



Shoresearch intertidal surveys

Anyone welcome to turn up on the day!

Shoresearch is a volunteer scheme set up to identify and record animals, plants and habitats along our shoreline. It was first developed by Kent Wildlife Trust, and has now been adopted in Sussex. The aim of the scheme is to build a baseline of data on intertidal wildlife around Sussex, to help promote its conservation.

The Sussex Shoresearch team

Sussex Shoresearch is lead by Kate Cole and Tim Smith from East Sussex County Council, Robin Thorpe of the South Downs Joint Committee, Gerald Legg from the Booth Museum of Natural History, and Ronnie Reed from the Sussex Wildlife Trust.

Shoresearch Surveys

The Sussex Shoresearch team organises a programme of survey events throughout the year when we visit selected sites around the coast and collect a full record of the species and habitats we find.

All these organised events provide a good opportunity for those new to marine life identification and marine surveys, to learn in the field from the experienced Shoresearchers. **Everyone is welcome - you do not need to have any knowledge of marine life before joining in with Shoresearch.** We are on the shore for about 2-3 hours and you can simply turn up on the day (unless indicated otherwise against the specific event).

For surveys, please bring along:

- Appropriate clothing for weather conditions on the day (warm clothing and waterproof trousers are often useful).
- Sturdy footwear - wellies or other waterproof footwear, preferably with good ankle support.
- Sun cream and a hat for appropriate skin protection.
- Any food required and a good supply of drinking water (outdoor activities can often require a level of physical exertion, so it's worth bringing a snack to keep energy levels up, and water to prevent dehydration).
- A hand lens is useful, if you have one.
- Some people find washing-up gloves useful for poking about in rock-pools in cold weather!
- Collins *Pocket Guide to the Sea Shore of Britain and Northern Europe* is a useful field guide (although not essential).

Shoresearch survey dates 2010

Survey dates, times and tidal information	Survey location & meeting info	Special event
<p>Mon 15th Mar - 4:00pm</p> <p>LW 17:22 0.9m HW 23:21 6.4m</p> <p>Sunset 18:06</p>	<p>Brighton, Black Rock Black Rock is an area in Brighton which was recognised as the city's boundary until 1928. Now bordered by Brighton Marina, many of Black Rock's cliff top buildings were lost when the marina road interchange was built in 1976.</p> <p>Meet at Roedean Café, Marine Drive (BN2 5RL), car parking available (map ref: TQ 343, 032). We will then make the 5 min walk down to the survey site.</p>	
<p>Tue 6th Apr – 9:30am</p> <p>LW 11:00 2m HW 17:12 5.1m</p> <p>Sunset 18:43</p>	<p>Birling Gap is situated on the Seven Sisters not far from Beachy Head and is owned by the National Trust. Coastal erosion has a massive impact in this area, and has destroyed many of the fishing cottages built there in the late 19th century. There is a hotel with a café/tea room at the site, and access down to the beach where you will find an enclosed shingle beach and the Seven Sisters chalk cliffs.</p> <p>Meet in the main car park of the Birling Gap Hotel, East Dean (BN20 0AB), by the steps down to the beach (map ref: TV 553, 959).</p>	Species recognition training.
<p>Sat 1st May – 6:30am</p> <p>LW 7:51 0.7m HW 13:51 6.5m</p> <p>Sunset 19:24</p>	<p>Cuckmere Haven (also known as the Cuckmere Estuary) is an area of flood plains in Sussex, England where the river Cuckmere meets the English Channel between Eastbourne and Seaford. The river is an example of a meandering river, and contains several oxbow lakes. The beach at Cuckmere Haven is next to the famous chalk cliffs of the Seven Sisters. The beach which was commonly used by smugglers in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, is now a popular location for tourists with activities including water sports, and country walks.</p> <p>Meet on the shingle beach at Cuckmere Haven, Seven Sisters CP (map ref: TV 518, 977). Note pay and display car parking is available at the park.</p>	SWT event
<p>Sun 20th June - 11.00am</p> <p>LW 12:24 1.4m HW 18:33 6m</p>	<p>Cuckmere Haven (also known as the Cuckmere Estuary) is an area of flood plains in Sussex, England where the river Cuckmere meets the English Channel between Eastbourne and Seaford. The river is an</p>	SWT event

<p>Sunset 20:20</p>	<p>example of a meandering river, and contains several oxbow lakes. The beach at Cuckmere Haven is next to the famous chalk cliffs of the Seven Sisters. The beach which was commonly used by smugglers in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, is now a popular location for tourists with activities including water sports, and country walks.</p> <p>Meet on the shingle beach at Cuckmere Haven, Seven Sisters CP (map ref: TV 518, 977). Note pay and display car parking is available at the park.</p>	
<p>Tue 13th July - 6:00pm</p> <p>LW 19:27 0.7m HW 01:26 6.8m</p> <p>Sunset 20:15</p>	<p>Fairlight Beach is located between Hastings and Rye Bay, and supports a fringing shingle beach displaying a selection of specialist flora. The area is recognised for its sandstone cliffs, which are well known for the many fossilised finds recorded there.</p> <p>Meet at the Smugglers Inn, Pett (TN35 4EH), car parking available (map ref: TQ 890, 134).</p>	
<p>Tues 10th Aug - 5:00pm</p> <p>LW 18:24 0.7m HW 00:21 6.9m</p> <p>Sunset 19:36</p>	<p>The Pound is located to the western end of Eastbourne's shingle beach. The site is easily accessible and is enhanced by the shingle specialist plants which grow there.</p> <p>Meet at St Bede's school, Eastbourne (BN20 7XL) (map ref: TV 601, 972) from there we will walk down to the shoreline.</p>	
<p>Sat 18th Sept - 1:30pm</p> <p>LW 15:01 2.3m HW 21:01 5.2m</p> <p>Sunset 18:12</p>	<p>Cow Gap is located on the Seven Sisters just west of Eastbourne. The chalk grassland on the cliff top is rich in plants and creatures and the beach below the cliffs is unique. Rock pools at the base of these cliffs are full of creatures and plants.</p> <p>Meet at St Bede's school, Eastbourne (BN20 7XL) (map ref: TV 601, 972) from there we will walk down to the shoreline.</p>	
<p>Sun 3rd Oct - 12:30pm</p> <p>LW 13:51 2.1m HW 19:59 5.4m</p> <p>Sunset 17:37</p>	<p>Peacehaven is a recently new settlement, located on top of the chalk cliffs between Brighton and Newhaven. These chalk cliff are skirted by a man made sea defence wall, which in-turn is bordered by a rocky intertidal zone.</p> <p>Meet towards the southern end of Steyning Ave, at the junction with The Promenade (map ref: TQ 411, 007).</p>	

<p>Sun 14th Nov 9:30am</p> <p>LW 10:54 2.4m HW 16:55 5.0m</p> <p>Sunset 16:15</p>	<p>Hope Gap is located between Seaford and Cuckmere Haven. The beach below the cliffs displays a unique habitat with a wealth of intertidal species.</p> <p>Meet at South Hill Barn car park (map ref: TV 505, 980). Beach and survey site are located a brisk 10 min walk from the meeting point.</p>	
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Note: you can enter OS Map References or postcodes into websites such as www.multimap.com or www.getmapping.com and www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/getamap/ to find the survey site locations and nearest public transport links etc.

Shoresearch Data

At each of these organised survey events, we complete a Shoresearch survey form collectively, to ensure we capture a comprehensive list of all the species seen, linked to the main habitat types in which they were found, and with an estimate of their abundance.

All the records gathered by Shoresearch are entered into the national database 'Marine Recorder'. Along with the data from the complementary SCUBA diver survey, Shoresearch records can then be used to help build our knowledge of the marine environment; to identify the county's most important sites, habitats and species; and to highlight changes.

For further information about Shoresearch and marine conservation in the local area, please contact:

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