

Notified to the Secretary of State: 5 December 1989

COUNTY: Cornwall

SITE NAME: CABILLA MANOR WOOD

DISTRICT: North Cornwall, Caradon

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

Local Planning Authority: Cornwall County Council, North Cornwall District Council, Caradon District Council

National Grid Reference: SX 150697

Area: 15.1 (ha) 37.3 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 200, 201

1:10,000: SX 17 SW, SX 16 NW,  
SX 16 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1989

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Lies within Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (Bodmin Moor)

#### **Description and Reasons for Notification:**

Cabilla Manor Wood lies about 7 kms north-east of Bodmin on the southern edge of the Bodmin Moor granite mass, and is bisected by the Warleggan River.

To the west of the river, Cabilla Tor surmounts the steep, wooded granite scree or “clitter” slope on which coppiced, ancient Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea* woodland is dominant. Cascades of Great Woodrush *Luzula sylvatica* form the bulk of the ground flora which includes Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, Wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* and Common Cow-wheat *Melampyrum pratense*. Ferns are abundant and include Scaly Male-fern *Dryopteris affinis*, Broad Buckler-fern *D.dilatata*, Lady-fern *Athyrium filix-femina* and Hard Fern *Blechnum spicant*. Of particular note is the presence of Wilson’s Filmy-fern *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* and Tonbridge Filmy-fern *H.tunbrigense* on wet rock overhangs. Forty-six species of moss have been recorded including the locally rare *Atrichum undulatum* and the first record for Cornwall of *Pohlia muyldermansii*.

The woodland to the east of the river is also dominated by Sessile Oak, but has some Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Beech *Fagus sylvatica* amongst the canopy, and has been less extensively coppiced in the past. The epiphytes Ivy *Hedera helix* and Polypody *Polypodium vulgare* are abundant on the trees. The deeper soils here support an understorey of Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Holly *Ilex aquifolium* with occasional Rowan *Sorbus acuparia* and Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus*. The ground flora consists largely of Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* with occasional Hart’s-tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium* and the uncommon Lemon-scented Fern *Oreopteris limbo-sperma*. Alongside the river, in wet hollows and flushes, are scattered Grey Willow *Salix cinerea* and Alder *Alnus glutinosa* with Hemlock Water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*, Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and Common Valerian *Valeriana officinalis*.

The river itself is structurally diverse with boulders, riffles, pools and overhanging banks, and is a breeding site for Large Red Damselfly *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* and Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*. Otter *Lutra lutra* spraint has recently been found on the river banks.

A disused quarry and mine now support Gorse *Ulex europaeus*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula* and Grey Willow scrub. This area is of significance for its fauna. Buzzard *Buteo buteo* and Raven *Corvus corax* nest on ledges on the cliffed quarry faces and small numbers of four species of bat use the complicated underground mine system. These are Greater Horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, Lesser Horseshoe *R. hipposideros*, Daubenton's *Myotis daubentonii* and Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus* Bats.