

NC2.3 - Constantine Bay to Harlyn Bay

North Coast



SITE INFORMATION

Location:
2.5 miles west of Padstow

Grid Reference:
SW871758

Parish:
ST MERRY CP

Area:
37.3 Ha



Important note about access to CWS

The County Wildlife Site designation does not confer public access.

What does the designation County Wildlife Site mean?

County Wildlife Sites (CWS) are the most significant areas for wildlife in Cornwall outside Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). County Wildlife Sites contain features that are of substantive nature conservation value at a county level of significance. There are over 490 sites in Cornwall under both public and private ownership and they range from small ponds, copses and linear features, such as river valleys, to wetlands, ancient woodlands and large moors. They make up approximately 10% of the county's land area.

CWS were identified and selected in the 1980s and 1990s using a combination of aerial photograph data, local knowledge and, where possible, ground based surveys. CWS are selected through the application of a set of criteria agreed by Cornwall's Local Sites Partnership.

The benefits and implications of owning a County Wildlife Site

Owning a CWS brings both implications and benefits to the landowner:

- CWS can attract grant aid through Defra's Environmental Stewardship schemes
- Cornwall Wildlife Trust can provide free management advice for landowners
- As the CWS designation is non-statutory, there are no restrictions placed on agricultural operations
- Landowners/Managers remain in control of all land management decisions
- Access is by landowner permission, no rights of access are created.
- Where substantial land use changes are proposed on a CWS, the Local Authority will take wildlife into account along with all other planning considerations

Progress towards achieving National Indicator NII97 Improved Local Biodiversity

Active conservation management is being achieved on this site ☒

Activity

Site Description

This site forms an important part of the North Cornwall coast and stretches from Long Cove to Harlyn Bay, adjoining Trevoze Head and Constantine Bay SSSI to the west and Trevone Bay to Stepper Point CWS (NC2.4) to the east. Part of the extensive Mother Ivey's Bay to Porthmissen Bridge County Geology Site (NC/29) also lies within the site.

The site comprises steep, exposed cliffs bordered by a narrow band of maritime grassland which extends along the flat coastal slopes in parts. This is dominated by red fescue, with thrift, wild carrot, spring squill, kidney vetch, ribwort plantain and thyme. Other grasses present include sweet vernal grass, Yorkshire fog and cocksfoot and typical associates include sea plantain, bird's-foot trefoil and lady's bedstraw. A wet flush to the south east of Polventon (or Mother Ivey's) Bay supports a small area of fen vegetation.

The site extends to low water mark, encompassing the sandy foreshore at Harlyn Bay together with a few smaller coves along Polventon Bay and intertidal rocky reefs.

BAP Priority Habitats: [Maritime Cliff and Slopes](#), [Lowland Fens](#)

BAP Priority Species: small heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* and wall *Lasiommata megera*; dunnoek *Prunella modularis*, skylark *Alauda arvensis*, linnet *Carduelis cannabina*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos* and herring gull *Larus argentatus*

Other notable species: plants of note include Nationally Scarce golden-samphire *Inula crithmoides* and Near Threatened galingale *Cyperus longus*. Amber Listed birds include meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis* and stonechat *Saxicola torquata* with oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, turnstone *Arenaria interpres* and fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* around the coast and cliffs.

Management

2ha in Countryside Stewardship (ending 2012).

Further Information

This summary sheet was produced using information held by the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS). For further details or a comprehensive/notable species search please contact the Wildlife Information Service, email: wis@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk.

For further information regarding Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats and Species refer to UKBAP. Note that species listed may be subject to more than one conservation status and may also be protected under legislation such as the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Refer to JNCC for full current taxon designations.

Contact Us

To make a comment regarding this County Wildlife Site, please fill in a [feedback form](#).

To submit a species record to ERCCIS, please use the online recording system at www.orks.org.uk

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