

County: Cornwall

Site Name: Nance Wood

District: Kerrier

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

Local Planning Authority: Kerrier District Council
Cornwall County Council

National Grid Reference: SW 665450 **Area:** 9.8 (ha) 24.2 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 203 **1:10,000:** SW 64 NE, SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1951 **Date of Last Revision:** 1973

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 **Date of Last Revision:** –

Other Information:

Description:

Nance Wood is a narrow strip of semi-natural woodland developed on steep north-facing slopes. The parent rock is Devonian shale, giving rise to soils which are predominantly acid and free-draining, although there are small pockets of more base-rich soils.

The majority of the woodland is composed of almost pure sessile oak *Quercus petraea*; last actively coppiced some 40–60 years ago. Proximity to the sea has resulted in a low, wind-pruned canopy between 4 and 6 metres high.

The ground flora consists of honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, with scattered stands of greater woodrush *Luzula sylvatica* on steeper slopes.

The shrub layer is composed of holly *Ilex aquifolium*, hazel *Corylus avellana* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*.

The southern arm of Nance Wood supports an area of ash-oak-sycamore coppice, with some hawthorn, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and a few wych elm *Ulmus glabra*.

The site supports a good bryophyte flora, with 81 moss and 21 liverwort species recorded. Of particular interest are the mosses *Hookeria lucens* which shows a typically oceanic, west coast distribution, and the nationally rare species *Pohlia rothii* and *Aloina ambigua*.

The site is of particular importance for the presence of Irish spurge *Euphorbia hyberna*, one of the only 2 British localities for this Red Data Book species. The dwarf *Quercus petraea* coppice is of interest in its own right.