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THE JURASSIC COAST

GUIDE TO THE DEVON AND DORSET WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Rodney Legg

REVISED REPRINT

The Jurassic Coast of Devon and Dorset has joined the Grand Canyon and the Great Barrier Reef as a World Heritage Site. It was the first natural landscape in Great Britain to win this highest of international accolades, granted by the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), meeting in December 2001 in Helsinki.

Nomination of the Jurassic Coast reflected the call from Unesco for more natural locations rather than man-made sites. It is described as Jurassic for its famous dinosaur-bearing strata but the visual geology extends on either side of this period, across the Mesozoic era from the Triassic to the Cretaceous. From Orcombe Point in Exmouth to Old Harry Rocks, beside Studland Bay, this coast provides a walk in time through 180 million years in just 160 kilometres, plus fossils new to science which appear as it continues to erode.

Nowhere else can boast the qualities of this scenic coast, which are listed here in gazetteer format from west to east. Map references are given for recommended parking places and to the more obscure places of interest. This book will be the essential guide for anyone wanting to know where to go, what to see, what to do – in one of the newest World Heritage Sites.

Author Rodney Legg was born in Bournemouth and has emerged as one of Dorset's most prolific historians. At the turn of the millennium he completed *Dorset Flight* as the companion volume to *Wartime Dorset*. He has also produced *Lost Dorset* and *Dorset America* amongst a number of other titles for Halsgrove.

Having founded *Dorset – The Country Magazine* in 1968, when he also started the Tynham Action Group, he now writes for several other magazines. He has published hundreds of country walks including a total of 125 circuits for *Somerset Life Magazine*. Through his efforts, with a 25-year personal campaign, Thomas Hardy's Max Gate home in Dorchester was eventually opened to the public. He achieved the same for Fort Henry at Studland in 2002.

Nationally he is still active in the environmental movement having been chairman of the Open Spaces Society since 1989 and a member of the ruling council of the National Trust from 1990.



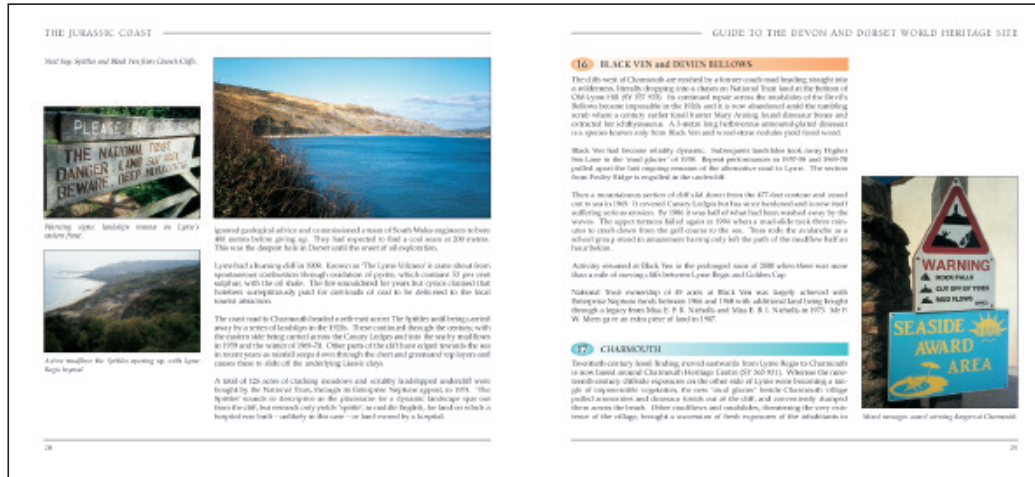
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THE GALLERY – THE JURASSIC COAST



Example of a double page spread.



Chalk cliffs: from Bat's Head to Durdle Door.



West Down: the cliff path out of Budleigh Salterton.



Portland ammonite: a fresh specimen beside quarry tools.



Layered strata: forming alternate columns and buttresses.



Low sun: going down in the west, behind Bat's Head.



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