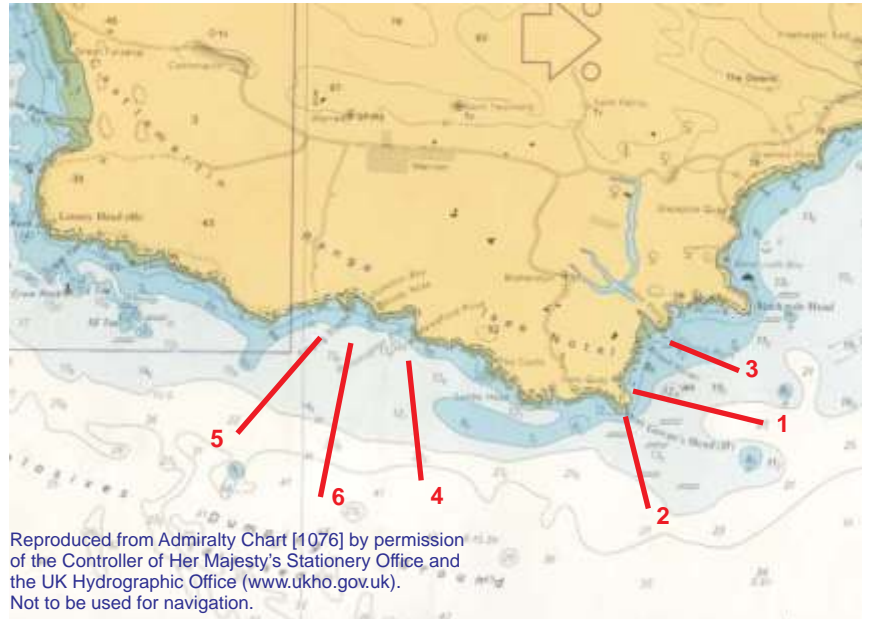


South Pembrokeshire -

July 15th/17th and Sept 17th/18th 2005

Little data has been collected along the south Pembrokeshire coastline, in particular between Linney Head and St Govan's Head. The main reason for this is that there is often firing from the Castlemartin Firing Range and this prevents any boat venturing into the area. In addition this coastline is very exposed to south westerlies and is a reasonable distance away from any decent launch site for small boats. The sailing vessel *Lo Entropy* was chartered in 2005 for two separate liveaboard trips with the aim to cover some of this stretch of coastline as well as visiting the Smalls (an offshore reef 18 miles west of Skomer).



St Govans Head - 17th July, 18th Sept 2005

Dives on St Govans Head took place on two separate occasions. The first dive (1) took place in July on the north/northeast side of the headland and was close inshore with maximum depths of 10m. The habitat in this area was mainly sand (the necklace shell *Euspira catena* observed on the sand surface) and closer inshore, boulders and rock covered in dense red algae and a kelp forest. 16 species of algae were recorded including *Polyides rotundus*, *Cryptopleura ramosa* and *Saccorhiza polyschides*. 3 Surveyor and 1 Observer forms were completed on this dive.

The reef (2) to the south and south east was dived during on September 18th from *Lo Entropy*. This was a very interesting dive on a rocky reef and mussel bed (*Mytilus edulis*) in a current swept area. Maximum depth was 18m. 1 surveyor form and 3 Observer forms were completed for this site.



Church Rock - 15th July 2005

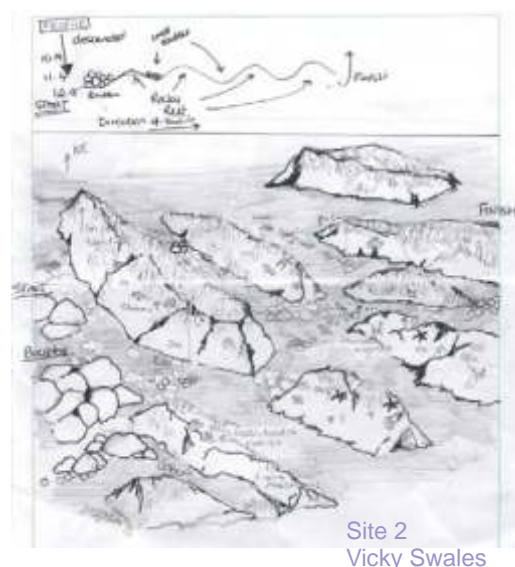
Church Rock (3) was relatively shallow dive in which kelp and 2m deep gullies harbouring a variety of species including the dog fish, *Scyliorhinus canicula*, the trumpet anemone *Aipitasia mutabilis* and Ross coral *Pentapora fascialis* were recorded. Max depth dived was 12.2 m and one pair managed a dive of over an hour and ten minutes!

A total of 83 species were recorded with over 13 species of red algae. Echinoderms were relatively sparse at all sites and numbers of molluscs were also not particularly high with only three species of nudibranch recorded. Although commercial species such as the edible crab and lobster were present they were low in numbers and of a small size perhaps due to commercial activity in the area.

Phylum/Class	Common name	Number of species	Common species	
Porifera	Sponges	12	Golf ball sponge	<i>Tethya aurantium</i>
Cnidaria	Anemones, corals, hydroids	9	Daisy anemone	<i>Cereus pedunculatus</i>
Crustacea	Crabs, lobsters, barnacles	6	Lobster	<i>Homarus gammarus</i>
Mollusca	Snails, sea slugs, bivalves	7	Necklace shell	<i>Euspira catena</i>
Bryozoa	Sea mats	5	Ross coral	<i>Pentapora foliacea</i>
Phoronida	Small "worm"	1	Horseshoe worm	<i>Phoronis</i> sp.
Polychaeta	Bristleworm	2	Worm	<i>Myxicola infundibulum</i>
Echinodermata	Starfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers	4	Sea potato	<i>Echinocardium cordatum</i>
Tunicata	Sea squirts	7	Sea squirt	<i>Morchellium argus</i>
Pisces	Fish	13	Sea squirt	<i>Lissoclinum perforatum</i>
			Sea bass	<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>
			Leopard spotted goby	<i>Thorogobius ephippiatus</i>
Algae	Seaweeds	17	Kelp	<i>Laminaria hyperborea</i>
			Red algae	<i>Cryptopleura ramosa</i>
Total species		83		

Castlemartin Firing Range

A number of dives were conducted off the cliffs making up the eastern part of the Castlemartin Firing Range. Sites included Mewsford Point (4), Elegug Stacks (5) and Flimston Bay (6). The area off Mewsford Point was made up of flat rocky reefs leading onto barren sand with rocky outcrops dominated by kelp forest, mainly *Laminaria hyperborea*. The area of Elegug Stacks consisted of flat rock dominated by red algae with areas of barren sand and closer inshore 2m high gullies with cobbles at the base and short animal turf on the sides. Flimston Bay was again undulating low lying rock with short animal turf with a number of sponges and mixed red algae. This was a particularly good area for crustacea, *Cancer pagurus*, *Necora puber* and some tiny spider crabs covered in sponge, *Inachus* sp.



Site 2
Vicky Swales



Vicki Howe



Vicki Howe

Divers:

July 15/17th: Simon Angove, Steve Bound, Ivan Green, Vicki Howe, Kate Lock, Genevieve O'Farrell, Alison Shaw, Zoe Sheridan and Paul Ryder

Sept 17/18th . Bianca Bacchi, Tom Bell, Steve Bound, Rachel Cutler, Clive Ellis, Vicki Howe, Rob Jones, Gordon Seymour, Zoe Sheridan, Jean-Luc Solandt, Vicki Swales

Seasearch is a volunteer underwater survey project for recreational divers who wish to contribute to conserving the marine environment.

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