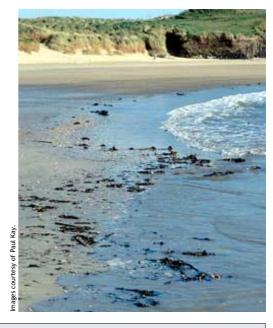
Conservation

Flotsam & Jetsam

One of these is the strandline, where unusual objects are sometimes found. If you walk on the shore, along the high tide mark, you will often find debris that has been left behind by the outgoing tide. These may be animals and plants that have been drifting in the sea, having been washed off the rocks. They may also have come from deeper waters, either floating freely or attached to wreckage.

Much of what is found is possibly dead. Due to the pounding of the waves, it is usual to find only small pieces of plants or animals. It is important to remember this when you are trying to identify them, as they can look very different when whole.

It is not possible to list everything that could be washed up. The ocean covers a huge area, and is inhabited by countless animals and plants. The following is just a sample of what can be seen.





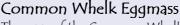
Common Cuttlefish

The Cuttlefish (see inset) belongs to the same family as the Octopus and Squid and lives in bays and estuaries. When the

Cuttlefish is alive, the bone inside its body has many tiny holes which fill with gas.

These help it float. When the Cuttlefish dies and decays, the bone

floats about in the water for a long time and is sometimes washed up on the shore.



The eggs of the Common Whelk look like a mass of bubbles stuck together, each "bubble" containing one egg. When the eggs are freshly laid, they are spongy but they are rarely seen in that state. Usually, the egg-masses are empty by the time they have been

washed up on the shore, as the young

will already have hatched. The egg cases dry out on the beach and become very brittle.



Unfortunately not everything that washes up on the shoreline is totally natural. The tide can often brings in

Rubbish

rubbish, which has been dumped into the sea. Be careful what you touch as it may be dangerous.



The Mermaid's Purse is the egg case laid by the dogfish in deeper waters. It has long, twisted

tendrils on each corner which are used to anchor the egg case to seaweed or other structures on the sea bottom. It is light

brown and almost see-through. The egg case is usually only seen when it is washed up on the shore, and then it is often dry and hard. It is normally empty, as the young fish will have hatched by the time the case is washed ashore.

Hornwrack

Hornwrack looks like a plant, but in fact it is made up of many animals living together in a group, or colony. It is found in deep waters, and is only seen on the seashore when it is washed up after

storms.

In deeper waters, it can be found growing in huge beds on rocks and stones where it also provides food and shelter for a large variety of creatures.



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