

SPOTTER SHEET



BEACHCOMBING

Beachcombing is fun at any time of the year but in winter the sea is rougher, bringing ashore more unusual and interesting finds. This guide will help you to identify some items that you might come across. Use the circles provided to tally how many you've spotted.

HEART URCHIN TEST

Echinocardium cordatum



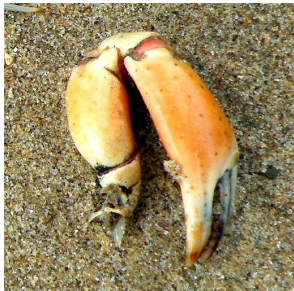
The outer skeleton of the heart urchin (or **sea potato**) is called a 'test'. Related to the starfish, heart urchins live in burrows in the sand.

WHELK EGG CASE



Whelks lay large clumps of eggs on rocks under the sea. Also referred to as 'sea wash', the empty egg cases were once used by sailors for washing!

CRAB CLAW



When crabs die, their pincers, legs and shells can wash up on the shore. Crabs can also lose a claw in a fight or accident and commonly have the ability to regrow a lost limb.

EDIBLE URCHIN TEST

Echinus esculentus



It's rare to find a whole intact edible (or common) urchin test (outer skeleton) but easier to find small pieces of broken test among sand.

MERMAID'S PURSE



These tough, leathery pouches are the egg cases of either a shark, skate or ray (collectively known as elasmobranchs).

BONES



Bones of seabirds or marine creatures such as seals or cetaceans can wash up on the beach. In the picture is the breastbone, or sternum, of a seabird.

FOSSIL



Fossils are preserved traces of once-living things from far back in time. Rocks with interesting imprints could be preserved shells, corals or other marine life.

KELP



Kelp is a thick and leathery type of seaweed is usually submerged by the sea and only visible at very low tides. Storms can cause it to break off and wash ashore.



All of the items above were once living things. You are also likely to see lots of shells. See our separate [spotter sheet on shells](#) commonly found locally.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS AFTER TOUCHING ANYTHING ON THE BEACH