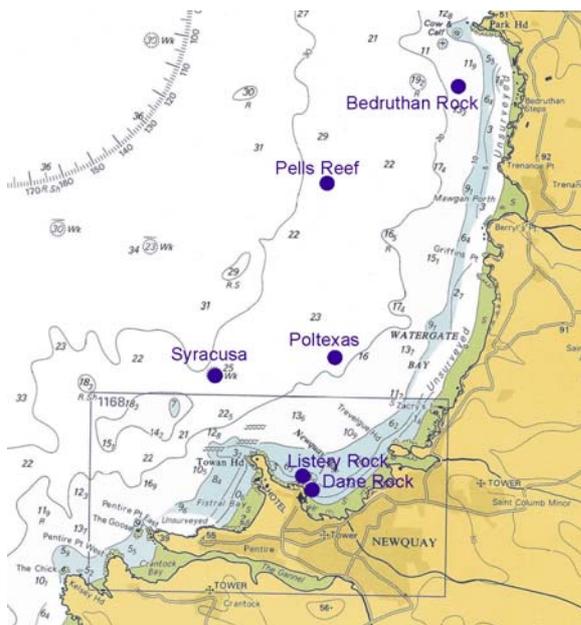


Newquay Weekend 3rd-5th May 2003

A long weekend dive was held over the May Day Bank Holiday specifically to look at sites in the Newquay area on the north Cornish coast since there had been few previous records from the area. The north Cornish coast is exposed to the prevailing westerly winds and has significant ocean swells for much of the year. At the time of our visit sea conditions were choppy offshore and visibility was generally poor. Nevertheless records were made from six sites, four offshore and two closer in. Conditions were not sufficiently good for photography. The weekend was organised for the Marine Conservation Society by Brod Mason and the divers who took in Seasearch recording were - Mike Flavell, Brod Mason, Simon Stagnell, Tim Theobalds, Chris Webb and Chris Wood.

The sites from which records were made are shown on the chart.



Bedruthan Rock is a rocky reef some 2km offshore which rises about 7m from the surrounding sandy sea bed at 18.5m below chart datum (bcd). The lower parts of the reef were scoured by movement of the sand in swelly conditions and had little life attached to them. The upper vertical and overhanging faces had an animal turf in which jewel anemones, both of the sea beards and the oaten pipe hydroid, *Tubularia indivisa*, were prominent. The reef top (11.5m bcd) had a sparse covering of small red algae but this would become much richer later in the year as the survey was undertaken right at the beginning of the growing season.

Pells Reef is a much deeper reef. The surrounding flat gravel is at 29m bcd and the bedrock is only as much as 2m high. The rock is flat topped and extensively undercut to form deep vertical and horizontal fissures. Though there were a few small red algae on upper surfaces the rocks were dominated by animals. The orange sea squirt, *Stolonica socialis* was especially common and there were also potato crisp bryozoans and a number of pink sea fans, though these were in poor condition. The most interesting record was of the yellow trumpet anemones *Parazoanthus axinellae*, a nationally scarce species.

There were a good number of fishes, of which both Bib (pouting) and Poor cod were both common.

