



## SHELL SPOTTER SHEET

This guide identifies some of the most common shells you might see on beaches around the Firth of Forth. Use the boxes provided to tally how many you've seen!

### RAZOR SHELL



Razors live deep beneath the sand, coming to the surface to feed when the tide comes in. Up to 20cm long, single shells or pairs can wash up.

### MUSSEL



Blue or purple shell up to 10cm long. Very common on intertidal rocks. A 'bivalve' this creature has a hinged double shell when living.

### COMMON COCKLE



Fan-shaped bivalve shell with 'ribs' radiating out from the hinge. Up to 5cm across. Oystercatchers enjoy eating this edible clam.

### SCALLOP



Scallops are bivalves that come in a variety of shades and sizes. They are rounded in shape and have obvious ridges.

### TURRET SHELL



Shaped like screws, these gastropods have high spired shells with many whorls. Often 2-3cm in length.

### COMMON LIMPET



A conical shell with ridges, although often worn smooth by the sea. Found on rocky shores. Size ranges from 1cm to 6cm in height.

### PERIWINKLE



These small conical shells come in several varieties. They vary in colour from black and grey to brown, green or yellow.

### COMMON WHELK



A large gastropod with a spiralling shell up to 10cm long. Typically has 7 or 8 whorls and a wide aperture (hole) at its broad end.

If you cannot get to a beach, try to spot these shells using our photos of shell-covered beaches. How many of the above shells can you find in the photographs?

