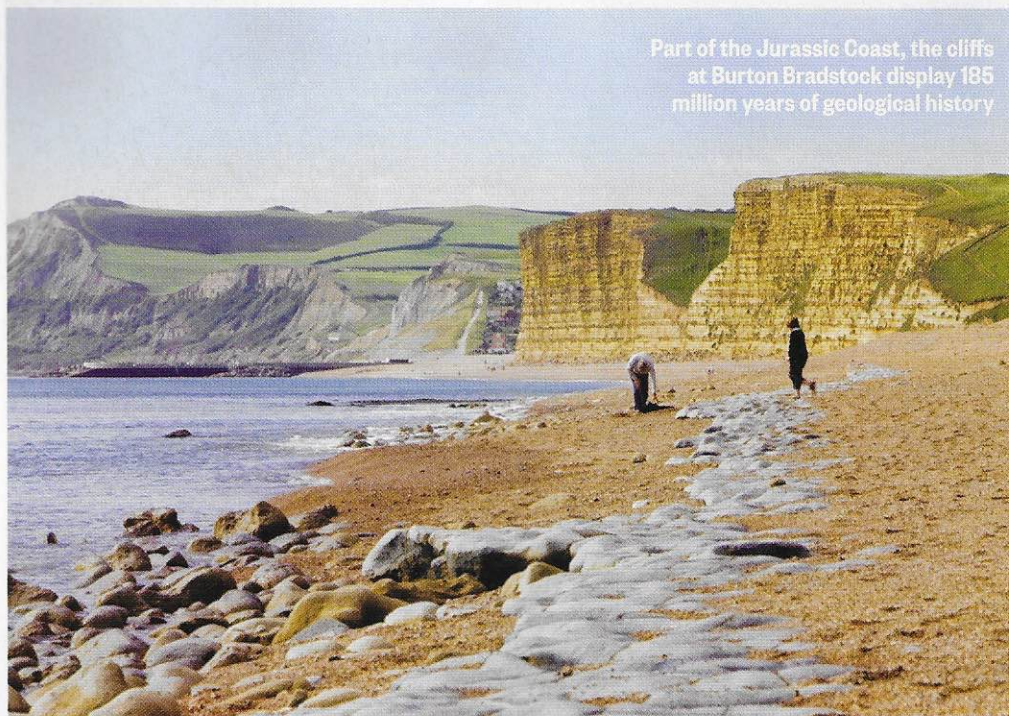


**DAY OUT:** Hive Beach Café, Burton Bradstock, Dorset

## TEA BESIDE THE SEA

Sea, sand and savoury cream teas – this waterside café midway along the Jurassic Coast has all the right ingredients for a spring day out, says **Adrienne Wyper**



Part of the Jurassic Coast, the cliffs at Burton Bradstock display 185 million years of geological history

**J**ust south of **Burton Bradstock village** – with its thatched, pale-stone cottages set among rolling farmland – Dorset's cliffs dip down to the sea.

It's here that you will find Hive Beach, three miles from the buzzy market town of Bridport and two from West Bay, where crime drama series *Broadchurch* was filmed; recognise those cliffs? A mix of sandstone and limestone, they glow golden in sunshine, the colour of a perfectly baked sponge.

**Hive Beach Café** is right on the beach, also on the **South West Coast Path**, perfectly placed for combining two simple pleasures: walking and cake. This unpretentious café has expanded over the past 27 years to add outdoor

(covered and heated) seating on the terrace. It's a laid-back place where both muddy boots and dogs are welcome.

### SWEET OR SAVOURY?

The home-baked cakes will please traditionalists and trendsetters: demerara-crusted Dorset apple cake, pecan-topped carrot, best-of-British Bakewell tart, super sticky treacle tart, and zesty pistachio and orange. Why not try the savoury cream tea: cheese scone, cream cheese and homemade chutney? Or stick to the classic clotted cream and jam? Quench your thirst with coffees, teas, Hive-label wine from Lyme Bay Winery, and Hive beer, cider and lager from

Dorchester's Piddle Brewery. Dogs won't go hungry either – they sell homemade dog biscuits. Though be aware that dogs are only allowed on the beach between October and May. For lunch, try local seafood, such as sticky sweet-chilli crab, or sea bream with salad and samphire.

If you've an appetite for more, the National Trust's Spring Tide Food Festival on 18–19 May (entry £2), has 60 stalls selling local food, drink and crafts. Bring cash, as the signal for card-payment machines is unreliable.

The Hive brand has spread along the coast to The Watch House Café in West Bay and The Club House restaurant in West Bexington: maybe another reason to stay longer.



### LIFE ON THE COAST

Once you've eaten your fill, wander out of the café on to the shingly beach to hunt for fossils, such as ammonites, shellfish and sponges, or follow the National Trust's one-mile circular route along the clifftops. Behind the car park is Bind Barrow, a Bronze Age burial mound; to the west is Golden Cap, the highest point on the South Coast, while to the east lies Chesil Beach, stretching away to the distant Isle of Portland.

Pied wagtails (below) bob on the grass, kestrels and buzzards swoop overhead, and you may even glimpse seals and dolphins. Closer to your feet look for pink thrift, as well as rare wildflowers such as bee, butterfly, marsh and pyramidal orchids.

Find out more about the area, including where to walk, at [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk).



**Adrienne Wyper** lives in Kent and loves walking, cycling and kayaking.



time for tea

### HIVE BEACH CAFÉ

Open daily 10am–4pm.  
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Dorset DT6 4RF  
01308 897070  
[hivebeachcafe.co.uk](http://hivebeachcafe.co.uk)