



Shores of South Devon
(marine life interest association)
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Exploring the diversity and web of life on rocky shores

by

John Griffin

Associate Professor in Coastal Ecology and Biodiversity
Swansea University

Wednesday 4th Dec 2024 1930 h
via Zoom

No admission charge, but non-members must register at [Eventbrite](#)



In this talk I will present various perspectives on the diversity and web of life on rocky shores and explore connections to human wellbeing. The talk will be divided into a series of vignettes, roughly corresponding to different research projects. 1) Seaweed trait diversity: with new insights from our vast and growing database, I will show individual traits can be used to more deeply understand the diversity and function of seaweeds; 2) Seaweeds as habitat-formers: while we all know that species like kelp and their holdfast can be important and diverse habitats,

we have found a remarkable diversity and complexity of life across other seaweed species, with the greatest observed diversity in coralline turfs; I show here how a network approach can reveal the unique value of different species in supporting rocky shore biodiversity; 3) Rock complexity underpinning biodiversity: I next show how, if we peel even more layers off the onion, we get back to the basal complexity of the rock, which itself encourages the establishment of habitat-forming seaweeds; and 4) finally, I discuss how rocky shore biodiversity underpins human interest in – and aesthetic appreciation for – rocky shores. Together, I hope that these examples will provide new insights into the complexity of life on rocky shores, its interconnectivity, and its support for both ecological processes and human wellbeing.