



Manx
Wildlife Trust
Treisht Bea-Feie
Vannin

West Coast Marine Nature Reserve

Kemmyrk Bea-Varrey'n Clyst Heear



Spotter Sheet

Basking Shark



© Anders Salesjo

The second largest fish on Earth, and a plankton-filtering species. Most common on the west coast between Port Erin and Peel (May-Aug.).

Sandhopper



© S Rae

Small, jumpy crustaceans that live on the strandline buried in sand, or in rotting seaweed which they feed on. Important food source for shore birds.

Sea Holly



© Neil Wyatt

This sand dune species has a waxy surface on its leaves to retain water. Thistle-like blue flowers bloom in late summer (Jul-Sep).

Blue Mussel



© Lara Howe

This bivalve attaches to rocks with sticky threads, settling in large numbers as 'seed mussels', but rare as adults. There is a small patch of mussels below Peel Castle.

Little Tern



© Shaun Gray

Our smallest tern has a yellow bill with a black tip. Little terns are summer visitors nesting on shingle beaches along the north coast.

Scallop Shells



© Melissa Parsons

Shells of this commercial bivalve often wash up, particularly on Fenella beach, Peel. In life the animal lives semi-buried on sandy/gravel seabeds.

Marram Grass



© Neil Wyatt

Marram grass roots stabilise the sand, binding it together and enabling colonization by other plants. Such plants also reduce coastal erosion.

Gannet



© Lara Howe

A large (1.8m wingspan), white seabird with black wing tips and a cream head. Seen year-round, often circling before diving head-first to catch fish.

Sand Martin



© Margaret Holland

This summer-breeding visitor from Africa nests in burrows in sandy banks; look for these buff-brown birds along the west coast sand cliffs.

Black Guillemot



© Lara Howe

Black guillemot plumage is black with white wing patches and bright red legs in summer. They fly close to the sea with fast wing beats and forage locally. Usually nest in boulder piles or rocky crevices, but also in Peel harbour.



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