

## Visiting England's only natural World Heritage Site by bus

Congratulations on choosing one of the best ways of visiting the Jurassic Coast - Dorset and East Devon's World Heritage Site. By travelling on CoastlinX53, you will have the opportunity to visit many of the main attractions along the Jurassic Coast, as well as enjoying the city of Exeter at one end and the towns of Poole and Bournemouth at the other.

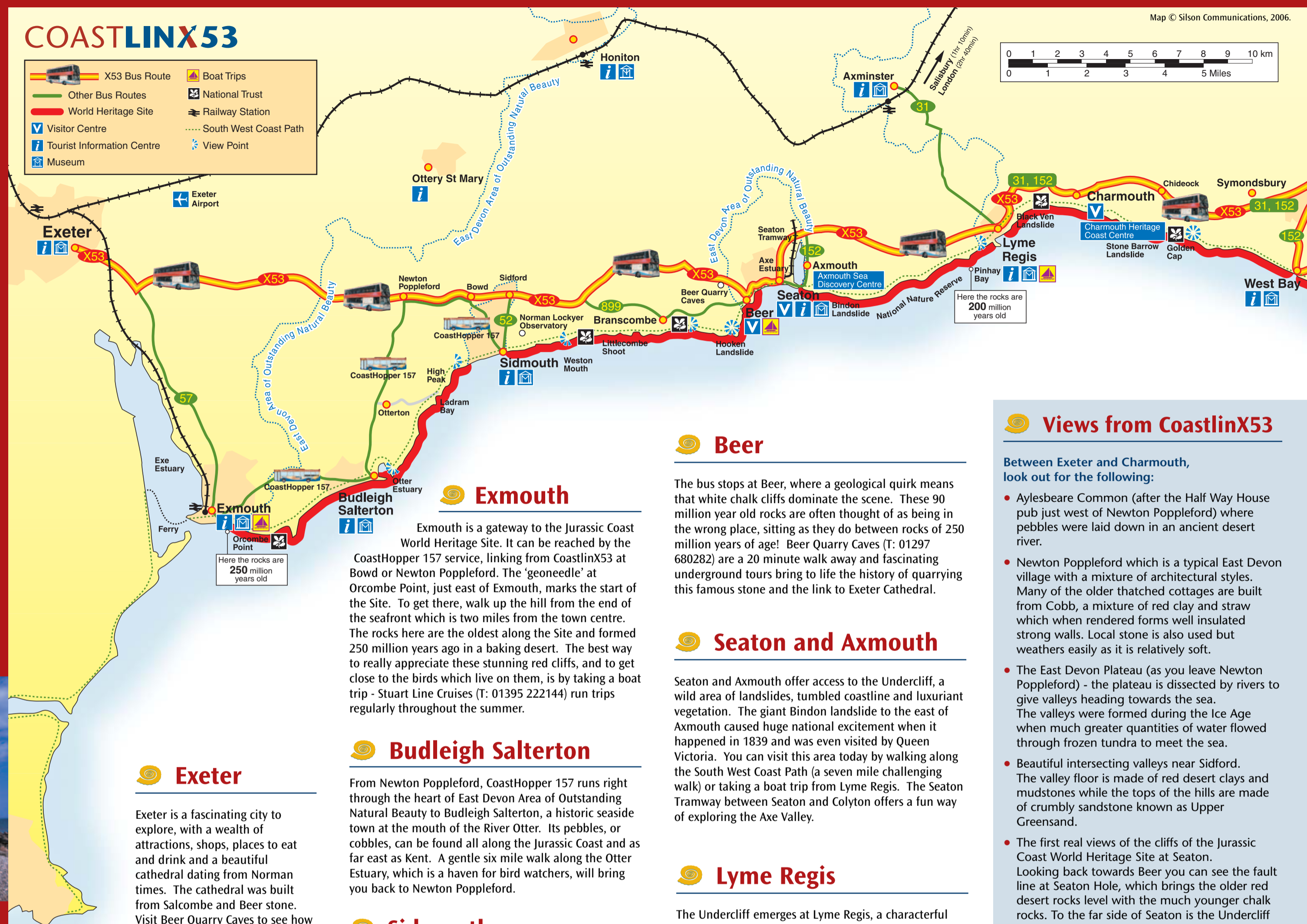
Travelling on the bus has many advantages over using your car. Not only will you be able to sit back, relax and enjoy the views (much of this landscape is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), but you can hop on and hop off at any of the stops along the route. If you are a keen walker, you can walk a section of the South West Coast Path national trail (just follow the acorn symbol) and catch the bus back to your start point. If you want to try your hand at fossil collecting, jump off at Charmouth and visit the Heritage Centre for advice before heading out onto the beach. If strolling around seaside towns is more your thing, there are plenty of attractive places to explore. Some of the areas not visited by CoastlinX53 are easily accessible by linking to other buses. Many of the coastal towns also offer boat trips, another ideal way of exploring the coast.

This leaflet has been produced to help you explore the Jurassic Coast area and to give you some ideas on what to see and do. It should be used in conjunction with the up to date CoastlinX53 timetables available from Tourist Information Centres and Visitor Centres.

Most CoastlinX53 journeys are operated by fully accessible low floor double decker buses.

## COASTLINX53

X53 Bus Route	Boat Trips
Other Bus Routes	National Trust
World Heritage Site	Railway Station
Visitor Centre	South West Coast Path
Tourist Information Centre	View Point
Museum	



Map © Silson Communications, 2006.

COASTLINX53  
by bus  
JURASSIC COAST



The Jurassic Coast is England's first and only natural World Heritage Site. The 95 mile (155 km) stretch of coast was designated by UNESCO in 2001. It is a World Heritage Site because it offers a unique insight into the Earth Sciences - the rocks which make up the Site record 185 million years of the Earth's history. The rocks have been tilted to the east which means that the oldest rocks are found in the west and the youngest rocks in the east. This means that you can literally 'walk through time' along the coast - 185 million years in 95 miles! The geology of the Site is also represented in the locally distinctive building materials which change along the route. This story is explained in much more detail in the Jurassic Coast Mini Guide and the Jurassic Coast Official Guide, both available from Tourist Information and Visitor Centres.



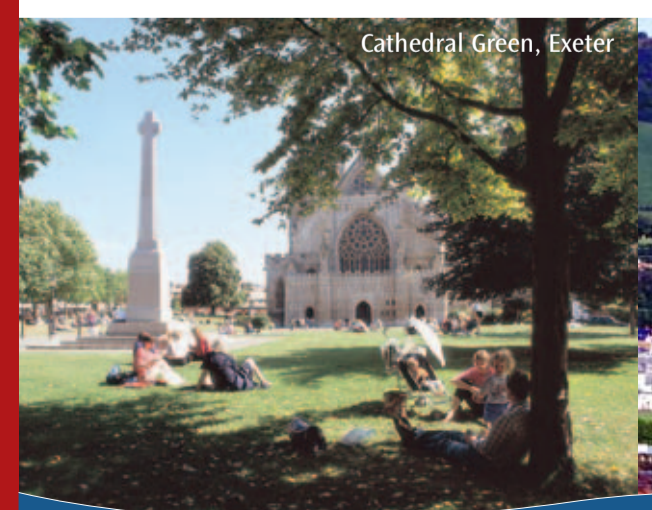
Littlecombe, East Devon

For more information pop into a Tourist Information Centre or Visitor Centre and pick up one of these leaflets.



### Exeter

Exeter is a fascinating city to explore, with a wealth of attractions, shops, places to eat and drink and a beautiful cathedral dating from Norman times. The cathedral was built from Salcombe and Beer stone. Visit Beer Quarry Caves to see how the stone was quarried. From the city, you can catch the Avocet train down to Exmouth (or Stagecoach bus number 57).



Cathedral Green, Exeter

### Exmouth

Exmouth is a gateway to the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. It can be reached by the CoastHopper 157 service, linking from CoastlinX53 at Bowd or Newton Poppleford. The 'geoneedle' at Orcombe Point, just east of Exmouth, marks the start of the Site. To get there, walk up the hill from the end of the seafront which is two miles from the town centre. The rocks here are the oldest along the Site and formed 250 million years ago in a baking desert. The best way to really appreciate these stunning red cliffs, and to get close to the birds which live on them, is by taking a boat trip - Stuart Line Cruises (T: 01395 222144) run trips regularly throughout the summer.



Coastline at Sidmouth

### Budleigh Salterton

From Newton Poppleford, CoastHopper 157 runs right through the heart of East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to Budleigh Salterton, a historic seaside town at the mouth of the River Otter. Its pebbles, or cobbles, can be found all along the Jurassic Coast and as far east as Kent. A gentle six mile walk along the Otter Estuary, which is a haven for bird watchers, will bring you back to Newton Poppleford.

### Sidmouth

Stagecoach bus number 52 provides a regular link between Exeter and Sidmouth and connects with CoastlinX53 at Sidford. Alternatively, CoastHopper 157 links with Exmouth and CoastlinX53 at Newton Poppleford or Bowd. Many interesting walks start from Sidmouth and the museum leads regular walks along the sea front. A seven mile walk east along the South West Coast Path will bring you to Beer.

### Beer

The bus stops at Beer, where a geological quirk means that white chalk cliffs dominate the scene. These 90 million year old rocks are often thought of as being in the wrong place, sitting as they do between rocks of 250 million years of age! Beer Quarry Caves (T: 01297 680282) are a 20 minute walk away and fascinating underground tours bring to life the history of quarrying this famous stone and the link to Exeter Cathedral.

### Seaton and Axmouth

Seaton and Axmouth offer access to the Undercliff, a wild area of landslides, tumbled coastline and luxuriant vegetation. The giant Bindon landslide to the east of Axmouth caused huge national excitement when it happened in 1839 and was even visited by Queen Victoria. You can visit this area today by walking along the South West Coast Path (a seven mile challenging walk) or taking a boat trip from Lyme Regis. The Seaton Tramway between Seaton and Colyton offers a fun way of exploring the Axe Valley.

### Lyme Regis

The Undercliff emerges at Lyme Regis, a characterful town, famous for its fossils and the home of Mary Anning (1799-1847), who has been described as 'the greatest fossilist who ever lived'. The Philpot Museum (T: 01297 443370) has interesting displays and runs guided walks. There are several fossil shops in the town. The Cobb harbour was famously used in the filming of the 'French Lieutenant's Woman'. The dark clay cliffs around Lyme are about 200 million years old and mark the start of the Jurassic period.



Beer

### Views from CoastlinX53

Between Exeter and Charmouth, look out for the following:

- Aylesbore Common (after the Half Way House pub just west of Newton Poppleford) where pebbles were laid down in an ancient desert river.
- Newton Poppleford which is a typical East Devon village with a mixture of architectural styles. Many of the older thatched cottages are built from Cobb, a mixture of red clay and straw which when rendered forms well insulated strong walls. Local stone is also used but weathers easily as it is relatively soft.
- The East Devon Plateau (as you leave Newton Poppleford) - the plateau is dissected by rivers to give valleys heading towards the sea. The valleys were formed during the Ice Age when much greater quantities of water flowed through frozen tundra to meet the sea.
- Beautiful intersecting valleys near Sidford. The valley floor is made of red desert clays and mudstones while the tops of the hills are made of crumbly sandstone known as Upper Greensand.
- The first real views of the cliffs of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site at Seaton. Looking back towards Beer you can see the fault line at Seaton Hole, which brings the older red desert rocks level with the much younger chalk rocks. To the far side of Seaton is the Undercliff National Nature Reserve.
- Golden Cap which at 191m above sea level is the highest point on the south coast. As the bus descends into Lyme Regis you are treated to spectacular views of the cliffs and coastline where fossils have been collected for over 200 years.



Seaton Tramway



www.jurassiccoast.com

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Photographs: Richard Edmonds, Tony Famar, Devon County Council  
Designed by Devon Design and Print Tel: 01392 383276



# COASTLINX53

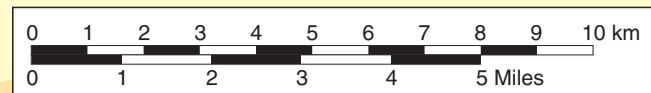
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	Tourist Information Centre		View Point
	Museum		

## Walks Packs Available

'Beneath Your Feet' geological walks

National Trust Dorset & East Devon Coast Walks

'Exploring the Undercliff' Axmouth to Lyme Regis National Nature Reserve



## Views from CoastlinX53

Between Charmouth and Wareham, look out for the following:

- Occasional glimpses of the sea as you pass through Chideock. Notice the sudden change of building stone to rich yellow and ochre coloured Jurassic limestone, transforming the character of the cottages from here to Abbotsbury.
- The prominent high ridge inland from West Bay formed of harder rocks used as the local building stone.
- West Bay which has battled against the sea for hundreds of years. A new sea defence scheme will protect the harbour area and the diminishing beaches.
- Local Oolite stone at Burton Bradstock. The same stone is found at Chideock.
- Chesil Beach and the Fleet Lagoon which form a 17 mile barrier to the sea. As the road drops down to Abbotsbury there are stunning views to the Isle of Portland. Portesham sits in a valley where Portland Stone was quarried. The creamy white cottages in Portesham are made from Portland Stone and contrast with the yellow and ochre stone at Burton Bradstock and Abbotsbury.
- The white Chalk cliffs at Ringstead (visible from Weymouth seafront stop). The section of coast between Bowleaze Cove and Osmington Mills is crammed full of traces of past life in Jurassic seas.
- The Poxwell Pericline, where the rocks have been dramatically folded. The different strengths of the rocks have been exploited by natural erosion into structures more closely resembling a man made hill fort or a Roman amphitheatre.
- The ridge of Chalk which forms the backbone of the Isle of Purbeck and meets the sea again at Old Harry Rocks. Purbeck is a sandwich of rocks turned on its end. The hard layers form the hills and headlands while the softer layers form the lowlands and bays. Keep your eyes open for Corfe Castle sitting in a break in the ridge.

## Charmouth

Charmouth is the best place to look for fossils and a visit to the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre (T: 01297 560772) is a must. The sea front is about 10 minutes walk from the bus stop. Here you can find out all you need to know about safe and responsible fossil collecting. The centre also runs regular guided fossil walks with local experts.

## Golden Cap

From Chideock, a short walk will take you to the coast at Seatown, where a steep uphill path westwards gives access to Golden Cap, the highest point on the south coast at 191 metres. The views from here over National Trust land, the West Dorset coast and the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are stunning. (National Trust Charmouth office: 01297 561900.)

## Bridport and West Bay

Bridport is a historic market town with a long history of rope making and a good range of facilities. West Bay and Burton Bradstock offer great access to the Jurassic Coast, the South West Coast Path and other walks. Take note of the striking sandstone cliffs which are about 180 million years old. Boat trips run from West Bay.

## Abbotsbury and Chesil Beach

Abbotsbury is a picturesque village located behind Chesil Beach, one of the finest barrier beaches in the world. The beach extends from West Bay to Portland and consists of 17 miles (28 km) of pebbles and shingle. The pebbles increase in size as you head east - probably due to the wave action which moves larger pebbles faster than smaller ones. The beach and the Fleet lagoon behind it is a nature reserve preserved as remote and beautiful coastline. Please note: the sea here is deeply shelving and can be dangerous - beware of large unexpected waves and DO NOT swim here. Abbotsbury has several family attractions, including the Swannery, Sub Tropical Gardens and Children's Farm (T: 01305 871130). Chickereil also offers good access to Chesil Beach and the Fleet.

## Weymouth

Weymouth is a Georgian town with a golden sandy beach, a bustling harbour and all the services and amenities a visitor requires. There are numerous boat trips which offer the best way to see the coastline. There are train and bus links (31, 10 and X10) to the county town of Dorchester, where the Dorset County Museum (T: 01305 262735) is worth visiting, and bus links (X10 and 1) to the Isle of Portland.

## Portland

Portland is an 'island of stone' and the 140 million year old Portland limestone is probably the most famous building stone in the world, used in the rebuilding of St Paul's Cathedral after the Great Fire of London, the Whitehall Cenotaph and many thousands of other important buildings across the world. The thin limestone soils on the island support a rich flora and fauna, particularly orchids and butterflies. The quarries of Portland contain a fascinating mixture of geology, stone heritage, wildlife and art. The sculpture park within Tout Quarry is well worth exploring. The South West Coast Path circles the island which has fabulous, wild and rocky coastal scenery.

## Osmington Mills

From Osmington village, a one and a half mile walk leads to the coast at Osmington Mills. The beach here contains clearly visible traces of the past in the form of fossilised burrows and ripple marks. These are proof that Dorset was once a tropical paradise similar to the present day Bahamas!

## Lulworth Cove

From Wool, it is possible to get a connecting bus to Lulworth Cove where there is a Heritage Centre (T: 01929 400587). Door to Dorset 103 is a demand responsive bus which can be booked in advance by ringing 0845 602 4547. A short but steep 45 minute walk west along the coast path brings you to Durdle Door and there are many longer walks through the unspoilt Lulworth Army Ranges (check opening times before visiting by phoning 01929 404819). The Fossil Forest is located just east of Lulworth Cove and offers evidence that a giant tropical forest existed here about 140 million years ago. In the summer months the Conservation Express Bus runs between Wool Station, Monkey World, Lulworth Castle, Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door (T: 01929 462537). Boat trips are available from Lulworth.

## Wareham and Swanage

Wareham is an attractive Saxon town resting on the banks of the River Frome. Bus numbers 142 and 143 connect to Swanage via the beautiful village of Corfe Castle, where you could get off the bus and hop onto the Swanage Steam Railway (T: 01929 425800) to arrive in Swanage in style. Swanage is a gateway to the eastern extreme of the Jurassic Coast.

## Old Harry Rocks

A four mile walk along the coast path from Swanage will take you to Old Harry Rocks and the eastern end of the World Heritage Site. Look out for some superb examples of downland wildlife as you walk across Ballard Down, including Chalkhill Blue and Adonis Blue butterflies. The most dramatic view of the sea stacks which form Old Harry Rocks is from the sea - boat trips are available from Swanage, Poole and Bournemouth.

## Durlston

Durlston Head is located about a mile south west of Swanage (bus number 142) and is topped by the splendid Victorian Durlston Castle, where you can get food and refreshments (due to open as a major new visitor centre in summer 2006). Durlston Country Park (T: 01929 424443) is the place to go for more information about this part of the Jurassic Coast and the wild flowers, birds and wildlife of the area. There are regular sightings of bottlenose dolphins. Ranger led walks are available throughout the year.

## Poole and Bournemouth

CoastlinX53 also visits Poole and Bournemouth. Both towns offer an excellent range of services and offer links to Christchurch. Boat trips are available from all three towns.

