

# The Jurassic Post

Quarterly update from the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site

Edition 6: July - September '06

*This issue of the Jurassic Post highlights some of the problems faced by those working on the World Heritage Site. The constantly eroding cliffs – a critical reason why the coast is so important – brings up new challenges to geologists and countryside managers alike, and with an increasingly changeable climate, erosion will be even less predictable. The search for financial resources is also a challenge for those working to develop new projects along the coast, demonstrated by the failure of the Evolution funding bid to progress through to the second round of the Big Lottery's living landmarks scheme. On a more positive note, this edition does show the success of the Dorset County Museum's fantastic new Jurassic Coast gallery, opened by Sir David Attenborough in September. Finally, the **Jurassic Coast Annual Conference** will take place in **Lyme Regis on December 15<sup>th</sup>**. Recipients of the Jurassic post should all receive an invite, but if you would like to come and haven't been contacted, please contact the team.*

*Sarah Holder, Editor, Jurassic Post and Sam Rose, Jurassic Coast Team Leader*

## 1. SITE CONSERVATION, MONITORING AND SCIENCE

### Completion of Coastal Photography

As part of the monitoring programme, Richard Edmonds, WHS Earth Science Manager, has completed the photographic survey of the entire coast from the sea (excluding the Fleet and Portland Harbour shores). The aim is to gain a photographic snapshot against which changes can be measured long into the future. This technique of annual monitoring has already proven very useful having recorded Dunscombe Cliffs before and after the huge cliff fall in January 2006. The survey has been an intensive task over three years but the team now has a photographic montage of the entire coast that has also been used as an interpretation tool available on various boats running Jurassic trips along the coast. It is a bit hard to handle, if printed out at high resolution, the images would stretch over 100 metres in length!



### Dorset County Museum Geology Talks

The Dorset County Museum has established another winter programme of geology walks with financial support from the Jurassic Coast Team. The first talk starts with Hugh Torrens and is about the 'long history of geology in Dorset - was it the birthplace of environmental Geology?'

See below for the full talks programme.

<b>DNH&amp;AS geology talks programme 2006-2007</b> <b>Theme "Past environments of the Jurassic coast"</b> Talks on Wednesdays at 6.30 pm in the Dorset County Museum, Dorchester, Corrected final programme	
<b>13 Sept</b>	- Prof Hugh Torrens (University of Keele) "The long history of Geology in Dorset – was it the birthplace of environmental Geology?"
<b>11 Oct</b>	- Prof John Hudson (University of Leicester) "The Oxford Clay environment: monsters and molecules"
<b>22 Nov</b>	- Dr Steve Hesselbo (University of Oxford) "Mass Extinction, Methane, and Mudrock: shocks to the Earth's environmental systems in the Early Jurassic"
<b>13 Dec</b>	- Dr R.G. Clements (University of Leicester) "Purbeck snails and ostracods; unravelling salinities"
<b>10 Jan 2007</b>	- Dr Rory Mortimore (University of Brighton) "Chalk revolution: what have we done to the Chalk in England"
<b>14 Feb</b>	- Paul Ensom (Independent museum consultant and geologist) 'Portland pot-pourri: some recent geological stories'
<b>7 Mar</b>	- Dr Charlie Underwood (Birkbeck College, London) 'Palaeoecology of Jurassic sharks'
<b>11 Apr</b>	- Dr Graham Weedon (NERC Earth Observation Centre at Dept. Geography, University of Swansea. "Stratigraphic records of climatic cycles: examples from oceanic cores and the Jurassic strata of Dorset."

## Dinosaur Footprints



Dinosaur trackway 2004. Prints circled.  
© Paul Ensom 2004

A report that the dinosaur trackway at Worbarrow Tout had been damaged was received by the Team in August 2006. Richard Edmonds visited the site and made a request for information from various scientists on the Advisory Network. A significant area of trackway has broken up along the steeply inclined bedding planes while two new prints have also been uncovered. Several blocks, including one fragmentary print, now lie scattered around on the beach. The crucial question is: *'was this natural erosion or irresponsible collecting?'*.

The lack of tool marks

and images provided by Paul Ensom and Ian West showing the bed starting to break up, suggests that this was natural erosion but we cannot be certain. Either way, this is a naturally eroding coastline and it is inevitable that we will both loss and gain of the geological interest features. This type of event illustrates the value of photographic monitoring to show the changes taking place along the coast.



Dinosaur trackway August 2006. Remaining prints circled.

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## 2. IMPROVING THE TOURISM OFFER

Look out for the all new [www.jurassiccoast.com](http://www.jurassiccoast.com) website – coming this November!

The current [www.jurassiccoast.com](http://www.jurassiccoast.com) website is having a massive overhaul – in fact it is being totally redeveloped to bring you a website worthy of representing a World Heritage Site. New features include:

- A sliding timeline that reveals locations along the coast which highlight the best geological examples from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous eras.
- An interactive map which enables the visitor to gather all the information they might need to help plan their visit to the Jurassic Coast.
- Downloadable audio and video files will bring a new element to the website experience with inspirational dialogue from a variety of perspectives.
- 'The Coast Uncovered' section will take you on a virtual journey to all the main locations from west to east along the Jurassic Coast, unravelling the stories which add interest and local relevance to the geology of each area.
- 'Conservation' and 'Educational Resources' will form further sections which are fundamental to the principles and values of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.
- Other sections will include a searchable 'What's On Guide', up to date 'Jurassic News', an informative section about 'Managing the Site' and an opportunity to 'Find Out More' by contacting the Jurassic Coast Team.

Accessibility has been of paramount importance during the development of the website, with compliance to the Disability Discrimination Act ensured. Together with an Accessibility Statement on the website, the text is easy to read throughout with a dark font on a white background and images have a description which can be read where assistive technology is being used. Translations of the homepage are provided in French, Dutch, German and Spanish with translations of the extremely comprehensive Jurassic Coast leaflet also available electronically. Striking images of coastal landscapes have been used throughout the site, to remind the visitor just how stunning the Jurassic Coast is, and to inspire further exploration of the Site.

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## 3. ACCESS & SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

### Access and Inclusion Policy for the Jurassic Coast

It is the a priority of the Jurassic Coast Team to make the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site inclusive and accessible to all. Over the next few months Ben Wyer, Jurassic Coast SWRDA Programme Officer, will lead a small working group to produce a concise and comprehensive policy document with clearly identified aims and objectives, and an Access and Inclusion Action Plan.

The policy will cover three main areas:

- Disabled Access
- Cultural Diversity
- Social Inclusion

For more information on access and inclusion policy email Ben at [b.wyer@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:b.wyer@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

### New Station Signs

Jurassic Coast signs have now been installed at Wareham and Weymouth railway stations. The new signs will welcome visitors to the Jurassic Coast alighting at these stations, and direct them towards linking bus routes.



New signage has been installed at Weymouth and Wareham stations

## 4. EDUCATION

### New Educational Resources

The summer has been a busy month for finalising a number of formal education projects. A key stage 2 Geography unit on Coasts was completed in collaboration with David Weatherly at Devon Curriculum Services (DCS). A total of 60 teachers in Dorset and Devon were trained on how to use the unit in



Primary Geography teachers enjoying their Jurassic Coast INSET day in Devon

classrooms and went away with armfuls of resources! The unit, which uses the Jurassic Coast and St. Lucia as comparative case studies, will be launched nationally through DCS in the Autumn. Additionally, Simon Williams (W&P BC) has prepared case study material based on St. Lucia for Key stages 4 and 5. An evaluation copy of the material is available on request. Following on from these achievements in Geography, a Key stage 2 Science unit exploring the rocks of the Jurassic Coast is now being written with assistance from DCS. In other exciting developments, Anjana has been invited to lead on the contribution of World Heritage to the



**UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet)** for the UK. The UNESCO ASPNet has been re-

launched in the UK, and offers schools opportunities to teach children about core UNESCO missions such as human rights, slavery, HIV/AIDS and World Heritage. In addition, ASPNet members are able to tap into a vast global network of schools that they can link with. Anjana is helping UK ASPNet to define their objectives for promoting World Heritage and is busy recruiting Dorset and Devon schools to the network. So far, **seven** schools along the Jurassic Coast are now UNESCO Associated Schools – our congratulations to them all!



Children at Beer Primary School (a UNESCO Associated School) celebrate their links to World Heritage by painting fossils.

## 5. INTERPRETATION & REGENERATION

### Disappointment for Jurassic Coast Evolution project

There was disappointment in August for the Jurassic Coast Team, as we learnt that the Evolution project has failed to progress to stage 2 of the Big Lottery Living Landmarks programme. *'Evolution: Jurassic Coast Community Led Regeneration'* was a bid for £25 million to create four inspirational facilities along the Jurassic Coast for residents and visitors to discover the World Heritage Site. The projects are in Exmouth, Seaton, Lyme Regis and Portland, and all seek to interpret the Jurassic Coast and other local interests in inspirational ways that are unique to their towns.

This disappointment follows the submission of a stage 1 application at the beginning of 2006 when, together with 350 other projects nationwide, it was hoped to secure funding for between £25 million. In April, Evolution was selected as one of only 76 projects to receive a review visit from a Big Lottery assessment team in May to look in more details at the proposals. Nationally, only 23 projects made it to the shortlist for bids of between £10 and £25 million.

Despite the unsuccessful lottery bid, all the partners agree that the process involved in developing the application was very useful not only in progressing each of the projects, but in helping the communities to work together. All towns and partners involved are deeply committed to their projects and will be seeking funding through different channels, individually, but with coordination from the Jurassic Coast team. The Evolution projects are very much alive.

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## 6. PARTNERSHIP WORK

### A fresh perspective on an ancient subject at Dorset County Museum

In the Dorset County Museum's new Jurassic Coast Gallery, unique and fascinating specimens from its collection tell the 185 million year long story of our World Heritage Site's creation. Some of the Museum's finest specimens have been especially conserved, and the objects give a vital link with rocks and fossils found regionally. A lifelike, squawking local pterosaur welcomes entrants, introducing them to a gallery designed to bring geology to life.

There is something for people of all ages, backgrounds and levels of geological interest. Information is clearly presented in a variety of media allowing all visitors to become involved, there is wheelchair access, and children's activities are available. A state-of-the-art touchscreen interactive signposts important sites along the coastline; for each site images, movies and text are selectable, relating the gallery to the real world.



An animated pterosaur at Dorset County Museum.

Several themes are addressed using local examples, namely geological time, past environments, the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods, ancient life, how fossils form, and what fossils tell us about evolution. For centuries the coastline has inspired research and advanced our geological understanding, and relevant historical figures are considered. Myths and legends regarding what fossils represent are explored in a folklore section, while another area details past and present industrial local geology applications. The Museum hopes that, after visiting, you will leave eager to learn more about our Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.

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## 7. MISCELLANEOUS AND TEAM NEWS

Congratulations on behalf of the Jurassic Coast Team to Sam Rose for his recent promotion to Team Leader. We are all sure that you will do a great job at guiding the team to further successes. Further congratulations are in order for Sam (and Debs) and Kirstie (and Simon) who both tied the knot this summer.

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## 8. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **December 15<sup>th</sup> 2006. Jurassic Coast Annual Conference, Marine Theatre, Lyme Regis**

The second annual Jurassic Coast meeting will take place in the Marine Theatre, Lyme Regis on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The morning will involve a seminar for Jurassic Coast Working Groups looking at the themes of education and interpretation, involving external speakers. The afternoon will involve a celebration of the achievements of the five years since designation in 2001, involving a range of speakers. It will also be used to launch the partnership between the Steering Group and the Natural History Museum.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 2007. Lyme Regis Fossil Festival: Rising Seas.** Watch this space for details.

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## 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 [www.jurassiccoast.com](http://www.jurassiccoast.com) by clicking on 'Site Management'.

- **Dorset and East Devon AONBs** both have **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)
- The **Crown Estate** has a **Marine Stewardship Fund** appropriate for Coastal projects which have an interaction with Crown Estate Land. For more details go to [www.thecrownestate.co.uk](http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk)

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For more information about the Jurassic Post, please contact [sarah.holder@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.holder@devon.gov.uk). For general Jurassic Coast enquiries, contact the team on 01305 225101 or look on **who's who** on the website.