

NC2.4 - Trevone Bay to Stepper Point

North Coast



SITE INFORMATION

Location:
1.5 miles north west of Padstow

Grid Reference:
SW896771

Parish:
PADSTOW CP

Area:
87.7 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 comprises a series of headlands and bays between Harlyn Bay and Stepper Point, adjoining Constantine Bay to Harlyn Bay CWS (NC2.3) to the west and Camel Estuary to the east. Trevone Bay geological SSSI and three County Geology Sites (NC/29, NC/1 and NC/9) also lie within the site.

The exposed cliffs are bordered by a narrow fringe of maritime grassland which becomes more extensive along the coastal slopes at Stepper Point. Some areas are sheep or rabbit grazed and communities vary but are generally dominated by red fescue and other grasses with a diversity of associated species including thrift, spring squill, kidney vetch, cowslip, bird's-foot trefoil, eyebright and yarrow, along with several of note (see below). Species such as buckshorn plantain and English stonecrop occur in areas of thin soil or bare rocks.

There are also very small areas of windclipped maritime heath and scrub is both scattered within the grassland and dominant in parts. A number of species-rich wet flushes occur along the cliff tops. Particularly rich and diverse areas of fen south of Gunver Head are locally dominated by tussocks of purple moor grass with stands of hoary willowherb, common fleabane, marsh horsetail, yellow flag iris, jointed and hard rush. Sedges and grasses occur in drier areas together with southern marsh orchid and a small adjacent pool supports additional species such as water fern and fool's watercress.

Rock crevices support rock samphire, ox-eye daisy, sea plantain, thrift and sea spleenwort, and lichens covering exposed cliff faces include several notable species. The site extends to low water mark, encompassing the sandy foreshore at Trevone Bay along with a few smaller coves and extensive intertidal rocky reefs. Gulland Rock situated offshore is also included and, along with the mainland coastline, is important for grey seals and seabirds.

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

BAP Priority Species: divided sedge *Carex divisa* (Harlyn Bay is the only known site in Cornwall); small heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* and wall *Lasiommata megera*; common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*; 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*, autumn squill *Scilla autumnalis* and sharp rush *Juncus acutus* together with Near Threatened allseed *Radiola linoides*. Lichen interest includes Nationally Scarce *Arthonia endlicheri* and *Buellia stellulata*. The site is important for breeding seabirds; records include Amber Listed kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, razorbill *Alca torda* and guillemot *Uria aalge*. Additional Amber Listed species include meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*, stonechat *Saxicola torquata*, kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, turnstone *Arenaria interpres* and lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*.

Management

37ha in Countryside Stewardship (ending 2012); 6ha in Countryside Stewardship (ending 2013).

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

LOGOUT