

# The Jurassic Post

## Quarterly progress report for the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site Steering Group, Working Groups and Team

### Contents:

1. Site Conservation, Monitoring and Science
2. Improving the Tourism Offer
3. Access and Sustainable Transport
4. Education
5. Interpretation and Regeneration
6. Other Partnership Work
7. Miscellaneous and Team News
8. Forthcoming Events
9. Resources

Edition 3: Sept – Dec '05

Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of The Jurassic Post. As ever, there has been plenty of excellent work going on over the last three months, and an extremely ambitious programme is planned for next year. So from all of us at the World Heritage Team, I would just like to thank you for your ongoing support and input into the Jurassic Coast, and wish you a very happy and prosperous 2006.

*Sam Rose, World Heritage Projects Coordinator*

### 1. SITE CONSERVATION, MONITORING AND SCIENCE

The **photographic monitoring survey** of the entire Portland and Purbeck Coast, mentioned in previous editions of the Jurassic Post, is now complete. A perfect day was chosen for the last site visit of running the length of the coast by boat - when the army firing ranges were open! The aim of the survey has been to record a photographic snapshot of the coast as it is today. The individual images collected have been compiled into seamless montages of the entire coast. The principal aim is to capture geomorphological change but the images are also useful interpretive tools, especially for use by boat.



Chris Pamplin and Maddy Pfaff recovering a dinosaur bone from Lulworth Cove. The sea had scoured away the beach to expose the underlying Wealden Clay

Richard Edmonds (Jurassic Coast's Earth Science Manager), Jonathan Larwood (English Nature) and Tony Weighell (JNCC) have written a scientific paper developing a site based approach to the **management of fossil sites**, based on an understanding that the sites where fossils come from are very different and require very different management techniques. As an example, a working quarry is very different from a cave deposit or a rapidly eroding coastline. Examples from the UK and abroad have been used to illustrate the model which is now available for consultation at:

[www.geoconservation.com/conference/docs/fossil](http://www.geoconservation.com/conference/docs/fossil)

Richard attended the European ProGEO conference in Braga, Portugal in September to present the paper.

Several very interesting **fossil finds** have recently been made along the Jurassic Coast. West Dorset District Council, on advice from the World Heritage Team, agreed to take a watching brief for important fossils that may be uncovered during the extensive

coastal defence works currently being undertaken in Lyme Regis. The District Council employed the Lyme Regis Museum Geologist, Paddy Howe, to be on site during excavations and in October, a huge **ichthyosaur** was uncovered. Unfortunately the diggers had cut through the main part of the body but Paddy, with the help of another local collector Peter Langham, was able to recover a very considerable part of the skeleton, including a complete tail. This exciting new fossil is being prepared for display in the Lyme Regis Museum.

Rob Coram, a fossil insect specialist, recently uncovered a large fossilised bone sticking out of the beach directly below the cafe at Lulworth Cove. The sea had stripped away an area of shingle leaving the bone clearly visible. Rob reported the find to Lulworth's Warden Maddy Pfaff who immediately called in Richard



Paddy Howe, geology curator at the Lyme Regis Museum, working on site at Lyme Regis.

Edmonds and Chris Pamplin from the World Heritage Team. The bone was successfully excavated and is now being cleaned at Bristol University with the intention of display in the near future at the Lulworth Heritage Centre.

## 2. IMPROVING THE TOURISM OFFER

A pilot project will soon be under way in Purbeck to monitor the 'carrying capacity' of the area by focusing on environmental, ecological and social measures. Part of the study will include an 'impact of tourism on quality of life' survey, speaking to local residents. The work will provide a basis on which to judge the positive and negative impacts of the World Heritage Site and other developments on the Jurassic Coast. The pilot project is being undertaken in partnership with Purbeck Heritage Committee and Dorset AONB. A small working group with members from key organisations in Purbeck has been set up to oversee the project which will be commissioned to research consultants. The model which has been developed will be suitable for rolling out across the whole of the Jurassic Coast in the future.

World Heritage Sites have an obligation to ensure that the 'universal value' of the Site is being maintained to an appropriate standard. A small working group consisting of representatives from the Jurassic Coast, Bath, Solitaire and Stonehenge World Heritage Sites has formed to develop **monitoring indicators** and establish a consistent approach to measuring Site's '**outstanding universal value**'. The group will gather indicators specified in the Management Plans of UK World Heritage Sites and will research monitoring undertaken by other national and international protected areas (e.g. US national parks). The aim is to provide generic guidelines advising World Heritage Sites in the UK and overseas how best to monitor the universal value of their Sites.

The first two **Green Awareness Training** courses have taken place in Dorset. 12 businesses attended and feedback to date has been very positive. The training days cover a wide variety of fascinating topics which are discussed by the group in detail with a range of environmental experts on hand to facilitate. Attending these courses is the first step for businesses wishing to become involved in the 'Green Tourism Business Scheme', an accreditation scheme led by South West Tourism. More courses will be run in Devon early in 2006.



Green Awareness Training in Dorset undertaken by James Jacobs of Envision.

## 3. ACCESS & SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

**Vehicle traffic monitoring data** has been gathered on six roads which lead to the Jurassic Coast in Dorset since 2000. Results up to 2004, recently analysed, show an above average increase in traffic growth on these roads compared to growth experienced in the rest of the county. These roads have always been popular routes with evidence from years pre-World Heritage Site designation, showing that these roads were used more than others in Dorset. Continued annual monitoring will be needed in order to assess the implications on traffic management.

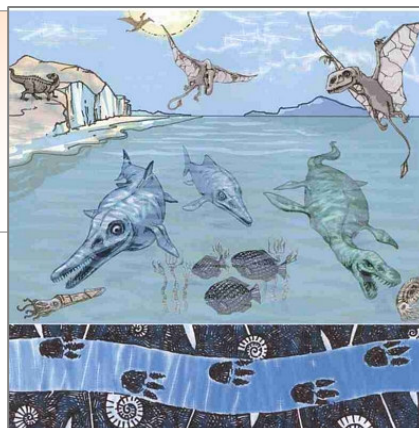
New **Jurassic Coast Signs** are to be installed at Wareham Rail Station. Look out for new signs which will be installed early in 2006!



## 4. EDUCATION

In October, two schools from the Bridport area (Mountjoy Special Education Needs School and St. Mary's Primary School) worked with local artist Julia Hilton to create unique pieces of art inspired by the coastline for the West Bay Pier interpretation panels. The children were prepared for the project by way of a World Heritage workshop that the World Heritage Team Education Coordinator, Anjana Khatwa, delivered in the school. Children participated in hands-on activities to learn about World Heritage and even received UNESCO badges to remember their experience. The panels are currently under production and will hopefully be in place by late Spring 2006.

Illustration of the Jurassic environment for the schools travelling display (Artist: Darrell Wakelam).





Darrell Wakelam working with children at the Lyme ArtsFest 2005 to create 3D models of Jurassic Coast creatures.

Projects have also been finalised with schools in preparation for the Schools Day (28<sup>th</sup> April) at the **Lyme Regis Fossil Festival 2006**. Two special educational needs school (Mountjoy School, Bridport and Southbrook School, Exeter) will have a chance to explore and build models of Jurassic Coast creatures with local artist Darrell Wakelam. In Bookings are also now being taken at Leeson House for a Gifted and Talented Mary Anning Drama workshop. The resulting play will be showcased at the festival on the schools day. In addition, schools throughout the site are being encouraged to link to the **Natural History Museum**, London through videoconferencing in a bid to bring scientists into the classroom. Finally, November marked a one year milestone for the education coordinator who is still as excited about the post as the day she started!

## 5. INTERPRETATION & REGENERATION

Many of the projects identified in the Interpretation Action Plan have progressed since September:

The **Arts Strategy** consultation and write-up has been completed and the document was endorsed by the WH Steering Group in December. Once published it will be available on [www.jurassiccoast.com](http://www.jurassiccoast.com).

An excellent publication about Portland's story of stone and its role in the WHS, "**Portland Stone Experience**", has just been published. Copies are available by calling 01305 826100.

**Lyme Arts Fest** in October saw dinosaurs wandering the streets of Lyme Regis for the first time in many million of years: **Herbie Treehead's animated dinosaurs** drew the crowds on a glorious Sunday afternoon as part of a set of related activities called 'Walk on the Wild Side', led by Dorset County Council Arts Team and supported by the Dorset Strategic Partnership.



One of Herbie's dinosaurs hits the streets of Lyme Regis.

**Beer Village Heritage Committee** have recently obtained planning permission and secured funding for a brand new Heritage Centre on the edge of the beach. The group will be replacing the existing small wooden structure with a new, larger wooden structure to enable them to tell in more detail the fantastic marine and geological stories of Beer. The centre is a community run, and is open for free all to dip in and out of throughout the year. The existing centre was particularly popular with local and visiting children, and the new centre will build on this existing involvement. The project is being realised with the help of many, including the Fine Foundation, East Devon AONB Team, East Devon District Council and the local fishermen. Watch this space for more details of when the new centre will open.

Three other big projects being developed along the coast have recently published feasibility studies. The **Exmouth and Seaton Visitor Gateway Centres** feasibility studies and options appraisals were undertaken by Locum Consulting Ltd. And Form Design. They can be downloaded from [www.locumconsulting.com](http://www.locumconsulting.com), or by contacting Sam Rose. The reports show that two world class centres are feasible, could be sustainable in the long-term and could play a key role in the towns' regeneration and revitalisation. The **Lyme Regis Cultural Quarter** project feasibility study also shows a positive outcome based on a rebuilt theatre / cultural centre with adjoining mixed-use exhibition space and study centre. In working closely with Lyme Regis Museum, the report, by De facto Ltd and Long & Kentish Architects, show that there is also the potential for a stunning fossil collection of loaned specimens from the Natural History Museum. The report can be obtained by contacting Marcus Dixon on [marcus@lrtd.co.uk](mailto:marcus@lrtd.co.uk).

Along with a project to regenerate a quarry site on Portland (**Portland's Living Quarry**), the **Exmouth, Seaton and Lyme** projects have formed the basis of an application to the BIG Lottery's **Living Landmarks** funding scheme, to support the development of 'landmark' capital projects between £10m and £25m. The bid was developed in a partnership between Dorset CC (Lead organisation), Devon CC, East Devon DC and West Dorset CC, working closely with the community groups proposing the four different projects. The decision as to whether the project will be chosen to submit a more detailed application will be in May 2006.

Finally, the **Swanage Museum and Heritage Centre** has recently been awarded £49,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund to refurbish the existing Heritage Centre displays and house the Swanage Museum. The project is a partnership between Purbeck District Council, Dorset County Council, Swanage Museum, and the World Heritage Team. The newly revamped centre will play an important role in orientating visitors to this part of the World Heritage Site, and directing them to Durlston Castle and the Country Park. For more information about this project, please contact David Tucker, the Dorset County Museums Advisor.

---

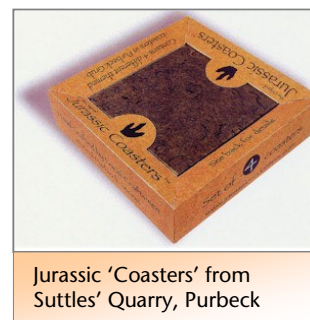
## 6. OTHER PARTNERSHIP WORK

The World Heritage Steering Group is on the verge of signing an important agreement with the **Natural History Museum** in London. The collaboration agreement will set out how the organisations are to work together in the long term, and will be followed by a set of proposed joint actions. This agreement will be described in more detail in the next edition of the Jurassic Post.

A new "**Donald Barber Lecture Theatre**" at the **Norman Lockyer Observatory** is now complete. The theatre can seat 100, plus an adjoining meeting/library room for an additional 25 people. The small meeting room has also been refurbished. The new theatre is equipped with data projection and sound equipment, including deaf aid loop. The observatory now has an enhanced potential as a conference centre. The development has been achieved mainly by the efforts of the Norman Lockyer Observatory Society working with East Devon District Council and with funding mainly from local donations.

There is strong evidence from the **private sector** of the increasing economic importance of the Jurassic Coast, and the desire to become more involved. Two small, high quality examples of local initiatives as evidence of this can be seen on [www.jurassiccoastline.com](http://www.jurassiccoastline.com) and [www.jurassic-coasters.com](http://www.jurassic-coasters.com).

*If there is other Partnership work we have failed to include in this section, please let us know what has been going on by contacting Sarah Holder at [sarah.holder@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.holder@devon.gov.uk)*



---

## 7. MISCELLANEOUS AND TEAM NEWS

After more than six years in post, **David Andrew** has stepped down as Chairman of the **World Heritage Steering Group** due to his impending retirement from Devon County Council. His contribution to the World Heritage Site has been huge, and this was recognised at the December Steering Group meeting with a presentation and thanks from all. Dave will now take on a new role as an independent trustee of the WHC Trust, so has not completely escaped, and we look forward to seeing his enthusiasm channelled in this area.

Progress has been made in securing funding from the **South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)** to support regeneration and economic development along the Jurassic Coast. An initial amount of core funding has been allocated to provide support for project management, marketing and monitoring, and two new posts will be joining the team on 3-year fixed-term contracts in 2006 to help implement this work programme. News of whether SWRDA will be granting approval for a larger investment in support of the projects identified in the IAP will be forthcoming in January.

---

## 8. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Forthcoming steering group dates and deadlines:

Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2006	Working group meetings held before this date
Mar 10 <sup>th</sup> 2006	Agenda and papers issued
Mar 17 <sup>th</sup> 2006	<b>Steering Group</b>
Jun 16 <sup>th</sup> 2006	<b>Steering Group</b>
Sep 29 <sup>th</sup> 2006	<b>Steering Group</b>
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup> 2006	<b>Steering Group</b>

### Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre have a range of activities and weekend events early in 2006:

**Jurassic Rocks and Fossil weekend: Saturday 14th to Sunday 15th January 2006**

**Fossil Fantastic family Weekend: Saturday 18th to Sunday 19th March 2006**

For more details go to [www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org) or call 01297 560772.

### Proposed dates for Lyme Regis Fossil festival 2006 – "Deep Time in Lyme" April 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> 2006

#### Dorset County Museum lecture series:

**Wed. 11 Jan. 2006 Dr Geoff Warrington (Leicester University)**

100 million years of Earth's history – the Permian & Triassic rocks of Devon and Dorset

**Wed. 15 Feb. 2006 Dr Joan Watson (Manchester University)**

Gymnosperms of the Purbeck dirt-beds forests

**Wed. 15 March 2006 Dr Andrew Hindle (Egdon Resources)**

Petroleum and the Dorset World Heritage Coastline

**Wed. 12 April 2006 Dr Patrick Mc Keever, (Geological Survey of Northern Ireland)**

European Geoparks: the broad picture

---

## 9. RESOURCES

The latest minutes from each of the working groups and other site management documents including the Interpretation Action Plan and Transport Strategy can be found on our website [www.jurassiccoast.com](http://www.jurassiccoast.com) by clicking on 'Site Management'.

**Dorset and East Devon AONBs** have both launched **Sustainable Development Fund** grant funding schemes. For more information, go to [www.dorsetaonb.org.uk](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk) or [www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk)

*If you would like information to be included on this section, please email the links to Sarah Holder.*

---

If any reader of this newsletter would like to contribute articles to future issues of the Jurassic Post, please contact [sarah.holder@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.holder@devon.gov.uk)

### **Jurassic Coast Team Contact Details:**

Tim Badman – World Heritage Site Team Leader. Phone: 01305 224285 Email: [t.badman@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:t.badman@dorsetcc.gov.uk)  
Sam Rose – World Heritage Projects Co-ordinator. Phone: 01305 228656 Email: [sam.rose@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:sam.rose@dorsetcc.gov.uk)  
Lesley Garlick – Planning Officer Devon CC (Sustainable Tourism). Phone 01392 382474 Email: [lesley.garlick@devon.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.garlick@devon.gov.uk)  
Richard Edmonds – Earth Science Manager. Phone: 01305 224477 Email: [r.p.edmonds@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:r.p.edmonds@dorsetcc.gov.uk)  
Sally King - Visitor Manager. Phone: 01305 225091 Email: [s.a.king@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:s.a.king@dorsetcc.gov.uk)  
Anjana Khatwa - World Heritage Site Education Co-ordinator. Phone: 01305 224401 Email: [A.Khatwa@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:A.Khatwa@dorsetcc.gov.uk)  
Chris Pamplin - Earth Science Advisor. Phone: 01305 228575 Email: [C.M.Pamplin@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:C.M.Pamplin@dorsetcc.gov.uk)  
Sarah Holder – Asst Planning Officer (Sustainable Tourism). Phone 01392 382704 Email: [sarah.holder@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.holder@devon.gov.uk)  
Kirstie McConnell - Promotions Officer. Phone: 01305 225037 Email: [k.d.mcconnell@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:k.d.mcconnell@dorsetcc.gov.uk)  
Nikki Taylor – **General WHS enquiries**, Phone 01305 225101 Email: [n.taylor@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:n.taylor@dorsetcc.gov.uk)