

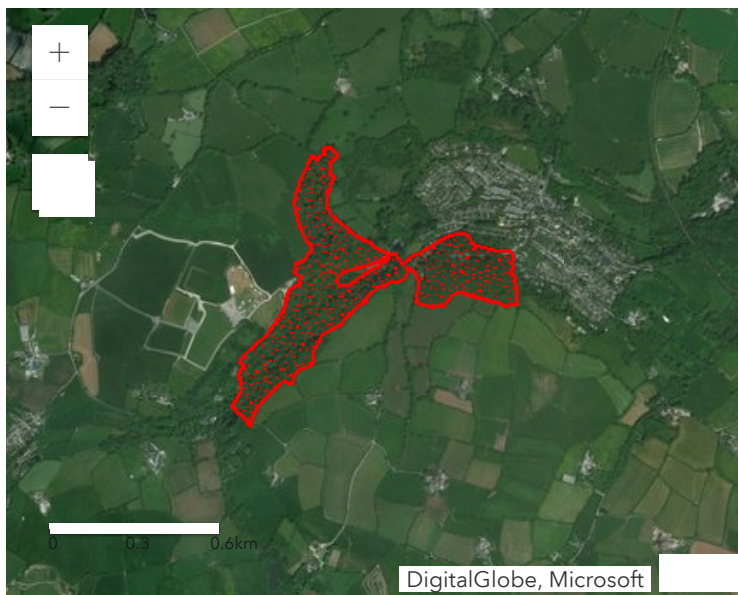
SITE INFORMATION

Location:
1 mile east of Stithians

Grid Reference:
SW751374

Parish:
STITHIANS CP

Area:
25 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

The site is almost entirely made up of beech-dominated woodland along a steep-sided river valley. It contains a water-filled quarry and the slopes are punctuated by the remains of granite gunpowder mills and a complex system of leats.

Within Kennall Wood, mature beech forms a dense canopy with occasional sessile oak, sycamore and sweet chestnut. Sessile oak becomes more

dominant species on the northern side of the valley. Holly is frequent in the understorey and there is a typical ground flora dominated by bluebell and greater woodrush with numerous ferns. In the damper valley bottom under a canopy of ash there is a particularly rich ground flora. Approximately 8 hectares are classified as ancient replanted woodland, mainly along the northern arm.

To the east, Cot Wood is also dominated by beech, but this grades into mixed broadleaved woodland in the south, with some ash and oak species. The understorey is largely sparse and most of the ground flora is dominated by bramble. Rhododendron is present in both areas of woodland.

BAP Priority Habitats: none recorded

BAP Priority Species: trout *Salmo trutta* have been recorded in the river and leats. Also ghost moth *Hepialus humuli*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* and otter *Lutra lutra*.

Other notable species: Nationally Scarce Lepidoptera include Devon carpet *Lampropteryx otregiata* and the micro-moths *Elachista regificella* and *Psychoides filicivora*. Also records of Amber Listed kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and badger *Meles meles* (protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992).

Management

Includes 8 ha managed as Kennal Vale Cornwall Wildlife Trust nature reserve.

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.

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.orcs.org.uk