

To appreciate the Reserve walk the 7 mile stretch of South West Coast Path National Trail between Seaton and Lyme Regis – a physically demanding 5 hour linear walk. The regular bus service between Seaton and Lyme Regis will return you to your starting point.



The overlying white chalk cliffs (85-95 million years) are formed from the remains of millions of tiny creatures that thrived in the tropical seas. The missing 100 million years of rock between the chalk and sandstone has been eroded away by the elements.

The red sandstone cliffs were formed in the desert conditions of the late Triassic era (210 million years ago). The layers of grey rock are the remains of dried up lakes; created when sea levels rose, inundating the deserts.

This spectacular 304 hectare National Nature Reserve of land-slipped cliffs forms the most wild and unspoilt countryside in Southern England. Part of the East Devon and Dorset Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site and East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it is internationally important for its fossils, geological, geomorphological and ecological features.

## Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliff

A marine plan for Lyme Bay will be finalised shortly. At the heart of the plan will be the management of sensitive marine habitats where all damaging activities are excluded to ensure the long-term future of essential seabed communities. All this will be based on a growing understanding of the implications for both people and wildlife if we disrupt the delicate mechanisms upon which we all ultimately depend.

Following the campaign led by DWT and the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts to close the important wildlife habitats of Lyme Bay Reefs against the destructive fishing practices of dredging and bottom-trawling, small sea-fans, sponges, dead man's fingers and soft coral are now appearing inside the exclusion zone whilst outside the zone remains pretty dead. Although it is likely to take some years for the full richness of these special seabed communities to be rebuilt, Lyme Bay has much to offer as a sustainably managed wildlife haven.

Within a short distance from our coast, treasures abound: sea fans - a delicate filigree of pink looking like miniature trees, cup corals in shades of gold and sunset, the ghostly and grotesquely named dead man's fingers, Ross Coral shaped and coloured like a latticed brain. The reefs are invaluable as a rich and complex marine eco-system; a nursery ground, water purification plant, feeding station.

## Lyme Bay Reefs

East Devon District Council Countryside Service is taking forward a project to create one large reserve between Seaton and Colyford, with new wetland habitats, paths and viewing facilities for visitors. More events will be run and there will be even more opportunities to get close to wildlife. Land is gradually being acquired as it becomes available to create a nature reserve of 250 acres on Seaton's doorstep.

Such diverse habitats within a small estuary mean that the Axe is a fantastic place to watch wildlife, whether you are looking for rare birds like the Glossy Ibis that appeared in 2009 or more common but equally exciting wildlife such as Kingfishers or Otters.

The estuary of the Axe River is a mosaic of freshwater marsh and saltmarsh, reedbed, mudflats, ponds, ditches and - of course - the river itself. The landscape has changed a great deal over time from an open harbour 1000 years ago which eventually silted up to form the marshes we see today, probably following a dramatic storm in 1377 which blocked the harbour mouth.

Mike Markey



## Axe Estuary Wetlands

# 'Celebrating Seaton's Natural Environment'

## Seaton Visitor Centre

Seaton is identified as a primary gateway for the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. The vision for the Seaton Visitor Centre is for a world-class interpretation centre for visitors of all ages. They will be able to experience and understand the unique wonder of how the rocks and water, through the ages, formed this part of the coastline and then be encouraged to see it for themselves. Radiating from the centre will be a variety of guided activities to suit all tastes, including walks, bird watching and rock pooling.



Seaton is one end of the Stop Line Way cycle route from the north of Devon, linking it to the National Cycle Network. It is envisaged that the centre's facilities and location will enhance eco-tourism for the region through its adjacent cycle and public transport routes. Undoubtedly, many of the geological features can be best appreciated from a boat, while cruising along the coastline, so there will be opportunities to travel via many forms of transport.

For more information visit:  
[www.seatonvisitorcentretrust.org](http://www.seatonvisitorcentretrust.org)  
[www.devon.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.devon.gov.uk/cycling)

## Seaton Visitor Centre Trust



The Seaton Visitor Centre Trust is a group of volunteers who have worked hard, for a number of years, to provide a visitor centre for Seaton to act as a tourist hub. Over this time, even without a centre, we have endeavoured to provide, create, support and action activities and projects which enable everyone to understand, celebrate and explore the beautiful natural environment around Seaton.

If you would like to join us by helping us at one of our events or become a 'Friend' of the Seaton Visitor Centre, please contact us for details.

Our events are organised with the support of our partners, many shown below. Funding will come predominately from EDDC and Devon County Council for our proposed centre, but all our events happen with effort from many partners and we are very grateful to them.

For more information on all our events, visit [www.seatonvisitorcentretrust.org](http://www.seatonvisitorcentretrust.org), or contact **Donald Campbell on 01297 552945.**



## Around Seaton and the Axe Estuary



Events for 2010





# Around Seaton and the Axe Estuary

## Seaton Visitor Centre Trust Events

### Saturday 27 March

#### A long walk before Breakfast 7.30am – 11.00am

A walk through the Undercliffs National Nature Reserve to Lyme Regis for a well deserved breakfast before returning on the bus (costs not included).

Please meet at Axmouth Bridge.

### Saturday 1 May

#### A walk along the Holyford and Stafford Brook 3.00pm – 5.00pm

A walk from Horriford Farm along the Stafford Brook, to Colyford Common. Free bus from car park at Colyford Memorial Hall.

### Monday 3 May

#### Seaton & Jurassic Coast Arts Festival 10.00am – 3.00pm

Artists celebrating Seaton's natural environment. Seaton Town Hall.

### Tuesday 4 May

#### Biodiversity Symposium, Seaton Town Hall 2.30pm – 5.00pm

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity so SVCT's annual Biodiversity Symposium has particular significance this year.

Entrance charge applies.

### Tuesday 8 June

#### Art on the Undercliffs 5.30pm – 8.00pm

An opportunity for artists to bring their materials onto the Undercliffs NNR to interpret the famous landslip. Please note that the terrain is challenging so you have to be fit, able and healthy for this event.

Meet at Stepps Lane (SY265903 EX12 4AS).

### Tuesday 15 June

#### Botany at Beer 10.00am – 1.00pm

Beer Head boasts an amazing array of flora, including some rather special orchids.

Meet at Beer Head car park (parking charge applies).

### Tuesday 13 July

#### Plant life on the Axe Estuary 2.00pm – 4.00pm

A stroll along the Axe Estuary to look at some of the salt marsh plants. Wellies recommended. Meet Axmouth Bridge.

### Sunday 8 August

#### Butterflies at Branscombe 11.00am – 2.00pm

This is your chance to improve your butterfly identification skills.

Meet at Branscombe Mouth car park (parking charge applies).

### Wednesday 11 August

#### Rocks of Geological Time 10.00am – 3.00pm

A walk to look at rocks of three geological periods. You must be fit, able and in good health as the terrain is challenging.

Meet at Stepps Lane (SY265903 EX12 4AS).

### Saturday 21 August

#### Winefred Walk 2.00pm – 4.00pm

A walk tracing the course of Winefred's adventures in the best selling novel of that name. Meet at Seaton Tourist Information Centre.

### Sunday 22 August

#### Wild Art and storytelling 10.00am – 4.00pm

Park at Underfleet, follow marked path for 800m to Seaton Marshes Local Nature Reserve. Part of Wet & Wild Summer Weekend.

### Friday 17 September

#### Bird migrants at Beer Head

9.00am – 12.00 noon

Jutting out into the sea makes Beer Head a good vantage point from which to look for migrants. Meet at Beer Head car park.

For all events please book with Donald Campbell on 01297 552945

## Birds for Beginners

Why not come along to one of the bird hides on the Axe Wetlands for a morning's bird watching? Telescopes and binoculars are provided free of charge. All sessions run from 10.00am until 12.00 noon. No booking required.

### Seaton Marshes

#### Local Nature Reserve

Thursday 28 January

Thursday 25 February

Thursday 18 March

Thursday 29 April

Thursday 23 September

Thursday 28 October

Thursday 25 November

Thursday 16 December

### Colyford Common

#### Local Nature Reserve

Thursday 14 January

Thursday 4 February

Thursday 4 March

Thursday 8 April

Thursday 2 September

Thursday 7 October

Thursday 4 November

Thursday 2 December



## Ringling Breakfast

See birds up close as the ringers catch, measure, ring and release them. Enjoy a mug of tea and a bacon roll (small charge). 8am - 12 noon approx



### Saturday 24 April

Seaton Marshes

Local Nature Reserve

### Sunday 22 August

Seaton Marshes

Local Nature Reserve

### Saturday 18 September

Colyford Common

Local Nature Reserve

(Please note that if the weather is very wet then this activity will be cancelled for reasons of bird welfare.)

## Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliff NNR

The Undercliff National Nature Reserve is managed by Natural England. The site is remote and largely inaccessible to vehicles. Because of this please inform us of any medical conditions that may need emergency treatment when booking on this walk. Wear stout boots and bring a packed lunch.



### Saturday 6th March

#### Wild Daffodils through the Chasm 10am - 2pm

Meet Stepps Lane (SY265903) EX12 4AS

### Friday 30th April

#### Rocks and Fossils of Monmouth Beach 2pm – 4pm

Meet by the Lifeboat Station near the start of the Cobb (SY338916)

### Saturday 1st May

#### Spring Flowers in the Undercliff 10am - 2pm

Meet Whitlands (SY306911) DT7 3XY

### Sunday 2nd May

#### Birds in the Undercliff 9am – 2pm

Meet Holmbush Car Park

### Saturday 29th May

#### To the Plateau to find the Early Gentian 10am – 3pm

Meet Whitlands

### Sunday 20th June

#### Goat Island orchids 10am – 2pm

Meet Stepps Lane

### Saturday 24th July

#### Culverhole, Coast and Chasm 10am – 3pm

Meet Stepps Lane

### Saturday 14th August

#### Humble Glades, Butterflies and the Wood White 10am – 2pm

Meet Pinhay

### Saturday 4th September

#### Veterans and Invaders – Trees in the Undercliff 10am – 3pm

Meet Whitlands

## Birds from the Tram

Enjoy the birds from the comfort of a mobile hide with an expert guide. Meet at Seaton Tramway terminus, Seaton.



Date	Time	Guide
Sunday 28 February	9 – 11am	Ian Waite
Sunday 7 March	9 – 11am	Donald Campbell
Sunday 28 March	9 – 11am	Don Cotton
Saturday 10 April	5 – 7pm	Ian Waite
Monday 3 May	5 – 7pm	Don Cotton
Sunday 30 May	5 – 7pm	Donald Campbell
Sunday 15 August	5 – 7pm	Ian Waite
Friday 20 August*	5 – 7pm	Donald Campbell
Saturday 21 August*	5 – 7pm	Ian Waite
Sunday 5 Sept	5 – 7pm	Don Cotton
Saturday 18 Sept	5 – 7pm	Ian Waite
Sunday 3 October	9 – 11am	Donald Campbell
Sunday 17 October	9 – 11am	Don Cotton
Saturday 6 November	9 – 11am	Don Cotton
Sunday 21 November	9 – 11am	Donald Campbell

Each of the above tram trips costs £10 per person. Please book/pay on 01297 20375.

\*Part of the Wet and Wild Summer Weekend. Don't forget to bring your binoculars!

## Tram Trips for junior birders

Especially for younger birders, these trips are led by the EDDC's Education Ranger, James Chubb, who will guide you on the key identifying characteristics of each bird. Binoculars are available free of charge. Each trip is from 9am – 11am.



Wednesday 7 April  
Wednesday 14 April

Wednesday 2 June  
Saturday 23 October

Each of the above tram trips cost £7.50 per young person (under 16) with one accompanying adult going free. Please book/pay on 01297 20375

Booking essential as places are limited - Tel: 0781 4477 422