

WNFC fieldtrip report for March 2012.

The club fieldtrip to explore marine life on the seashore at Forlorn Point (S 963 030), Kilmore Quay, took place on Saturday 10 March 2012. About 45 people attended. Jim Hurley welcomed everybody and explained that Forlorn Point is a reef habitat and forms part of the large Saltee Islands cSAC. He drew members' attention to the fact that the fieldtrip was coinciding with low water of the vernal equinoctial spring tide and that, as a result, the extreme lower shore was exceptionally well exposed. The afternoon was spent exploring the rock pools in very pleasant weather conditions. The following life forms were recorded.

Thanks to Brian O'Connor for compiling and providing the list of birds seen during the afternoon.

Images of, and further information on, many the life forms listed above may be accessed on the Internet on sites such as the **Encyclopaedia of Marine Life of Britain and Ireland** at <http://www.habitas.org.uk/marinelife/>. For further information about any aspect of the fieldtrip contact Jim Hurley at atswc@eircom.net; telephone (053) 912 9671. After the fieldtrip members enjoyed light refreshments and a chat in the Stella Maris Centre hosted by Rose Hurley.

| Taxonomic group | Species |
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| Green Seaweeds: | Sea Lettuce <i>Ulva lactuca</i> |
| | Gutweed <i>Enteromorpha</i> sp. |
| | <i>Cladophora</i> sp. |
| | Velvet Horn <i>Codium tomentosum</i> |
| Brown Seaweeds: | Channelled Wrack <i>Pelvetia canaliculata</i> |
| | Flat Wrack <i>Fucus spiralis</i> |
| | Bladder Wrack <i>Fucus vesiculosus</i> |
| | Toothed Wrack <i>Fucus serratus</i> |
| | Knotted Wrack <i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i> |
| | Forked Rubberweed <i>Bifurcaria bifurcaria</i> |
| | Japweed <i>Sargassum muticum</i> |
| | Tangle <i>Laminaria digitata</i> |
| | Sea Belt <i>Laminaria saccharina</i> |
| | Furbelows <i>Saccorhiza polyschides</i> |
| Thongweed <i>Himantalia elongata</i> | |
| Red Seaweeds: | Wormweed <i>Furcellaria lumbricalis</i> |
| | Carragheen <i>Chondrus crispus</i> |
| | Dulse <i>Palmaria palmata</i> |
| | Coralweed <i>Corallina officinalis</i> |
| | Pepper Dulse <i>Osmundea (Laurencia) pinnatifida</i> |
| | Pink Encrusting Weed [species in a number of genera] |

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| | Necklaceweed <i>Lomentaria articulata</i> |
| | <i>Ceramium</i> sp. |
| | <i>Polysiphonia lanosa</i> [an epiphyte on <i>Ascophyllum</i>] |
| Lichens: | Black Tufted Lichen <i>Lichinia pygmaea</i> |
| | Black Shields <i>Lecanora atra</i> |
| | Orange Lichen <i>Xanthoria parietina</i> |
| | Sea Ivory <i>Ramalina siliquosa</i> |
| | Black Lichen <i>Verrucaria maura</i> |
| | Powdery Yellow Lichen <i>Caloplaca marina</i> |
| Mosses: | Dark Cushion-moss <i>Schistidium maritimum</i> |
| Flowering Plants: | Red Fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i> |
| | Thrift <i>Armeria maritima</i> |
| | Western Clover <i>Trifolium occidentale</i> |
| | Sea-milkwort <i>Glaux maritima</i> |
| | Rock Sea-spurrey <i>Spergularia rupicola</i> |
| | Buck's-horn Plantain <i>Plantago coronopus</i> |
| | Danish Scurveygrass <i>Cochlearia danica</i> |
| | Common Bird's-foot-trefoil <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> |
| | Curled Dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> |
| | Sea Mayweed <i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i> |
| | Sand Couch <i>Elytrigia juncea</i> |
| | Creeping Bent <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> |
| Sponges: | Purse Sponge <i>Scypha compressa</i> |
| | Breadcrumb Sponge <i>Halichondria panicea</i> |
| | Orangepeel Sponge <i>Hymeniacidon perleve</i> |
| Sac-animals: | Dahlia Anemone <i>Urticina felina</i> |
| | Hydroids [several species in Class Hydrozoa] |
| | Beadlet Anemone <i>Actinia equina</i> |
| Worms: | Bristleworms [several species in Class Polychaeta] |
| | Scaleworms [several species in Family Aphroditidae] |
| | Keelworm <i>Pomatoceros lamarcki</i> |
| | Anti-clockwise tubeworm <i>Janua pagenstecheri</i> |
| | Clockwise tubeworm <i>Spirorbis spirorbis</i> |
| | Ragworm <i>Perinereis cultifera</i> |
| Barnacles and allies: | Barnacles [Order Cirripedia] |
| | Common Acorn Barnacle <i>Semibalanus balanoides</i> |
| | Sea Slater <i>Ligia oceanica</i> |
| | Amphipods [several species in Order Amphipoda] |
| | Isopods [several species in Order Isopoda] |

Shrimp-like animals [several species in Class Malacostraca]

Prawns and Crabs: Common Hermit Crab *Pagurus bernhardus*
A humpback prawn *Eualus occultus* or *Thorulus cranchi*
Green Shore Crab *Carcinus maenas*
Edible Crab *Cancer pagurus*
Broad-clawed Porcelain Crab *Porcellana platycheles*
Long-clawed Porcelain Crab *Pisidia longicornis*
Furrowed Crab *Xantho incisus*
Velvet Swimming Crab *Necora puber*
Sea Spider [unidentified species in Phylum Pycnogonida]

Insects: Springtail *Anurida maritima*
Bristletail *Petrobius maritimus*

Molluscs: Chitons: Common Chiton *Lepidochitona cinerea*

Molluscs: Sea Snails: Common Limpet *Patella vulgata*
Painted Top *Calliostoma zizyphinum*
Grey Top Shell *Gibbula cineraria*
Flat Top Shell *Gibbula umbilicalis*
Toothed Top Shell *Monodonta lineata*
Common Periwinkle *Littorina littorea*
Flat Periwinkle *Littorina obtusata* or *L. mariae*
Small Periwinkle *Littorina neritoides*
Rough Periwinkle *Littorina saxatilis*
Spotted Cowrie *Trivia monacha*
Common Dog Whelk *Nucella lapillus*

Molluscs: Sea Slugs: *Retusa* sp.

Molluscs: Sea Shells: Common Mussel *Mytilus edulis*
Common Hatchet Shell *Lasaea rubra*
Saddle Oyster *Anomia* sp.

Sea Mats: Sea Mat *Membranipora membranacea*

Spiny-skinned animals: Common Cushion Star *Asterina gibbosa*
Brittlestar *Amphipholis squamata*
Green Sea Urchin *Psammechinus miliaris*

Sea Squirts: Gooseberry Sea Squirt *Dendrodoa grossularia*
Star Ascidian *Botyllum schlosseri*

Fish: Worm Pipefish *Nerophis lumbriciformis*
Shanny *Lipophrys pholis*
Shore Clingfish *Lepadogaster lepadogaster*

Birds: Brent Goose
Red-breasted Merganser

Gannet
Cormorant
Shag
Grey Heron (*Frankie Tennant*)
Oystercatcher
Turnstone
Common Gull
Herring Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Razorbill
Rock Pipit (*Frankie Tennant*)
Starling

Mammals:

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* [fresh runs and burrows]