Shoresearch is a volunteer scheme to identify and record animals, plants and habitats along our shoreline. Each year we devise a schedule of surveys to cover various sites along the Sussex coastline, comprising an even spread of sites from east to west and a range of coastal habitats.

Over the last few years, the site selection has been focused on Sussex’s Marine Conservation Zones, some of which are already designated and some of which are under consideration for designation in the third tranche – the consultation for which took place last summer (we expect to hear the decision on designations in early summer).

All of our surveys will include a general ‘walkover’, which provides the opportunity to have a good search around the whole shore and take a snapshot of what we find. We will also incorporate timed species searches and transect biodiversity surveys to some sites.

Shoresearch in Sussex is led by Sarah Ward, the Living Seas Officer at Sussex Wildlife Trust, with the support of Dr Gerald Legg.

Volunteer numbers for each survey are not limited but please get in touch beforehand so we know to expect you. If you are planning to attend please email sarahward@sussexwt.org.uk. On the day we also request that you sign in and provide the details of an emergency contact (name and telephone number). These details will not be shared or stored after the event but will be carried by the survey leader throughout the survey in case of emergency.
For surveys, please bring:

- Suitable clothing for weather conditions on the day – waterproof gear / sun protection. Extra layers are also useful as it can often be quite cool and windy on the lower shore (even on warm summer days).
- Sensible footwear with good ankle support – walking or wellington boots are best.
- Drinking water and any snacks you may want – a hot drink in a flask can also be useful on colder days.

Extra useful gear:

- Hand lens
- Waterproof gloves (for colder days) – washing up gloves are a good cheaper option
- Camera – particularly great if it has GPS
- Any ID guides you find useful

A reminder email will be sent out to volunteers a week prior to each scheduled survey.

Shoresearch Data
During each survey volunteers will split into pairs or small groups to create a list of the species found within the set area of the shore we are surveying.

Additional recording forms will be provided for conducting timed species searches and transect biodiversity surveys.

All the records gathered by Shoresearch are entered into the national database ‘Marine Recorder’. Along with the data from the complementary Scuba diver survey, Seasearch, 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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Henfield
West Sussex
BN5 9SD
01273 497572 / 07717 835039
E-mail: sarahward@sussexwt.org.uk
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; May 12:00</td>
<td><strong>Birling Gap (National Trust) – Training Event</strong>  &lt;br&gt;The beach at Birling Gap is set at the base of the imposing Seven Sisters: it is one of the longest stretches of undeveloped coastline on England’s south coast.  &lt;br&gt;Birling Gap beach is a mix of mostly pebbles which give way to the occasional patch of sand. As the tide goes out rocky platforms are revealed which provide an array of rock pools to explore.  &lt;br&gt;The site is within the Beachy Head West Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ).  &lt;br&gt;This event will commence with a classroom session followed by a practical session on the beach.  &lt;br&gt;<strong>Midday classroom session</strong> – approx., two hour training session designed as a ‘back to basics’ ID session with some guidelines on the survey techniques and general information on the importance of Shoresearch.  &lt;br&gt;We will then take a short break for lunch and then walk down to the beach as the tide is retreating.  &lt;br&gt;<strong>Places for this training event are limited, booking is essential. Priority will be given to regular, committed Shoresearch volunteers.</strong>  &lt;br&gt;<strong>Map Ref:</strong> TV 5537 9599  &lt;br&gt;<strong>Nearest Postcode:</strong> BN20 0AB  &lt;br&gt;<strong>Public Transport:</strong> 13X bus runs from Eastbourne Terminus Road to Brighton via Birling gap  &lt;br&gt;<strong>Parking:</strong> National Trust pay-and-display car park  &lt;br&gt;<strong>Meeting Point:</strong> Classroom at Birling Gap Visitor’s Centre</td>
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| Wednesday 15th May 13:30 | Saltdean                  | This beach features a chalk platform which is exposed at low tide – this creates tide pools and a familiar rocky shore environment. The site is within the Beachy Head West MCZ.  
**Survey type:** Biodiversity transect and general walkover  
**Map Ref:** TQ380018  
**Nearest Postcode:** BN2 8SP  
**Public Transport:**  
Buses from -  
Brighton Station: 12, 14 & 27  
Ovingdean: 57  
From the East: 12 & 14  
**Meeting Point and parking:** At free car park on Saltdean Park Road, opposite Saltdean Lido |           |                  |                                                                                                                                       |                                                  |
| Friday 31st May 14:30 | Bexhill                    | This site was introduced to Shoresearch in 2016 as a site within the Beachy Head East proposed MCZ.  
The site consists of shingle, wooden groynes and a rocky shore in the lower part.  
**Survey type:** Timed species search and general walkover  
**Map Ref:** TQ745070  
**Nearest Postcode:** TN40 1LA  
**Public Transport:**  
Bexhill train station is a short walk away  
Nearest bus stops are Marina (westbound buses) and De La Warr Pavilion (eastbound buses)  
**Parking:** Bays on De-La-Warr Parade  
**Meeting Point:** Beach Shelter next to Bexhill Sailing Club on De La Warr Parade |           |                  |                                                                                                                                       |                                                  |
| Monday 3rd June 15.00 | The Pound, Eastbourne     | The Pound is located to the western end of Eastbourne’s shingle beach and falls within the Beachy Head East proposed MCZ.  
Extensive chalk reef is exposure at low tide creating a rocky shore habitat and tidal pools.  
**Please note:** The survey site is approximately a 20-minute walk from the meeting point.  
**Survey type:** Biodiversity transect and general walkover  
**Map Ref:** TV601972 |           |                  |                                                                                                                                       |                                                  |
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<td>Thursday 13th June</td>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Selsey, West Beach</td>
<td>This beach consists of shingle in the upper with clay beds being exposed during lower tides (the Bracklesham Beds). The site falls within the Selsey Bill &amp; The Hounds proposed MCZ.</td>
<td>General walkover</td>
<td>SZ845929</td>
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<td>Tuesday 2nd July</td>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Peacehaven</td>
<td>This site falls inside the Beachy Head West MCZ, and more specifically is within one of the two Educational Conservation Areas designated in the Zone. The site consists of a rocky shore typical of the area beneath the chalk cliffs. Please note: This site is only accessible via steep steps down the cliff.</td>
<td>Biodiversity transect and general walkover</td>
<td>TQ426003</td>
<td>BN10 8XL</td>
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<td>Monday 8th July</td>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Pett Level Beach</td>
<td>This site is part of Hastings Cliffs to Pett Beach SSSI. The beach is predominantly shingle, with rock pools and the remains of a petrified forest exposed at low tide.</td>
<td>Biodiversity transect and general walkover</td>
<td>TQ889131</td>
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<td>Tuesday 9th July 09:45</td>
<td>Goring-by-Sea</td>
<td>The beach at Goring-by-Sea is a long stretch of pebbles and shingle separated by wooden groynes which mark the high tide mark. About 8km offshore from this site is the Kingmere MCZ. Survey type: General walkover</td>
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<td>Wednesday 31st July 15:30</td>
<td>Elmer Rocks</td>
<td>This site has a number of man-made rock breakwaters which were constructed over 25 years ago to reduce wave energy along the coast. These breakwaters have created an interesting habitat which has been colonised by a range of species. Survey type: Timed species search and general walkover</td>
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<td>Wednesday 28th August 14:00</td>
<td>Seven Sisters Beach</td>
<td>The beach at Cuckmere Haven is next to the famous chalk cliffs of the Seven Sisters and is a Voluntary Marine Conservation Area. The chalk platform exposed at low tide has been surveyed nearly every year as part of Shoresearch. This site is within the Beachy Head West MCZ.</td>
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<td>Thursday 29th August 14:00</td>
<td>East Pilsey, Chichester Harbour</td>
<td>This is a new site for Sussex Shoresearch and a shore type less frequently surveyed within the programme. The survey site has been identified as an area of interest by Chichester Harbour Conservancy and the survey will be undertaken collaboratively. Survey type: General walkover. Map Ref: SU768010 Nearest Postcode: PO10 8DD Public Transport: it is not easy to travel to the meeting point by public transport, however the 44B from Emsworth does stop on Thornery Island. Parking and Meeting Point: Lay-by at the junction of Thornham Lane and Thorney Road; from there we will travel by car as a group to the survey site. Please note: this survey site is on MOD land so advanced booking is essential for this event.</td>
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<td>Friday 13th September 16:00</td>
<td>Bognor Rocks, Aldwick</td>
<td>This site consists of a sloping, shingle beach with wooden groynes in the upper shore; during low tide an expanse of sand with large, sandstone outcrops is exposed (the main focus of the survey). Survey type: Timed species search and general walkover. Map Ref: SZ923983 Nearest Postcode: PO21 2FZ Public Transport: Stagecoach bus 62 to and from Rose Green, nearest stop Princess Avenue. Parking: Parking bays on Marine Drive West (pay-and-display) Meeting Point: Aldwick Beach Café</td>
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