

SITE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 22 DECEMBER 1986

COUNTY: ISLES OF SCILLY

SITE NAME: POOL OF BRYHER &
POPPLESTONE BANK (BRYHER)

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 875148

Area: 5.9 (ha.) 14.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 203

1:10,000: SV 81 SE, 81 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971

Date of Last Revision: 1976

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

The site lies within the Isles of Scilly Heritage Coast and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Renotification covers land above Mean High Water Mark. Site boundary amended by small deletion.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This site is located on the west side of the island of Bryher on the north-west margins of the Isles of Scilly archipelago. Great Pool is the only true brackish lagoon within Scilly being separated from the sea by only a narrow highly mobile storm beach backed by a small dune system.

The shallow water in Great Pool supports a dense growth of Beaked Tasselweed *Ruppia maritima* and Sea-milkwort *Glaux maritima*. Saltmarsh Rush *Junus gerardii* is abundant around the margins of the pool with Lesser Sea-spurrey *Spergularia marina* and Red Goosefoot *Chenopodium rubrum* in the adjacent turf. Little Pool, a small pond to the north, is less brackish and supports abundant Lesser Marshwort *Apium inundatum* and Brackish Water-crowfoot *Ranunculus baudotii* in the open water with Intermediate Water Starwort *Callitriche intermedia*, Lesser Spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and Marsh Pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* around the margins.

The storm beach backing Great Popplestone Bay comprises rounded granite boulders and cobbles and is occasionally breached in gale conditions. The narrow coastal dune system behind is dominated by Marram *Ammophila arenaria* which is backed by a small area of dune grassland with Sand Sedge *Carex arenaria*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Buck's-horn Plantain *Plantago coronopus*, Common Stork's-bill *Erodium cicutarium*, Thrift *Armeria maritima* and Wild Carrot *Daucus carota* common. This short turf sward is also of particular importance for the occurrence of the nationally rare Early Meadow-grass *Poa infirma*. More stable mature dunes occur to the north of Great Pool where Marram is still common but there is also abundant Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*.