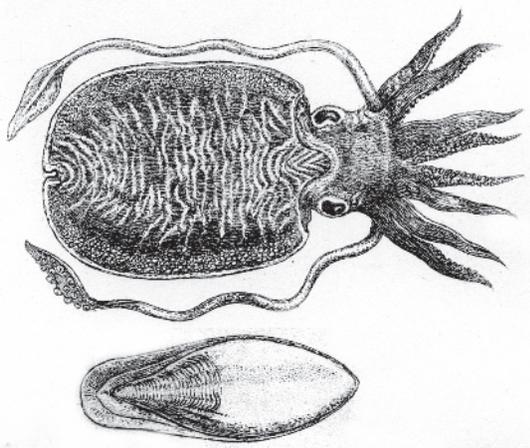


Jersey's Living Coast: The Strand Line

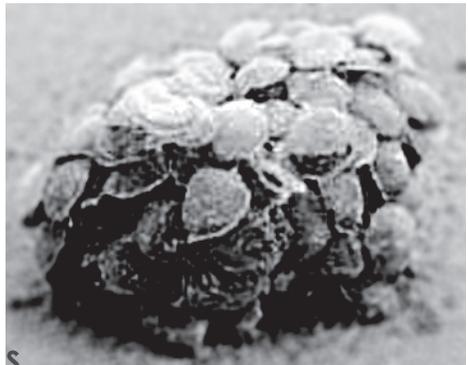
Along the top part of any beach are often piles of loose seaweed and other objects that have been dumped by the action of wind and tide. Amongst the rotting debris and human litter you will find the remains of marine creatures which have been swept in from deeper waters. These offer a hint as to the sorts of animal which live on and around Jersey's coast. Try looking for them following stormy weather.



CUTTLEBONE

(*Sepia* spp.) 30 cm

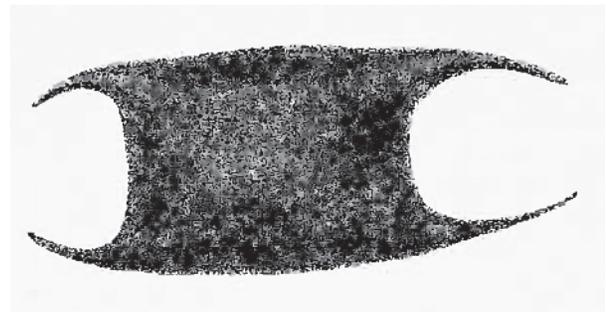
These are the internal remains of the cuttlefish, a squid-like mollusc which hunts small animals. It uses the cuttlebone to adjust its buoyancy in the water. During the German Occupation cuttlebones were ground into powder and used as toothpaste.



WHELK EGG-BALLS

(*Buccinum undatum*) 10 cm

These spongy balls are the eggs of the common whelk. The whelk lives offshore but the egg-balls float and are often washed up by the tide. It is said that sailors would use egg-balls to wash themselves, instead of a sponge.



MERMAID'S PURSE

(various fish species) 10 cm

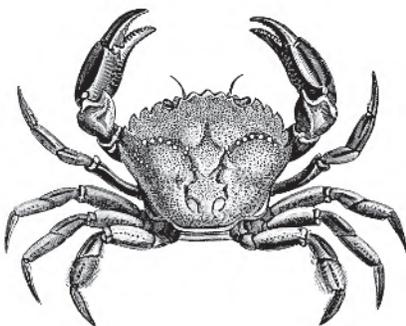
These strange packages are the egg cases of cartilaginous fish such as skate and dogfish (a small species of shark). The cases would have contained a live embryo and were attached to a solid object, such as seaweed, until the fish hatched out. Most are empty when they are washed ashore but occasionally one will contain an embryo.



GOOSE BARNACLES

(*Lepas* spp.) 3 cm

Look for goose barnacles on pieces of old driftwood, to which they attach themselves. Goose barnacles drift in the open ocean on floating objects, feeding on small animals, until the wind washes them onto the shore.



SHORE CRAB

(*Carcinus maenas*)

The commonest crab on Jersey's seashore. It is an expert scavenger which can live in a variety of habitats, from rock pools to open sand, but their dead remains float and so are frequently washed up onto the upper shore. Make sure the crab is dead - the live ones can nip!