

## APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
µg	Micrograms
µPa	Micropascal (unit of pressure)
AA	Appropriate Assessment
Abiotic	Refers to nonliving objects, substances or processes e.g. climate
Ablated	To remove by erosion, melting, evaporation, or vaporization
Accretion	An increase resulting from depositional processes
Aeolian	Wind-borne source
AGLV	Areas of Great Landscape Value
Amphipods	Small crustaceans e.g. “sandhoppers”
Anadromous	Migratory behaviour of fish that spend most of their lives at sea but migrate to fresh water to spawn
Annelids	Wormlike animals of the phylum Annelida including the earthworm and leech
Anthropogenic	Resulting from human activity
AOB	Apparently Occupied Burrows (birds)
AON	Apparently Occupied Nests (birds)
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AOS	Apparently Occupied Sites (birds)
AoSP	Area of Special Protection
AOT	Apparently Occupied Territories (birds)
Aquaculture	The cultivation of aquatic plants and animals for food or other purposes
Archipelago	A group of many islands in a large body of water
Ascidians	Minute sedentary marine invertebrate having a saclike body with siphons through which water enters and leaves
ASCOBANS	Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (United Nations)
ASSI	Areas of Special Scientific Interest
Ballast water	Water put into a vessel to enhance stability
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plans
Barchan dunes	Type of sand dune found in areas of limited sediment supply with peak currents in excess of 0.4ms <sup>-1</sup>
BAT	Best Available Techniques
Bathymetry	The measurement of the depth of bodies of water
Beam trawling	A bottom trawl that is kept open laterally by a rigid beam
BECPELAG	ICES study “Biological Effects of Contaminants in Pelagic Ecosystems”
Bedform	Seabed features (e.g. sandwaves, ripples) resulting from the movement of sediment, from seabed erosion or deposition
Benthic	Relating to organisms living in or on the seabed
BEP	Best Environmental Practice
Bioaccumulation	The uptake of elements or compounds within organisms
Biodiversity	Diversity of species
Biogenetic Reserve	An area of conservation which includes species for the purposes of genetic preservation
Biogenic	Produced by the action of living organisms
Biogeographic	Relating to the geographical area characterised by distinctive flora and fauna
Biomass	Living material; e.g. the total mass of a species or of all living organisms present in a habitat; usually excluding shell mass

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Biosphere reserve	Non-statutory protected area representing significant examples of biomes protected for their conservation purposes (UNESCO)
Biota	The total flora and fauna of a given area
Biotopes	The smallest unit of habitat where all environmental conditions and all types of organisms found within it are the same throughout
Bivalves	Marine or freshwater molluscs having a soft body with plate-like gills enclosed within two shells hinged together
Blennies	Small fish of the families Blenniidae and Clinidae
Block	See Licence Block
Bloom	Rapid increase in concentration of phytoplankton, often dominated by one species; may be seasonal (spring bloom); natural or anthropogenic
BODC	British Oceanographic Data Centre
boe/day	Barrels of oil equivalent per day
Boreal	Of or relating to the north; northern
BP	Before Present
Brackish	Slightly salty
Bryozoans	Small aquatic animals that reproduce by budding and form moss-like or branching colonies permanently attached to stones or seaweed
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
Bycatch	The portion of a fishing catch that is discarded as unwanted or commercially unusable
Byssus	A tough, thread-like structure by which mussels attach themselves to the substratum
CANMORE	Computer Application for National Monuments Record Enquiries
Carse	A low flat, peat or marsh covered plain, normally estuarine
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
Cephalopods	Marine molluscs including squid, cuttlefish and octopus
Cetaceans	Aquatic mammals including whales, dolphins and porpoises
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons
Chemosynthetic	Synthesis of carbohydrate from carbon dioxide and water using energy obtained from the chemical oxidation of simple inorganic compounds
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
Clupeids	Fish of the family Clupeidae including herring, sprat and anchovy
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as the Bonn Convention - 1979)
Coastal lagoon	Small, shallow basin which has very low (or negligible) freshwater input
Coelenterates	Invertebrate animals of the phylum Cnidaria including the jellyfishes, hydras, sea anemones, and corals
Community	A group of animals or plants living or growing together in the same area
Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey (CPR)	SAHFOS survey which monitors the near-surface plankton of the North Atlantic and North Sea on a monthly basis, using Continuous Plankton Recorder on a network of routes to cover the area
Copepod	Small crustaceans, usually planktonic
CPA	Coast Protection Act
CPR	See Continuous Plankton Recorder
Crustaceans	Aquatic arthropods (including lobsters, crabs, shrimps and barnacles)
cSAC	Candidate Special Area of Conservation - conservation site proposed for designation by national government under the EU Habitat & Species Directive
Ctenophores	Any of various marine animals of the phylum Ctenophora, having transparent, gelatinous bodies bearing eight rows of comblike cilia used for swimming

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Isle of Man)
Decalcified fixed dunes	Mature stages of sand dune succession
Decapod	A crustacean which characteristically has ten legs e.g. crab, lobster or shrimp
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Demersal	Living at or near the bottom of the sea
DEPCON	Deposit Consent (included in Pipeline Works Authorisation)
Development well	Well drilled in order to produce hydrocarbons from a proven field
Diadromous	(used of fish) migratory between fresh and salt waters
Diamicton	Thick unconsolidated muddy and gravelly unsorted sediments
Diatoms	Any of various microscopic one-celled or colonial algae of the class Bacillariophyceae, having cell walls of silica consisting of two interlocking symmetrical valves
Dinoflagellates	Any of numerous minute, chiefly marine protozoans of the order Dinoflagellata, characteristically having two flagella and a cellulose covering and forming one of the chief constituents of plankton
Drill cuttings	Rock chips produced as a result of drilling
Drilling mud	Mixture of clays, water and chemicals used to cool and lubricate the drill bit, return rock cuttings to the surface and to exert hydrostatic pressure to maintain well control
dSAC	Draft Special Area of Conservation – conservation site which has been formally advised to UK government as suitable for selection as a SAC, but has not been formally approved by government as sites for public consultation.
DSFB	District Salmon Fishery Boards
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
Dune slacks	Low-lying areas within dune systems that are seasonally flooded and where nutrient levels are low
E&P	Exploration and Production
EA	Environmental Assessment - systematic assessment of the environmental effects a proposed project may have on its surrounding environment
EAC	Ecotoxicological assessment criteria
EC	European Community
Echinoderms	Marine invertebrates phylum Echinodermata, which includes starfishes, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers
Echinoids	Sea urchins (Echinoderms)
Ecosystem	An ecological community together with its environment, functioning as a unit
Eddy	A current of water or air, moving contrary to the direction of the main current, especially in a circular motion
EHS	Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland)
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
Elasmobranchs	Any of numerous fishes of the class Chondrichthyes including sharks, rays, and skates
EN	English Nature
Environmental Statement	Formal document presenting the findings of an EIA process for a proposed project. Issued for public consultation in accordance with <i>The Offshore Petroleum Production and Pipe-lines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations, 1999</i>
Epifauna	Organisms living on the surface of the seabed
ES	Environmental Statement
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
ESAS	European Seabirds at Sea database
Espoo Convention	The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (1991)

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Estuarine	Of, relating to, or found in an estuary
Estuary	The wide part of a river where it meets the sea; normally where fresh and salt water mix
Eulittoral	The intertidal band, in-between the low and high water line
Euphausiid	Any small, pelagic, shrimp-like crustacean of the order Euphausiacea.
Eutrophic	Rich in dissolved nutrients, photosynthetically productive and often deficient in oxygen during warm weather
Evaporites	Natural salt or mineral deposit formed from by evaporation of water
Exploration well	Well drilled to determine whether hydrocarbons are present in a particular area
Fault	A fracture in the continuity of a rock formation caused by a shifting or dislodging of the earth's crust, in which adjacent surfaces are displaced relative to one another and parallel to the plane of fracture
Fauna	Animals of an area or period
FEPA	Food and Environment Protection Act
Fetch	Distance over which the wind acts to produce waves
Flora	All the plant life in a particular region
Fluvial	Produced by the action of a river or stream
Formation	An assemblage of rocks or strata
FRS	Fisheries Research Services
Fugitive emissions	Very small chronic escape of gas and liquids from equipment and pipework
Gadoid	Fish of the cod family
Gastropods	A class of molluscs including snails and limpets
GCR	Geological Conservation Review site
Geomorphology	The study of the underlying form, and weathering processes, of rocks and land surfaces
Gillnet	Nets that hang vertically in the water, either in a fixed position (e.g. surface or seabed) or drifting, that trap fish by their gill covers
Glacigenic	Relating to glacial activity
Gobies	Fishes of the family Gobiidae
Gravity survey	A survey technique used to measure the gravitational pull of the Earth over an area, to determine the density of the underlying rocks, helping to locate rock formations that might contain trapped oil
Grey dunes	Mature dunes, normally vegetated and inland
Grilse	A young Atlantic salmon on its first return from the sea to fresh or brackish waters
Gurnards	Fishes of the family Triglidæ
Gyre	A circulatory ocean current
Ha	Hectare
HAB	Harmful Algal Blooms
Habitats (and Species) Directive	Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna requires EU member states to protect scheduled species and to designate and manage special areas of conservation (SAC)
Haline	Salty or regarding salt content
Heritage Coast	Sections of coast that are of exceptionally fine scenic quality, substantially undeveloped and containing features of special significance and interest
HMSO	Her Majesty's Stationery Office
Holocene	Geological period since latest glaciation; from about 10,000 years ago to present
Holoplankton	Planktonic organisms that spend all developmental stages within the plankton.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Hydrocarbon	Compounds containing only the elements carbon and hydrogen, (such as oil and natural gas)
Hydrodynamic	Of, relating to, or operated by the force of liquid in motion
Hydrography	In this context, the study of sea water masses, currents and tides
Hydroid	Normally colonial hydrozoan coelenterates
Hypoxia	Deficiency in the amount of oxygen
Hz	Hertz (unit of frequency)
IBA	Important Bird Area
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
Infauna	Animals that live in the seabed substrate
Interreg	European Commission community initiative that aims to stimulate interregional co-operation in the EU.
Intertidal	The coastal zone between high water mark and low water mark
Invasive species	A species that is non-native to the ecosystem and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health
Invertebrate	Animals without backbones
IoM	Isle of Man
IOPP	International Oil Pollution Prevention
IPPC	Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control
Irish Sea Pilot	A pilot project set up in 2002 following the UK Government Review of Marine Nature Conservation to test the potential for an ecosystem approach to managing the marine environment at a regional sea scale
Isopod	Crustaceans of the order Isopoda including the woodlice and gribbles
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
JESS	Joint Energy Security of Supply Working Group
JMCs	Joint Maritime Courses
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Kelp	Any of often very large brown seaweeds of the order Laminariales
Km	Kilometre
Lagoon	Stretch of salt water separated from the sea by for example, a low sandbank
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plans
Licence block	Area of the sea which has been sub-divided and licensed to a company or group of companies for exploration and production of hydrocarbons. A Block is approximately 200-250 square kilometres
Licensing round	An allocation of licences made to oil companies
LIMPET	Worlds first commercial wave power station located on the shoreline of Islay
Limpet	Any of various usually marine gastropods with low conical shells
Littoral	The edge of the sea, but particularly the intertidal zone
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
Lough	A lake, or bay/inlet of the sea (Ireland)
LSA (Low Specific Activity)	Low dose, naturally occurring radiation
Marine spatial planning	A means of bringing together separate sectoral policies with the aim of allocating and managing sea space to minimise conflicts between existing users and between users and the environment
MARPOL	The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1973/78)

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
MASH	OSPAR working group on Marine Protected Areas and Species Habitats
MCA	Marine Consultation Area
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MDAC	Methane derived authigenic carbonate
Medusae	A type of jellyfish
Megafauna	Large animals
Megaplankton	Extra-large zooplankton between 20 and 200cm in size
MEHRA	Marine Environment High Risk Area – area of high environmental sensitivity at risk from shipping
Meiofauna	Small benthic animals
MEPC	IMO Maritime Environmental Protection Committee
Meroplankton	Plankton that spend only part of their life cycle in the water column before settling to the bottom
MESH	Mapping European Seabed Habitats
Mesolithic	Middle Stone Age (10,000-4,000 BP)
Mesoscale	Of intermediate scale.
Meteorology	The study of the processes and phenomena of the atmosphere, especially as a means of forecasting the weather
Middens	A mound or deposit containing shells, animal bones, and other refuse that indicates the site of a human settlement
MNCR	Marine Nature Conservation Review
MNR	Marine Nature Reserve
Molluscs	Invertebrates typically having a soft unsegmented body, a mantle, and a protective shell (mussels, snails, squids)
Morphological	Concerned solely with shape
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSPP	Marine Spatial Planning Pilot
Mudstones	Dark clay rock
MW	Megawatt
Nanoplankton	Planktonic organisms 2-20µm in diameter
NAO	North Atlantic Oscillation
Natura 2000 Network	Sites of conservational value designated under the EU Habitats or Birds Directives
NCR	Nature Conservation Review sites
Necropsy	Examination of a body to determine or confirm the cause of death
Nematode	Roundworms (freeliving or parasitic in plants and animals)
Nemertea	Soft unsegmented marine worms
Neolithic	The 'new' Stone Age beginning around 10,000 B.C.
<i>Nephrops</i>	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> , also known as langoustine, scampi, Dublin Bay prawn, or Norway lobster
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NMMP	National Marine Monitoring Programme
NMR	National Monuments Record. The national repository for archaeological and historic data
NNR	National Nature Reserve
Non-statutory	Having no basis in statute or in law
NORM	Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material
NPOA	National Plans for Action
NPPG	National Planning Policy Guidelines
NSA	National Scenic Area

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
NT	National Trust
Nursery	Part of the fish's habitat occupied by young fish
Oceanography	The scientific study of the ocean and its phenomena
Odontocetes	Toothed whales
Oligotrophic	Lacking in plant nutrients and having a large amount of dissolved oxygen throughout
Ommastrephid squid	Short-finned squid
OPF	Organic-Phase Drilling Fluids
Ophiuroid	Brittle stars, Echinoderms of the class Ophiuroidea
OPRC	The International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (1990)
OSPAR	Oslo and Paris Commission - for the protection of the marine environment of the North East Atlantic (1992)
Otter trawling	A demersal trawl that is held open laterally by otter boards or 'doors'
OVI	Offshore Vulnerability Index
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds
Palaeolithic	The 'old' Stone Age (being the period of the emergence of primitive man) about 2.5 million to 3 million years ago until about 12,000 B.C.
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	An illness caused by poisons concentrated in clams, mussels, oysters, snails and scallops
PEC:PNEC	Predicted Effect Concentration: Predicted No-Effect Concentration
Pelagic	Organisms living in the water column of the sea
PEML	Port Erin Marine Laboratory, University of Liverpool
Pennatulid	A sea pen
Peri-glacial	Characteristic of a region adjoining a glacier or ice sheet
Petrogenic	Derived from mineral hydrocarbons
PEXA	Practice and Exercise Areas for the military
Phalaropes	Any of several small wading birds of the family Phalaropodidae
Photic zone	The upper layers of bodies of water into which sunlight penetrates sufficiently to influence the growth of plants and animals
Physiographic	The study of the natural features of the earth's surface, especially in its current aspects, including land formation, climate, currents, and distribution of flora and fauna (also called physical geography)
Phytoplankton	Free floating microscopic plants (algae); including diatoms and dinoflagellates
Picoplankton	Tiny plankton between 0.2 and 2 microns in size, mostly bacteria
PILOT programme	PILOT is the successor to the Oil and Gas Industry Task Force (OGITF)
Pingo	Dome-shaped mound found in permafrost areas
Pinnipeds	The Pinnipedia are a suborder of marine mammals that includes the seals and walruses
Plankton	Free-floating microscopic organisms
PMSU	Prime Minister's Strategy Unit
Pockmarks	Seabed depressions that are typically 2-5m deep, 50-200m wide formed by expulsion of fluids or gases
Pollack	A marine food fish ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> ) of northern Atlantic waters, related to the cod
Polychaetes	Chiefly marine annelids (worms)
PON	Petroleum Operations Notice
POPA	The Prevention of Oil Pollution Act, 1971
Progradation	General term for a coastline which is advancing into the sea
Promontory	A high ridge of land or rock jutting out into a body of water; a headland

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
pSAC	Possible Special Area of Conservation – conservation site which has been formally advised to UK Government, but not yet submitted to the EC.
PSP	See Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning
Pteropods	Small marine gastropod molluscs of the subclass Opisthobranchia with winglike lobes on the feet
Purse seines	A deep curtain of netting that is shot in a circle to form an enclosing cylinder around shoals of pelagic fish
Pycnocline	Water column layer separating mixed surface and bottom layers during thermal stratification
Quadrant	Subdivision of sea area for purposes of awarding licences for hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation. A whole quadrant contains thirty blocks, and is approximately 7,500 sq km
Radionuclide	Natural or artificial radioactive isotope
RAF	Royal Air Force
Ramsar sites	Areas designated by the UK under the Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as waterfowl habitat)
Red Data Book	Documents the current status of globally threatened biodiversity
Riverine	Relating to or resembling a river
RLD	Regional Landscape Designation
RMNC	Review of Marine Nature Conservation
Roche moutonnée	Small bare outcrop of rock shaped by glacial erosion
Ro-ro	Roll on-roll off
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC (Special Areas of Conservation)	Areas designated as European Sites (Natura 2000) under the Habitats and Species Directive
SAHFOS	Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science
<i>Salicornia</i>	Glassworts
Salmonid	Fishes of the family Salmonidae which includes salmon and trout
Salps	Any of various free-swimming tunicates
Saltmarsh	Low coastal grassland normally overflowed by the tide
Sarn	Relict glacial outwash features composed of ridges of boulder to pebble-size rocky material
SAST	Seabirds at Sea Team (JNCC)
SCANS	Small Cetacean Abundance in the North Sea
Scenario areas	Based on geological characteristics and potential for finding hydrocarbon reserves, the SEA 6 area has been divided into 7 Scenario Areas by the DTI
SCI	Sites of Community Importance
SCR	Seabird Colony Register
SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment)	An appraisal process through which environmental protection and sustainable development is considered in advance of decisions on policy, plans and programmes
Sea urchins	Spiny, hard-shelled animal that lives on the rocky seafloor or burrows into soft sediments
SEERAD	Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department
Seismic survey	Survey technique used to determine the structure of underlying rocks by passing acoustic shock waves into the strata and detecting and measuring the reflected signals. Depending on the spacing of survey lines, data processing method and temporal elements, the seismic is referred to as either 2-D, 3-D or 4-D
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Sessile	Permanently attached or fixed; not free-moving

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
SFG	Scope For Growth
Shellfish	General term for commercially fished Molluscs and Crustaceans
Shingle	Beach material which is intermediate in size between sand and cobbles
Shorebirds	Any of various birds, such as the sandpiper and plover, that frequent the shores of coastal or inland waters
Shoreline Management Plan	A document that sets out a strategy for coastal defence for a specified length of coast, taking account of natural coastal processes and human and environmental influences and needs
Significant wave height	The average height of the highest one-third of the waves for a given period of time
Silt	A sedimentary material consisting of very fine particles intermediate in size between sand and clay
SINTEF database	The SINTEF Offshore Blowout Database is a comprehensive event database for blowout risk assessment
Skerries	A group of small rocky exposures which might be submerged during high tide
Sm <sup>3</sup>	Standard cubic metres
Smolts	A young salmon at the stage intermediate between the parr and the grilse, when it becomes covered with silvery scales and first migrates from fresh water to the sea
SMP	Seabird Monitoring Programme
SMRU	Sea Mammal Research Unit
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
Sonar	A system using transmitted and reflected underwater sound waves to detect and locate submerged objects or measure the distance to the floor of a body of water
SOPEP	Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan
SOSREP	Secretary of State Representative
SOTEAG	Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group
SPA (Special Protection Areas)	Areas designated as European Sites under the Wild Birds Directive
Spawning	The release of eggs of aquatic animals such as bivalve molluscs, fish and amphibians
Special Area of Conservation	Areas designated as European Sites (Natura 2000) under the Habitats and Species Directive
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SST	Sea Surface Temperature
Stack	A residual rock pinnacle which marks coastal cliff retreat and/or the landward advance of a rock platform
Statutory	Prescribed, authorised or punishable under a statute
Storm surge	A positive or negative storm surge occurs respectively with a rise or fall of water against the shore, positive sometimes produced by strong winds blowing onshore, negative surge sometimes produced by strong winds blowing offshore. Currents produced can predominate over tidal streams and local wind-driven currents
Strand	General description of a wide intertidal area usually composed of sand
Strategic Environmental Assessment (or Appraisal)	See SEA
Stratification	Development of a stable layered density structure in the water column; may be as a result of temperature gradients (thermal stratification) or salinity gradients; often seasonal
Sublittoral	Of or situated near the seashore
Sweep	Addition of a batch of additive to a drilling fluid; typically of a viscous additive to clear the hole of cuttings

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
Taxa	Taxonomic category or group
Telemetry	The science and technology of automatic measurement and transmission of data by wire, radio, or other means from remote sources, to receiving stations for recording and analysis
Thermocline	A layer of water marked by an abrupt temperature change
Tomboles	A sand or gravel bar connecting an island with another land mass
Topography	Surface features of an area
Trophic level	The position occupied by an organism in a food chain or a food web
Tubificids	A type of annelid worm
Tunicates	Chordate marine animals of the subphylum Tunicata or Urochordata having a cylindrical or globular body enclosed in a tough outer covering and including the sea squirts and salps
UK	United Kingdom
UKCS	United Kingdom Continental Shelf
UKOOA	United Kingdom Offshore Operators Association
UKOPP	United Kingdom Oil Pollution Prevention
UNESCO	United Nations Organisation for Education, Science, Culture and Communications
VMR	Voluntary Marine Reserve
Waders	Any of many long-legged birds that can wade in water in search of food (includes oystercatcher, whimbrel, snipe, avocets, stilts, plovers, sandpipers, godwits, curlews, snipe and phalarope)
Waterbirds	Group of birds which include divers and grebes, bitterns and herons, rails, crakes and coots, wildfowl and waders
Waterfowl	Collective term for all swimming waterbirds including grebes, coots and all wildfowl
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
WFD	Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC)
Whelk	Predatory marine gastropod mollusc of the family Buccinidae.
White dunes	Embryonic small dunes on the upper beach
Wildfowl	Collective term for all ducks, shelducks, geese and swans
Wrasse	Fishes of the family Labridae
Xenophyophores	Single celled animals of up to 10cm diameter
Zooplankton	Free floating animals (often microscopic)