

EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Polruan to Polperro
Unitary Authority/County: Cornwall
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SX161512
SAC EU code: UK0030241
Area (ha): 213.39
Component SSSI: Polruan to Polperro SSSI

Site description:

This site comprises approximately 10 km of largely south-facing coastal cliff. The cliff habitats are influenced by the complex variation in rock types and structure at this location. They support a variety of maritime rock crevice and ledge communities with transitions to maritime grasslands.

Rock crevice and ledge communities are characterised by a sparse vegetation cover of thrift *Armeria maritima*, English stonecrop *Sedum anglicum*, wild carrot *Daucus carota*, rock samphire *Crithmum maritimum* and sea campion *Silene maritima*. Tree mallow *Lavatera arborea* and wild cabbage *Brassica oleracea* also occur locally. The maritime grasslands are found alongside or amongst areas of scrub and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, and the species composition reflects the variation in the calcareous influence of the underlying rock strata. Characteristic species include thrift, wild carrot, sea campion, wild thyme *Thymus polytrichus*, common restharrow *Ononis repens*, sheep's-bit *Jasione montana*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*. Slender bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus angustissimus*, hairy bird's-foot trefoil *L. subbiflorus*, autumn lady's tresses *Spiranthes spiralis* and early purple orchid *Orchis mascula* are also present locally.

Areas of heath vegetation are present, characterized by western gorse *Ulex gallii*, with heather *Calluna vulgaris* and bell heather *Erica cinerea* occurring locally. In places the lower cliffs and backshore are influenced by freshwater seepages, flushes and springs which support a significant population of shore dock *Rumex rupestris*.

Qualifying habitats: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- European dry heaths
- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

Qualifying species: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following species listed in Annex II:

- Shore dock *Rumex rupestris*

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.

Register reference number: UK0030241

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs