

Seagrass (*Zostera*)

Description:

A flowering plant. Narrow, flattened, dark green leaves with rounded tips. Can grow in extensive beds, stabilising sediment and providing a habitat.

Where found:

Grows from a rhizome in mud, sand or fine gravel on the lower shore and shallow sublittoral.



Harpoon weed (*Asparagopsis armata*)

Description:

A red seaweed, rosy pink in colour, with 'harpoon-like' barbs and fluffy appearance. Can grow up to 30cm long.

Where found:

In rockpools in the middle or lower shore. May be attached to other seaweed. Non-native species – originally from Australia or New Zealand. Probably came to Europe with oysters.



Wireweed (*Sargassum muticum*)

Description:

A bushy, brown seaweed, with a 'wire-like' stem. Covered in what look like small leaves and little round floats. Can grow several metres long.

Where found:

In rockpools all over the shore and on rocks on the lower shore. Non-native species – originally from the Pacific, particularly Japan. Probably came to Europe with oysters.



Wakame (*Undaria pinnatifida*)

Description:

A large brown kelp. Frilly with lots of ribbons attached to a central mid-rib near the holdfast. Can be 1-3m long.

Where found:

Grows on any hard surface, often on floating pontoons in marinas. Usually in water 1-3m deep. Non-native species – originally from Japan. Deliberately introduced to France. Transported to the UK with oysters and on the hulls of ships.



Honeycomb worm reefs (*Sabellaria alveolata*)

Description:

A marine worm that builds and lives inside tubes made of sand or shell fragments. Tubes are often densely packed forming a fragile, honeycomb-like reef over rocks. The worm itself is rarely seen.

Where found:

Usually on the middle and lower shore, but can occur subtidally.



Ross worm reefs (*Sabellaria spinulosa*)

Description:

A marine worm that builds and lives inside tubes made of sand or shell fragments. Tubes are generally separate and attached to large shells or stones creating a fragile reef structure.

Where found:

Sometimes on the lower shore, but more usually subtidally.



Painted top shell (*Calliostoma zizyphinum*)

Description:

A mollusc, with a pointy, conical, straight-sided shell, generally purple/pink in colour, but can vary. Shell is up to 3cm high and 3cm wide.

Where found:

Occasionally on the lower shore in rock pools and in crevices and subtidally. Climate change indicator species. Occurring more frequently intertidally.



Purple/Flat top shell (*Gibbula umbilicalis*)

Description:

A small topshell, 1.6cm high and 2.2cm across. It has a large, round, deep hole on the underside of the shell (umbilicus). Shell is dull greenish-grey in colour with reddish-purple diagonal stripes.

Where found:

On the middle and lower shore in rock pools and on rocks. Climate change indicator species. Originally restricted to SW England, but now recorded all along English Channel shores.



Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)

Description:

A bivalve with an oval/pear-shaped shell with a rough, scaly surface. The lower shell is concave and sits in the substrate, the upper shell is flat and sits inside the lower shell. The shell is off-white with light brown or bluish concentric bands on the lower shell. Grows up to 11cm long.

Where found:

Often on mixed sediment seabeds in shallow coastal waters and on hard surfaces.



Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*)

Description:

A bivalve with a 'frilly' oval shell up to 18cm long. The shell may have dark purple patches.

Where found:

Attached permanently to rocks and hard surfaces usually on the middle and lower shore. Non-native species – originally from the Pacific. Deliberately introduced to Portugal and then the UK for human consumption.



Blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*)

Description:

A bivalve with elongate, oval shells, deep blue/purple in colour. Can occur in dense groups, forming 'beds'.

Where found:

Attached to rocks on the middle and lower shore and subtidally.



Orange tip seasquirt (*Corella eumyota*)

Description:

A solitary seasquirt with a smooth, see-through oval body. One siphon on top, one on the side. Gut forms a smooth curve. Grows to 8cm.

Where found:

Lives permanently attached by its side to hard surfaces, often in clumps. Under boulders and in or out of the water on the lower shore. Non-native species – originally from the southern hemisphere.



Kaleidoscope jellyfish (*Haliclystus auricula*)

Description:

Funnel-shaped jellyfish up to 2-2.5cm high, with 8 arms radiating from the mouth and connected near the tips by a thin membrane. Kidney-shaped primary tentacles (anchor) on membrane margin between the arms. Colour varies from grey/green to red/brown.

Where found:

Attached to seaweed and seagrass on lower shore and subtidally.



Stalked jellyfish

(*Lucernariopsis campanulata*)

Description:

Funnel shaped jellyfish up to 5cm high, with 8 arms radiating from the mouth. Uniform in colour, red, green or brown with turquoise spots. No primary tentacle (anchor) between each arm.

Where found:

On the lower shore, commonly attached to seaweed and seagrass and subtidally.



Stalked jellyfish

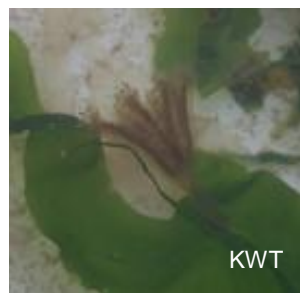
(*Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis*)

Description:

Funnel shaped jellyfish just 0.8cm high. Eight arms and a 'stalk-less' appearance. Translucent maroon in colour with white spots in the shape of a Maltese cross. No primary tentacles (anchors).

Where found:

On the lower shore, often found on seaweeds but rarely seagrass and subtidally.



Grey Trigger fish (*Balistes capriscus*)

Description:

Brownish grey in colour with a small, beak-like mouth and fleshy lips. Latitudinally flattened body, up to 40cm in length.

Where found:

Rocky seabeds 10-100m depth. Dead specimens may wash onto the shore. Climate change indicator species. Common in the Mediterranean and now being recorded along the coasts of Southern England and Northern France.



Rays and egg cases

Description:

Rays are flattened members of the shark family. The egg cases are known as 'mermaid's purses', and have a long, curving spike at each corner. Those of dogfish have curling tendrils. Various shades of brown, becoming darker as they dry.

Where found:

Rays are generally found on muddy, sandy or gravelly bottoms. The egg cases are often washed up along the strandline.



Seahorses and pipefish

Description:

A small group of distinct fish. Outer armour of bony rings, which reduce their flexibility. Swim by beating the dorsal fin. Tiny mouth at the end of a narrow snout. A seahorse's head is set at an angle to its body, whereas that of pipefish is in line.

Where found:

Hiding in seaweed or seagrass beds subtidally and (rarely) pipefish in rockpools. Dead specimens may wash onto the shore.

