

English Nature invited school groups to visit and learn about the National Nature Reserve as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations in 2005. Below are some of the children's pictures.



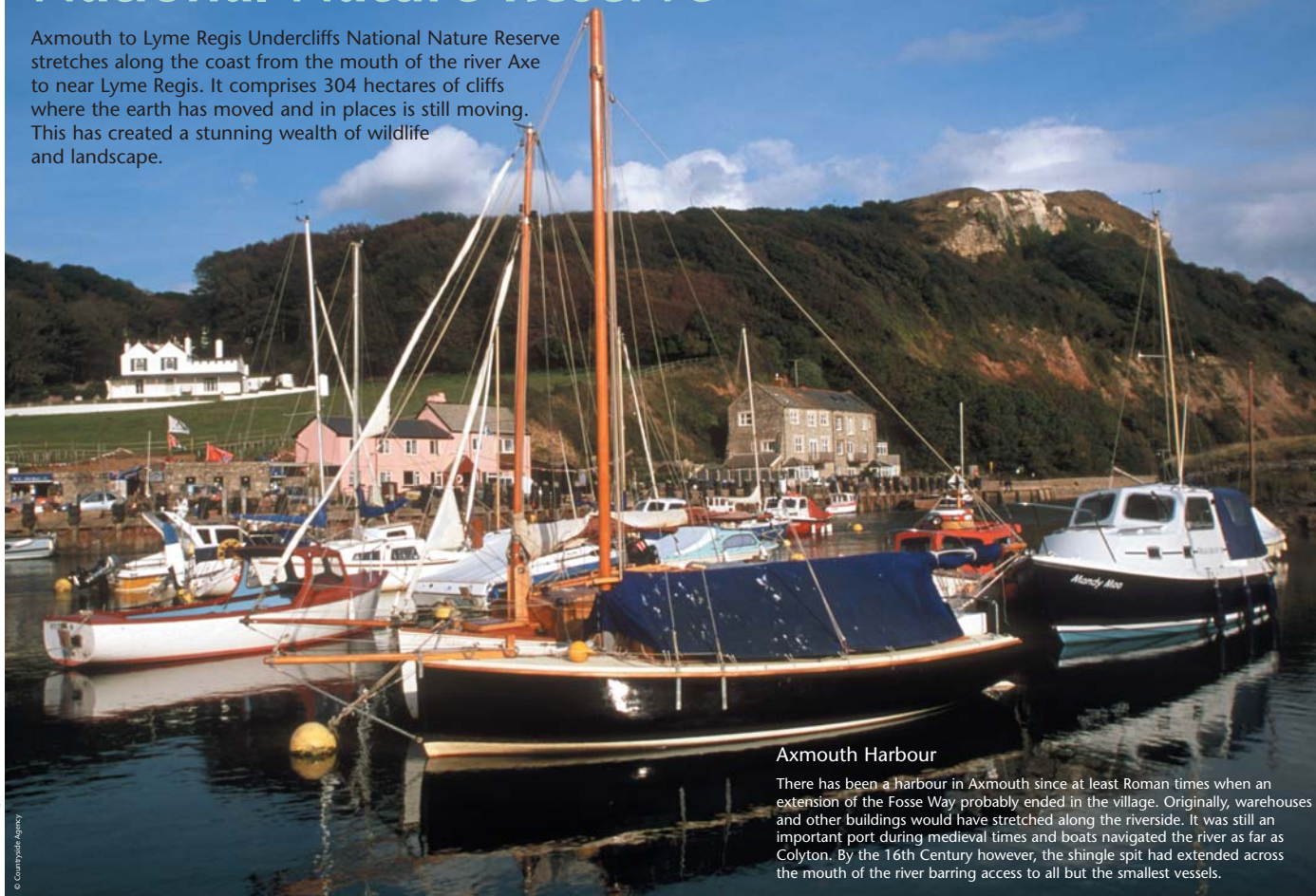
Rock pooling.
Rock pools are
a lot of fun
and you can
catch crabs.



In the Undercliffs you can see
lots of wildlife including
Peregrine Falcons

Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliffs National Nature Reserve

Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliffs National Nature Reserve stretches along the coast from the mouth of the river Axe to near Lyme Regis. It comprises 304 hectares of cliffs where the earth has moved and in places is still moving. This has created a stunning wealth of wildlife and landscape.



Axmouth Harbour

There has been a harbour in Axmouth since at least Roman times when an extension of the Fosse Way probably ended in the village. Originally, warehouses and other buildings would have stretched along the riverside. It was still an important port during medieval times and boats navigated the river as far as Colyton. By the 16th Century however, the shingle spit had extended across the mouth of the river barring access to all but the smallest vessels.

Welcome to England's first natural World Heritage Site. Designated by UNESCO, the Dorset and East Devon Coast is now recognised as being globally important for earth sciences.

The coast is special because it represents 185 million years of earth history in just 95 miles of coastline from the oldest Triassic (250 million years old) at Exmouth through the Jurassic to the youngest Cretaceous (65 million years old) at Studland. Examples of all these periods of time can be found between Axmouth and Lyme Regis.



These rocks are the foundations of exceptionally attractive landscapes and internationally important habitats and wildlife. They are protected and conserved as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Sites of Special Scientific Interest and in this case as National Nature Reserve. You can find out more about the World Heritage Site in tourist information centres, visitor centres and museums or log onto www.jurassiccoast.com. The World Heritage Site team can be contacted on Tel: 01305 225101.



• you are here

The Undercliffs walk is long (7 miles) and physically demanding, please allow at least five hours to walk the South West Coast Path National Trail to Lyme Regis. A regular bus service operates between Seaton and Lyme Regis that will return you to your starting point. Please ring Traveline prior to your visit to get up to date timetable information.

Safety Notice. . .

On the Undercliffs vegetation covers ridges and troughs so keep to footpath at all times. If you are by the sea be aware of tides and mudflows. Please keep away from cliffs as rock falls are common.



The red Triassic clays seen in the cliffs east of Axmouth, were laid down in vast lakes surrounded by deserts about 210 million years ago. The change in colour to green and grey indicate that the climate was becoming less arid as the rocks become younger. By the time you get to Lyme Regis, the rocks formed under a Jurassic sea. The cliff tops are capped by much younger rocks from the Cretaceous period and date back to about 110 million years ago.