

Fal and Helford SAC (Special Area of Conservation)

Main site areas:

Sea inlets (60%)

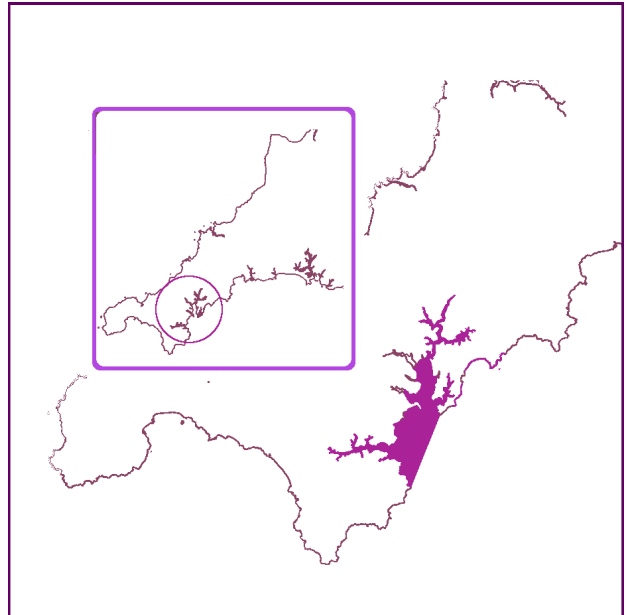
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (35%)

Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes (3%)

Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches.

Machair (1%)

Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets (1%)



The Fal and Helford SAC is located on the southern coastline of west Cornwall. The seaward boundary of the site is defined by a line that runs between Zone Point in the northeast of the site and Manacle Point in the southwest.

The site is complex comprising of the Fal and Helford ria systems (drowned river valleys) and Fal-mouth Bay. Both ria systems receive low freshwater input and therefore contain a notable range of fully marine habitats with a high diversity of species across the majority of the site. These habitats are highly influenced by the degree of exposure of the site which varies greatly from extremely sheltered mudflats in the upper Fal to more exposed rocky coastal areas around the mouth of the Helford. Furthermore, the south-westerly location promotes warmer seawater temperatures which allow species to occur that are usually more southerly in their distribution.

Reference: For full site information please visit the link below.

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0013112>

Relevant Byelaws: [Closed area \(European Marine Sites\) No.2](#)

Habitats that are the primary reason for selection of this site
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
Large shallow inlets and bays
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)
Habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site
Estuaries
Reefs
Species that are a primary reason for selection of this site
Shore dock
Species that are a primary reason for selection of this site
None