



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Durlston Country Park Walk

Date: 19th May 2022
 Weather: Sunny and warm
 Walk Leader: Pete Wellstead
 Attendees: 8

Durlston Castle and Country Park, situated 1 mile from Swanage in Dorset, is a 320 acre National Nature Reserve owned and managed by Dorset County Council. With its Tilly Whim Caves, originally excavated during the Napoleonic War, the limestone quarries were used up to the start of the 20th century. The galleries reach back deep into the Purbeck ridge in horizontal Jurassic strata. All of the stone excavated from the Tilly Whim quarries was shipped via sea using barges, using a winch to lower the stone from the cliff face to the waiting barges below. Up to 50 tons of stone was removed in solid blocks from the galleries before being broken down into more manageable sizes using only hand tools. Removal of the stone to Swanage Bay using the barges could only be carried out in the summer months while the weather was calm enough. Further along the coast is Anvil Point Lighthouse, dramatic sea-cliffs where nesting Guillemots and Razorbills can be seen, also with coastal limestone downland, hay meadows, hedgerows and woodland. There are stunning views overlooking Peveral Point and Old Harry Rocks. Durlston is a gateway to the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site which runs from Exmouth in the west to Old Harry Rocks at Ballard Down just north of Swanage. The Park is also designated as Heritage Coast, Special Area of Conservation, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Nature Reserve. The offshore waters are part of the Marine Research Area. This makes Durlston and the surrounding area a very special place for wildlife and geology.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants	Birds	Butterflies
Cow Parsley	Tamarisk	Chiffchaff	Speckled Wood
Bluebells	Thrift	Wood Pigeon	Small White
Ramsons	Common Mallow	Great Tit	Wall Brown
Three-cornered Garlic	Stinging Nettle	Swallow	Small Heath
Cleavers	Chalk Milkwort	Dunnock	Common Blue
Bulbous Buttercup	Common Vetch	Carrion Crow	Adonis Blue
Herb Robert	Salad Burnet	Chaffinch	Small Blue
Wood Dock	Birdsfoot Trefoil	Blue Tit	Red Admiral
Daisy	Stinking Iris	Shag	
Elder	Horseshoe Vetch	Razorbill	Others
Sycamore	Honeysuckle	Guillemot	Bloody Nose Beetle
Hawthorn	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Fulmar	Sand Lizard
Herb Bennet	Field Bindweed	Herring Gull	
Dandelion	Gorse	Black-headed Gull	
Garlic Mustard	Kidney Vetch	Jackdaw	
Hedge Mustard	Field Scabious	Skylark	
Prickly Sow-thistle	Sea Campion	Stonechat	
Charlock	Common Figwort	Green Woodpecker	

Wayfaring Tree	Eyebright	Magpie	
Creeping Buttercup	Germander Speedwell	Sandwich Tern	
Meadow Buttercup	Lady's Bedstraw	Chaffinch	
Groundsel	Early Purple Orchid	Song Thrush	
Common Poppy	Cowslip	Robin	
Ivy Toadflax	Red Clover		
Creeping Yellow Sorrel	Yellow Rattle		
Smooth Sow-thistle	Bittersweet		
Tormentil	Meadow Clary		
Green Field Speedwell	Ground Ivy		
Red Valerian	Field Horsetail		
Wood Forget-me-not	Pink Sorrel		
Green Alkanet	Eastern Gladioli		
Hoary Plantain	Ribwort Plantain		



Eastern Gladioli by Sonia Wilkinson



Wall Brown Butterfly by Lyn Traves