



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Durlston Country Park Walk

Date: 22nd June 2023
 Weather: Sunny
 Walk Leader: Peter Wellstead
 Attendees: 14 (plus 3 visitors)

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, a winch was used 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 Cont	Birds	Others
Stinking Iris	Self-heal	Robin	Butterflies
Enchanter's Nightshade	Squinancywort	Jackdaw	Large White
Wood Dock	Common Centuary	Carrion Crow	Speckled Wood
Cow Parsley	Field Bindweed	Chiffchaff	Meadow Brown
Charlock	Pryamidal Orchid	Blackcap	Small Heath
Common Broomrape	Crow Garlic	Guillemot	Meadow Brown
Privet	Dog Rose	Herring Gull	Lulworth Skipper
Herb Robert	Greater Knapweed	Shag	
Herb Bennet	Elder	Rock Pipit	Insects
Prickly Sow-thistle	Hop Trefoil	Raven	Dark Bush-cricket
Smooth Sow-thistle	Stinging Nettle	Kestrel	Great Green Bush-cricket
Dandelion	Wild Carrot	Whitethroat	Field Grasshopper
Mugwort	Field Scabious	Dunnock	Thick-kneed Flower Beetle
Meadow Buttercup	Hedge Bedstraw	Wren	
Honeysuckle	Ladies Bedstraw	Skylark	Others
Cleavers	Wild Thyme	Sand Martin	Grey Squirrel
Bramble	Restharrow	Stonechat	Wall Lizard

Wild Teasel	Kidney Vetch	Great Black-backed Gull	
Common Mallow	Salad Burnet	Goldfinch	
Mock Orange	Meadow Vetchling	Linnets	
Bristly Oxtongue	Yellow Rattle		
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Common Spotted Orchid		
Red Clover	Plowmans Spinkenard		
White Clover	Hedge Mustard		
Ragwort	Pale Flax		
Daisy	Wild Turnip		
Oxeye Daisy	Red Valarian		
Agrimony	Grasses		
Pignut	Tall Fescue		
Common Figwort	Crested Dogstail		
Biting Stonecrop	Cocksfoot		
Red Bartsia	Yorkshire Fog		
Sainfoin	Rye Grass		
Eyebright	Tor Grass		
Lesser Trefoil	Quaking Grass		
Ribwort Plantain	Meadow Fescue		
Rough Hawkbit			



Wall Lizard seen at Durlston by Martin King