

# Shoresearch Cornwall

## Annual report 2021

### What is Shoresearch

Shoresearch is a user-friendly and fun method of exploring the shore and recording the species and habitats found there. Shoresearch Cornwall has been run by Cornwall Wildlife Trust since 2012 and in this time, we have carried out hundreds of surveys and have trained over 200 volunteers. Shoresearch is a national project delivered by the Wildlife Trusts, and surveys take place all around the UK coastline.

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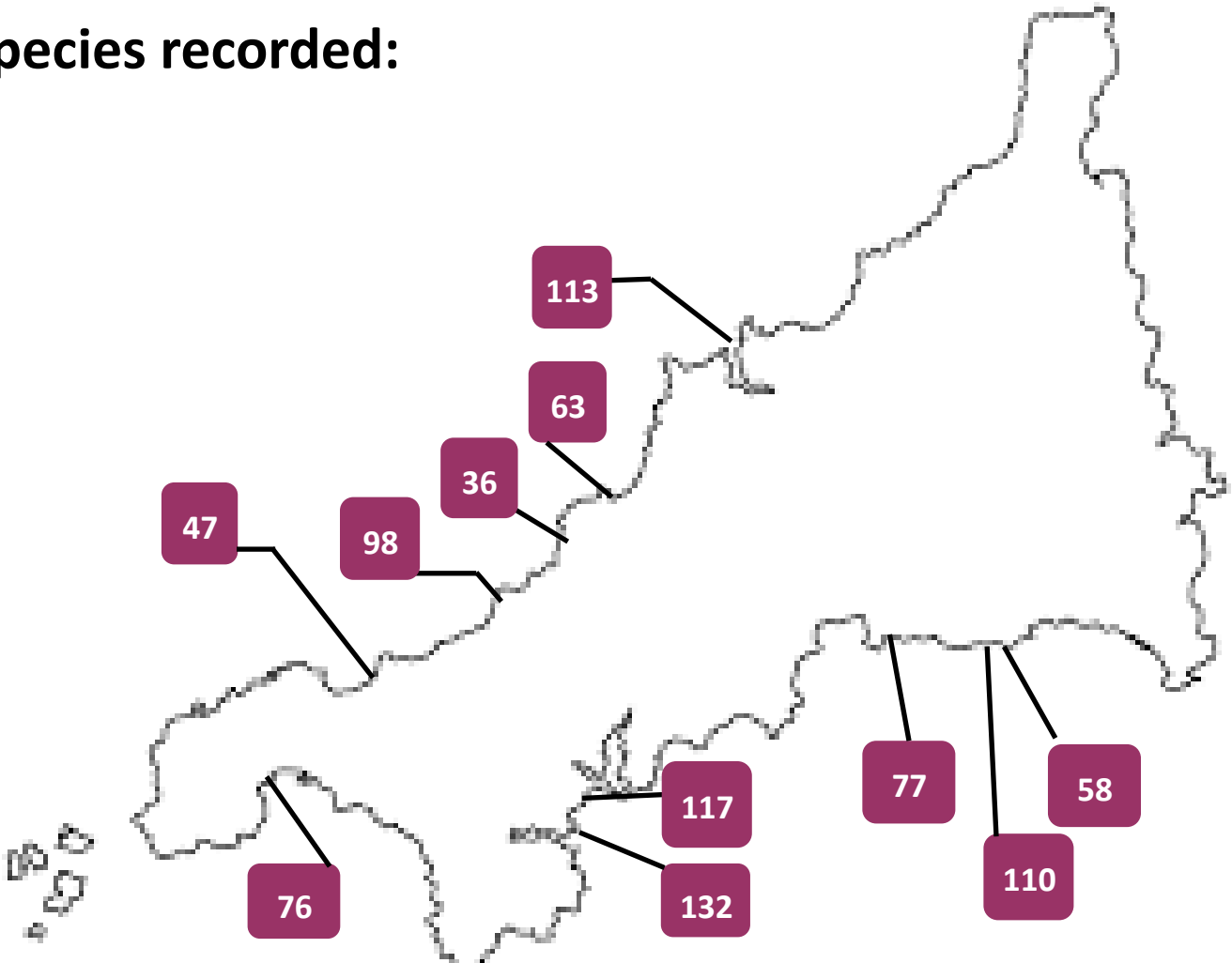
### Introduction to the year 2021

2021 started slow, however, it “shore” did pick up at a high pace until the end of this year where we concluded with Shoresearch week 2021. This was our 10th Shoresearch week bring us into our 10th anniversary year. We also have rolled out the fantastic new Shoresearch App, which feeds into the national Shoresearch projects database, making rocky shore recording even easier in this modern age!



# Achievements 2021

## Species recorded:



over

**70**

Volunteers involved

More than

**240**

species identified

records collected

**1290**

**10**

Quadrat surveys

**14**

Walkover surveys

# Shoresearch App

Since the Shoresearch Project was launched nationally in 2019, we have been working hard for all Shoresearch data to be uploaded and used as a central unit, making it easier for everyone to access the data recorded and see any trends that might appear. This was finally made possible this year as we launched the Shoresearch portal. The portal allows for not only Walkover data to be submitted but also quadrat survey data. The portal website was specially designed for Shoresearch and all its methodologies. Volunteers and marine groups can now access the portal to upload any old paper forms from previous surveys as well as any future surveys (that are done on paper).



A brand new Shoresearch App has also been developed in conjunction with the portal. This app has allowed volunteers to save lots of time, eliminating the need to go home and enter all the written records online. The app can now be downloaded by all marine groups for not only marking down quadrat surveys as part of the national project but also completing a species list during a walkover survey as part of rockpool rambles.





# Monitoring the Your shore Network

## Training

In 2022 two new volunteer groups were trained to use the Shoresearch methodology. They were St.Ives Bay and Perranporth marine groups, and they now add into the already amazing amounts of data being collected from the rocky shore all around Cornwall.

We've now also started to train existing Shoresearchers in using the app to record their surveys. A big thank you to Newquay Marine Group, Polzeath Marine Group and Falmouth Marine Conservation for already getting trained up in the Shoresearch app and submitting surveys through it! Hopefully we will be able to train more groups in 2022!



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## Looe Island surveys

The Shoresearch team managed to get over to Looe Island twice this year. The first time in May when we surveyed both the north and east shore. Many stunning rockpool critters were found during this time, including successfully trapping giant gobies! The second time we went over to the island was to complete the long-standing intertidal survey of the sheltered shoreline. This survey has been repeated every year (since 2002) as a long term study. This survey was great fun with a huge amount of Montagu's and St.Piran's crabs being found!



# National Marine Week

National marine week (NMW) 2021 was a great collaborative event with the rest of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust marine team during the summer. We managed to engage with many members of the public all over Cornwall. Public rockpooling events were carried out at Polzeath and Swanpool (Falmouth). Many of you turned up with us to see what we could find, and we found a lot! From sea-slugs and dragonettes to sea spiders and a huge variety of seaweeds.

As part of NMW Josh even created a film for CBBC's Newsround to encourage children to get out rockpooling during their summer holidays.



A young reticulated dragonette



Sea spider carrying eggs



White-ruffed sea slug



# Shoresearch Cornwall's 10th Anniversary

As we entered our 10th anniversary, we gave a talk at the Trust's annual Marine Recorders evening in November, which reflected on the last 10 years of scrambling around rockpools and our favourite highlights from over the years. Matt, obviously, had many to choose from starting with setting up Shoresearch, to Shoresearch data being used to designate features within MCZs, to rediscovering St. Piran's crabs on a Shoresearch survey in 2016.



In 2016 Adele Morgan joined Matt as part of the Shoresearch team. She was an invaluable help to the running of Shoresearch and helping Matt organize and run events during her time at Cornwall Wildlife Trust until 2019 where she completed her last Shoresearch week and went on to new adventures. Adele still joins us on many of our surveys, and we love having her still part of the group! Her highlights included finding her dream pool in St. Agnes, surveying Lundy Island and her love for scorpion fish.

In 2020, Josh joined the team to replace Adele and assist Matt in the running of Shoresearch, managing the survey programme and co-ordinating volunteers. Soon after he started covid forced surveying to go on hold. This meant we arranged alternative online talks which were a massive success and one of Josh's Highlights. Once surveys resumed, we wasted no time in surveying as much of the coast as possible with other highlights including a growing love for seaweeds, finding a catshark and bob-tailed squid during Shoresearch week and many, many stalked jellyfish.



We have had a fantastic time over the last 10 years monitoring Cornwall's rocky shore. None of it would be possible though without the continued support and dedication of all of you, our volunteers. You have helped us survey, discover and photograph an array of amazing species and habitats and help conserve them over the last decade. Thank you all for rockpooling with us and we hope to carry on rambling with you all for the next 10 years.



# Shoresearch week 2021

Shoresearch week 2021 was a great way to start our 10th anniversary. With five wonderful days surveying the original marine protected areas of St. Agnes, Polzeath, Helford river, Fowey and Looe. Each day held many marvels for us from iridescent seaweeds to toothed crabs and stalked jellyfish.

For a full summary of Shoresearch week please see the Shoresearch Week 2021 report on our website.



## Key facts for Shoresearch week

Individual records

**1317**

Total species

**228**

Volunteers

**42**

# To the future...

## A big thank you to all our volunteers this past year!

We can't wait to see what 2022 has in store for our 10th year of surveying the Cornish coast. As we head into the summer we have many exciting surveys planned, along with monitoring SSSI's for the Fal & Helford estuaries as well national marine week and of course Shoresearch week 2022.

Hope to see you all enjoying the rockpools this year, can't wait to find out what we discover!

If you would like to get involved with Shoresearch Cornwall or find out any more information email:

[Shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:Shoresearch@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)

To sign up to our newsletter visit: <https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/shoresearch>

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See you all on the shore soon,

**Matt Slater**

**(marine awareness officer)**

**&**

**Josh Symes**

**(volunteer coordinator)**

