

# LYDSTEP POINT

Dramatic scenery and cascades of maritime flowers



David Saunders

**A**NOTHER PEMBROKESHIRE headland to enjoy – some 54 acres at Lydstep Point was acquired by the National Trust in 1936, with a grant from the Pilgrim Trust. The Pembrokeshire Coast Path, part of the 870 miles Wales Coastal Path, provides easy access to the Point with its superb views towards Caldey. St Margaret's Island, has one of the largest Cormorant colonies in Wales.

Skrinkle Haven marks the divide between the red cliffs of Devonian Old Red Sandstone and the pale grey cliffs of Carboniferous Limestone, the hinterland once part of a Royal Artillery Range – a section to the west is still in active use.

It's a pity that this includes the rather fine viewpoint of Old Castle Head, which looks ideally placed from a sea-watching aspect.

On a recent visit to Lydstep Point, a Gannet continually passed

backwards and forwards below, a reminder that, just a short distance away, a single bird appeared each summer for several years on St Margaret's Island, built a nest, even laying an egg on one occasion.

Was this a forerunner of a new colony, even though there is still plenty of room for expansion on Grassholm?

DAVID SAUNDERS



**OTHER WILDLIFE**  
Grey Seals are possible close inshore, Harbour Porpoise and dolphins further out



Calum Dickson / Alamy

## SITE GUIDE

GRID REF: SS 094 975  
POST CODE: SA70 7SD for South Lodge, Lydstep, closest building to the Point  
**HOW TO GET THERE:** Take the A4139 from Tenby to Pembroke turning left in the heart of Lydstep village on to a very narrow road for the Point. Alternatively, continue on the A4139 a short distance, then left onto the B4585 for half a mile, then left towards Manorbier Camp, close to the gates of which another left to reach the Skrinkle car parks  
**WHERE TO PARK:** National Trust car park with limited space near Lydstep Point, alternatively at the Skrinkle Community Centre or a short distance to the cliff top  
**TERRAIN:** Coastal footpath with some steep climbs and steps.  
**ACCESS:** Open at all times.  
**FACILITIES:** All easily available in Lydstep and Manorbier villages  
**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Hourly bus service between Tenby and Pembroke Mondays to Saturday. Traveline Cymru tel: 0871 200 2233, web: [travelinecymru.info](http://travelinecymru.info)  
**ORGANISATIONS:** Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, tel: 01646 624800, web: [pembrokeshirecoast.wales](http://pembrokeshirecoast.wales)  
**COUNTY RECORDER:** Jon Green, email: [jonrg@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jonrg@tiscali.co.uk)  
**MAPS:** OS Outdoor Leisure 36, OS Landranger 158

### KEY POINTS

**1** Immediately obvious around the old quarry workings will be Wrens, their loud song quickly attracting attention, less conspicuous will be Rock Pipits; always busy, never too far from the sea edge, but often overlooked. Wheatears on passage are always a feature.

**2** Fulmars nest along these cliffs and fly past almost at foot level as you stand safely on the cliff top. A small number of Razorbills also nest, clinging on despite the cliff climbers. Others, together with Guillemots and Cormorants, choose St Margaret's Island just across the water.

**3** Some 150 pairs of Ravens nest in Pembrokeshire, half of which use coastal cliffs. Family parties with recently-fledged young are an enchanting sight when chanced upon in early summer. A little later in the season, the noisy call of Choughs attracts your attention.

**4** Whitethroats nesting among the coastal scrub are usually immediately obvious. Lesser Whitethroats by contrast need more effort to locate – listen out for their rattling song. The Grasshopper Warbler is another bird to listen out for. The Dartford Warbler first nested in Pembrokeshire in 2003 but remains a challenge.

