

Evidence of the historic presence of seagrass in Dale Bay

The following is an excerpt from a review written by Quentin Kay in 1998 then of the National Botanic Garden of Wales.

Q.O.N. Kay (1998) *A review of the existing state of knowledge of the ecology and distribution of seagrass beds around the coast of Wales*. Countryside Council for Wales Contract Survey no. FC 73-01-168

Within the report explicit reference is made to the following UK national Grid reference SM817054 where the seagrass (*Zostera marina*) was thought to be abundant in the period 1928-30 (see location map below).

Instructions: Right-click (or Tap) on the Map to Display the Grid Reference and Location Information

Instructions: Find a grid reference on the Google map by simply right-clicking on the map. Enter a location search below.

Post Code Go

Location (Road , Town) Go

Grid Reference Go

X (Easting) Y (Northing) Go

Lat Long Go

What3Words Go

Grid Reference

SM 81700 05400

Grid Reference (6 figure)

SM817054

X (Easting) : 181700 Y (Northing) : 205400

Latitude : 51.704763 Longitude : -5.1608105

Address (near) : Dale, Pembrokeshire, Wales, SA62 3RB, United Kingdom

Postcode (nearest) : SA62 3RB

- Ordnance Survey map of point
- Bing map of point (external)
- Google Map of point (external)
- Google Streetview of point (external)
- QR Code for this Point
- Info and Postcode
- Link for this Point
- Zoom here

Link for All Points | Elevation Chart | Show Points on OS Map | Show Points on OpenStreetMap | Distance Matrix | Heatmap | Toggle Show Pin Labels |

Export Points to CSV | Export Points to Excel | Export Points to Google Earth (KML) | Export Points to GPX (route) | Export Points to GPX (waypoints)

Advertisement

2.5 Pembrokeshire (v.c. 45)

2.5.1 County Flora records

No full County Flora of Pembrokeshire has yet been published. Lillian Rees's *List of Pembrokeshire Plants* (Rees 1955) included no records of *Zostera*. T.A. Warren Davis's *Plants of Pembrokeshire* (1970) includes the following entries:

p.56. 576/1. *Zostera marina* L. COMMON EEL-GRASS. Muddy sand below low water of lowest spring tides, Dale (1958, 80NW, MG (1961). M.G. and the writer failed to find it again in 1961: we assumed it had been removed by scouring.

[M.G. is Martin George, who was assistant warden at Dale Fort Field Centre at the time, author of George (1961), *The flowering plants and ferns of Dale, Pembrokeshire*].

Z. angustifolia (Homem.) Reichb. NARROW-LEAVED EEL-GRASS. At about half tide level on mud of estuaries. Sandy Haven Pill (80NE); Kilpaison Bay (80SE); Landshipping (01SW); Dale (1958-1961, 80NW), extinct by April, 1962.

In the botanical literature, the first published records of any *Zostera* from Pembrokeshire appeared in 1961, from T.A.W. Davis, the BSBI County Recorder, and Martin George of Dale Fort Field Centre. Davis's record was as follows (Davis 1961):

'Pembroke... *Zostera angustifolia* (an eel-grass). Forms a narrow discontinuous belt for 400 yards in the upper reaches of Sandy Haven Pill; first found by M.GEORGE in 1958 and identified by T.G. TUTIN. First county record.'

This record was also published in *BSBI Proceedings* (Plant Records) 4, 430 (1962).

Martin George's account was more detailed and is of particular interest for its description of a locality for *Z. marina* which has not been referred to by any subsequent recorders and where it was thought to have declined in the then recent past, perhaps during the 'wasting disease' of the 1930s (George 1961):

'*Zostera marina*, Eel-grass. A few plants found at ELWST under Point Wood about 200 yards south-east of Brig stones in September 1958. Not found in 1960 and probably extinct. This area [c.SM817054] is known locally as "The Greens" and the plant was undoubtedly abundant in this locality about thirty years ago [c.1928-30].

Zostera angustifolia (*Z. hornemanniana*). Small colony in drainage channel at the western end of the saltmarsh. Apparently decreasing. Det. TGT.'

n.b. *Zostera angustifolia* is a narrow leaf form of *Zostera marina*, once thought to be a different species, so please note the above text is referring to *Z. marina* (eelgrass) when it states *Z. angustifolia*.