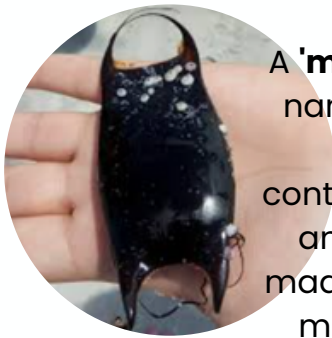


Studland Seashore Explorer

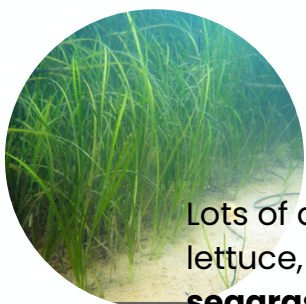
The strandline is a fantastic place to explore and to find out about Studland Bay's marine wildlife. Waves carry plants and debris from the sea on to the beach and they are 'stranded' at the level of the high tide. Take a stroll along the strandline and see if you can find the hidden treasures below.



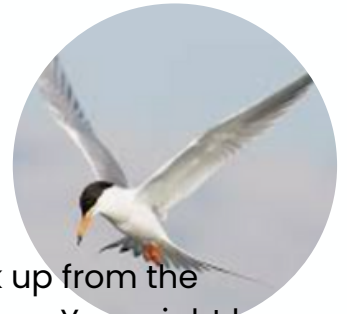
A '**mermaid's purse**' is the name given to the tough, leathery pouches that contain the eggs of sharks and rays. The cases are made of keratin, the same material as our hair and nails.



Cuttlefish are masters of disguise, and can quickly change colour and texture to merge into their background. They are fierce predators with beak-like jaws that prey on small fish, crabs, and even other cuttlefish! You can often find **cuttlebones** washed up in the strandline.



Lots of different types of seaweed can be found at Studland, including sea lettuce, serrated wrack, kelp and **seagrass**. Just like meadows on land, **seagrass meadows** beneath the waves bring a huge boost to biodiversity. There are 40 times more species found in seagrass compared to bare sand!.



Take a moment to look up from the strandline and out to sea. You might be lucky enough to see a **common tern** hovering above the waves. These beautiful birds are also known as 'sea swallows' due to their long forked tails.



The **common whelk** is the largest sea snail found in the UK, reaching up to 10cm in length. Hermit crabs will often use empty whelk shells as their home. The sponge-like masses of **empty whelk egg capsules** are often detached and washed up on the shore in summer.