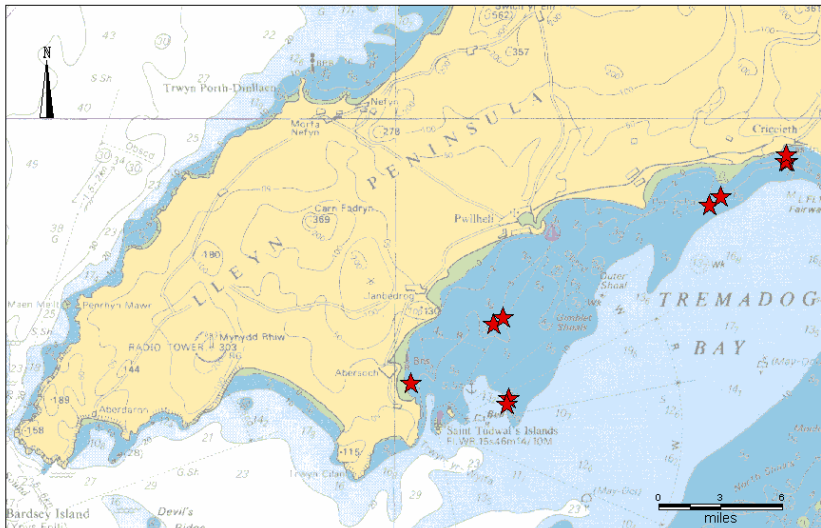


This Seasearch report summarises six surveys that took place in three areas around Criccieth, Llanbedrog and Abersoch situated along the south coast of the Llŷn Peninsula in Gwynedd, North Wales. A total of ten Seasearch forms were completed, five observer and five surveyor forms.



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Five sediment and boulder communities were surveyed, each differing in the plants and animals recorded: An area of sand at Criccieth with lots of life apparent including a small pink echinoderm called *Labidoplax digitata*, pictured above by Paul Kay; a seagrass bed at Criccieth containing huge numbers of the greater pipefish *Syngnathus acus* as well as a couple of specimens of the much rarer deep-snouted pipefish *Syngnathus typhle*; mixed seaweeds on cobbles and pebbles to the south of Llanstumdwy where 14 species of algae were identified; red algal turf on pebbles east of Llanbedrog where the mantis shrimp *Rissoides desmaresti* were spotted peaking out from their burrows; and patches of mixed seaweeds amongst sand and gravel at Abersoch where the snake pipefish *Entelurus aequoreus* was found within one of its favourite habitats, amongst the brown alga *Halidrys siliquosa*.

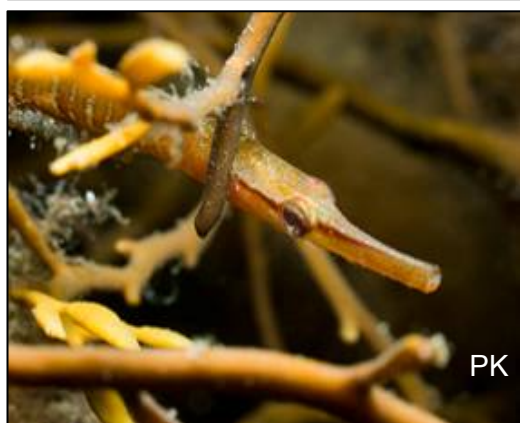
Rare and Scarce Species found

Phylum	Species Name	Location (date)	Status
Anthophyta	<i>Zostera marina</i>	Criccieth Seagrass (09/09/07)	Scarce
Porifera	? <i>Axinella damicornis</i> ?	Criccieth Castle (08/09/07)	Scarce
Crustacea	<i>Rissoides desmaresti</i>	Trwyn Llanbedrog (12/08/07)	Scarce

Being mostly sediment communities, the areas surveyed contained a variety of tube and burrow dwelling animals such as the parchment worm *Chaetopterus variopedatus*, the razor clam *Ensis* spp and the sand mason *Janice conchilega*. These last two species are shown in the photos below. Many of the burrows, some of which are shown below, were well maintained with clean edges, suggesting they contained a living animal, however as yet many of these have not been identified.



South Llŷn Sediment and Boulder Communities. August 8th to September 9th 2007



The South Llŷn sediment and boulder surveys provided records of several species listed as nationally scarce (shown on the previous page), as well as some of the only Welsh video and photographic observations of the deep-snouted pipefish *Syngnathus typhle* shown here in the top left photograph. Also on this page are the greater pipefish *Syngnathus acus* (both green and brown varieties) to the top right and the snake pipefish *Entelurus aequoreus*, bottom left. Although the Nilsson's pipefish *Syngnathus rostellatus* was possibly spotted, unfortunately no picture was taken to allow confirmation. Nilsson's pipefish is notoriously difficult to distinguish from the greater pipefish as its shape and colouration are very similar.

Species Summary for the South Llŷn 2007 Sediment and Boulder Communities.

Phylum	Common Name	No. of Species	Most Frequently Encountered Species
Algae	Seaweed	20	<i>Dictyota dichotoma</i> , <i>Chorda filum</i> & <i>Halidrys siliquosa</i>
Anthophyta	Seagrasses	1	<i>Zostera marina</i>
Porifera	Sponges	14	<i>Cliona celata</i> , <i>Dysidea fragilis</i> & <i>Hemimycale columnella</i>
Cnidaria	Anemones, Hydroids, corals, jellyfish	14	<i>Anemonia virridis</i> , <i>Cerianthus lloydii</i> & <i>Hydractinia echinata</i>
Annelida	Segmented Worms	6	<i>Chaetopterus variopedatus</i> & <i>Lanice conchilega</i>
Platyhelminthes	Flatworms	1	<i>Prosthecaraeus vittatus</i>
Crustacea	Lobsters, Crabs, Barnacles	19	<i>Macropodia sp.</i> , <i>Pagurus bernhardus</i> & <i>Liocarcinus depurator</i>
Mollusca	Shells, Sea Slugs, Octopus	18	<i>Aequipecten opercularis</i> , <i>Gibbula sp</i> & <i>Arctica islandica</i>
Bryozoa	Seamats	6	<i>Pentapora foliacea</i>
Echinodermata	Starfish, Urchins	9	<i>Labidoplax digitata</i> , <i>Marthasterias glacialis</i> & <i>Echinocardium cordatum</i>
Chordata - Tunicata	Sea Squirts	10	<i>Ascidella aspersa</i> , <i>Styela clava</i> , <i>Botryllus schlosseri</i> & <i>Clavelina lepadiformis</i>
Chordata - Pisces	Fishes	25	<i>Callionymus lyra</i> , <i>Syngnathus acus</i> & <i>Pomatoschistus sp.</i>
Total Species		143	

Big thanks to Seasearchers **Ruth Sharratt, Paul Crockford, Alice Lawrence, Liz Morris, Lucy Kay, Paul Kay, Kirsten Ramsay and Harry Goudge** who completed a total of 5 observer and 5 surveyor forms.

Thanks also to Paul Turkentine for speeding us safely between the sites.

Produced by Harry Goudge for the Countryside Council for Wales on 5th December 2007
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