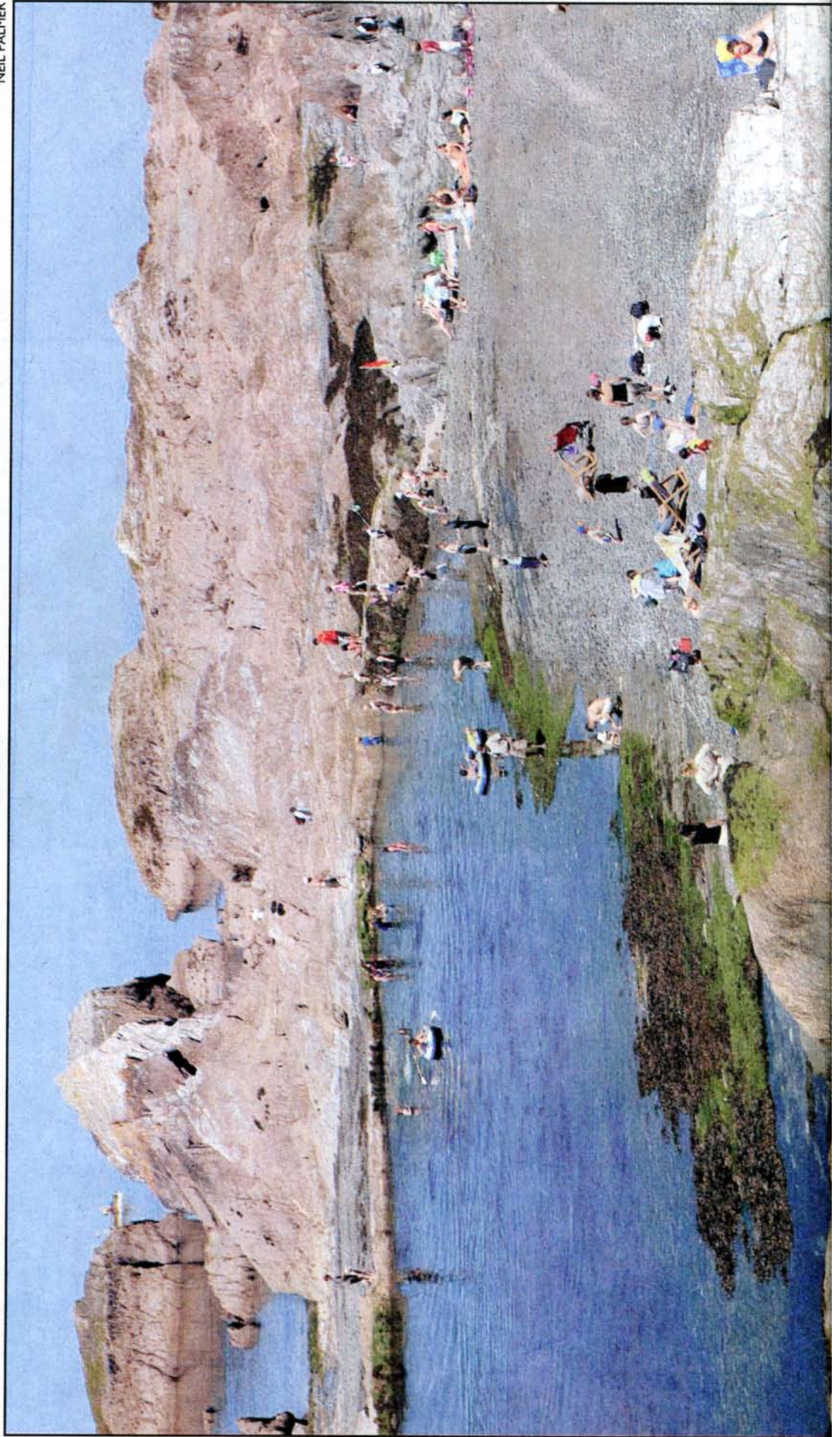


Popularity spans centuries

NEIL PALMER



● **VICTORIAN PLAYGROUND:** The tidal bathing pool at Ilfracombe's Tunnels Beaches – accessible only through cliff tunnels hacked out by miners in the 1820s

THE Tunnels Beaches at Ilfracombe were created in the 19th century to meet the demands of the increasing number of visitors who were flocking to the town to make it a fashionable resort.

As the name suggests, the beaches are reached through tunnels – hand-carved by teams of Welsh miners in the 1820s.

The pick marks they left are still visible, and four of the six tunnels they hacked out are still in use.

The tunnels gave access to the beaches and the seawater bathing pools created for visitors to enjoy what was felt to be the health-giving properties of sea bathing.

Some of the pools are still in use, although the sexes are no longer seg-

The beaches remain popular, especially with families, and have been given modern facilities

regated. The beaches remain popular, especially with families, and have been given modern facilities to meet the requirements of 21st century visitors.

These include lifeguard cover and closed circuit cameras to provide extra safety.

In addition, there is the modish Café Blue, which serves a range of freshly-prepared snacks.

As well as winning Blue Flag and Seaside awards, the Tunnels Beaches have also won an award for the quality of their toilets.

The Tunnels Beaches are in Granville Road, Ilfracombe, and their website is www.tunnelsbeaches.co.uk.

WESTCOUNTRY'S LATEST SURF FORECAST

North Devon

Today
SWELL 2ft
PERIOD 4 secs
12°C

Tomorrow ***
SWELL 3ft
PERIOD 10 secs
14°C

Text SURF ND to 80818

North Cornwall

Today
SWELL 2ft
PERIOD 4 secs
12°C

Tomorrow ***
SWELL 3ft
PERIOD 10 secs
14°C

Text SURF NC to 80818

South Devon

Today *
SWELL 1.2ft
PERIOD 8 secs
13°C

Tomorrow ***
SWELL 2.2ft
PERIOD 10 secs
14°C

Text SURF SD to 80818

South West Cornwall

Today ***
SWELL 2.2ft
PERIOD 10 secs
13°C

Tomorrow **
SWELL 3.6ft
PERIOD 8 secs
14°C

Text SURF WC to 80818

MAGICSEAWEED.COM

About this Forecast
Our surf forecast gives an idea of the kind of swell that will be hitting the Devon and Cornwall coasts today. The swell height we give will be the size of the swell as it approaches the shore NOT on the beach, where it will normally be somewhat smaller. The 'wave period' is a very important guide to the quality of the surf with periods above about 9 seconds indicating strong surf making swell. Remember, for a swell to make good surf the wind needs to, ideally, be blowing gently offshore. If the wind is blowing strongly towards or across the beach the surf will be unrideable.

For more information about the forecast, more detail for the South West and other areas and the latest beach webcam photos check out MagicSeaweed.com

Surf Rating (not including local winds)

- No stars No Swell. Flat.
- * Very poor conditions. Probably flat or very small.
- ** Poor conditions. Possibility of poor surf.
- *** Average conditions. Some surf probable.
- **** Good conditions. Strong swell. Good surf likely.
- ***** Classic conditions. Very strong swell.

3 Day Swell Height Outlook

Today
Tomorrow
Wednesday

Get the very latest forecast (via SMS direct to your mobile)
For the latest detailed 48hr swell forecasts direct to your mobile just follow the instructions next to each break. For a long range overview just add the word WEEK to your text. All forecasts consist of two messages and will cost £1.

Disclaimer
Forecast data derived directly from the NWW3 forecast model. Forecast it is a prediction of probability at best and should not be used for passage planning. Of course we can't be held responsible for the outcome or any decisions you make based on it. To compare the forecast with the latest conditions check a webcam at MagicSeaweed.com