel: 01929 480609.
Email: purbeckclv@nationaltrust.org.uk
Web: nationaltrust.org.uk

The inspiring and stunning surroundings of Studland Bay make the Studland Study Centre an ideal location for an educational visit.

The innovative Centre, an educational resource in itself, is an excellent example of a sustainable building. It has been positioned and constructed to have minimum impact on the environment and was the first National Trust building to be awarded an Eco-Centre Award by the Tidy Britain Group. It provides the opportunity to see environmentally friendly technology in practice including a wind turbine, photovoltaic cells and self composting toilets!

Studland is famous for its long sandy beaches and dunes. It is an area of high biodiversity, home to many nationally rare and scarce species, and has a range of national and international conservation and heritage designations. The area provides an excellent study for a host of National Curriculum subjects and topics for all ages. These include; habitat comparison, sand dune profile and succession, tourism management, environmental management, coastal processes, features and erosion.
Townsend Environmental Study Centre
Cobblers Lane, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2PX.
Tel: 01929 422448. Fax: 01929 422739.
Email: townsend@widehorizons.org.uk
Web: http://townsend.widehorizons.lgfl.net

The centre is located in an idyllic setting overlooking Swanage Bay. We are one of five centres that form the Widehorizons Outdoor Education Trust and our aim is to improve the lives of all who learn, work and live in our community, through inspiring outdoor experiences. We’re open all year round, with residential visits generally running from Monday to Friday and Friday to Sunday. Sessional and day visits can also be accommodated. All our centre led programmes are tailored to meet individual group requirements, and are delivered by our dedicated and experienced teaching team. Weekend programmes can either be centre or group led.

The centre can accommodate 76 young people and 11 staff in 3 dormitories. We normally accommodate two groups at one time, and each group has their own classroom, drying room, waterproof equipment and ICT facilities. The centre has bathroom facilities and spacious sleeping quarters for those with disabilities, and wheel chairs can access all essential areas of the site. Our recreational facilities include football, volleyball, table tennis, snooker, tuck shop, BBQ and disco. Our catering team produce fresh and delicious home cooking including cooked breakfasts, picnic lunches, evening meals and supper, and happily accommodate all dietary requirements.

What the teachers say about us:

“All activities were stimulating and engaging. A wonderful programme.”

“We were looked after in every way. Excellent accommodation and the food was wonderful.”

What the children say about us...

“Thanks for a spectacular time in a wonderful place.”

Independent Group Accommodation
DAVID DONALD FIELD STUDIES BASE,
Worth Matravers, Swanage, Dorset. T: 01202 710701 (bookings).
Self-catering. Dormitory accommodation (20 students + 4 staff).
Camping site (24 tents).

LULWORTH YHA,
School Lane, West Lulworth, Dorset, BH20 5SA.
T: 0870 770 5940  W: www.yha.org.uk
34 beds.

SWANAGE YHA,
Cluny Crescent, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2BS.
T : 0870 7700 6058.
E: swanage@yha.org.uk  W: www.yha.org.uk
100 beds.

Purbeck Transport Companies
BLUEWAYS COACHES DORSET LTD.,
Victoria Avenue Industrial Estate, Swanage, BH19 1AU. T: 01929 423622.

LINK RIDER COACHES,
7, Steer Road, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2RU. T: 01929 423388.

SOUTH DORSET COACHES LTD.,
Victoria Avenue Industrial Estate, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 1AU.
T: 01929 423622.

SWANAGE RAILWAY,
Station House, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 1HB. T: 01929 425800
E: general@swanrail.freeserve.co.uk  W: www.swanagerailway.co.uk

Other Attractions for Schools
BOVINGTON TANK MUSEUM
Bovington, Dorset, BH20 6JG.
T: 01929 405096  W: www.tankmuseum.co.uk

LANGTON MATRAVERS MUSEUM
St George’s Close, Langton Matravers, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 3HE.
T: 01929 423168  W: www.langtonia.org.uk

SWANAGE MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTRE
The Square, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2LJ. T: 01929 421427.
F: 01929 557348  E: tourism@purbeck-dc.gov.uk

BROWNSEA ISLAND
Poole, Dorset, BH13 7EE. T: 01202 707744.
E: browNSEAISLAND@nationaltrust.org.uk
W: www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Matrix of Activities

### Non-residential Educational Centres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Keystages</th>
<th>1</th>
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<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5+</th>
<th>Geology</th>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>Life Science</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Art</th>
<th>Adventurous Activities</th>
<th>Teaching Resources</th>
<th>Student Resources</th>
<th>Information Pack</th>
<th>Classroom</th>
<th>Indoor lunch area</th>
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### Residential Educational Centres

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<td>David Donald Field Studies (Base Accommodation only)</td>
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