

The Tunnels are top of the rocks

ROCK pooling has become as traditional a part of the bucket and spade British holiday as beach huts and sand castles — and they don't come much better than the top pools at a North Devon beach.

When it comes to rummaging around in rock pools for multi-legged or fringed critters, the Tunnels Beaches at Ilfracombe are among the best — and that's official.

The BBC's *Wildlife* magazine has just published their Top Ten of the best spots to go rock-pooling in the UK, and the Tunnels came in at number three in the country.

Owner Jamie McLintock said: "The Devon Wildlife Trust runs regular rock pool rambles here and there are many very unusual creatures that can be found.

"I know that Caroline Roberts from the DWT often remarks that although some species can be found elsewhere along our coast, the sheer abundance at the Tunnels really stands out.

"A guy called Philip Henry Gosse, who founded the London Aquarium, made the Tunnels Beaches nationally famous in Victorian times when he discovered several new species down here.

"One of these is a rare coral which can still be seen in the same places during very low tides."

■ RAMBLE: Jamie McLintock at a rock pool. Picture: 07091705