

## NC43 - Polmark Valley



### SITE INFORMATION

Location:  
2 miles west of Padstow

Grid Reference:  
SW883750

Parish:  
PADSTOW CP

Area:  
5.9 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

Polmark Valley is a low, flat and sheltered valley which joins the coast at Harlyn Bay. An un-named stream runs through the site and the valley bottom is waterlogged in parts.

Reedbed, a rare habitat in Cornwall, stretches along part of the site. It is relatively undisturbed and fairly dry, with small areas of grey willow. The

stream and margins support a diverse flora of typical tall waterside herbs such as yellow flag iris and marsh thistle. Soft rush dominates in parts and lesser spearwort, hemp agrimony and meadowsweet occur in damper areas, whilst the banks and drier fringes support Yorkshire fog, bramble and nettle. There is also a small area of scrub and broadleaved woodland near the remains of St Cadoc's Chapel towards the south of the site.

**BAP Priority Habitats:** [Reedbeds](#), [Lowland Fens](#)

**BAP Priority Species:** divided sedge *Carex divisa* (only known site in Cornwall); song thrush *Turdus philomelos*; otter *Lutra lutra*

**Other notable species:** bird records include Amber Listed teal *Anas crecca*, snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, water rail *Rallus aquaticus* and meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*.

## Management

4ha in Entry Level Stewardship (ending 2010).

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.orks.org.uk)

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