The rocks exposed by quarrying are of late Jurassic age, 135-140 million years old. 'Islands' of unquarried rock, such as at the sculpture 'Still Falling' (45), show the natural rock sequence with both Purbeck and Portland limestones.

Below the Purbeck beds is the Portland Limestone series, created in a warm, shallow tropical sea, like the Bahamas today. These rocks are made of calcium coated layers of sand grains and fragments of shell. The sculpture 'Still Falling' is carved into this rock sequence.

Feet - 'Roach Stone'. A shelly limestone packed with easily seen fossils. Harder oyster shells stand out as well as the moulds and casts of marine molluscs, bivalves such as the locally known 'losses heads', usually looking like horse heads or the spirally coiled snails called 'Portland screws'.

Head - Base Bed or 'Best Bed'. A very fine, white limestone. The Base and Whit Beds, formed in deeper waters, are easily cut and sculptured and are used across the world as well as for many of the sculptures in Tout. The grey and blueblues below are due to silica-rich chert in the cherty beds.

Still Falling - Antony Gormley.

Photo: Lyn Cooch

The massive layers of limestone above the sculpture are known as the 'Hard Cap' and this rock formed in a swamp or lagoon. The deep single layer of limestone is known as the Adonis Blue. The blues below are due to silica-rich chert in the cherty beds.

The quarry has been slowly reclaimed for countryside, which aims to promote conservation, awareness and enjoyment of Portland's wildlife. It is in a Site of Natural Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation. Land within the Local Nature Reserve is of local, national and international importance for wildlife. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Nature Conservation Importance, the Isle of Portland Site of Special Scientific Interest.

This leaflet was produced by the Portland Coast & Countryside Project, a partnership of Natural England, Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, Dorset Wildlife Trust and Dorset County Council, both supported in part by Heritage Lottery funding and Heritage Lottery funding for Dorset.

Around Tout there are many features from past quarrying days. Look out for signs of old tramways, hidden shelters made by quarrymen, tunnel entrances and the 'Beaches', beautifully constructed dry stone walls.

Lanos Arch (1854), an impressive dry stone arch, fronts one of several parallel, stone-walled gullies leading to the Coast Path. These gullies allowed two-way traffic. Stone was carried along the cliff edge by a horse-drawn tramway to Priory corner. There it joined the Merchants' railway down to Castletown. Waste stone and overburden was taken through the gullies to the cliff side and tipped over. The remains of the tipping bridges can still be seen.

Along the Coast Path and on the footpath leading to the tunnel into Imomothy, there are the tramway blocks, some with iron pegs, which held the rails on either side.

Throughout the quarry there are many quarryman's huts, built into the retaining walls, to discover. Beside the main track there are blocks with drill holes from more modern extraction of stone using pneumatic drills and explosives.

Photo: PSQT

Final credits are due to the artists who have created a fascinating place.
Discover over 60 ‘hidden’ sculptures and learn along the way about rocks, history and wildlife of this fascinating place.

1. ‘Dreaming Head and Estuary’ stone carving in a large boulder of cap stone by Keir Smith.
2. ‘Flow through the rocks’ stone carving - Han Sal Por.
3. ‘Representation of a Baroque garden’ work in landscape - Shelagh Wakely.
4. ‘Wreck’ work in landscape - Rosie Leventon.
5. ‘Philosopher’s Stone’ construction in shale - Robert Harding.
6. ‘16 Candles’ relief carving - David Tuckwell.
7. ‘Crouching figure’ stone carving - Reiko Nireki.
8. ‘Flowing Rocks’ work in landscape - Harry Klar.
9. ‘Dry stone landscape’ constructed in shale - Nick Lloyd.
11. ‘Pterichthys’ (a fish out of water) stone carving - Richard Farrington.

Through Lano’s Bridge to...
12. ‘Shrine’ relief carving - Hiroshi Makimara.
14. ‘Seat and Boat’ stone carving - Mike Hick.
15. ‘Miss seeker’ constructed in shale - S. Chandrasekeran.
16. ‘Wessex’ Hill figure, shale with limed cement - Andrew Kirkby.
17. ‘Chair’ Stone carving - Simon Foster-Ogg.
18. ‘Serpent Steps and Alignment’ construction in shale and standing stones - Christine Fox.
19. ‘Among the Stars that hide and seek’ relief carving - Alan Ayres.
20. ‘Sentimental Arch’ stone carving - Barbara Ash.
21. ‘Cernucopia’ high relief - Clare Stratton.
22. ‘Mirrored Sun’ work in landscape - Chris O’Neil & students from Wimbledon school of Art.
23. ‘A Homage to Lichen’ stone carving and cast cement - Patrick Howett.

Stone carving and sculpture workshop.
24. ‘Sunstone’ stone carving - Phil Nicol.
25. ‘Flying the Kite’ stone carving - Mary Kenny.
26. ‘Window’ stone carving - Justin Nicol.
27. ‘Iguana’ stone carving - John Roberts.
28. ‘Chesi’ stone carving - Chris O’Neil.
29. ‘Stone Whirlpool’ work in landscape - Amanda Glover.
30. ‘Stitch in Time’ drilled stone and rope - Graham Westfield.
32. ‘Fallen Fossil’ stone carving - Stephen Marsden.
33. ‘Orobourous’ high relief - Jan Nunn.
34. ‘Ascent’ stone carving - Joe Hamilton.
35. ‘Stone of the Summer Solstice’ Portland stone dust/cast cement - Roger Davies.
36. ‘Plant Form’ stone carving - Sylvia Stuart.
37. ‘Waterfall’ construction in shale - Hamish Horsley.
38. ‘Calendar Stone’ sawn stone - Barry Mason.
39. ‘History Lesson’ stone carving - Angelo Bordonari.
40. ‘Zen Garden’ work in landscape - Phillip King and students from the Royal College of Art.
41. ‘From the ruins’ Construction in shale and stone - Lorna Green.
42. ‘Water Bowl’ stone carving - Valerie Josephs.

Through pedestrian entrance from wide street...
43. ‘Woman on Rock’ incised work - Dhrupa Misry.
44. ‘Be stone no more’ stone carving - Pierre Vivant.
45. ‘Still Falling’ incised work - Antony Gormley.
46. ‘Ribbed form’ stone carving - David Kelly.
47. ‘Leaning Torso’ stone carving - Henrie Hansel.
48. ‘Hearth’ stone carving - Timothy Shutter.
49. ‘Drinking Bowl’ stone carving - Jonathan Sells.
50. ‘Horizontal figure’ stone carving - Anonymous.
51. ‘The Green Man’ stone carving in roach stone embedded with fossils - Valentine Quinn.
52. ‘Searchlights’ stone carving - Michael Farrell.
53. ‘The Beauty of Surveillance’ relief carving - James Harries.
54. ‘Cirkei van stenen’ (stone circle) - A collection of sculptures in the upper workshop by Groupe 85 from Holland.