

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate Release



Jurassic Coast Trust provides state-of-the-art Digital Video Microscope for Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre

The Jurassic Coast Trust¹ sponsors a state-of-the-art digital video microscope in time for the 2009 'Evolution Rocks!' - Lyme Regis and Charmouth Fossil Festival². The microscope will be based at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre³ and gives the general public and schools the opportunity to discover and examine their finds. It can be used in a variety of ways, not just to look at fossil finds but marine and wildlife samples such as plankton and botanical specimens as well.

Meirel Waites, Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre Head Warden says "We are delighted the Jurassic Coast Trust has provided us with this wonderful new microscope. It replaces our old microscope, which was an extremely popular item in our displays and interactive media and used frequently by the large majority of visitors to the Centre (81,000 visitors and 4,251 school children in 2008). The images will be transmitted onto a television screen located directly above the microscope. It is currently used in the education and interpretation departments of the Natural History Museum in London and is suitable for both children and adults of all ages and abilities."

James Weld, Chairman, Jurassic Coast Trust says "We are delighted to be able to provide this vital piece of equipment which we know excites people in identifying their finds, and encourages them to learn more about the Jurassic Coast."

James Weld continues, "The Trust has sponsored a number of items for educational use at the Centre, as well as student teacher placement grants, and the recently launched interactive CD."

Come and see the microscope in action at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre now or visit this year's Fossil Festival, 22 - 24 May, where you will find the Jurassic Coast Trust, in Marquee 4 in Lyme Regis, demonstrating the Jurassic Coast interactive CD to you. The CDs will be on sale, along with other Trust publications at the Jurassic Coast Trust stand and we can tell you about the many projects we support. Young children can also have a go at discovering dinosaurs in the 'Dino Dig', another educational tool sponsored by the Trust.

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Note to Editors:

1. Note 1: The Jurassic Coast Trust (formerly The World Heritage Coast Trust) was established in 2002, Registered Charity Number 1101134. The Trust provides support for a diverse range of education, conservation, science and arts projects, which help local people and visitors to enjoy and understand the geological history and beauty of the site. Funds are raised through different levels of support from large and small businesses, Project Sponsors, Individual Friend, Family and the sale of publications. For more information about the Trust visit www.jurassiccoasttrust.org
1. Note 2: Evolution Rocks! Lyme Regis and Charmouth Fossil Festival 22-24 May. For more information visit www.evolutionrocks.co.uk There will be a free hourly bus between Lyme Regis and Charmouth starting at 10am from Lyme Regis. Last bus back to Lyme is at 5.30pm.
2. Note 3. For more Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre information contact Meirel Whaites (Senior Warden) on 01297 560772 or email info@charmouth.org, www.charmouth.org
3. Note 4. For information about the Jurassic Coast Trust, contact the Executive Officer, Nikki Greenleaf at on 01305 251333 or nikki.greenleaf@jurassiccoasttrust.org, www.jurassiccoasttrust.org
4. Note 5. For further information about the Jurassic Coast visit www.jurassiccoast.com