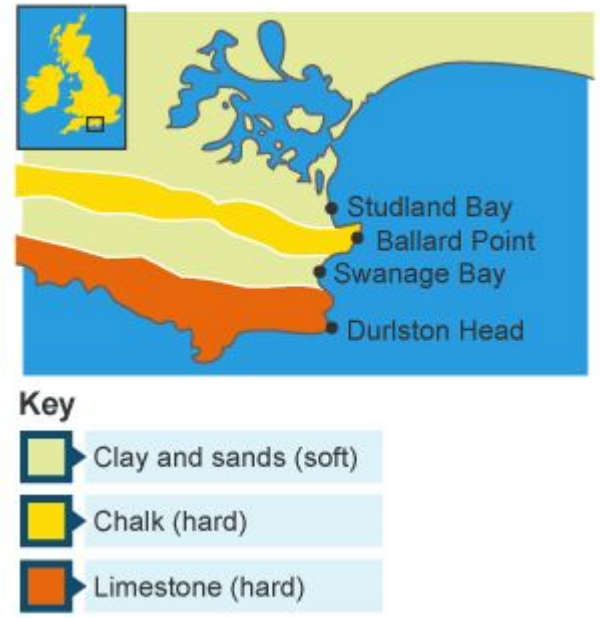
Physical Landscapes in the UK: Swanage

Swanage is found on the **Dorset coast**, in the **South West** of England. Swanage's coastline is important because it has many **coastal landforms**. This is because of the coastline's varied **geology**.



Source: BBC

Geology

Looking closely at the geology, you can see that there are **alternating bands** of hard and soft rock in Swanage. The hard rock - **Limestone & Chalk** - is more resistant to erosion than the softer rock - **clays and sands**. This is called a **discordant coastline**.

This is why the coastline is so varied.

Let's take a look at some different landforms along the coast:

Studland Bay	Ballard Point
 *Source: wdlh.co.uk*	 *Source: geography.org.uk*
Studland bay has **eroded faster** than its neighbouring landform, Ballard Point. This is because it is made of **clays and sand**, which have **little resistance** to erosion. This has led to the formation of **sandy beaches**, perfect for tourism!	Ballard Point is a **headland**, made up from chalk. Chalk is surprisingly **resistant to erosion**, therefore the coastline takes longer to erode and so sticks out. There are some **caves** forming in the headland, which are home to **coastal wildlife** such as seagulls.

Old Harry & His Wife

Source: Dorsets.co.uk

Old Harry is a **stack** and his wife is a **stump**, near to Ballard Point. The chalk is resistant enough for a **cave-arch-stack-stump** sequence to have formed. A cave has widened into an arch, which over time collapsed to leave a stack standing alone from the mainland.

Swanage Bay

Source: Charles Cuthbert

Swanage Bay is another **bay** that has formed between two headlands. This is because the **sands & chalk** between the two bands of hard resistant rock erodes at a **faster rate**. Sandy beaches are a favourite with **tourists**, and so the area can benefit from **seasonal income**.

Durlston Head

Source: southampton.ac.uk

Durlston Head is formed from **limestone**, a **very resistant** rock, which erodes at a slow rate compared to the soft sands & clays nearby.
The beaches are **rocky**, from **mass movement** of materials off the cliffs, making the beaches less accessible.

Poole Harbour

Source: adamshendry.co.uk

One of the **largest natural harbours** in Europe, Poole Harbour has formed due to increased **deposition** at the mouth of several rivers for the local region. This has formed a **large estuary**, with calm seas for sailing, and many **salt marshes** for wildlife.