

COUNTY: DEVON **SITE NAME:** BLACKSTONE POINT

DISTRICT: SOUTH HAMS

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

Local Planning Authority: Devon County Council, South Hams District Council

National Grid Reference: SX 535 462 **Area:** 7.38 ha

Ordnance Survey Sheets: **1:50,000:** 201 **1:10,000:** SX 54 NW

Date Notified (under 1949 Act): N/A

Date Notified (under 1981 Act):

Reasons for Notification:

This site is notified because of the occurrence of the internationally rare flowering plant *Rumex rupestris* (shore dock). The species is a European coastal endemic that is threatened throughout its range with its world status recorded as vulnerable.

General Description:

Blackstone Point is located on the South Devon Coast between the Erme and Yealm estuaries. The site lies on the cliffs slopes and raised beach of overlain quaternary and periglacial deposits forming head, which provides the ideal habitat for the shore dock. The underlying geology of the site consists of slates from the Dartmouth Group of the Lower Devonian period. This provides the freshwater seepage habitats, which are needed by the shore dock communities.

Blackstone Point is of special interest because it supports the second largest rocky foreshore communities of shore dock in the United Kingdom and the largest population in Devon.

The site provides nesting habitat for the rare ciril bunting for which the south Devon coast is the species stronghold within the United Kingdom.

Other Information:

In recognition of its international importance shore dock is listed under Annexes II(b) and IV(b) of the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora 1992 92/43/EEC (commonly known as the Habitats Directive), it is also listed on Appendix 1 of the Bern Convention and Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Shore dock is listed as a priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1995.

The site lies within the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and South Devon Heritage Coast