



**Cornwall
Wildlife Trust**



Shoresearch Cornwall

Annual newsletter December 2017



THANK YOU

Wow, what an amazing year for Shoresearch! We say this every year but it just keeps getting better! We want to say a massive thank you to all of our incredible volunteers who have used their free time to help us collect data for our records. It has been a blast!

With your help, we have managed to survey and collect data from 20 different sites around the Cornish coast and record a vast diversity of marine life to add to our database.

Claws for celebration

St Piran's crab *Clibanarius erythropus*

With the rediscovery of *Clibanarius erythropus* on one of our Shoresearch surveys last year in Falmouth, the St Piran's crab has been a priority species to look out for during our events. It has been an amazing year for this species and this year alone has been recorded at 6 separate locations around Cornwall. We can see from our data that the St Piran's hermit crab is becoming more abundant on our rocky shores and we will continue to search and record these species throughout the upcoming year.



Montagu's blenny, *Coryphoblennius galerita* by Adele Morgan



Stalked jellyfish, *Haliclystus octoradiatus* by Adele Morgan



St Piran's crab, *Clibanarius erythropus* by Adele Morgan



What is Shoresearch?

Shoresearch is a user-friendly and fun method of exploring the shore and recording the species and habitats found there.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust provide Shoresearch training at specific events and on each survey. Volunteers are welcome to come along to organised events but are also encouraged to carry out their own Shoresearch surveys and to send in their findings.



What happens to the information collected?

The information collected is vital for Cornwall Wildlife Trust's marine conservation work. The data is submitted to the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) and from there it is shared to the National Biodiversity Gateway. The information helps us monitor change on the shore and provides biological information to counter potential threats. It has been particularly useful in gathering information on areas being considered as Marine Conservation Zones by the government in recent years and will be vital in monitoring these areas in future.

Who can take part?

Anyone and everyone. If you are keen to learn and happy to give up a few hours of your time you are welcome. Prior knowledge of marine life is not necessary, but it is still great for those that do already have a good level of knowledge. The shore can be slippery and hard to access so you do need to be fit and mobile to take part. We also ask that under 18's are accompanied by an adult.

What happens on a survey?

We meet up either on the beach or nearby and after an informal briefing we go down onto the shore. We will carry out one or more of the survey methods (see below) and have plenty of time for rummaging and exploring the shore. Everything we find is photographed and if it can't be identified in situ it can be done at a later date. At the end of the survey we will usually have a sit down and talk about what was found and make sure all the recording forms are properly filled in.



What Should we bring?

You need to bring sensible rockpooling footwear and clothing. No flip flops or bare feet! Wellies or wetsuit boots are best. Bear in mind it can get cold if it's a windy or wet day, and it can get very hot if the sun is out!

Bring food.. big low tides usually happen at lunchtime!

Bring sun screen, a sun hat and some drinking water.

If you have one a digital camera is very useful (even better if it is waterproof and has a GPS capability) many smart phones are ideal! I always try to bring some cake to share too. Shoresearching is sociable!

Independent surveying

Once trained you are welcome to carry out your own surveys. The instructions are available online and you can always contact us for help! This is particularly suitable for students who want to carry out a project or build up volunteer hours. And it is great for local marine group volunteers.

Don't forget though that the shore can be dangerous. Always check the forecast and the tides. And never survey alone.

And please upload your data to the Seasearch recording group at www.orks.org.uk

Share your photos and news with us via our [FACEBOOK Page @ Shoresearch Cornwall](#)

Survey Methods

We use 4 different survey methods. Not all are used at every survey but we always try to incorporate a walkover survey which is the best fun!

Timed Species Search. 20 minute search of an area of shore looking for a small number of key species. Using photo cards. This method creates useful, comparable data. (sent to Marine Biology Association Shore Thing project)

Walkover Survey. A targeted, informal search of an area of the shore with particular interest (usually the lower shore). All findings get recorded.

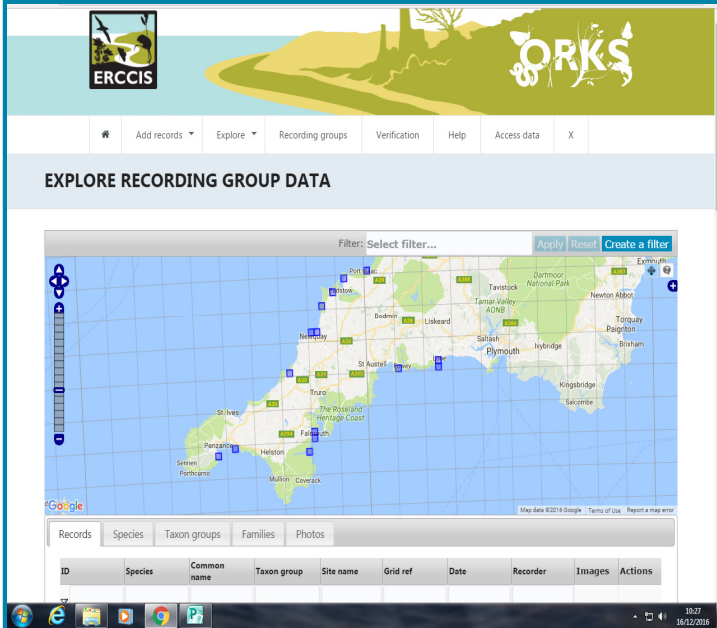
Biotope Transect Survey. This is carried out when monitoring over a long time scale. We take a tape measure and walking from the low water to high water mark we record the position of biological zones across the shore.

Quadrat survey. 50cm² quadrats are used to survey each biotope along the transect.





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Have you been on our recording website ORKS yet? If not you should have a go. It's really easy to use and not only allows you to quickly upload your species records and photos safe in the knowledge they are in the most useful place for future conservation efforts but you can browse everyone else's info too, its addictive! A neat feature of the system are the recording group pages –we have already set up a Shoresearch group so you can put your records in there! Many of our local marine conservation groups have their own recording group and anyone can set one up. It is a great way to show off how amazing the marine life is in your area! This year we have created a social media share option too so you can impress your friends and share your wildlife records.. any questions email nikki.clear@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk



Outcomes and Achievements; 2017

Event	Number of species
Marazion	88
South Fistral, Newquay	81
Porthmear	86
Castle beach, Falmouth	68
Millook, Bude	65
Porthleven	92
Pentewan	53
Trevone	75
Bar beach, Helford	59
Portwrinkle	64
Godrevy, the Lizard	85
Northcott Mouth	35
Mousehole	59
Porthkerris	61

Event	Number of species
Prisk Cove, Helford	85
Cowrie reef, Polzeath	76
Readymoney Cove, Fowey	80
Hannafore point, Looe	86
Trevaunance cove, St Agnes	60



Main Taxa Groups	Number of species
Algae	62
Lichen	5
Sponge (Porifera)	9
Sea mats (Bryozoa)	8
Cnidarian (Anemones etc)	23
Worms	20
Molluscs	50
Crustaceans	35
Springtail (Collembola)	1
Echinoderms (starfish etc)	10
Tunicates (Seasquirts)	18
cartilagenous fish (sharks and rays)	1
bony fish (Teleosts)	18
Grand Total	260



Studying giants Giant Goby, *Gobius cobitis*

Thanks to Matt Slaters license to catch and release Giant Gobies provided by Natural England, we were at real advantage this year for gathering data on these rarely recorded and protected species. The Giant Goby is protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and are a particularly Southern species, however we are now recording them in various locations around Cornwall.

As part of our Shoresearch surveys, we have been deploying baited fish traps in hope of catching and recording this fascinating species. With much luck we were able to record Giant Goby's in four locations this year; Porthleven, Hannafore point in Looe, Looe island and Prisk Cove in Helford. As a result of this, we are hoping that Giant Goby's will become a feature of conservation interest of the Looe marine conservation zone.



Giant Goby, *Gobius cobitis*



A distinct feature: Fleshy pelvic suction cup
Matt Slater

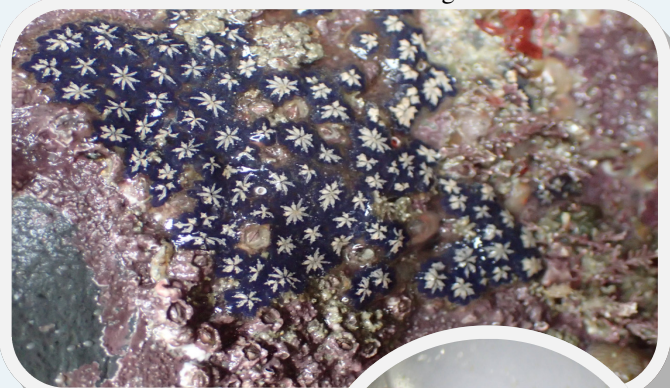


Sea squirt fun

We had an amazing time learning about Sea squirts with Professor David Kipling and Sarah Bowen. The two day course comprised of informative lectures about the anatomy and physiology of tunicates, identification features and individual species identification. We took a trip down to Falmouth marina where we collected samples to take back to the lab. We used microscopes lent to us by Cornwall College Newquay to look more closely at the amazing cell structure. Their new Seasearch seasquirt identification book will be published in 2018.



Ciona intestinalis. Adele Morgan



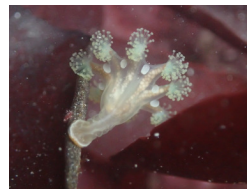
Star ascidian sea squirts,
Botryllus schlosseri
Adele Morgan



The Compass Sea squirt,
Asterocarpa humilis
Matt Slater

SQUIRT FACTS

Did you know that the Sea squirt is the only animal able to make cellulose and that their heart can beat in both directions!



Horrible Beasts Up the Creek

Matt Slater, Adele Morgan and Nat Gibb hosted a muddy estuary based survey open to the public in August. Armed with wellies, buckets and nets we headed down onto Greenbank in Falmouth to see what we could find! We had a great time discovering European eels, pipefish, a variety of crab species, including the parasite *Sacculina carcini*, prawns and sea squirts! We all had a great time getting muddy! Thanks to South West Water for sponsoring this event.



European eels, *Anguilla Anguilla*, Adele Morgan



Corkwing wrasse, *Symphodus melops*, Matt Slater



Parasite *Sacculina carcini* on a common shore crab, *Carcinus meanas*

Nat Gibb

Shoresearch week 2017

What is Shoresearch week?

Shoresearch week is a five day event that involves surveying a variety of rocky shores on the lowest spring tides of the Autumn equinox. These locations are positioned within each of the five voluntary marine conservation zones in Cornwall and are repeatedly surveyed every year. From the data we collect, we can notice changes within each location and have the potential to record new inhabiting species including the rarely recorded Stalked Jellyfish, Giant Goby, St Piran's crabs and the Cushion star fish, *Asterina phylactica* which we saw on our surveys this year!



Montagu's Blenny, *Coryphoblennius galerita*, Matt Slater



Tompot Blenny, *Parablennius gattorugine* in St Agnes
Matt Slater



Dahlia anemones, *Urticina felina* in Polzeath
Adele Morgan

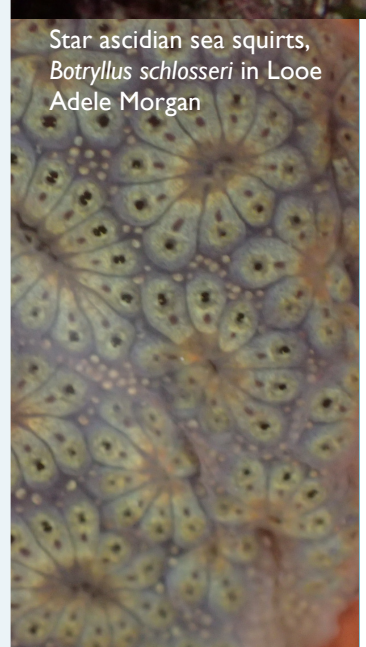


Asterina phylactica, in Fowey
Matt Slater

SHORESEARCH WEEK 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

What a fantastic Shoresearch week we had this year!

- We had over 50 volunteers attend overall including 5 dogs!
- We had 260 records of marine species over the week
- The rare and protected Giant Goby, *Gobius cobitis* was recorded in Helford and in Looe.
- *Asterina Phylactica* was recorded in Fowey.
- Our new and easy transect survey method worked wonders and seem to be enjoyable to everyone.



Star ascidian sea squirts, *Botryllus schlosseri* in Looe
Adele Morgan



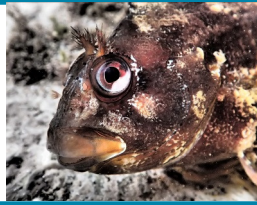
Giant Goby, *Gobius cobitis* in Looe
Matt Slater



Celtic sea slug, *Onchidella celtica*
in Fowey, Adele Morgan

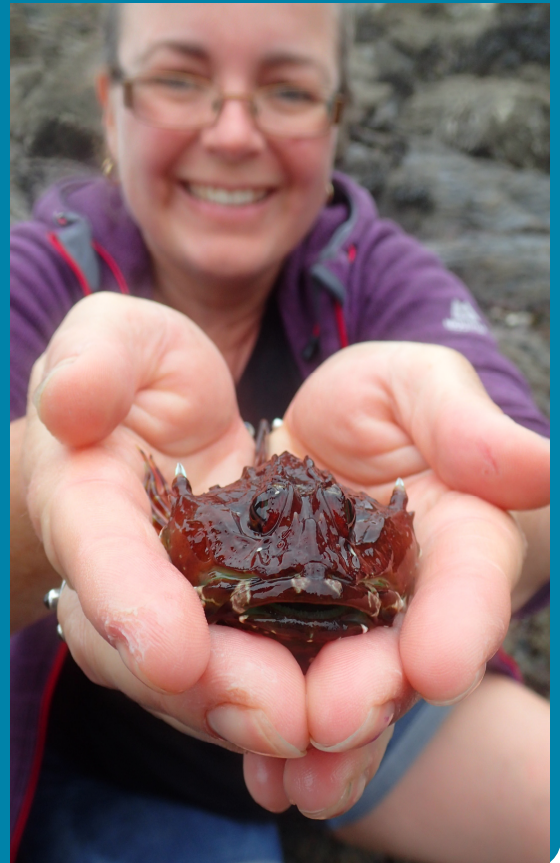


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Shoresearch showcase

Thank you to our amazing Volunteers!





Cornwall Wildlife Trust



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<http://www.cornwallwildlife.org.uk/shoresearch>

Dates for the Diary!

Friday 16th February 2018— Shoresearch training and survey at Mevagissey

Saturday 24th February 2018—Your Shore conference

Sunday 4th March 2018—Shoresearch training and survey at Greenbank, Falmouth

Sunday 18th March 2018— Shoresearch training and survey at Kingsand, The Institute

Tuesday 3rd April 2018— Shoresearch training and survey at Whitehouse Beach, Fowey

Sunday 29th April 2018—Shoresearch training and survey at Longrock, Penzance

Sunday 17th June 2018—Shoresearch training and survey at Loe beach, Feock

More dates to be announced.. Watch this space!

It's Your Shore; look after it!

Since 2008 we have been working to support a network of local marine volunteer groups all around Cornwall's coast. Wherever you are there is a group near you. The Your Shore Network of marine conservation groups achieve so much its amazing, and you can get involved! Our new **Your Shore Beach Rangers project** delivered with the help of Cornwall College and funding from the Big Lottery Fund is currently helping set up new marine groups in Penzance, Falmouth and Bude! Young people aged between 16 and 24 will be able to benefit from training provided by the project! Find our more at www.beachrangers.com



We have collaborated with the Your Shore Beach rangers for many events this year. Our volunteer coordinator Adele has been working alongside Nat Gibb and Jenn Sandiford helping to coordinate snorkelling events, seaweed searches and rock pool rambles around Cornwall.



Shoresearch week 2018

Sunday 9th September — Looe

Monday 10th September— Polzeath

Tuesday 11th September — Helford

Wednesday 12th September — Fowey

Thursday 13th September— St Agnes

More details to be confirmed and announced soon!

Please like us on Facebook to be kept up to date! [@shoresearchcornwall](https://www.facebook.com/shoresearchcornwall) or ask to be added to our email list if you don't use Facebook.

