

32. South Gower Coast: Port Eynon Point

Port Eynon, Swansea

Grid References	O.S. Explorer map 164 Gower. Main entrance: SS467848, Site centre: SS465845
Status	Part of the South Gower Coast SSSI, which in turn is part of the European Natura 2000 site, the Limestone Sea Cliffs of South West Wales SAC.
Tenure	Acquired under leasehold for 60 years in February 1965. The Trust purchased the agricultural rights in 1996, with the help of grant aid from CCW.
Size	13.4 ha (33 acres).
Location and Access Notes	Port Eynon village lies at the end of the A4118. Port Eynon Point can be accessed from the footpath on the west side of Port Eynon beach. Not accessible to wheelchairs. Take care on cliff-top footpaths.
Public Transport	Bus numbers 114, 115, 117, 118 and 119 from Swansea Quadrant Bus Station to Port Eynon.

Description: Sea cliff, foreshore, limestone grassland, heathland, secondary Ash woodland, and quarries.

A large part of the reserve on the inland side has been used for quarrying and now provides a varied set of habitats for plants and animals, including Fox and Rabbit, and birds such as Stonechat and Rock Pipit.

Although part of the cliff top was ploughed during the last war, there is no indication of it in the Gorse heath vegetation that now dominates it. There is a very clear grass strip along the cliff top which is maintained by Rabbit grazing and visitor pressure, where a range of flowers can be found including Sea Campion (6-8), Spring Squill (4-5), Thrift (3-9) and Wild Clary (5-7).

The reserve is regionally important as a sea watching site particularly in late July and early August, though interesting birds are usually present throughout the year. January and February often bring Red-throated and Great Northern Diver. At the end of July and early August at day break, large numbers of Manx Shearwater and Gannet may be seen flying past and often there are large groups of Common Scoter off-shore.



Management Objectives: To monitor the vegetation, and visitor pressure, and undertake management to reduce the amount of Gorse scrub and encourage more heathland communities.

Good times to visit

Jan - Feb	Sea watching for wintering divers, etc.
Mar - Sept	Coastal flowers
May - Jul	Coastal breeding birds
Late July - Early August	Sea-watching for large scale seabird movements

[N.B. For large numbers of seabirds in July/August, it is essential to be on site at day break.]