



4 Nautilus Islands
 In this part of the beach look out for patches of white-coloured fossils on the grey limestone bed. If you carefully study these patches you may see the curved shape of a Nautilus shell, lots of oysters and small star-shaped fossils called crinoids. All these creatures were once present on the ancient sea floor nearly 200 million years ago!

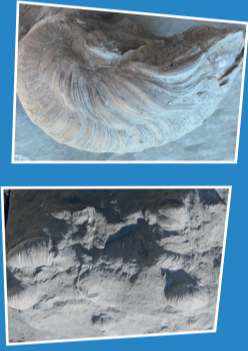


3 Coronaceras Beds
 This part of Helwell Bay exposes grey limestone layers, the upper surfaces of which often show large, white-coloured fossil ammonites called Coronaceras or Paracoronaceras. These are too big to collect and are nice to see left in place, although sometimes after very high tides the limestone layers may be partly covered by pebbles.

2 Amniceras Flats
 The ammonite Amniceras is very common here; it is often coloured brownish or white. Flattened examples can be seen in the dark grey shales and mudstones, but the outer whorls of the shell occur loose amongst small pebbles and shingle on the beach.



1 Gryphaea Corner
 Helwell Bay to find the 'Devil's toe-nail' oyster (Gryphaea). The limestone blocks often contain small examples along with small fossil scallop shells, but it's worth looking carefully at the beach shingle as many Gryphaea shells wash out from the cliffs.



COLLECTING FOSSILS AT HELWELL BAY



Life in the early Jurassic sea that covered Watchet 200 million years ago

Illustration by Alison Jacobs (www.alisonjacobs.art)

Leaflet design by Colin Matthews (www.paperpixels.ink) & Geckoella Ltd (www.geckoella.co.uk)

More information about Watchet's fossils is available at Watchet Visitor Centre (Harbour Road TA23 0AQ), Watchet Museum (Swain Street TA23 0AD) and the Geckoella window display (East Quay, TA23 0AQ)

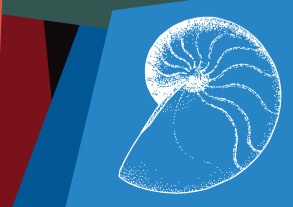
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Fossil Collecting Code - Please always follow the Code!

The Somerset coast between Blue Anchor and Lilstock is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its nationally important geological exposures and fossils. Fossils should be collected responsibly according to the following Code to ensure that everyone can continue to enjoy this part of the local natural heritage.

- Take only a few representative fossils from the beach. Collect only from loose material or fallen blocks - do not hammer the bedrock or cliffs, or use rock saws to extract fossils.
- Leave large fossils for others to see and enjoy - but please report any unusual finds to the local Watchet Museum (Tel: 01984 632266 Email: info@watchetmuseum.co.uk) or Geckoella (Tel: 0333 500 4777 Email: info@geckoella.co.uk).
- Be careful of the cliffs. They are very soft and unstable, don't collect beneath them.
- Consult local tide times. This coast has a high tidal range, it is best to collect on a falling tide.
- Wrap fossils individually in paper or cloth for protection and include a label with them stating clearly when and where they were collected. Without this information your fossils will have no scientific importance.
- Wear the correct clothing and footwear and protect yourself from the sun. Ensure someone knows where you are going and what time you'll be back.
- Remember that a fossil site is for everyone to enjoy. Indiscriminate hammering and irresponsible collecting will damage the site and fossil resources for future visitors.
- Always follow the Fossil Collecting Code and obtain permission before collecting fossils on private land.



Lower Jurassic fossils from Watchet

(198 to 201 million years old)



AMMONITE *Psiloceras* (7cm)

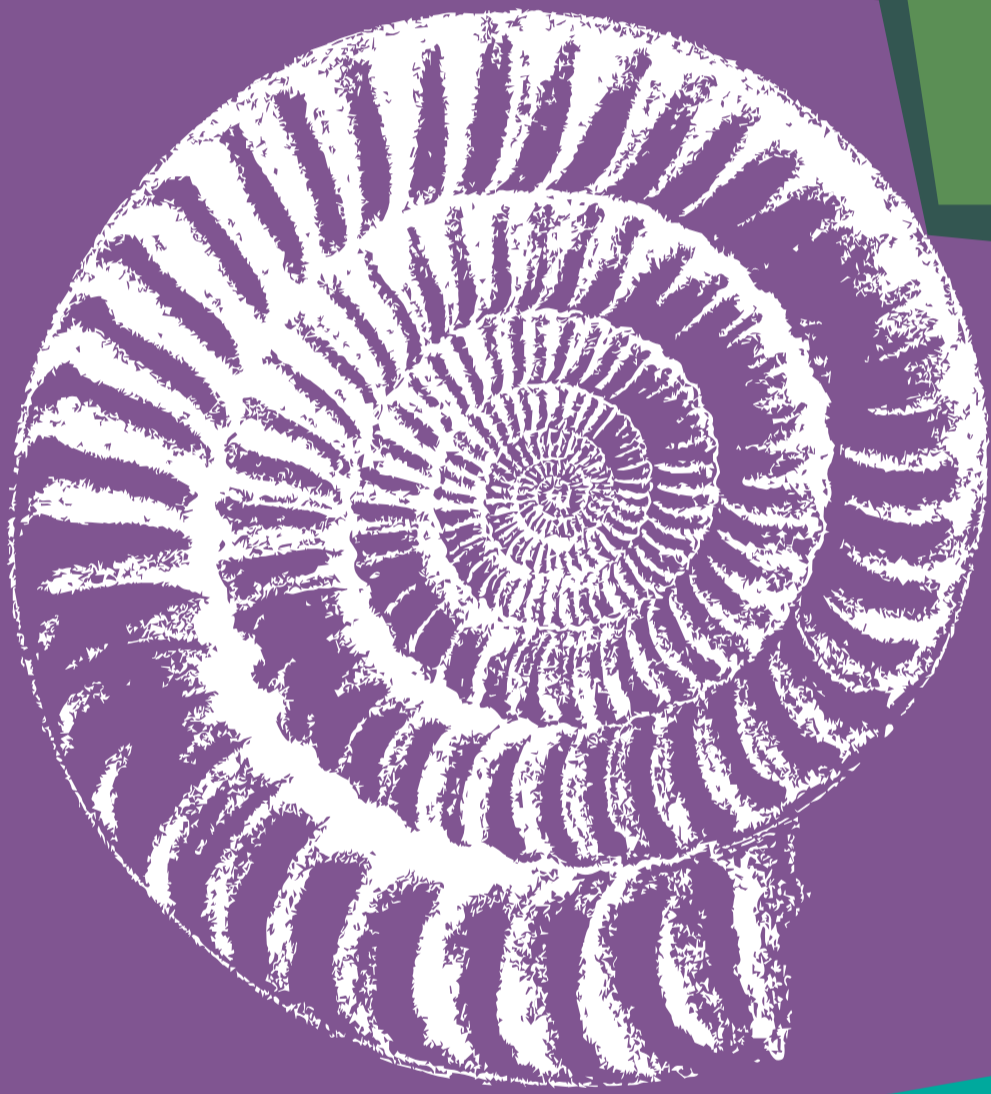
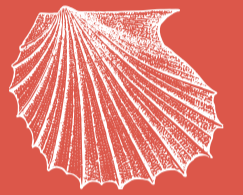


CRINOID (SEA LILY)
Pentacrinites,
'star stone' (up to 10cm)



AMMONITE
Arnioceras (4 to 6cm)

BIVALVE (SCALLOP)
Oxytoma (2cm)



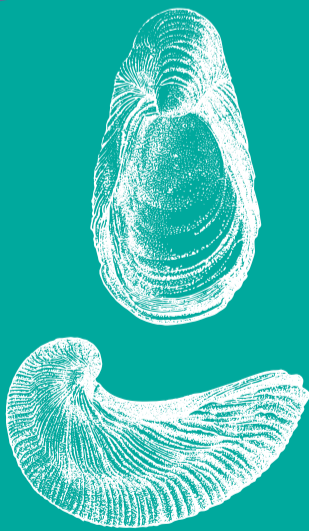
AMMONITE *Coroniceras* (up to 45cm)



GASTROPOD
Pleurotomaria (3cm)



AMMONITE *Caloceras* (up to 9cm)



BIVALVE (OYSTER)
Gryphaea, the 'Devil's
toe-nail' (up to 8cm)

NAUTILUS *Cenoceras* (up to 30cm)



AMMONITE *Paracoronicerus* (up to 50cm)