



# COLLECTING FOSSILS AT HELWELL BAY



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

Illustration by Alison Jacobs (www.alisonjacobs.com)

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), and see the new window display at Watchet Museum (Swain Street TA23 0AD)

## Fossil Collecting Code of Conduct

*The Somerset coast between Blue Anchor and Lillstock is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its nationally important geological exposures and fossils. Fossils should be collected responsibly according to the following code to ensure that future visitors can also enjoy this part of their 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 collect from under them, they are very unstable).**
- **Wrap fossils individually for protection** and include a label with them stating clearly when and where they were collected.
- **Leave large fossils for others to see and enjoy** - but report any unusual finds to the local Museum of Somerset based in Taunton, Tel: 01823 255088 Email: museumofsomerset@swheritage.org.uk or Geckoella, Tel: 0333 500 4777 Email: geckoella@gmail.com
- **Consult local tide times.** This coast has a high tidal range, it is best to visit on a falling tide.
- **Wear the correct clothing and footwear and protect yourself from the sun.** Ensure someone knows where you are and what time you'll be back.
- **Remember that a fossil site is for everyone to enjoy.** Indiscriminate hammering and 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)

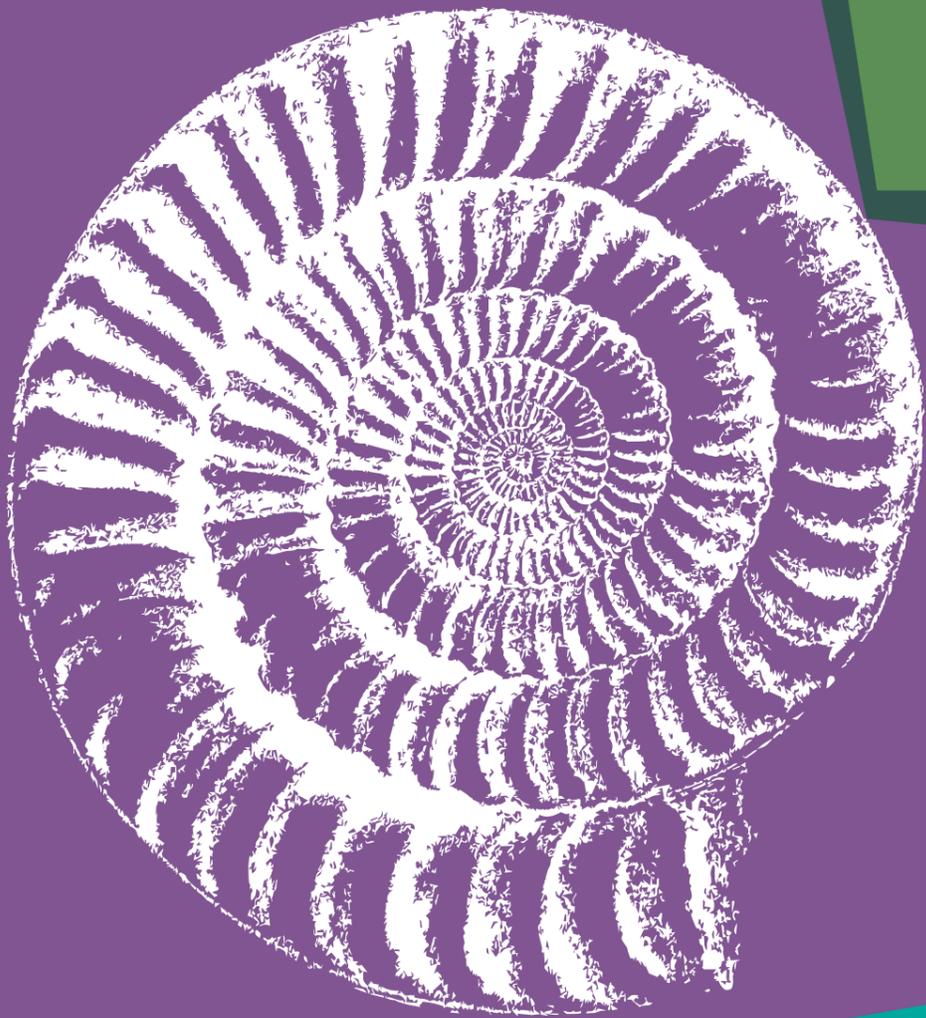


CRINOID (SEA LILY)  
*Pentacrinites*,  
'star stone' (up to 10cm)

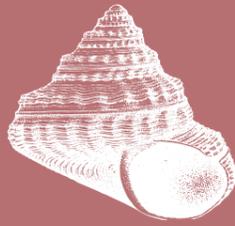


AMMONITE  
*Arnioceras* (4 to 6cm)

BIVALVE (SCALLOP)  
*Oxytoma* (2cm)



AMMONITE *Coroniceras* (up to 35cm)



GASTROPOD  
*Pleurotomaria* (3cm)



AMMONITE *Caloceras* (up to 9cm)



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

NAUTILUS *Cenoceras* (up to 20cm)



AMMONITE *Paracoronicerus* (up to 32 cm)