

CITATION

COUNTY: ISLES OF SCILLY SITE NAME: TEAN

DISTRICT:

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended

Local Planning Authority: COUNCIL OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY

National Grid Reference: SV 909166 Area: 121.3 (ha.) 299.7 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 203 1:10,000: SV 91 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971 Date of Last Revision: 1976

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Site lies within Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Isles of Scilly Heritage Coast. Land below Mean High Water Mark has been deleted from the original site boundary.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Tean is an uninhabited island located 1.5 km to the east of Tresco on the north east side of the Isles of Scilly archipelago. It is composed of a series of granite tors, Great Hill rising to over 40 metres, separated by lower land overlain with glacial till and outwash gravels. Glacial erratics are abundant on the beaches to the north and north west of the island, marking the approximate southern limit of soliflucted outwash gravels.

The areas of dune grassland behind East and West Porth are particularly important for the occurrence of the very rare Dwarf Pansy *Viola kitaibeliana*, a plant which occurs on Scilly and nowhere else in Great Britain. Four-leaved Allseed *Polycarpon tetraphyllum*, another rare plant species also occurs on the island and there are several populations of the Balm-leaved Figwort *Scrophularia scorodonia*. Areas of maritime grassland where Thrift *Armeria maritima* and Sea Campion *Silene maritima* are abundant occur on either side of St Helen's Porth and on the south of the island near to Clodgie Point where Orange Bird's-foot *Ornithopus pinnatus* also occurs.

The summit of Great Hill exhibits a small area of lowland heath but much of the remainder of the Tean is dominated by Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* on the previously cultivated parts of the island. Human influence on the island is considerable as it was inhabited from the 17th Century and some 8 hectares were once walled off and cultivated. These areas still possess relict pasture plants such as Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Hop Trefoil *Trifolium campestre*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Rye Grass *Lolium perenne*, and Yellow Oat Grass *Trisetum flavescens*.

The island also supports five species of breeding seabirds including a small colony of Puffin *Fratercula artica* on the east side of the island. The other breeding seabirds include Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* and a few Greater Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*.