




STONE TRAIL - WALK No 2

This trail takes you along the historic "bankers", out to the Clock Tower. Takes approximately ¾ hour - 1 mile.

	One Way traffic
	Route - level walk with easy slopes
	Route - rock and shingle (tidal - not suitable for pushchairs etc) alternatively, you can retrace your steps

Painting of 1859 Tramway & Pier - courtesy of Harry Clark.
All other photographs - Purbeck District Council.

Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund



THE 1895 PIER

This fine Victorian pier was recently fully restored with the help of National Lottery grants. It was originally built to encourage visits to Swanage by coastal paddle steamers carrying day trippers and holiday makers. More recently, hundreds of holiday makers and locals have contributed money for individual planks.

REMAINS OF PIER

These stumps are all that remains of the 1859 pier, built to transport Purbeck Stone.

PEVERIL POINT

From this area you have a view to your right of Peveril Point, with a thin outcrop of the rare "Purbeck Marble". So highly prized was it that most of Britain's cathedrals have columns or monuments in this dark grey stone. Until it is cut and polished it is hard to distinguish the thin Marble layer from others.

THIS SECTION OF THE WALK IS ROCK AND SHINGLE ETC

TURN LEFT INTO THE BOAT PARK

PEVERIL POINT ROAD



The Ionic Columns

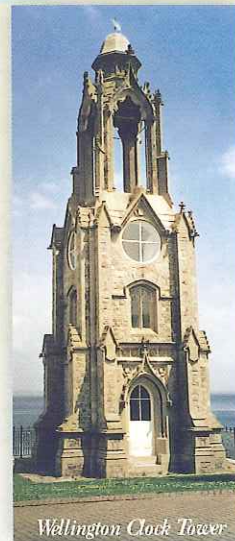
THE IONIC COLUMNS

You haven't stumbled upon some Greek ruins, though the columns are replicas of the "Athena Polias" temple built 2,400 years ago. The British Museum uses exactly the same design, although it is still a mystery which London building these fine Portland Stone columns once adorned.

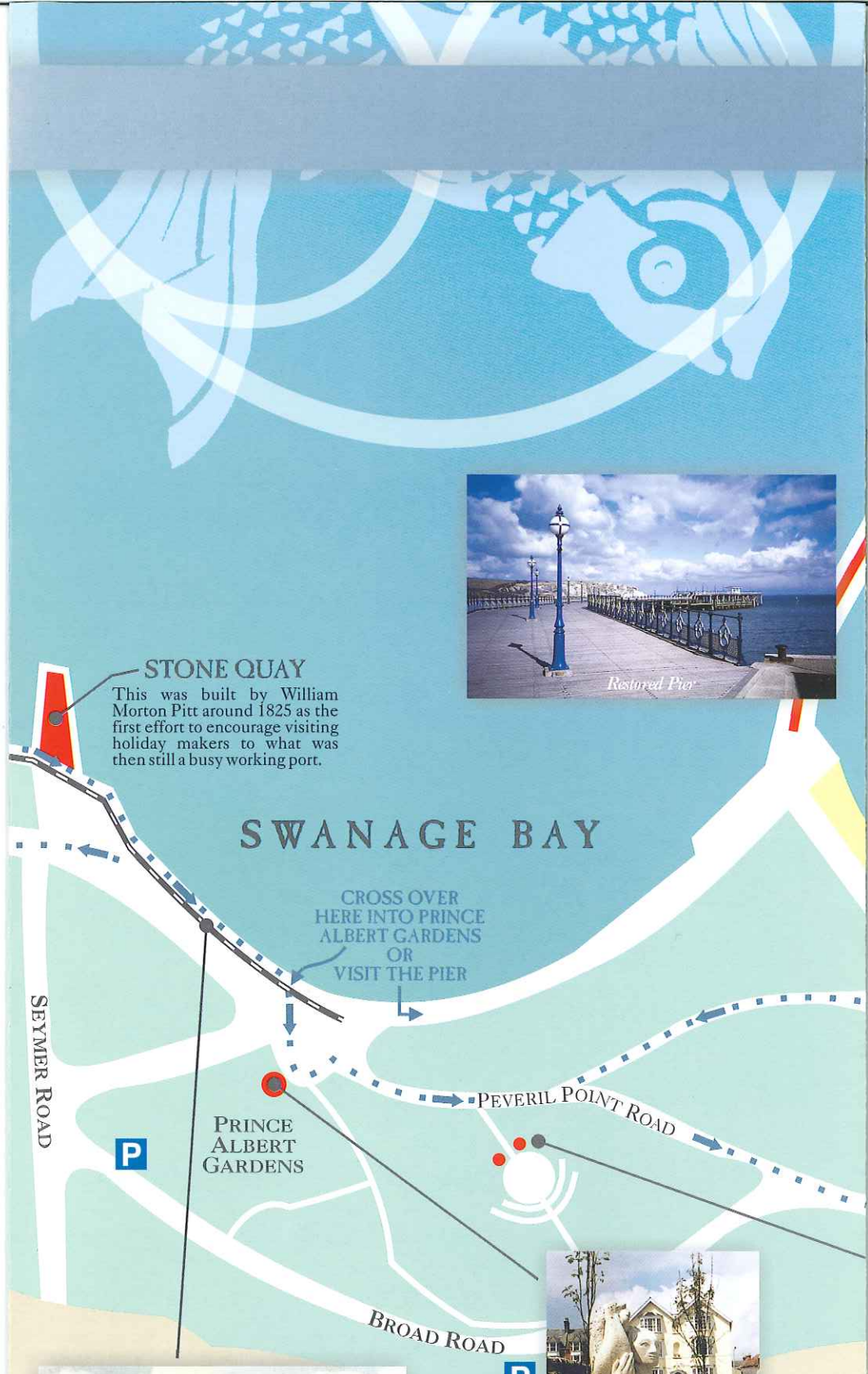
WELLINGTON CLOCK TOWER

(As this is on private land it should be viewed from the foreshore).

You may wonder why this unique London memorial contains neither a clock nor a statue of the famous Duke of Wellington. It came from the Southwark end of London Bridge. The money raised for the monument did not allow for the planned life size statue, and the four sided clock, donated by its maker proved unreliable. After only ten years it became an "unwarranted obstruction" to London traffic and George Burt brought it to Swanage stone by stone.



Wellington Clock Tower



STONE QUAY

This was built by William Morton Pitt around 1825 as the first effort to encourage visiting holiday makers to what was then still a busy working port.



SWANAGE BAY

CROSS OVER
HERE INTO PRINCE
ALBERT GARDENS
OR
VISIT THE PIER

SEYMER ROAD

P

PRINCE
ALBERT
GARDENS

PEVERIL POINT ROAD

BROAD ROAD

P



1859 TRAMWAY & PIER

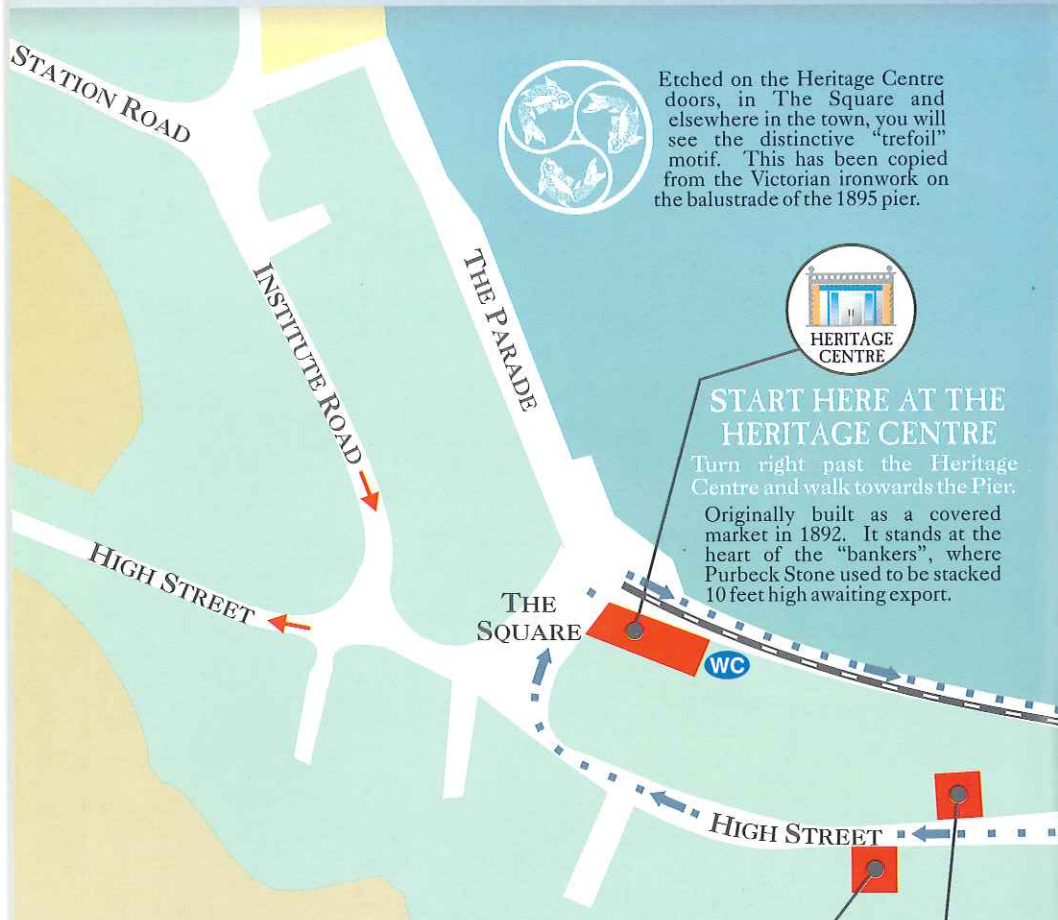
Traditionally Purbeck Stone would be piled up on the quayside, laboriously manhandled into carts, then hauled into shallow water and off loaded into boats. The boats were rowed out to larger ketches and the stone handled aboard. To improve efficiency the Tramway and Pier was built in 1859 at the suggestion of a visiting railway engineer. The timber stumps of this pier remain, alongside the later one. Some of the rails from the horse drawn tramway can also be seen.



"THE LADY OF THE ROCKS"

By Mary Spencer Watson

Designed specially for this site in Purbeck Freestone. She steps forward with her companions Swan and Seabird gazing out to the sea-worn formations of Pinnacle Rock. She is looking at Stone Cliffs. She is made of stone. She is the Lady of the Rocks.



Etched on the Heritage Centre doors, in The Square and elsewhere in the town, you will see the distinctive "trefoil" motif. This has been copied from the Victorian ironwork on the balustrade of the 1895 pier.



START HERE AT THE HERITAGE CENTRE

Turn right past the Heritage Centre and walk towards the Pier.

Originally built as a covered market in 1892. It stands at the heart of the "bankers", where Purbeck Stone used to be stacked 10 feet high awaiting export.



John Mowlem's House

JOHN MOWLEM'S HOUSE

John Mowlem was a poor quarryman's son who made his fortune paving the streets of Victorian London with stone. He retired back to his native town and lived in this house. The turret was his observatory, from where he would look up at the stars and watch his fleet of ships carrying stone to London. He worked for many years to develop the town into a holiday resort.



STONE WEIGHING OFFICE

Until the end of the 19th Century Swanage was a stone quarrying village. The inscriptions on this building recall the days when goods were weighed so that tolls could be collected. This infuriated the stone "loaders", who were customarily paid in beer rather than money. They loaded ships in the traditional way, using carts and rowing boats.

BRIEF HISTORY OF SWANAGE

ORIGINS

Swanage began as a fishing village called Suanwic or Sandwich. The centre of this tiny community was the Mill Pond, with its bubbling spring of pure water. The nearby church tower is believed to have been used as a refuge from pirates and the Mill Pond still retains the charm of this "quaint old-world village".

"CHIPPING AND SHIPPING"

When Corfe Castle was destroyed in the English Civil War, Swanage became the focus of the local Purbeck Stone industry, and the town grew up as an industrial port.

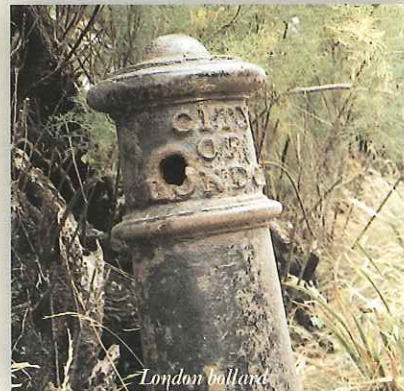


Painting courtesy of Harry Clark

This activity reached its peak in the nineteenth century. Each year, thousands of tons of stone from local mines would be shipped out on a fleet of 70 sailing ships. Almost everyone who was not a quarrier would be working on the boats.

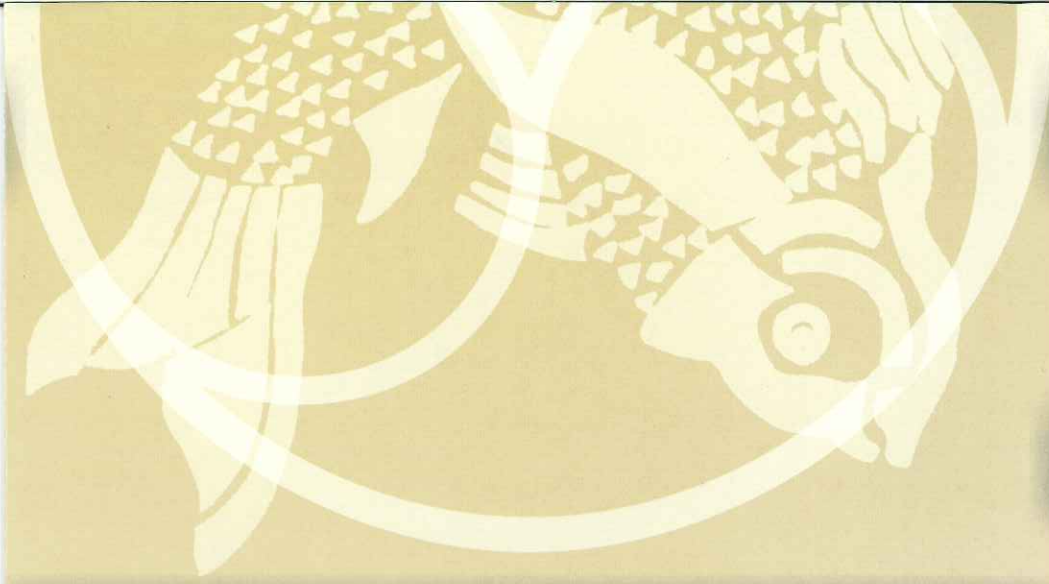
OLD LONDON BY THE SEA

Two sons of Swanage, John Mowlem and George Burt, made their fortunes in Victorian London. They adorned the town with an exceptional collection of relics salvaged from Old London. The three walking trails take you to see parts of famous London bridges, statues from the Stock Exchange, rare London bollards and the entire front of a London Livery Company, built in the time of Charles II.



WATERING PLACE

Many visitors had praised the beautiful scenery and beaches, but in the days of unpaved roads it was difficult to get there. So the coming of the railway in 1885 transformed Swanage, quite suddenly, into a successful seaside resort. It is still able to treble its population with tourists and visitors during the summer season.



TOWN MAP



OTHER NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- 1 Durlston Country Park** - 1 mile south of Swanage. 270 acres of cliff-top countryside including internationally important wildlife and the Great Globe. Tel: 01929 424443.
- 2 Swanage Pier** - Fully restored Victorian pier. Tel: 01929 427058.
- 3 Swanage Railway** - Steam trains run to Corfe Castle (or you can park at Norden and ride to Swanage and Corfe). Tel: 01929 425800.
- 4 Tithe Barn Museum** - near the Mill Pond, Swanage. Displays relating to the stone industry, arts & crafts and other local features. Tel: 01929 423174.
- 5 Coach House Museum** - Langton Matravers. Material relating to the local stone industry and audio-visual displays. Tel: 01929 423168 / 422218.