

Sussex Shoresearch

Newsletter 2017

2017 at a glance...



This year we visited 11 sites across Sussex, identifying a whopping 142 species!

A total of 56 volunteers participated on the project this year, which added up to 269 hours of volunteer time!

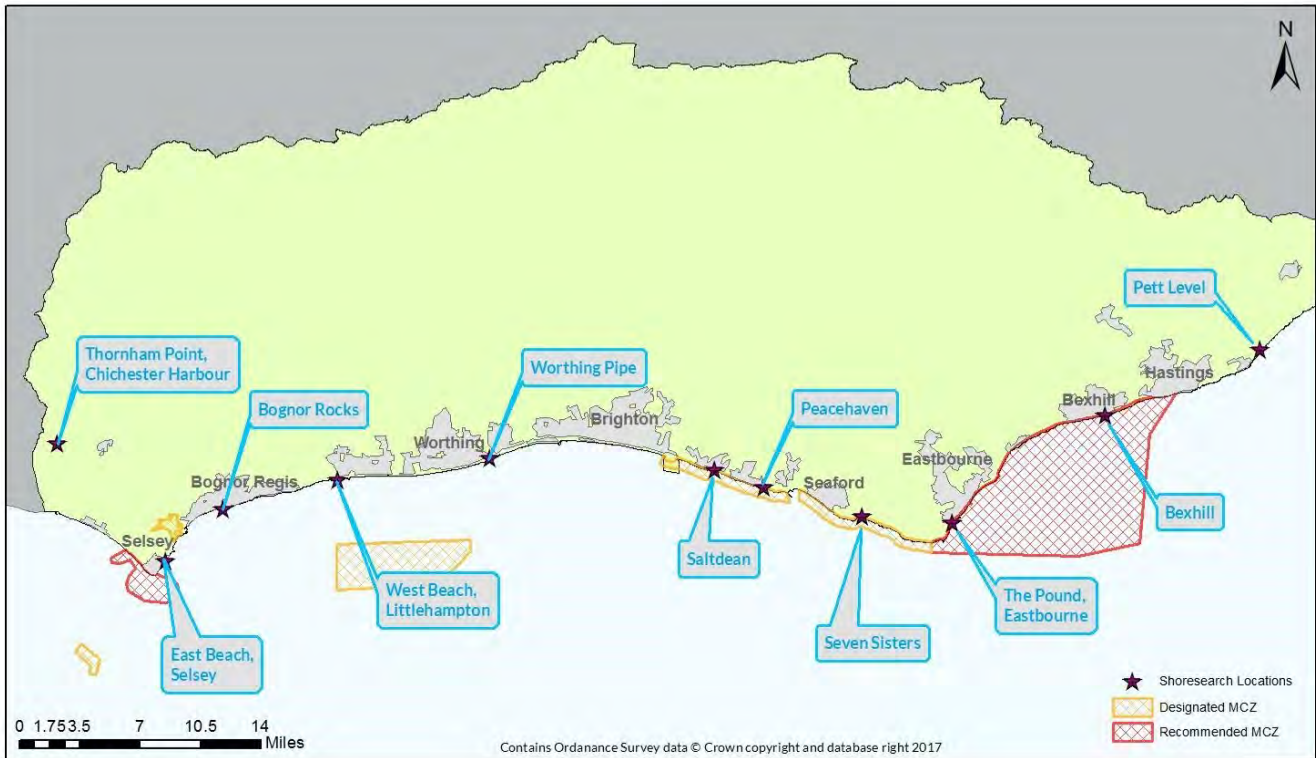
Volunteer training day at Saltdean



Getting stuck in at Chichester Harbour!



Stalked jellyfish-hunting at Peacehaven



New sites for 2017...

* Thornham Point, Chichester Harbour:

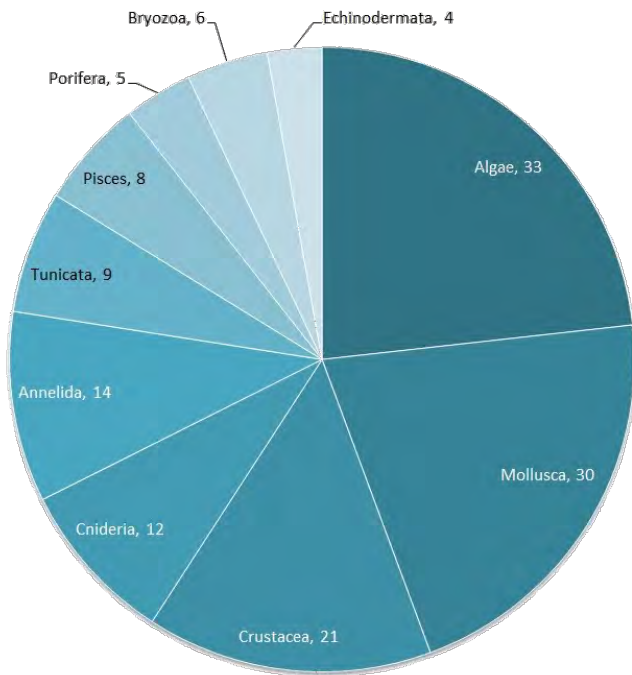
An area of salt marsh located just north of Thorney Island. At low tide the Printhead Channel reveals an area of mudflat (the focus of the survey).

* Peacehaven:

A rocky shore site which falls inside the Beachy Head West Marine Conservation Zone, and, more specifically, is within one of the two Educational Conservation Areas designated in the Zone.



What did we see?



A total of **142 species** were identified during Shoresearch this year. This pie chart shows the numbers of species in each taxonomic grouping.

Algae is the most well represented group, with 33 different species being recognised across the survey sites.

Algae: seaweeds: reds, browns and greens.

Annelida: worms: burrowing, free-living, tube-dwelling

Bryozoa: bryozoans ("moss animals")

Cnidaria: anemones, hydroids, jellyfish

Crustacea: crabs, lobsters, shrimps, prawns, amphipods, barnacles

Echinodermata: starfish, brittle stars, sea urchins

Mollusca: snails, bivalves, sea slugs, cephalopods

Pisces: fish: bony and cartilaginous

Porifera: sponges

Tunicata: sea squirts

Peacehaven was the most diverse site, with a total of 54 species identified, closely followed by The Pound and Bexhill, both at 53.

Algae, crustacea, mollusca and annelida were found at every site; echinodermata was the least well-represented taxon.

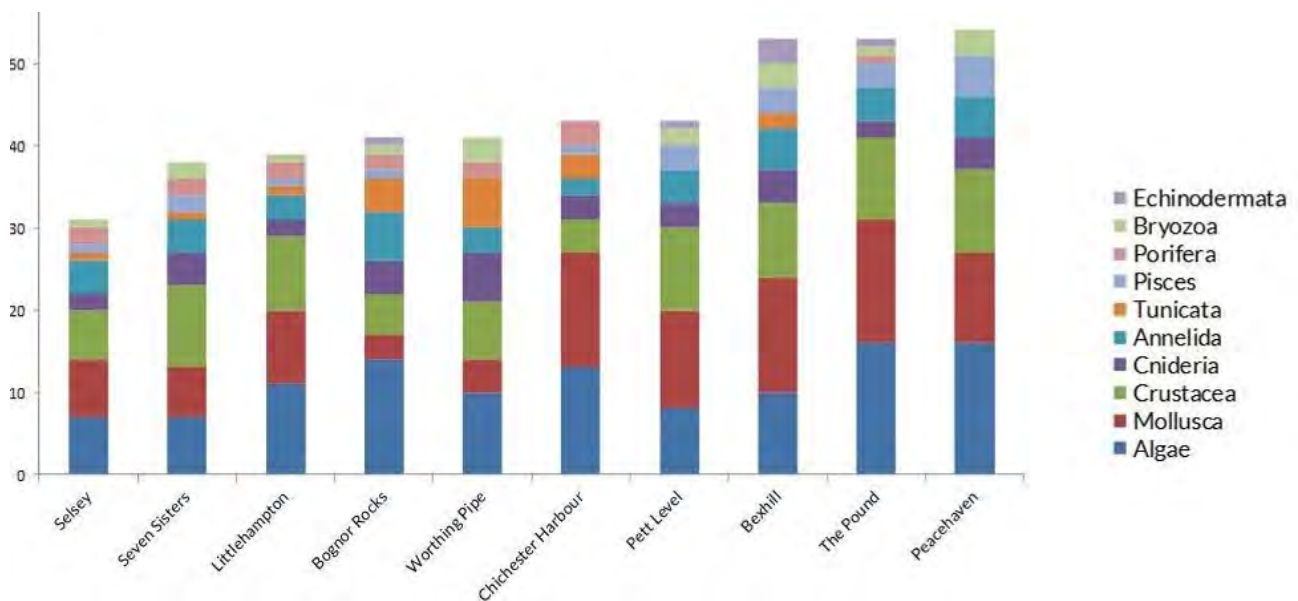




Photo: Keith Alexander

Chiton, *Lepidochitona cinerea*
Peacehaven



Scale worm
Seven Sisters



Photo: Evan Jones

Orange-clubbed sea slug, *Limacia clavigera*
The Pound



Photo: Peter Smith

Broad-clawed porcelain crab, *Porcellana platycheles*;
Worthing Pipe



Flat periwinkle, *Littorina obtusata*
Seven Sisters



Photo: Chris Boheia

Light bulb sea squirts, *Clavelina lepadiformis*
East Beach, Selsey



Photo: Peter Smith

22/06/2016

Cuttlefish eggs
Worthing Pipe



Photo: Julian Thompson

Sea slater, *Ligia* sp.
West Beach, Littlehampton



Common shore crab, *Carcinus maenus*
Thornham Point

New records...



Stalked jellyfish, *Calvadosia campanulata*
Peacehaven



Blue-rayed limpet, *Patella pellucida*
Peacehaven



Juvenile pipefish, Syngnathinae
Peacehaven



Colonial sea squirt, *Didemnum maculosum*
Worthing Pipe



Carpet sea squirt, *Didemnum vexillum*
Worthing Pipe

Common invasives...



Leathery sea squirt,
Styela clava



Slipper limpet,
Crepidula fornicata



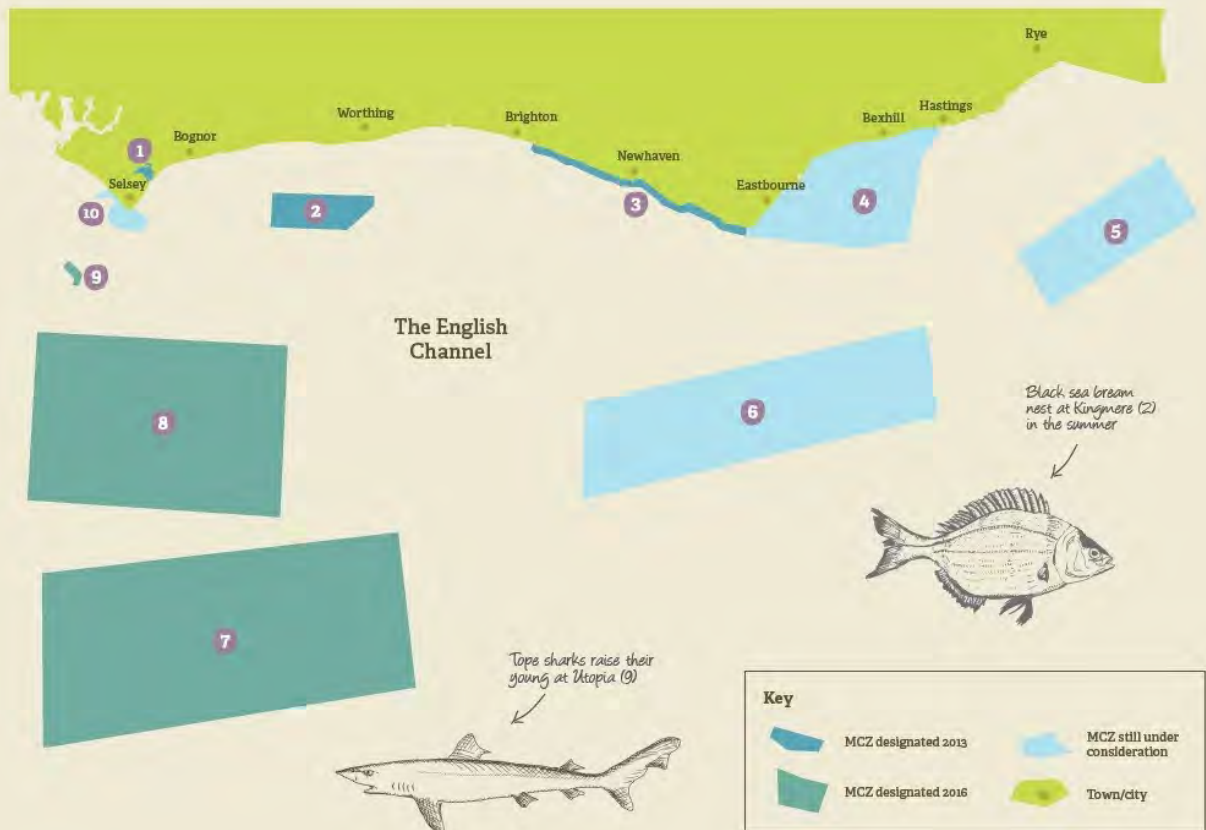
Darwin's barnacle,
Austrominius modestus

Focus on Sussex's...

Marine Conservation Zones



- 1 Pagham Harbour
- 2 Kingmere
- 3 Beachy Head West
- 4 Beachy Head East
- 5 Inner Bank
- 6 East Meridian
- 7 Offshore Brighton
- 8 Offshore Overfalls
- 9 Utopia
- 10 Selsey Bill & The Hounds



In 2018 there will be a public consultation for the Third Tranche of Marine Conservation Zones in England; we have four sites in Sussex waters which are being put forward for consideration in this consultation.

To find out more about these sites, and how you can get involved, please [visit our website](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk).

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 15th May	16:30	The Pound, Eastbourne
Monday 11th June	14:14	Bexhill
Wednesday 13th June	16:00	Selsey
Tuesday 19th June	09:15	Pett Level
Thursday 12th July	15:30	Peacehaven
Thursday 19th July	09:15	Worthing Pipe
Thursday 26th July	15:30	Elmer Rocks
Friday 10th August	15:00	Seven Sisters
Friday 7th September	13:15	Chichester Harbour
Monday 10th September	17:00	Bognor Rocks

Training Events:

* Shoresearch training / refresher afternoon

- Friday 27th April
- 13:30
- Saltdean Beach

* Seaweeds course

- Saturday 28th - Sunday 29th April
- Pump Barn, Seven Sisters Country Park
- £40 per person; booking essential

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Photo: Julian Thompson

All photos by Sarah Ward unless otherwise stated