

Habitat Studies

in

Purbeck

Habitats studied are Rocky Shore
Woodlands
Heathlands

The Rocky Shore

The rocky shores in Purbeck are best seen from Kimmeridge Bay. There are several other places to visit, however these are the most spectacular.

Background Information

Kimmeridge is a Marine Wildlife Reserve, one of only a few which exist in the UK. Educational groups are asked to observe the seashore and countryside codes and send any data collected to the Dorset Environmental Record Centre. This is an excellent area to talk about evolution with your group as there are many fossils to be found. Please be aware the cliffs are unstable and susceptible to common rock falls. Just remember to keep your group away from the bottoms of the cliffs.

How to get there

Follow the A351 from Wareham to Corfe Castle

Take the first right, signposted Creech

Follow signs towards Church Knowle,

After around 2 miles turn right to Kimmeridge

Drive through the village to the toll booth

Toll fee payable to the Smedmore Estate includes parking



On The Rocky Shore

Can you guess what I'm talking about? You can find them all on the rocky shore.

What are the rabbits of the rock world – grazing seaweed like mini mowers? They carve a groove in the rock for their shell and always return to the same spot.

What has a trap door like device which can be opened or closed depending on how high the tide is?

What has air sacs which act like arm bands to raise itself towards the light at the water surface? Each sac shows 1 year of age.

What is used to predict the weather? When rain is coming it becomes flexible and moist. You can also eat it deep fried like a crisp.

What are carnivorous with drill like tongues? They eat other shelled animals by squirting a poison into their shells and sucking out their insides through a straw.

What can turn its stomach inside out? It can re-grow legs if it loses any and has 'sticky' feet.

What looks like a Cornish pasty? It lives up to 20 years and could easily break your finger!

On The Rocky Shore

I'm talking about:

Limpet



Periwinkles



Bladder Wrack



Sugar Kelp



Dogwhelks



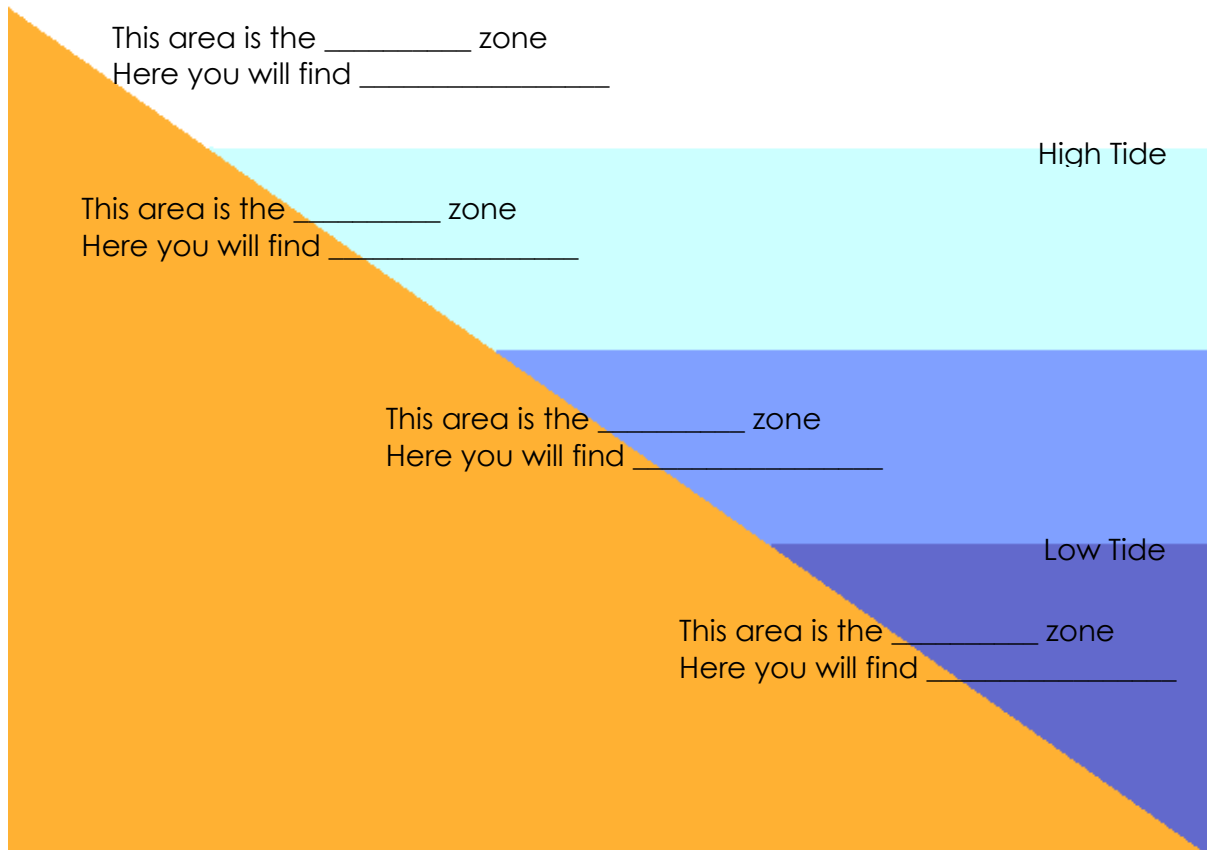
Starfish



Edible Crab



Where on the rocky shore?



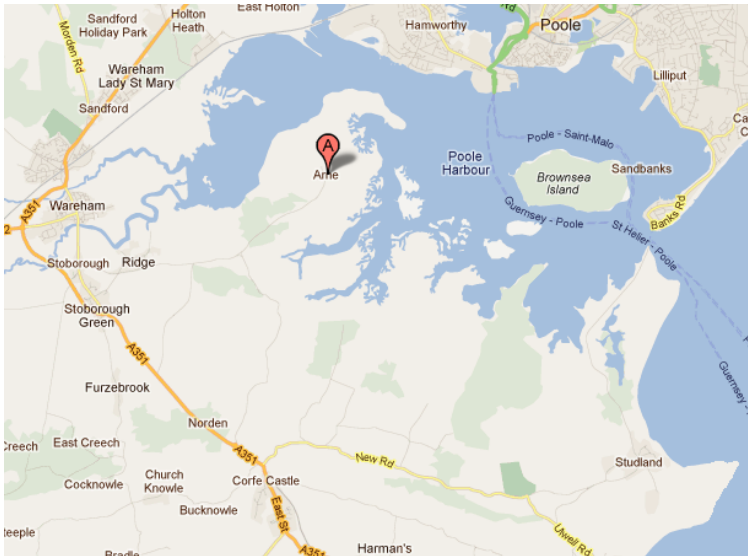
Write below a food chain using the animals you have found

(e.g. seaweed → Limpet → Crab → Gull)

The Woodlands

Purbeck has many woodlands to offer, the best can be seen at Arne Nature Reserve and Durlston Country Park.

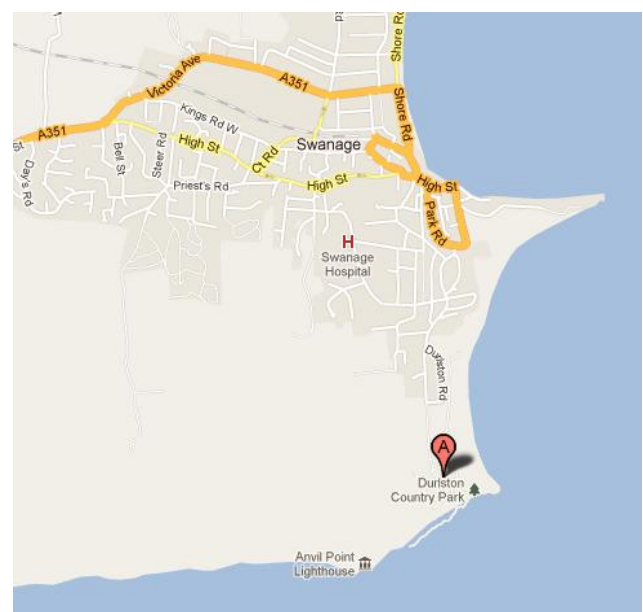
Arne



This RSPB nature reserve is a unique and beautiful place. There are many habitats very close to each other for you to explore. Whilst with your group, please be aware of the wildlife around you and keep to the footpaths. Maps are available from the information centre to help you find your way around.

Durlston Country Park

Established as a country park in 1970s this area has a wealth of wildlife to offer. Following the woodland trail takes you into the managed woodland habitat. The rangers ask that your group leaves the flowers in the ground and wildlife is undisturbed. Please keep to the designated trails and footpaths as some cliffs in the area are unstable.



In The Woodlands

Can you guess what I'm talking about?
You can find them all in the woodland.

What can run 30mph?
They can hear your watch ticking from more than 30m away and are very like both a dog and a cat.

What can eat 200 worms a day? They rely on their sense of smell to find their food. They walk about at night and sleep during the day,

What curls up into a ball when it gets scared? They have spikes to protect them from being eaten and prefer to move around at night.

What can jump more than 6m? They can fall from 30m without injury and can see what is behind them without turning their head. They bury their food and store it for later.

What has one ear bigger than the other? They can turn their head almost all the way around. Their toes point both forward and backwards.

What rarely moves more than 6m from its home? Their tail is as long as their body and they can climb up vertical walls and trees.

What can live for more than 800 years? They have thousands of creatures living on them and can drink 50 gallons of water a day.

In The Woodlands

I'm talking about:

Fox



Badger



Hedgehog



Squirrel



Owl



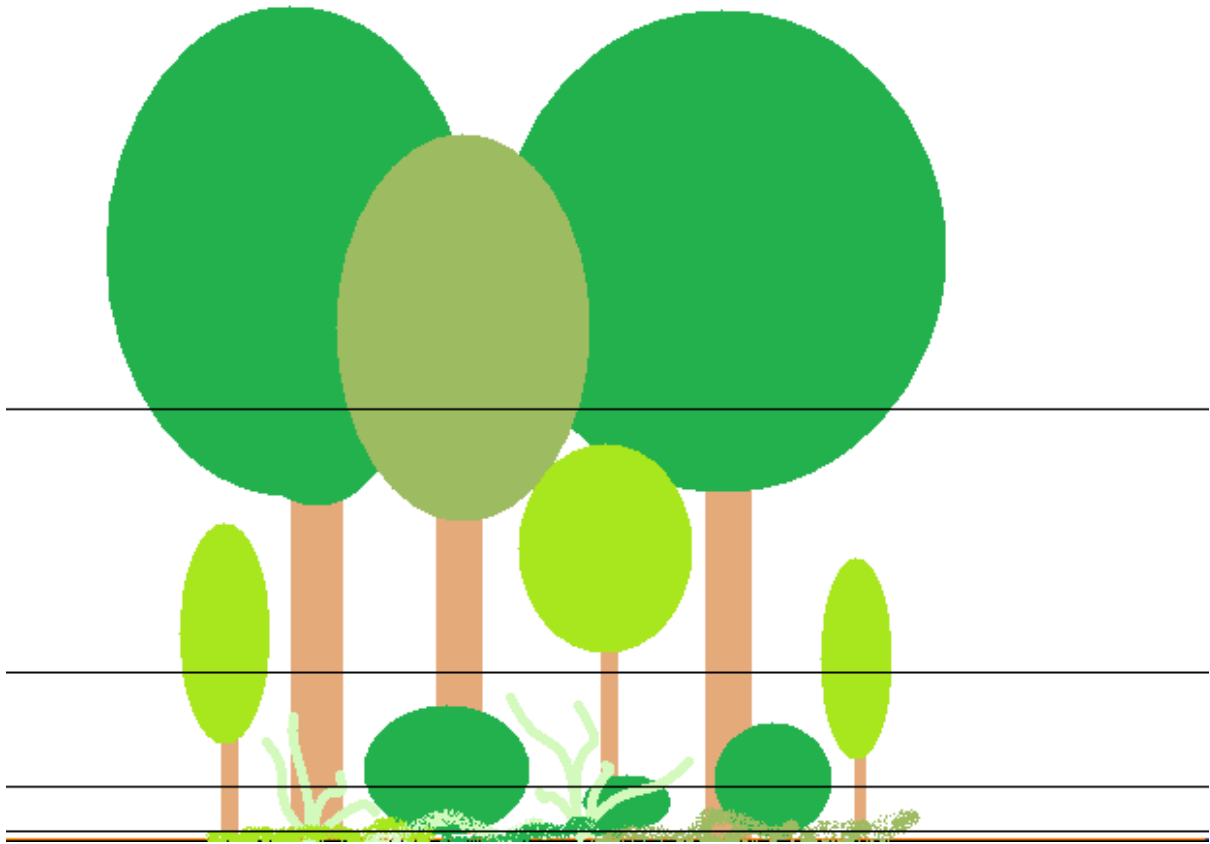
Mouse



Oak Tree



Where in the Woodlands?



Label the layers of the woodland on the diagram above;
Tree layer, small tree layer, shrub and herb layer, ground layer

Write below a food chain using the animals found here
(e.g. bramble → mouse → owl)

The Heathland

Studland sand dunes and heathland are an amazing habitat to study in Purbeck.

Background Information

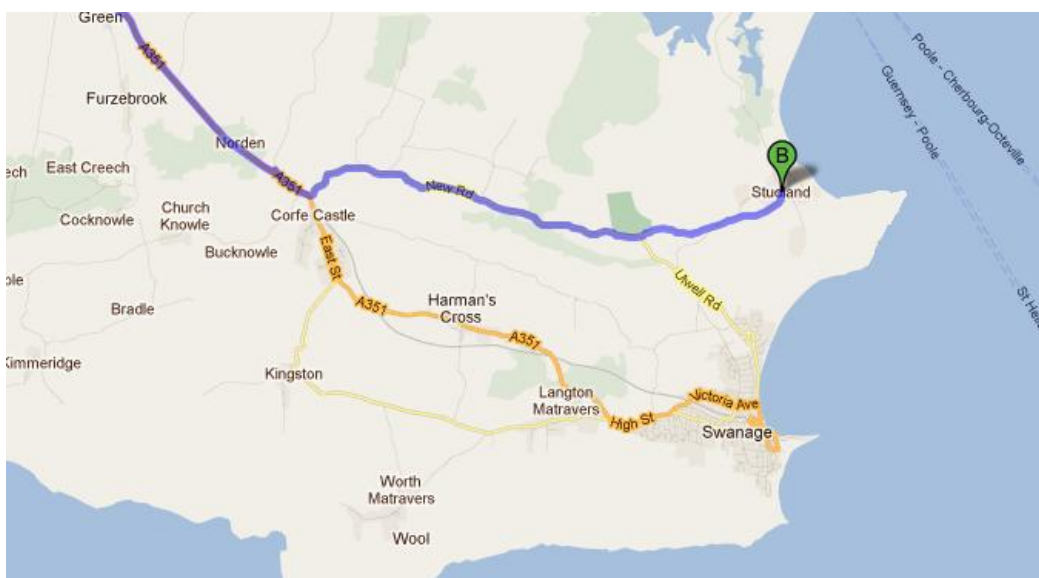
Owned by the National Trust the area is managed for visitors and is popular education groups from primary to university level. The miles of sandy beaches are a great tourist attraction, but the habitat behind the beaches is fascinating. Walking from the beach, your group will be able to see how the sand dunes change over time to form the heathland and eventually the woodland behind.

How to get there

Follow the A351 from Wareham towards Corfe

Before going through Corfe Castle village, turn left following signposts to Studland under the railway bridge

After just over 5 miles, the main car park is on your right



In The Heathland

Can you guess what I'm talking about?
You can find them all in the heathland.

What plant eats meat?
The sticky leaves attract and trap insects and they are digested by the plants.

What eats its own droppings? They can only sweat through their feet and have been known to our just like a cat.

What lizard has no legs? If attacked they can lose their tail in defence. They are commonly mistaken for a snake.

What changes colour in the spring? They can grow to 20cm long and can eat a lot of food in one sitting.

What has a poisonous bite? They spend the morning sunbathing and then search for food in the afternoon.

What, if it were human size, would run 500km/h? They are iridescent green and have very long legs. They can only fly a short distance, but can fly very fast.

What has its nose, tongue and ears in its legs? They can lose their legs if threatened and are commonly mistaken for a spider.

In The Heathland

I'm talking about:

Sundew



Rabbit



Slow worms



Sand Lizards



Adder



Green Tiger Beetle



Harvestmen



Where in the Heathland?



Add the notes to the diagram; embryo dune, yellow dune, grey dune, woodland, sea, youngest, oldest

Write below a food chain using the animals found here
(e.g. plant → aphid → harvestmen → slow worm → Gull)