

Register of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

SINC name Gurnard Cliff West **SINC** 14

Alternative names

Area ha 9.09

Access Access on footpaths

Grid reference SZ 465950

Site managed by Private landowner

Statutory Main River No

Ancient Woodland Inventory Yes

Local Nature Reserve No

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Yes

Major habitat Maritime cliffs, scrub, calcareous grassland

Subsidiary habitat

Geology Bembridge limestone and landslip

Protected species None recorded

National BAP Priority Species None recorded

Red Data book species None recorded

Nationally scarce species None recorded

Locally important species None recorded

Associated sites Thorness Bay SSSI, Solent and Southampton Water cSAC

General description of site

A series of parallel slumped cliffs adjacent to the Thorness Bay SSSI. The most recently formed cliffs are largely unvegetated but support pioneering plants such as Coltsfoot, Giant Horsetail, and Tall Melilot. The more mature cliff slumps are dominated locally by Wood Small-reed and Common Reed, in association with species more commonly found on calcareous grassland, such as Yellow-wort, Restharrow, and Common Centaury. The oldest slumps are dominated by mixed scrub with Birch and Alder in wetter areas, and Gorse, Hawthorn and Privet in the drier. Likely to be of entomological value but not surveyed.

Information updated

05/01/2001