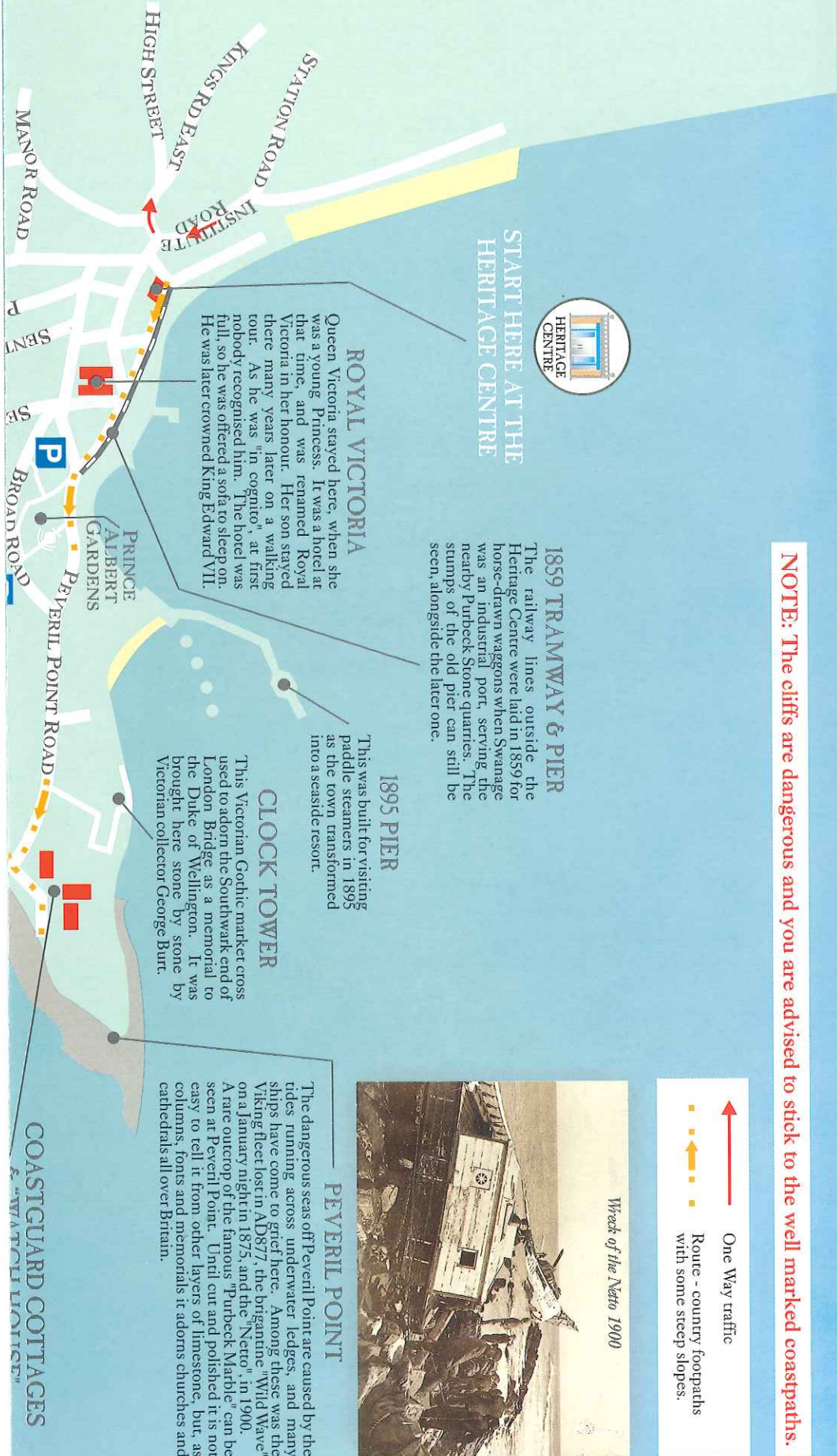


# VICTORIAN TRAIL - WALK No 3

Walk, along the cliff-top to Durlston Country Park. Round trip about 2 miles. Follow waymarkers showing Queen Victoria's head. Allow 2 hours - approximately 3 miles. (You could return via Lighthouse Road).



**NOTE: The cliffs are dangerous and you are advised to stick to the well marked coastpaths.**



**THE DOWNS**  
 Prince Albert strolled here in 1849 after landing from the Royal Yacht. He passed the beautiful scenery and pure air.



*Dolphins off Durlston*

**DURLSTON COUNTRY PARK**  
 Durlston Country Park, its spectacular cliff top walks, Castle Restaurant and Great Globe were all the brainchild of the amazing George Burt. His public park, built in the 1880's is now run by Dorset County Council. Many rare plants, birds and butterflies are seen here, and dolphins and puffins can be seen at certain times of the year - April, May and December being the best times.

**DURLSTON CASTLE**  
 This restaurant was purpose-built in 1887, resembling a romantic Moorish castle, to complement the awesome cliff scenery. The upper floor was intended as a signalling station for Lloyds of London. In the 1890's, Marconi used the castle roof for some of

In the 18th Century, government reports said that Dorset smugglers were among the most active (and elusive) in the country, using caves and quarries as stores for contraband goods. No less than 16 coastguards were stationed in Swanage, to watch for smugglers and patrol the coast. These cottages and "Watch House" were built to house them.



*Chasing the Smugglers*

Return either by retracing your steps or via Lighthouse Road, Durlston Road and Park Road.

## DURLSTON PARK INFORMATION CENTRE

The information centre occupies the site of a former WWII Radar installation, and provides guided tours and information on the rare and beautiful species which can be seen here. A regular "Dolphin watch" keeps records of these friendly creatures, which visit the coast most often in Autumn.

## TILLY WHIM CAVES

Old stone quarries at Tilly Whim can still be seen. They are typical of many cliff quarries which dot the coastline to the West. The "Whim" was the local word for the wooden crane used for lowering blocks of stone into boats, and "Tilly" the name of the owner. Closed for years due to their dangerous condition, they actually ceased operation soon after the Napoleonic Wars. Local anecdotes claim smugglers used them to hide their contraband.

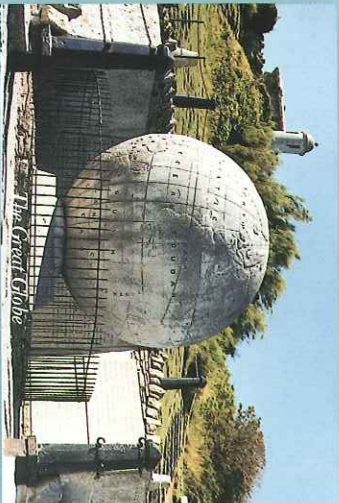


The Lighthouse

the world's earliest wireless experiments, transmitting to the Isle of Wight. In front of the restaurant, the granite bollards are samples made for Trafalgar Square, paved in 1841 by Mowlem & Co., and made to Charles Barry's design.

## THE GREAT GLOBE

George Burt's unique "Great Globe" was constructed of Portland Stone at Greenwich. He had conceived it as a tourist attraction in his public park at Durlston. Its surface is carved to show the map of the world in 1887, with the British Empire highlighted. (Sudan and South Africa are written so large they imply the whole of Africa was British). Stone tablets were put round it with astronomical data and biblical and poetic quotations dear to George Burt's heart. A ring of cast iron bollards taken up from London streets encircles the Great Globe and others line the path to Tilly Whim caves.



The Great Globe

## THE LIGHTHOUSE

One of only two lighthouses in Dorset, it was built in 1881 after a long series of shipwrecks on this perilous coast. Tragically, only a few weeks later in a terrible storm, the large Liverpool sailing ship "Alexandrovna" crashed into the cliffs only yards away. The whole crew of 22 men were killed, many bodies being identified only by their tattoos.

Photograph of Wreck of the Nemo - supplied by David Haxson, Tilly Barn Museum.

Photograph of Dolphins off Durlston -

Lucie Whetton.

Photograph of The Lighthouse -

John Farmer.

All other photographs and painting - Purbeck District Council.



Supported by the  
Heritage Lottery Fund



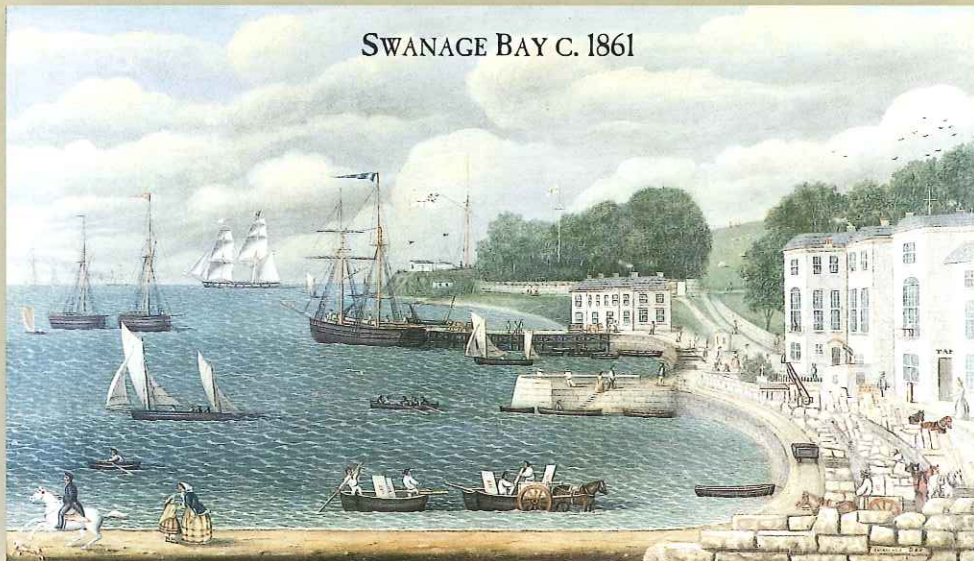
# BRIEF HISTORY OF SWANAGE

## 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.

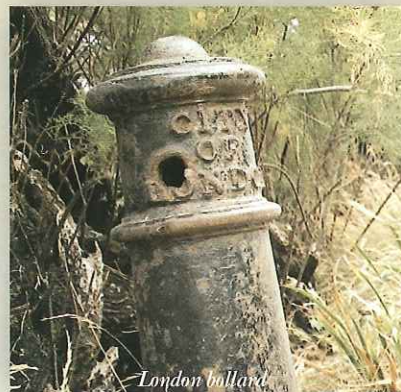


Painting courtesy of Harry Clark

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.



London bollard

## WATERING PLACE

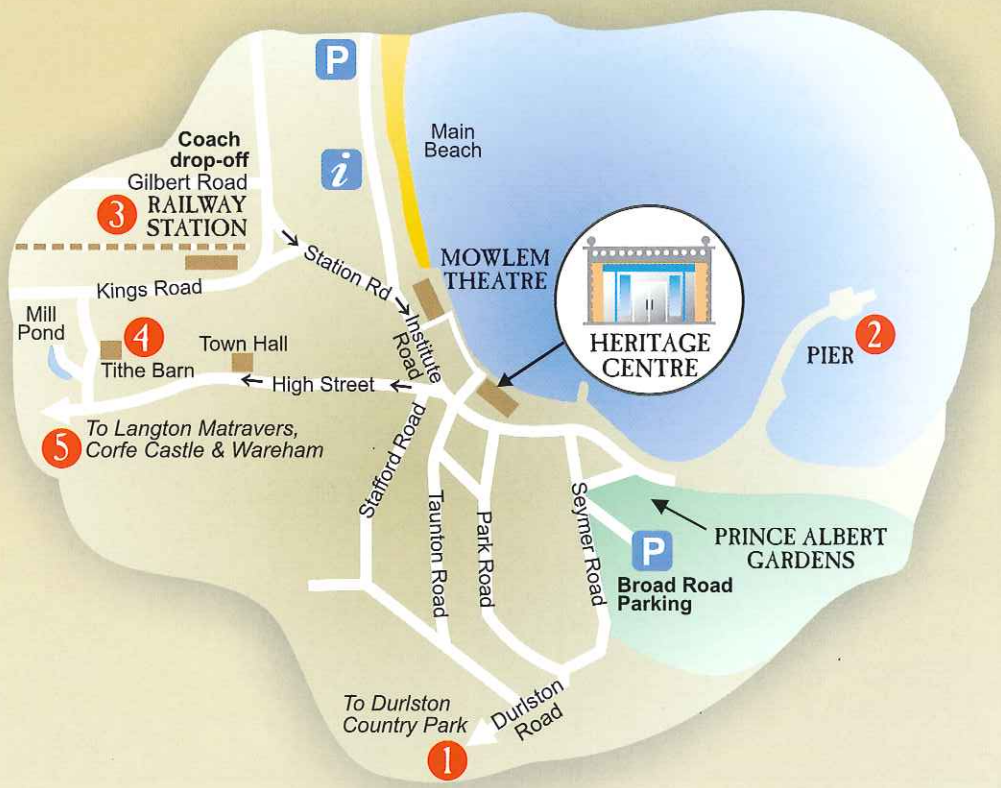
Many visitors had praised the beautiful scenery and beaches, but in the days of unpaved roads it was difficult to get there. So the coming of the railway in 1885 transformed Swanage, quite suddenly, into a successful seaside resort. It is still able to treble its population with tourists and visitors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



Painting by Swanage Bay



# TOWN MAP



## OTHER NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- 1 Durlston Country Park** - 1 mile south of Swanage. 270 acres of clifftop 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.