

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

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

<b>Name:</b>	Tintagel–Marsland–Clovelly Coast
<b>Unitary Authority/County:</b>	Cornwall, Devon
<b>SAC status:</b>	Designated on 1 April 2005
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SS225234
<b>SAC EU code:</b>	UK0013047
<b>Area (ha):</b>	2429.84
<b>Component SSSI:</b>	Boscastle to Widemouth SSSI, Bude Coast SSSI, Hobby to Peppercombe SSSI, Marsland to Clovelly Coast SSSI, Steeple Point to Marsland Mouth SSSI, Tintagel Cliffs SSSI

### Site description:

This site comprises an extensive length of largely hard coastal cliff, with a range of maritime influences and vegetation developed on hard neutral to acidic sedimentary rocks. It contains a range of vertical or near-vertical cliffs with intervening slumped sections. The greater part of this very long site, totalling approximately 60 km, is west-facing, fully exposed to Atlantic storms and therefore strongly maritime in character. The section east of Hartland Point faces north and north-east and is relatively sheltered.

Cliff face and crevice communities support thrift *Armeria maritima*, kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, rock samphire *Crithmum maritimum*, sea campion *Silene maritima* and rock sea-spurrey *Spergularia rupicola*. Rock sea lavender *Limonium binervosum* and golden samphire *Inula crithmoides* occur locally on the more exposed headlands. Further up the cliffs there is a rapid transition to maritime heath and short coastal grassland, characterised by heather *Calluna vulgaris*, bell heather *Erica cinerea*, western gorse *Ulex gallii*, wild thyme *Thymus polytrichus*, spring squill *Scilla verna*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, wild carrot *Daucus carota* and sheep's-bit *Jasione montana*. Locally these show transitions to scrub communities in more sheltered locations.

Stretches of old sessile oak wood occur at various points along this section of coast, often extending down the cliff face and inland along some of the more sheltered valleys. The bryophyte and lichen assemblages are particularly rich, and the Atlantic influence is also shown in the abundance of hay-scented buckler-fern *Dryopteris aemula*. There is an unusual cliff woodland, the Dizzard, where the trees are severely wind-pruned and have an exceptionally rich lichen flora.

**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
- Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles. (Western acidic oak woodland)
- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

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

Register reference number: UK0013047

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trew Salmon*

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