

Incredible Places along the Jurassic Coast

Stair Hole immediately west of Lulworth Cove and a five-minute walk from the car park shows all the stages of erosion in one place. Once children have seen stair hole they never forget the stages of erosion. If the sea is rough they can actually see erosion happening.



Photo: Lulworth Estate

Durdle Door is probably the most famous natural rock arch. The rock is Portland limestone, which has been slowly eroded. A cave would have been formed first, followed by the archway we see today.



Photo: Lulworth Estate

Eventually the arch will collapse - no-one knows when. Your guess is as good as anyone's. We think it will eventually crack along the diagonal fault line above the arch, leaving a stack. Can you spot the fault line?

Old Harry Rocks, near Swanage, at the eastern end of the Jurassic Coast are Dorset's most famous stacks. On a clear day, you can see The Needles, Isle of Wight across the water. The Needles are also chalk stacks, which were formed in just the same way. The Isle of Wight and Purbeck were once joined.

Old Harry Rocks



Coves are formed when the sea erodes a gap through the hard rock and hollows out the softer rocks behind. Here at Stair Hole we can see embryonic coves.



Bays are formed when coves join up. There were once 3 coves here at Durdle Door.



Using the pictorial representation of a section of the Jurassic Coast below, can you add the vocabulary to the correct box? You can sketch the picture if you are unable to print.

