

Breakwater Fort

50°20.03 N 004°08.87 W (GPS)

31/08/05, 19:00 – 17°C, 5m visibility

Sea weed

Brown (Phaeophyta)

Various kelp species **O**

Red (Rhodophyta)

None

Green (Chlorophyta)

None

Sponges

Black branching sponge – *Raspailia hispida* **O**

Golf ball sponge – *Tethya aurantium* **R**

Boring sponge – *Cliona celata* **C**

Hydroids

Hydroid – *Nemertesia ramosa* **C**

Sea beard – *Nemertesia antennina*

Anemones and corals

Plumose anemone – *Metridium senile* **C**

Jewel anemones – *Corynactis viridis* **R**

Burrowing anemone – *Sagatiogeton undatus* **O**

Parasitic anemone – *Calliactis parasitica* **R**

Devonshire cup coral – *Caryophyllia smithii* **O**

Soft corals

Dead men's fingers – *Alcyonium digitatum* **C/O**

Sea fans and sea pens

Pink sea fan – *Eunicella verrucosa* **C**

Jellyfish

None

Worms

Segmented worm – *Myxicola infundibulum* **O**

Coral worm – *Salmacina dysteri* **O**

Keel worm – *Pomatoceros* species **O**

Fan worm – *Bispira* species **O**

Barnacles

None

Shrimps and prawns

Burrowing prawn (burrows) – *Upogebia* species **O**

Crabs and lobsters

Edible crab – *Cancer pagurus* **R/O**

Spider crab – *Macropodia* or *Inachus* **R**

Common (spiny) spider crab – *Maja squinado* **C**

Velvet swimming crab – *Necora puber* **C**

Hermit crab – *Pagurus prideauxi* **O**

Hermit crab – *Pagurus* species **C**

Angular crab (burrows) – *Goneplax rhomboides* **O**

Spiny (red) squat lobster – *Galathea strigosa* **O**

Molluscs

Turret shell – *Turritella* species

Gastropods and bivalves

None

Scallops

None

Nudibranchs

Sea fan nudibranch – *Tritonia nilsodneri* **O**

Cephalopods (squid, cuttlefish, octopus)

Common cuttlefish – *Sepia officinalis* **R**

Cuttlefish – *Sepia* species **O**

Squid – *Alloteuthis* species **R**

Bryozoans

None

Starfish and brittlestars

Spiny starfish – *Marthasterias glacialis* **C/O**

Common starfish – *Asterias rubens* **O**

Urchins

None

Sea cucumbers

None

Sea squirts

Colonial ascidian – *Aplidium* species **O**

Gooseberry ascidian – *Dendrodoa grossularia* **C**

Fishes

Ballan wrasse – *Labrus bergylta* **O**

Corkwing wrasse – *Crenilabrus melops* **C**

Goldsinny – *Ctenolabrus rupestris* **C**

Pollack – *Pollachius pollachius* **R/C**

Bib (pouting) – *Trisopterus luscus* **O**

Conger eel – *conger conger* **R**

Lesser spotted dogfish – *Scyliorhinus canicula* **R**

Red mullet – *Mullus surmuletus* **R**

Two-spot goby – *Gobius flavescens* **C**

Sand goby – *Pomatoschistus minutus* **C**

Black goby – *Gobius niger* **C**

Dragonet – *Callionymus lyra* **O**

Tompot blenny – *Parablennius gattorugine* **O**

Red bandfish – *Cepola macrophthalma* (*rubescens*) **O**

Birds and mammals

None

Others

None

Main habitat type

1: Mixed ground, wreckage, other: fort wall

2: Sand and gravel, mud, wreckage (dominant), other: fort wall

Seabed cover types

1: Kelp park, sediment with life apparent

2: Short animal turf (fort and wreckage), tall animal turf (rig and buoy), mixed seaweeds (fort, shallow), sediment with life apparent (to the North West)

Anything unusual or noteworthy?

1: Pink sea fans

2: On mud habitat at 050°20.116 N 004°09.009 W (decimal minutes) many red bandfish burrows

Any litter or man-made objects?

1: Some litter, tin can, wreckage

2: Many – oil rig, wreck, metal plate, discarded fishing pots

Additional notes from Keith Hiscock:

Habitat types

1. Vertical stone walls of fort dominated by silty hydrozoan growth with scattered Devonshire cup corals (frequent), black branching sponges (frequent), *Bispira* tube worms in crevices and near (/on) the SW side frequent large very healthy sea fans with *Tritonia*.

2. Artificial structures (rig, mooring buoy) on the seabed with scattered (frequent) dead men's fingers, (frequent) plumose anemones, (frequent) *Nemertesia antennina*, (frequent) jewel anemones and Ballan wrasse and Goldsinny wrasse. One dragnet one cuttle.

3. Extremely highly excavated mud with (occasional) *Sargatiogeton* anemones, (occasional) spiny starfish feeding on turret shells. Most burrows *Upogebia* but some angular crab burrows and, at the end, an area with small red bandfish. Hermit crabs (frequent), black gobies and (occasional) *Pagurus prideauxi*.

Red bandfish burrows location 050°20.116 N 004°09.009 W.