

NATURE SPOTTER

Seaside & coastal

With one of the longest coastlines in Europe, the UK has so many coastal habitats to explore! High cliffs, rocky shores, sand dunes, mudflats, sand and shingle beaches and saltmarshes. Our shores are teeming with life if you know where to look. But don't just look out to sea, as you'll find so much nature to explore at your feet. Enjoy this handy guide!

Did you know?

- The UK has lost around 10% of its coastal margin habitats since 1950 and is losing a further 3% each year. If current rates continue, the UK could lose over half of its marine habitat by 2050.
- Half the oxygen produced by plants comes from the oceans – it absorbs 1/4 of human-induced carbon emissions.



☐ Black headed gull



☐ Puffin



☐ Otter



☐ Basking shark



☐ Bottlenose dolphins



☐ Common seal



☐ Common shore crab



☐ Hermit crab



☐ Common limpet



☐ Common mussels



☐ Common starfish



☐ Kelp



☐ Mermaid's purse



☐ Sea lettuce



☐ Seagrass

Did you know?

- The basking shark is the largest shark in UK, growing to up to 12m in length! However, do not be afraid of them as they mainly eat zooplankton.
- Some sharks and rays lay eggs which are surrounded by a tough leathery capsule that protects the embryo. After hatching, the empty egg case or 'mermaid's purse', will often be seen washed up on the beach!
- Seagrass captures carbon up to 35 times faster than tropical rainforests!

Tricky to find

- Basking sharks are easiest to spot in the summer months in Cornwall, Isle of Man, and the Western Isles and coast of Scotland.
- When breeding (April-July), puffins can be found off the coast in places like the Farne Islands (Northumberland), Anglesey & Skomer (Wales) and the Shetlands (Scotland) to name a few.

SAVE OUR
WILD ISLES



Working together to protect and restore UK nature.