



A

No litter present



B

Predominantly free with some minor instances



C

Widespread with some accumulations



D

Heavily littered





Plastic resin pellets, nurdles, also called “mermaids’ tears” are the raw material from which plastic products are made. We want to find out how common they are on the coastlines and in our environment. They pose a specific risk, pollution source and interest to the end users of the data.

Please visually assess the amount of plastic resin pellets in your Survey Area, particularly focusing at the high tide line where are likely to be found. You are not required to count, weigh or try to remove all pellets from the site. Select which of the following four ‘Grades’ best describes the amount of pellets you found in your Survey Area.

- A** **None present:** No pellets seen along the survey area.
- B** **Predominantly free:** 1-10 pellets seen along the survey area.
- C** **Widespread:** 10-100 pellets seen along the survey area.
- D** **Heavily affected:** More than 100 pellets seen along the survey area.

Plastic resin pellets shown here for size.



Example of a site with a Grade D rating.

