**Additional material**

### 3.4 Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

The following habitats can be identified within the Ramsar site:

**Terrestrial Habitats**

Coastal Grassland

A total of 54 species of vascular plants have been recorded from the south side of the headland, and 56 from the north, with 30 species common to both sides. These species are typical of those found on cliffs in the Channel Islands. The vegetation of the south side of the headland is more ‘Mediterranean’ in type with mostly low growing plants, and many species that flower in spring or autumn. That on the north side is much lusher and scrub is present covering areas of the cliff. Presumably this difference is due to the aspect. Similar differences are found between south and north facing cliffs elsewhere in Sark and in the other Channel Islands.

On the north east side of the site the boundary is formed by a steep valley that descends to the sea on the north. In this there is a flush, and other areas of wet ground. These wet areas support a different flora including Marsh Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*) only found in a few other places in the island.

**Marine Habitats**

Undersea Caves (partially exposed at low water)

These caves form the unique interest of the site. The fauna is described in the popular leaflet by Allen (2007). The walls are in large areas covered with marine life, and this is exposed at low water spring tides. It is one of the very few places in Western Europe where many of the species present can be seen by observers on foot and is the largest such area. A species list of many of the larger organisms present is given by Allen (2007). The reason for the species richness is not completely clear. One factor is probably that the caves have several entrances and inter-conecting passageways leading to strong currents through the caves at high water, bringing plenty of food to the mainly filter-feeding organisms on the walls.