



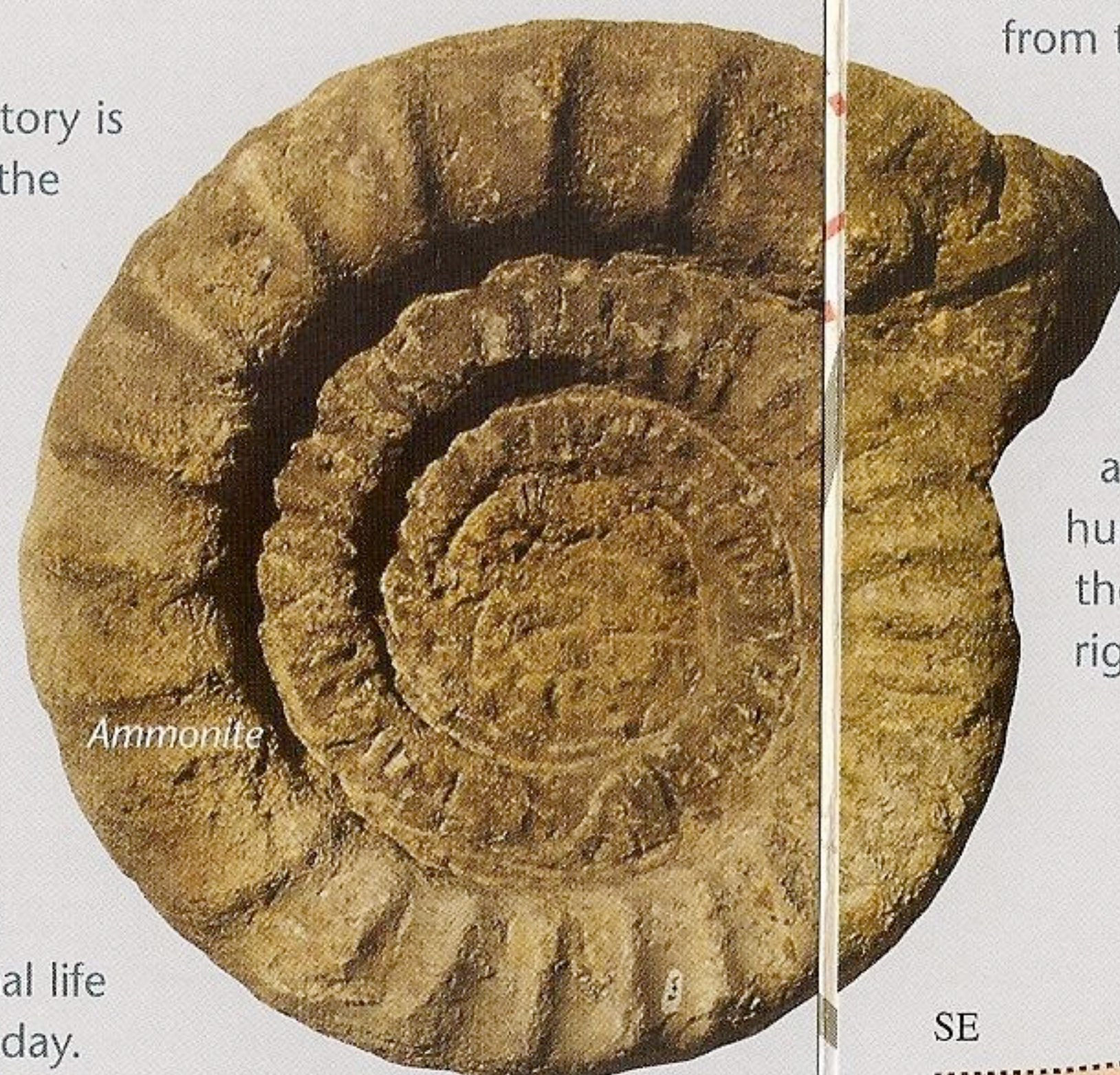
**W**hen you arrive at Ravenscar it's the views that grab your attention. On a clear day, the scene over Robin Hood's Bay from these 180m (600ft) high cliffs is simply awesome. You could, however, be forgiven for thinking that apart from the views, a hotel and the National Trust Coastal Centre, there isn't a lot else here. But you'd be very much mistaken; Ravenscar's present size belies an incredible history.

Ravenscar is arguably the birthplace of the British chemical industry; there's a major geological fault here where great seismic forces once ripped the land apart; and it was once earmarked for a grand Victorian seaside resort that never quite made it... how's that for starters?

What makes Ravenscar particularly fascinating is that its history is there for all to see. You can visit the impressive remains of the Alum works that were once of pivotal importance to England's wealth and helped fuel the creation of a powerful economy. You can clearly see the Peak Fault where huge layers of rock have shifted. And just because the Victorian developers never realised their dream of establishing a new seaside resort, that doesn't mean they didn't make a start. You'll find that the eerie reminders of the *resort that never was* crop up all over these cliff tops.

## Fossil hunting

**T**his area of the coast is world renowned for its rich fossil beds. The deep seas of Liassic times were ideal for animal life and the remains of many marine creatures can be found today. The soft parts of these creatures have long since decayed, but the hard shells of skeletal remains become buried in the mud and eventually fossilised. Specimens of long extinct animals, such as ammonites and belemnites, are commonly found here.



## Ravenscar rocks

**A** major geological fault can be found at Ravenscar, known as the Peak Fault, which has dictated the way nature has shaped the land, and later how it has been utilised by man. Movement along this fault line is believed to have occurred about 35 million years ago, bringing together rocks of a similar age but differing thickness, see the diagram below.

See the Peak Fault for yourself. Follow the path that runs down from the golf course towards the cliffs to the point shown on the map. When you look back at the cliffs you can clearly see that the sequence of rocks on the left (south east) appear to be several hundred feet lower than their counterparts to the right (north west).



Ravenscar's Peak Fault

