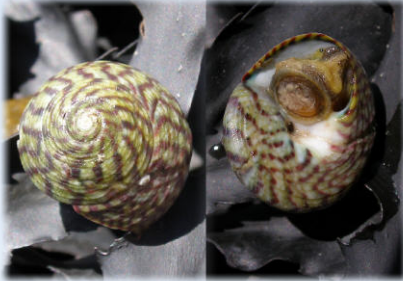


Purple or Flat Topshell *Gibbula umbilicalis*



A relatively flat and greenish topshell with distinctive purple streaks down the shell and an obvious hole on the underside.

This species is increasingly being found in Sussex and was recently recorded for the first time around Kent's shores. Its spread eastwards from SW England may be as a result of warming sea temperatures.

Peacock's Tail *Padina pavonica*



Photo courtesy of AlgaeBase

A thin and leafy frond, flattish and entire when young, but more concave, or even funnel-shaped with an irregularly lobed margin when mature. The lower surface has bands of light and dark brown and green and the upper surface may have a chalky covering.

It was recorded in Kent in the 19th century, but has not been recorded in SE England since.

Please tell us if you see any of these species, and include the essential information:

- * Species name
- * Date found
- * Location found (exact place name or map reference or GPS position)
- * Your name, address, e-mail address and telephone number
- * If possible, please include a photograph of the specimen

Send to: Shoresearch, Kent Wildlife Trust, Tyland Barn, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 3BD. 01622 662012 or e-mail info@kentwildlife.org.uk

or download the record form from www.kentwildlife.org.uk.

Shoresearch is a volunteer project recording habitats and species on the shore. First developed by Kent Wildlife Trust, Shoresearch is being adopted in several counties around the UK coast. For more information, contact Kent Wildlife Trust or visit www.kentwildlife.org.uk.

This project is part of **BEACHES AT RISK**, a transnational project working to find a balance between coastal development and the wildlife and natural beauty that make our coasts so important.

www.geog.sussex.ac.uk/BAR

Have you seen these species on the shores around Kent or Sussex?

If so, please tell us where and when!

These animals and seaweeds are of particular interest. Some are rare in south east England, some have been introduced from other parts of the world, while others are spreading because of warming sea temperatures.

Recording these species will help us track changes occurring around our shores, and assess the effects of climate change and invasive non-native species on our wildlife.



Channelled Wrack *Pelvetia canaliculata*



A brown alga with fronds up to 15 cm long, curled lengthways forming a channel.

This alga is tolerant to drying out and can thrive high on the shore. However, it tends to occur on harder rock surfaces, so is uncommon in the chalk-dominated shores of SE England. It is found at a few locations in Sussex, while in Kent it has only been recorded near Folkestone.

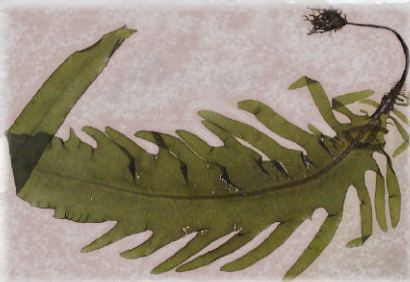
Wireweed *Sargassum muticum*



A brown alga often over 1m long. The stem has regularly alternating branches with flattened oval blades and small spherical gas bladders.

This introduced species is found on SE coasts and is spreading, possibly displacing native algae. It is found around Kent, but has not yet been recorded on the north side of the Thames estuary.

Wakame *Undaria pinnatifida*



A large brown alga up to 1 - 2m long, with a midrib, divided frond and root-like holdfast.

This kelp is cultivated in Japan for human consumption but is not native in the UK. It spreads readily, transported on boat hulls, and is being found around SE England, particularly in marinas and harbours. It can form dense forests, competing with native plants for light and space.

Green Sea Fingers *Codium fragile* subsp. *tomentosoides* and *Codium tomentosum*



Photo courtesy of AlgaeBase

Two similar species of green algae, with large, spongy cylindrical fronds which feel soft and felty.

Both are found in Sussex and around Boulogne, but neither has yet been recorded growing in Kent (only a drift specimen has been found). *Codium tomentosum* is native to the UK while *Codium fragile* subspecies *tomentosoides* was introduced and can out-compete native species.

Honeycomb Worm *Sabellaria alveolata*



Worms which construct hard but delicate tubes with sand grains. These tubes can collectively form a reef-like structure low on the shore.

The reefs formed by these tiny worms can provide valuable habitats for other species. Individual tubes are frequently found on the shore around Kent. There are also historic records of reefs around Kent, but no reef formations have been found in recent years.

Portuguese Oyster *Crassostrea gigas*



A roughly oval-shaped oyster with a wavy-edged shell, usually off-white, often with purple patches.

This oyster grows rapidly and was introduced to be farmed. It has since bred in the wild and is spreading around the SE coast from the outer Thames. It may displace native species.

Leathery Seasquirt *Styela clava*



A large solitary, club-shaped seasquirt, reaching about 10cm long, with a knobbed, leathery surface.

This seasquirt was probably introduced to the area accidentally when oysters were brought in to be farmed. It is now often recorded around Kent and Sussex shores and can compete with native species for space and food.

Chinese Mitten Crab *Eriocheir sinensis*



A crab with a rounded carapace with 4 spines between the eyes. It has long legs, and the claws become covered in hairs as the crab grows, giving them the appearance of mittens.

This crab was introduced accidentally and is spreading rapidly in fresh water where it damages river banks. It migrates to estuaries to breed, is common in the Medway estuary, and has been recorded elsewhere on Kent's coast.