

## Walkover survey

A wealth of intertidal species have been discovered across the UK from people simply walking over the shore and having their curiosity sparked by something unusual that they have spotted as they go by. Walkover surveys are just as valuable as those involving quadrats, as they provide participants with the opportunity to engage with their curious side and to search around to discover the species on their shore.

The protocol has been developed to be as straightforward as possible whilst ensuring that the data collected is of a good quality. Please note that it is very important that these steps are followed to ensure that the protocol is standardised across all of the Trusts so that data is robust enough to be comparable, not only from one survey to the next for your Trust, but also for all the Wildlife Trusts.

Please note that this type of survey is not appropriate for habitats that are sensitive to trampling such as honeycomb worm reefs (*Sabellaria* reefs).

### Pre-planning

- ★ Check the tide times for your preferred dates. There are many websites offering short-term tidal predictions including [Admiralty EasyTide](#) , [Met Office Tide Times](#) and [BBC](#). For long-term tidal predictions use a software package such as [Tide Plotter](#). You should aim to be on the shore around an hour before low tide.
- ★ Visit the location that you want to focus on to select the survey area(s). Each survey area should be of the same habitat type such as brown seaweed dominated or barnacle dominated.



Whilst at the site, carry out a risk assessment and complete a site information sheet. Examples of these are provided in the [Health and Safety](#) section of this resource pack. Alternatively, consult the Health and Safety Officer for your Trust to determine what paperwork you are required to complete.

- ★ Advertise your survey, remembering to use #Shoresearch for any social media. Follow your Trust's protocols for events using volunteers or the general public. You may wish to consider having refreshments available at the site or at a location nearby.
- ★ Equipment: survey sheets, GPS unit(s), camera(s), first aid kit, mobile phone (charged), ID cards, copies of your Trust's photograph consent forms, copy of the risk assessment and site information sheet.



- ★ 24 hours before your survey, check the local weather conditions. Avoid surveying in hot, dry weather and cold, wet weather as these impact both the survey effort and the welfare of the participants.

## The Survey

Take as many opportunities as possible to take photos of the survey and tweet them using #Shoresearch

This survey is suitable for any habitat, however if surveying rockpools avoid walking in them as this could damage sensitive/rare species.

### Step 1

At the shore before you start your survey, carry out a safety briefing with the group remembering to include what to do if something happens to you (especially important if you are the only representative from your Trust). Give the group a bit of background about Shoresearch and why you are doing the survey.

### Step 2

Select your area of interest and head down to the lower shore. Take a photo looking back up the shore, preferably with a device that geolocates your images such as a smart phone. Complete the Site Information Sheet.

### Step 3

Ask people to work in pairs and share a set of survey sheets. Where possible they should carry a camera and GPS for unusual finds, however you can keep hold of these and move between groups as necessary.

### Step 4

Spread your group across the lower shore in a line. Each person should be roughly 2 paces (2 m) away from their neighbour to give good coverage of the survey area.

### Step 5

Heading towards the upper shore, each person should walk in a zig-zag pattern within their little zone recording details of any species that they find using the survey sheet.

### Step 6

At the end of the zone, gather the group together (preferably at a location with refreshments), collate the information and discuss what you have found.

### Step 7

When you return to the office input your data into the Shoresearch spreadsheet. Produce a short e-mail highlighting any notable finds, including images, and thanking everyone for their participation.







# North West

## Wildlife Trusts



### Walkover survey: Site information sheet

Date		Start time		End time	
------	--	------------	--	----------	--

Location Name	
GPS co-ordinates	
Designations (circle one)	None SSSI SAC SPA RAMSAR Other:

Time of low water		Height of low water	
-------------------	--	---------------------	--

Survey leader	
---------------	--

Habitat type (circle one)	Rockpools Green seaweed zone Brown seaweed zone Sandy beach Mudflat Rocky shore Kelp zone Other:
Substrate type (circle one)	Bedrock Very large boulders (<1m) Large boulders (0.5-1m) Cobbles (head-fist) Small boulders (0.25-0.5m) Pebbles (50p-fist) Gravel – stone Artificial Gravel – shell Sand Mud Silt Other:

Cloud cover (circle one)	Blue sky Partly cloudy Cloudy Overcast Dark threatening sky Mist Foggy
Rain (circle one)	Dry Drizzle Passing light showers Squally
Wind (circle one)	Calm Light breeze Gentle breeze Moderate breeze Fresh Strong breeze
Visibility (circle one)	Excellent Very good Good Moderate Poor Haze Mist Foggy patches
Temperature (circle one)	<10°C 10-15°C 15-20°C 20-25°C >25°C

Description of site: (Include site uses e.g. fishing, sports, moorings, tourism and any features that could affect the shore, such as sea defences)
---