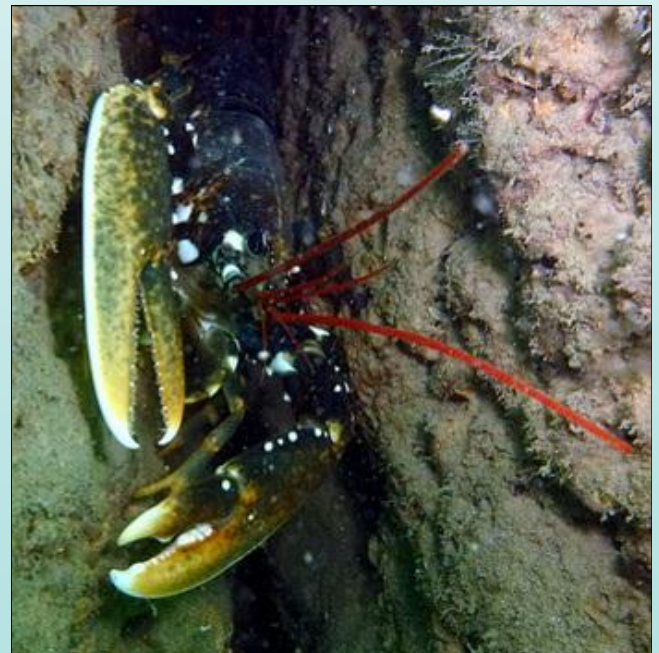




Kent
seasearch



2011 Seasearch



Your living landscape. Your living seas.

2011 Kent Seasearch surveys

Kent Seasearch surveys in 2011

Kent Seasearch divers surveyed the seabed at 10 locations. 23 forms were completed, leading to 354 records, including around 106 different species. The most frequently recorded species was again the common starfish (*Asterias rubens*), followed by finger bryozoans (*Alcyonidium diaphanum*), dahlia anemone (*Urticina felina*) and hornwrack (*Flustra foliacea*). Many of the surveys recorded life on the special Kent habitats of subtidal chalk and rossworm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) formations, which are recognised as important habitats in the Marine Conservation Zone recommendation process.

The season was greatly curtailed by weather issues, with 5 out of the 8 dives planned being cancelled. We're certainly hoping for better luck next year!

Thank you

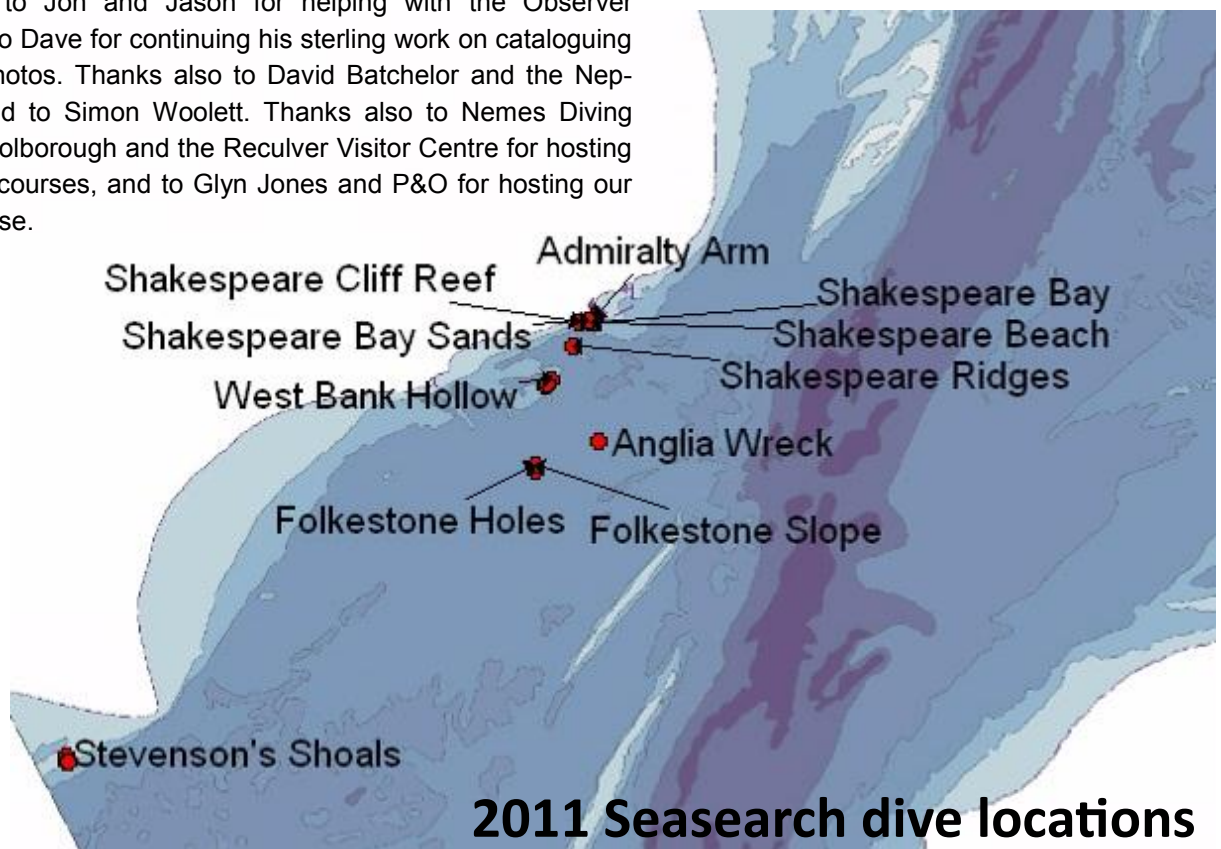
to all divers who took part in our official Seasearch dives, and who undertook Seasearch surveys independently on their own dives, submitting 23 forms over the summer of 2011.

2011 Kent Seasearch Divers: Adam Stevenson, Dave Wood, Elaine Purse, Jason Armstrong, Jon Bramley, Lesly Conroy, Lisa Steward, Paula Young, Phil Buckley, Rachel Coppock, Sharon Meadows, Stefanie Bradley and Tom Jury. Thanks to Oliver Parfitt and Stephen Darnwell for filling in forms from their own dives!

Extra thanks to Jon and Jason for helping with the Observer courses, and to Dave for continuing his sterling work on cataloguing all the dive photos. Thanks also to David Batchelor and the Neptune crew, and to Simon Woolett. Thanks also to Nemes Diving Academy at Holborough and the Reculver Visitor Centre for hosting our Observer courses, and to Glyn Jones and P&O for hosting our specialist course.

KWT Seasearch dives	
11-Jun-11	Folkestone Holes
24-Jul-11	West Bank Hollow
24-Jul-11	Shakespeare Cliff Reef

Individual dives submitting Seasearch forms	
21-Jul-11	Stevenson's Shoals
22-Jul-11	Shakespeare Ridges
22-Jul-11	Shakespeare Beach
23-Jul-11	Anglia Wreck
15-Nov-11	Admiralty Arm



2011 Seasearch dive locations

West Bank and inshore gullies



West Bank Hollow

51.08215N, 1.28000E

The West Bank area of outcropping rock to the east of Dover has been one of our main areas for Seasearch diving over the last few years. This year, we dived on outcrops identified from new multi-beam data. The dive area was a mixed ground slope, with occasional boulders, sand, gravel and mud. Dead man's fingers and plumose anemones featured in the turf and brittlestars were abundant on the sea bed.



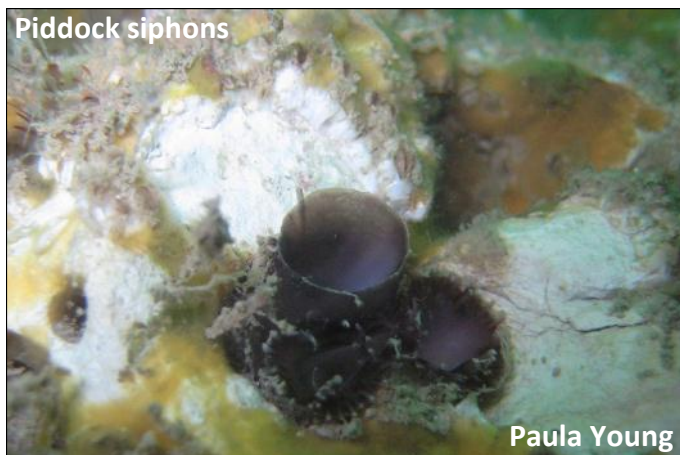
Shakespeare Cliff Reef

51.11078N, 1.30033E

Cobbles and pebbles grading into a rocky reef full of piddock holes and siphons. The level sandy sea bed had numerous finger bryozoans, starfish and red seaweeds.

Shakespeare Beach 51° 06.655' N 01° 18.429' E

A drift dive over sandy seabed with sparse pebbles and some small anoxic seabed patches. The rather sparse life included masked crabs, hermit crabs, juvenile cuttlefish and starfish, but also frequent *Diogenes pugilator*, the left



Piddock siphons

Paula Young

Shakespeare Ridges

51.11088N, 1.30683E

Sandy slope with rocky outcrops and large flint nodules. Hermit crabs and prawns were common on the sand, while anemones such as *Diadumene cincta*, hydroids such as *Tubularia indivisa* and bryozoans such as *Alcyonidium diaphanum* were common on the outcrops.

Anglia wreck

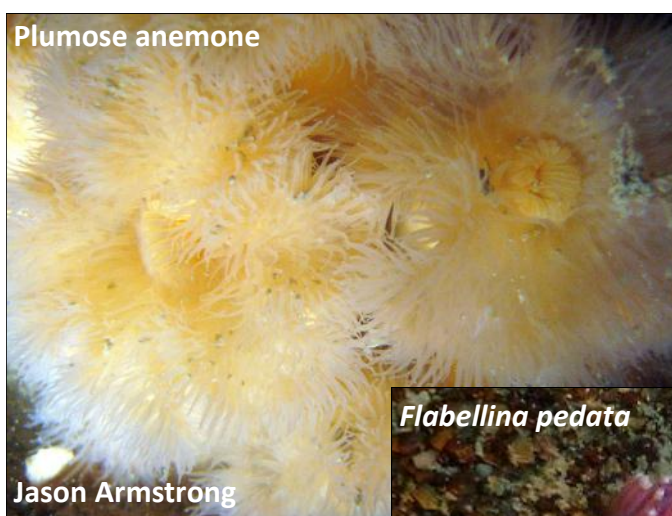
51.0535N, 1.319E

Auxiliary hospital ship and war grave in around 27m on a silty gravel seabed. Wreck covered with antenna and branching antenna hydroids, plumose anemones and deadman's fingers. Shoals of bib and pollock within the wreck.



Sand mason worms

Jason Armstrong



Plumose anemone

Jason Armstrong

Folkestone Holes

51.04042N, 1.27000E

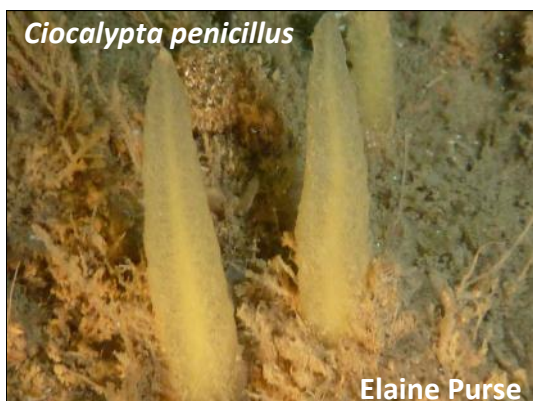
A mixed ground seabed with boulders and slabs of up to 1m resting on it, sloping down to coarse sand and shell fragments, with little life visible.

Hard surfaces had a dense cover of hydroid and bryozoan turf, and abundant sponges, antenna hydroids, dead man's fingers, and some anemones. A bustling community of mobile life included hermit crabs, cowries, scallops, and sealslugs, including *Flabellina pedata* and the locally rare *Crimora papillata*.



Flabellina pedata

Elaine Purse



Ciocalypta penicillus

Elaine Purse



Crimora papillata

Rachel Coppock



Leopard spotted goby

Jason Armstrong

Admiralty Arm

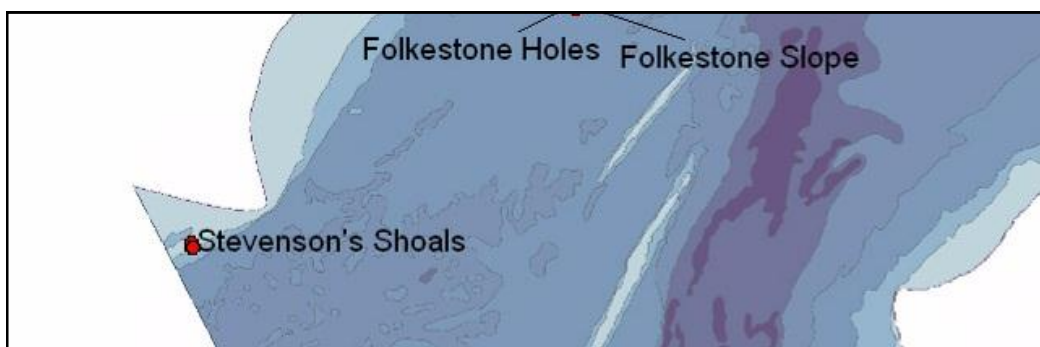
51.11358, 1.3135

A popular shore dive along the Dover Harbour western wall. The wall is made of stepped stone blocks, with deep holes and crevices reaching back between them, and it harbours a busy collection of crabs, inquisitive prawns, squat lobsters, lobsters and gobies, among many others. Everyone's favourite, though, remains the prawns and the tompot blennies that perch on the stone blocks, flashing and darting at divers as they swim by. Attached life is dominated by swathes of red seaweed, kelp and an animal turf of hydroids, bryozoans, sponges, double spiral worms and sea squirts.

The mobile shingle of the beach is too harsh an environment for most, apart from occasional visiting crabs and fish.



Dungeness



Stevenson's Shoals

50.89265N, 0.90700E

A fine sandy muddy seabed with numerous animal tracks. Mobile life is abundant, especially hermit crabs living in a wide variety of shells—from small necklace shells to whelks, all covered in live barnacles. Others included masked crabs, netted dog whelks and the occasional live necklace shell. Fish life was also abundant with frequent crowds of inch long fish fry, small gobies, flatfish and weever fish and even a gurnard.



Training

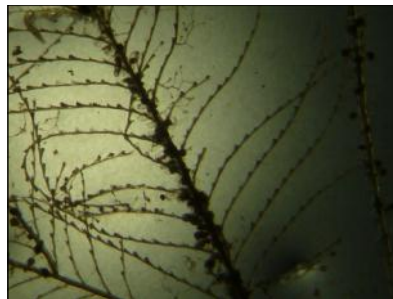
Observer courses

Two Observer level courses were held in 2010. The first was held at Reculver Visitor Centre on the north Kent coast, and had a wonderful 16 attendees, including one refresher. The second was held at Nemes Diving Academy at Holborough Lakes, and had nine attendees—the majority of which were local dive shop instructors and dive masters keen to spread the Seasearch message through their students.



Specialist course

This year we were hugely lucky to have Jo Porter, Mike Gibson, Mary Spencer Jones and Sally Rouse come down from Heriot-Watt University and the Natural History Museum to give a Hydroids and Bryozoans weekend course.



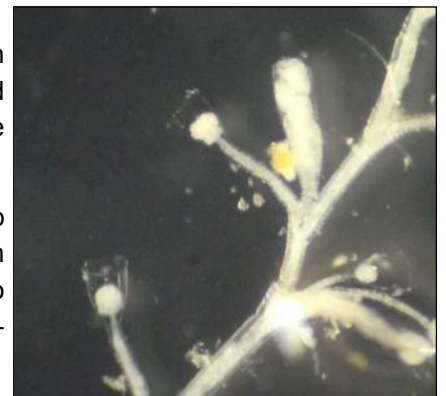
It was a fascinating weekend attended by 21 people. The first day was spent learning about the biology of bryozoans, how to collect them and store them, and what features we should look out for to be able to identify them in the field, or after a dive. There wasn't an actual dive on the course (though this time, we could

blame the tides rather than the weather) but we went out to St Margaret's Bay to collect from the shore.

The second day was dedicated to hydroids and their identifying features.

Never will the fuzzy brown stuff all over the rocks and pebbles been seen in the same way again!

Thank you so much to Jo Porter who provided us with an unequalled opportunity to start learning more about these two important groups.



Summary of diversity recorded

Porifera (sponges) – 10 species, including: *Amphilectus fucorum* (shredded carrot sponge), *Dysidea fragilis* (goosebump sponge), *Haliclona oculata* (mermaid's glove sponge), *Polymastia mamillaris* (Chimney sponge), *Scypha ciliata* (purse sponge).

Cnidaria (jellyfish, corals and anemones) - 14 species, including: *Urticina felina* (dahlia anemone), *Alcyonium digitatum* (dead man's fingers), *Nemertesia antennina* (antenna hydroid), *Actinothoe sphyrodeta* (white striped anemone), *Tubularia indivisa* (oaten pipe hydroid), *Cereus pedunculatus* (daisy anemone).

Annelida (polychaete worms) – 10 species, including: *Lanice conchilega* (sand mason worm), *Pomatoceros triqueter* (keel worm), *Sabella pavonina* (peacock worm), *Bispira volutacornis* (double-spiral worm), *Eupolymnia nebulosa*.

Crustaceans – 14 species, including: *Necora puber* (velvet swimming crab), *Cancer pagurus* (edible crab), *Macropodia* (long-legged spider crab), *Corystes cassivelaunus* (masked crab), *Ebalia* sp. (a nut crab).

Molluscs – 17 species, including: *Calliostoma zizyphinum* (painted topshell), *Pholadidae* (piddocks), *Buccinum undatum* (common whelk), *Hinia reticulata* (netted dog whelk), *Acanthodoris pilosa* (white hedgehog seaslug), *Sepia officinalis* (cuttlefish), *Janolus cristatus* (crystal seaslug), *Crimora papillata*, *Flabellina pedata*.

Bryozoans (sea mats) – 6 species, including: *Alcyonidium diaphanum* (finger bryozoan), *Flustra foliacea* (hornwrack), *Cellepora pumicosa* (pumice bryozoan), *Chartella papyracea*.

Echinoderms – 4 species: *Asterias rubens* (common starfish), *Ophiura albida* (sand brittlestar), *Crossaster papposus* (common sunstar), *Ophiothrix fragilis* (common brittlestar).

Chordata (sea squirts) – 5 species, including *Clavelina lepadiformis* (lightbulb seasquirt), *Morchellum argus* (a club seasquirt), *Lissoclinum perforatum* and *Corella eumyota*

Chordata (fish) – 19 species, including: *Scyliorhinus canicula* (lesser spotted dogfish), *Gobiidae* (gobies), *Parablennius gattorugine* (tompot blenny), *Ctenolabrus rupestris* (goldsinny), *Labrus bergylta* (ballan wrasse), *Agonus cataphractus* (pogge), *Thorogobius ephippiatus* (leopard-spotted goby).

Algae - 6 species, including: *Calliblepharis ciliata* (red fringe weed), *Plocamium cartilagineum* (red comb weed), *Laminaria digitata* (kelp), *Chondrus crispus* (Irish moss) and *Fucus* sp.

Seasearch is a national volunteer survey project for recreational divers to support conservation of marine life. Kent Seasearch is run by Kent Wildlife Trust. We are very grateful for contributions towards the 2011 programme from National Seasearch funding, and from Biodriven. Grateful thanks also to Natural England's Countdown 2010 programme and the Crown Estate for supporting surveys of the chalk around Dover.

