

Ali Tuckey

Countryside Ranger and Project Leader 'Durlston Pleasure Grounds Project'

DURLSTON

COUNTRY PARK AND NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE, SWANAGE
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Dorset County Council

 heritage
lottery fund
LOTTERY FUNDED



Durlston in Numbers...

340 acres of coast and countryside

3,000+ species

250,000+ visitors a year

800+ Friends of Durlston

Ongoing Partnerships with over 30 different organisations

16+ Designations including National Nature Reserve, Grade II Listed Garden, Special Area of Conservation, Dark Skies Discovery Site

8,000+ visits p/a by school children

180 events p/a

150+ volunteers p/a

94% Excellent/Very Good ratings on Trip Advisor

114% cost recovery rate

Castle open 363 days a year

3.5 permanent staff!

Voted #1 Country Park in the UK in a Civic Trust/Keep Britain Tidy Group competition

92% of visitors surveyed say “Durlston is important for their physical/mental health”

£902,000 from Heritage Lottery Fund awarded in July 2018 for the Durlston Pleasure Grounds Project





- 10,000+ hours of volunteer time every year



Numerous health and wellbeing opportunities provided through partnerships with the Medical, Public Health and Community sectors



Volunteer Rangers magnify the work of paid staff,
give the community a stake in Durlston and
develop skills and friendships in our local
community

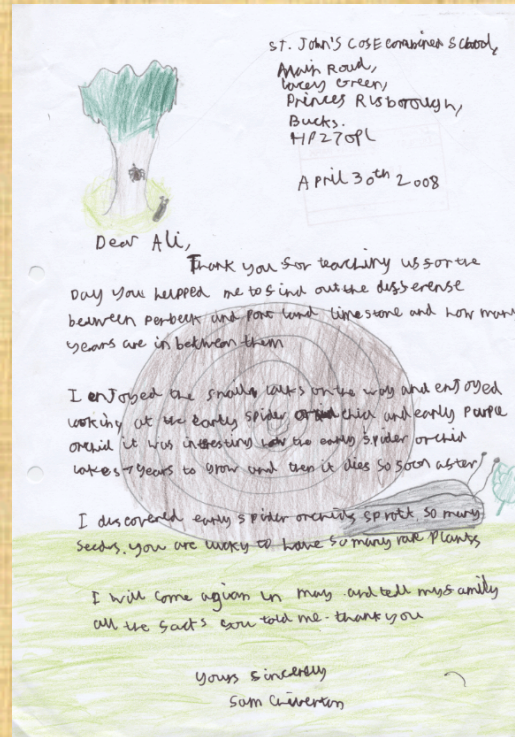


OFSTED 'Outstanding' Early Years Provision through a commercial partnership with 'Kids Love Nature'





8,000+ visits p/a by school children from all over the world...



Durlston Bus increases visitor numbers and income to the Park, and supports transport around Swanage. Additionally, a new lift-sharing scheme is being developed, to increase access for people without cars.

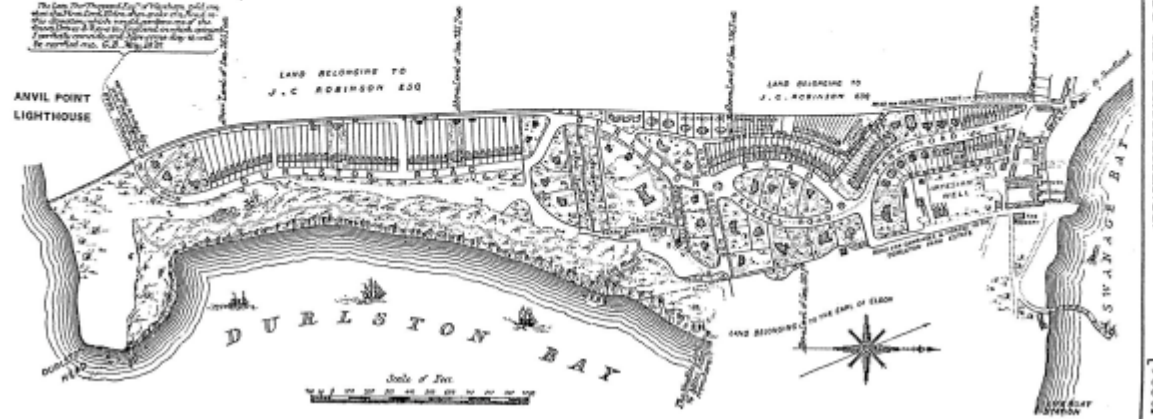




SWANAGE, DURLSTON HEAD

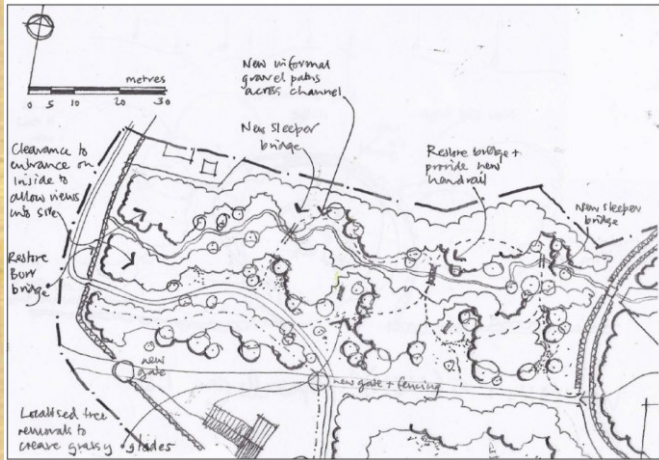
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Plan of the DURLSTON PARK ESTATE, SWANAGE, DORSET, THE PROPERTY OF GEORGE BURT, ESQ., SHOWING BUILDING SITES.



24 COUNTY ADVERTISEMENTS. [1880.

The £1.2m Durlston Pleasure Grounds Project will make Durlston's Grade II listed historic landscape easier to maintain and it will become a better resource for our community



Durlston Castle & Askers Ltd.

BOURNEMOUTH
via
STUDLAND,
FLOATING
BRIDGE
and
SANDBANKS,
is
QUICKER
and
SHORTER
by
15 MILES

CAR PARK
6d. All Day 6d.

Vehicles are admitted to this parking place on condition that Durlston Castle and Askers Ltd., shall not be liable for loss or damage to

- (a) Any vehicle
- (b) Anything in or on or about any vehicle however such loss or damage may be caused.

No 5979



PLEASURE GROUNDS FOR PEOPLE



IMPROVING ACCESS

The woodland offers shelter and less muddy, gentle routes for walking in wet weather, with spectacular clifftop views. However paths in places are uneven and slippery, while viewpoints are overgrown or rough underfoot.

Paths will be resurfaced with local stone to improve access for less mobile visitors or those with pushchairs.

Tree pruning along sections of the coastal path will reduce leaf litter, making it less slippery in the winter. New benches will allow visitors to 'rest and admire' the views.



TRANSPORT

A lift-sharing scheme will help people get around Swanage and Durlston, while allowing new friendships to develop. Mini-buses will help groups with specific needs get to Durlston.



INTERPRETATION

Contributions from artists and craftspeople, as well as a new variety of events will bring the landscape to life.

TRAINING

The project will provide training for volunteers, staff, and local people to support the management of the area. Courses will include dry-stone walling, DIY, gardening, storytelling, play, wildlife, dementia awareness and more...

PLAY

A passion for wildlife and conservation for many people starts in childhood. The project will create opportunities for people of all ages to explore the Pleasure Grounds in a playful way, with things to hunt for, creating natural artworks or dens and natural play features, like logs to balance on, or trees to climb.

Key Project Outcomes:

- Increased opportunities for learning new skills
- Improved access to nature, especially for people with reduced mobility or disabilities
- Wider variety and more inclusive volunteer tasks and activities/events
- Stronger emphasis on improving the health and wellbeing of the local community
- Helping to reduce loneliness and social isolation
- Stronger sense of community
- Improved management of park at reduced cost
- More diverse and skilled workforce – staff, volunteers and local community
- Improved project area reduces pressures on more sensitive parts of the site
- Innovative interpretation inspires next generation to become inquisitive about nature
- More diverse visitor profile
- Repeat visits: increase in parking and shop revenue
- **Increase the resource DCC has at Durlston to magnify the work of partners and community groups**

Target Audiences For the Pleasure Grounds

- People with disabilities
- Older People (especially those who are socially isolated)
- Children and young people



Making it Happen

- Total Project Cost around £1.1m. 80% of cost through HLF funding, remainder raised from around 12 different funders, public donations and volunteer time
- Delivery Phase starts August 2018, completion in 2021
- Aim is to maximise restore and enhance the project area to maximise benefits to the community, while reducing future maintenance burden to DCC
- Project delivery supported by broad partnerships including PoPP, Natural England, Swanage Town Council, Swanage Medical Centre, Friends of Durlston, Tricuro, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Swanage Senior Forum, Swanage School and many more!

A detailed evaluation programme will ensure that learning from the project, especially in new ways of delivering social outcomes is captured and shared for future service development.

