



## **Biodiversity at West Shore Llandudno**

### **Shingle**

**UK Coastal habitats** are a priority for nature conservation. This is partly due to the variety of specialised species associated with them but also because of their naturalness, fragility, scarcity and intrinsic appeal. They support a range of well-known habitat types such as **coastal shingle, coastal sand dunes, sea cliffs.**

**Shingle – the vegetation of drift lines** occurs on deposits of shingle lying at or above mean-high water spring tides. They are subjected to periodic displacement by high tides and storms. The distinctive vegetation which may form only sparse cover is therefore only temporary and composed of annual or short lived perennial species.

**Vegetated shingle** consists of sediment with particle sizes in the range of 2-200mm on which plant communities develop. The vegetation occurring on shingle will depend on the hydrology of a particular site and the amount of finer sediment within the shingle. Typically, the seaward edge harbours pioneer species which is more resistant to wind and exposure to sea spray - such as sea kale. Vegetated shingle is very important for some of our breeding birds such as oystercatchers, and terns, as well as some gull species.