

Secret Seaton

Walk: 3 miles

Time: 1 ½ hours

Terrain: Flat. Suitable for off-road pushchair and wheelchair

What to bring: Binoculars for bird watching and some money for a tea in town!

Car park: There are pay and display car parks available in Seaton and along the seafront.

Discover two of Seaton's hidden gems, the borrow Pit at Seaton Marshes and Axmouth Harbour.

Start by walking east along Seaton's promenade towards Axmouth harbour, enjoying the coastline and views of the Jurassic Coast.

At the end of the promenade, walk through the Axe Yacht Club and join the road, turn right and follow the pavement over the old toll bridge

Axmouth Bridge was built in 1877 and was one of the first three arch bridges to be built in concrete. The toll was abolished in 1907 however the bridge remained in use for vehicle traffic until the mid-1980s when it was superseded by a modern bridge located just to its north.

After crossing the bridge, turn right onto the harbour quay, walk along Axmouth Harbour. The harbour remains a (small scale) unspoilt, working harbour. On your walk you'll pass Seaton Tackle Shop which sells fishing tackle and bait and has a small cafe.

At the end of the path take a moment to enjoy views over the sea and back towards Seaton, there is a bench at 'The Prow' viewing platform. The Prow was installed as one of four Seaton Jurassic Discovery Points which can be found around Seaton.

The harbour is a great place for crabbing and at the end of the path there is a hidden beach – a great place to catch some winter rays!

From the harbour you can link up with the South West Coast Path which takes you along the Seaton end of the Undercliff all the way to Lyme Regis. This is a challenging and remote 7 mile walk... not for the faint hearted!

Once you've enjoyed the views, return along the same path to Seaton. Discover Seaton's next secret spot by turning right down Beach Road. At the end of Beach Road turn left and then immediately right, walking past the new Tram Station and Seaton Jurassic.

Continue along the Underfleet pavement, then turn right onto the public footpath (passing the Underfleet play park on your right-hand side).

Walk along the track with views over the freshwater grazing marsh. At the end of the path turn right, entering Seaton Marshes. Pass through two pedestrian gates, then take a left to reach the Borrow Pit enter via a pedestrian gate.

The Borrow Pit pond at Seaton Marshes is part of the Seaton Wetlands reserve. The circular walk around the pond is now fully accessible thanks to funding from the Tesco Bags of Help grant and work by the East Devon District Council, Wild East Devon team and the Axe Vale & District Conservation Society. There is also an accessible bird hide at Seaton Marshes.

Once you've explored the pond and the wildlife which lives there head back to the seafront along the same path.

For those of you with more time, why not hop in your car and follow the brown signs to Seaton Wetlands local nature reserve? The Discovery Hut at Seaton Wetlands is open 10am to 4pm Saturday to Monday and is the perfect spot to conclude your 'Secret Seaton' tour with a cup of tea from one of the volunteers and the chance to learn more about local wildlife sightings.

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