

Shelley Beach Site 2 – Wednesday 9th August 2006

It was a beautiful clear cool sunny day for our Seagrass-Watch monitoring at Shelley Beach site 2 (SB2). On our leisurely walk to the site we spotted a green turtle sunbaking amongst the intertidal rocks. It is quite common to see turtles sunbaking as it allows them to rid themselves of bacteria that can be found on their shells. On our return journey a second turtle was also spotted in the same area. Having worked/studied previously at the SB2 site, Barry Bendell used his experience to lead newcomer Michael Whiting in the right direction (the less muddier path). Meanwhile Catherine Walsh, Iony Woolaghan, Graham Smith and I thought we would take on a challenge (through knee deep mud). After a cardio workout (for some) the peg was located and the three transects were taped and pegged out. We split into our three transect teams and began monitoring the seagrass bed. Overall, it appears that *Zostera capricorni* is increasing in abundance in the area. We also observed, near our sample site, small scattered patches of *Halophila spinulosa*, usually where the water pooled at low tide. It was a great afternoon and we all felt quite energised after our muddy exercise. Thank you to Barry for sharing his seagrass knowledge and to Catherine for taking Michael (hopefully who will volunteer with us in the future) under her experienced Seagrass-Watch wing. Also, this Seagrass-Watch team showed their passion for protecting the environment by collecting two buckets of rubbish along the way. Well Done! ...written by: Naomi Smith



Photo credits: Naomi Smith
L photo. Survey team at Shelly Beach 2.



R. photo. Green-shell turtle sun-baking!