

Durlston Castle project, Dorset

project	Durlston Castle
location	Swanage, Dorset
client	Dorset County Council
dates	2004 - 2011
cost	£5 million

Durlston Castle is a Victorian fantasy castle on a headland just to the west of Swanage. It was built by the Mowlem family in the 1880's as a restaurant at the heart of a development of holiday houses. The latter never happened, so the castle is at the centre of an important country park.

It is now at the eastern gateway to the World Heritage site known as the 'Jurassic Coast'. The plan is to restore and reopen the castle, to restore the landscaped parkland, to build a new exhibition area, and to extend the educational facilities and visitors' amenities.

The project was successful with Stage 1 and 2 Heritage Lottery Fund applications and opened to the public in 2011.

