

THE OGMORE REEFS

THE REEFS ARE SO DELICATE THAT WHEN STOOD ON, THE FEEDING TUBES COLLAPSE AND THE WORMS INSIDE ARE UNABLE TO FEED.

EXTENSIVE REEFS CAN BE SEEN AT OGMORE

BE TIDE AWARE

GULLS ARE SEEN IN SERCH OF SNACKS!



REEFS PROVIDE A PROTECTIVE NURSERY FOR EGG LAYING

HERMIT CRABS USE THE REEF POOLS TO GATHER

NON ROCKPOOL MARINE LIFE MAKE THE REEFS HOME



Broad-clawed porcelain crab



Beadlet anemone (non-red)



Greenleaf worm



Common mussel



Dogwhelk (with eggs)

OTHER LIFE

These delicate living Honeycomb worm reefs provide an additional habitat for other shore-dwelling marine animals and seaweeds.



EXPLORING THE OGMORE REEFS IN SEARCH OF LIFE CAN BE DIFFICULT. PLEASE AVOID TOUCHING ANY REEF STRUCTURES OR STANDING IN POOLS.

Latin name: Sabellaria alveolata



THE REEFS

Honeycomb worm reefs are rare to find in the UK, but the reefs at Ogmores Beach on the Heritage coast are impressive and extensive. The worms that make the reefs require hard rock to build on and a specific sized sand to make their tubes.

HONEYCOMB WORM REEFS ARE A 'UK BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN PRIORITY HABITAT' AND ARE THEREFORE PROTECTED.

THE WORM

- * A reef-forming ringed worm
- * Builds its tube reefs from cementing sand and shell material together
- * Creates a honeycomb like pattern
- * Highly sociable living close together
- * Each worm lives in their own small tube
- * Their tubes form sheets or reefs
- * Adult worms range from 30-40 mm (1.2 to 1.6 in).
- * They move up and down the tubes to feed with tiny feet.
- * An operculum on their head is used to seal the tube opening.

THE PROBLEM

Trampling and human pollution cause the most damage to the reefs. Sadly, these natural reef systems are now no longer 100% natural. The pressure of human activity has grown significantly in recent years with marine litters becoming a major pollutant of our blue spaces and has become 'embedded' into the beach environment unwittingly becoming the alternative hard substrate for the Honeycomb worms to build on.



IT IS NOT PERMITTED TO REMOVE ANY EMBEDDED LITTER.