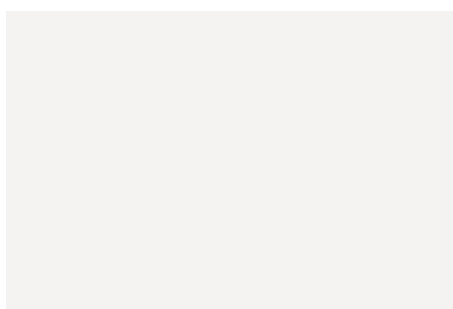
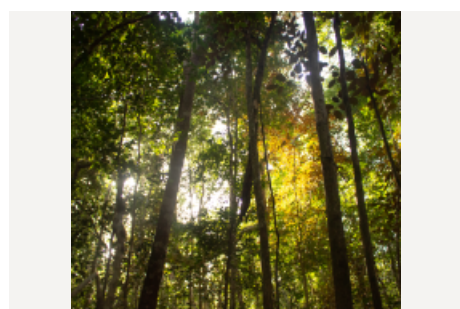
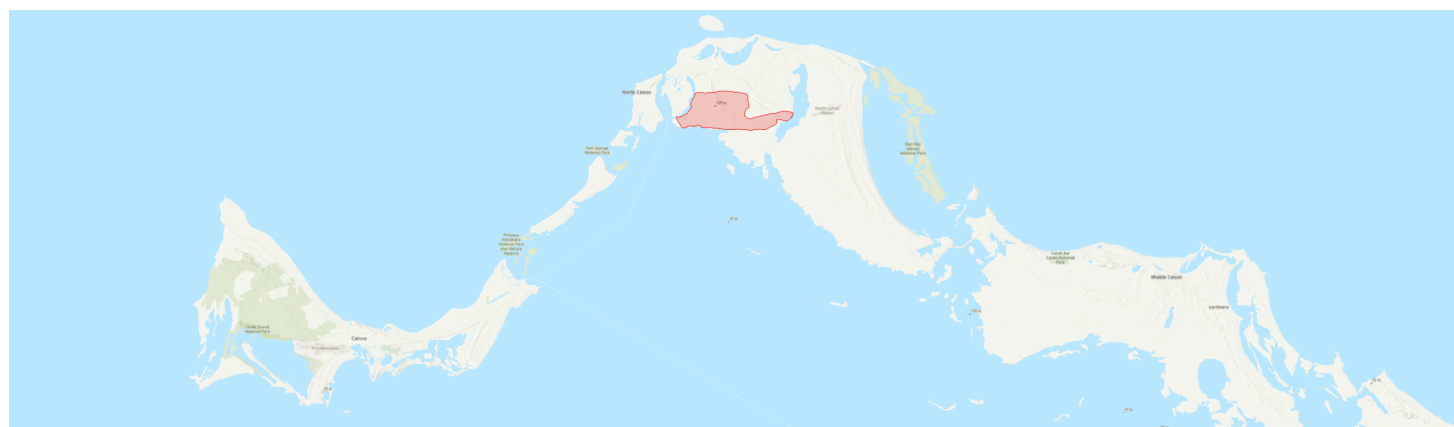


# North Caicos Oakbottom

TCL\_05



Country: **Turks and Caicos Islands**

Administrative region: **North Caicos (Island)**

Central co-ordinates: **21.91431 N, -72.00806 E**

Area: **11.86km<sup>2</sup>**

## Qualifying IPA criteria

A(i), B(ii), B(iii), C(iii)

## IPA assessment rationale

This site qualifies as a TIPA under criterion A(i) as it supports the only known site in Turks and Caicos for the threatened terrestrial orchid *Ponthieva brittoniae* and is thus inferred to support more than 5% of the national population of this species. The entire population in TCI of the grass *Sporobolus bahamensis* can also be found in this TIPA. The site also has high botanical richness, with eight species from the list of species of high conservation importance occurring here, meeting the threshold for criterion B(ii), and 19 species from the list of species of social, cultural or economic value, meeting the threshold for criterion B(iii). Additionally, this site qualifies under C(iii) as it is one of the five best sites for the Ironshore, Palustrine Swamp and Tropical Dry Forest habitats.

## Site description

This TIPA is situated in the north-west of North Caicos and spans from Bellefield Landing at its western extent, across to the southern end of Flamingo Pond, encompassing the Wades Green area and the surrounding areas of Kew Settlement.

## Botanical significance

This site contains a number of rare and threatened species. The globally Vulnerable but ephemeral orchid Lady Britton's Shadow witch (*Ponthieva brittoniae*) is known only in Turks and Caicos from this TIPA, where it has a small population of around 200 individuals in the Wades Green and Teren Hill area. There are also at least two populations of the endemic and threatened herb *Stenandrium carolinae* found at this site, one along the road between Kew Settlement and Bellefield landing and another along a field road between Kew and Flamingo Pond. The Bahamian endemic grass *Sporobolus bahamensis* has also only been recorded from this TIPA in Turks and Caicos, where it is known to grow around the government farm. The presence of freshwater habitat in this TIPA also means aquatic plant species which are generally rare in TCI such as *Echinodorus berteroi*, can thrive.

## Habitat and geology

This site is largely a mosaic of scrub, tropical dry forest and palustrine swamp habitats, being one of the five best sites in Turks and Caicos for the latter two habitats. Some of the trees in the tropical dry forests are unusually tall for TCI. Additionally, at Bellefield landing can be found one of the best sites for Ironshore habitat.

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## Conservation issues

There is a lot of development pressure at this site, particularly around Bellefield Landing. Additionally coppicing of the large trees in the tropical dry forests for charcoal production is an issue. There is a risk of this, and also land clearance for agriculture, expanding should there be increases in the North Caicos population.

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## Site assessor(s)

### Assessed by:

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### Date of first assessment:

14th Feb 2025

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IPA criterion A species

SPECIES	QUALIFYING SUB-CRITERION	≥ 1% OF GLOBAL POPULATION	≥ 5% OF NATIONAL POPULATION	1 OF 5 BEST SITES NATIONALLY	ENTIRE GLOBAL POPULATION	SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT	ABUNDANCE AT SITE
<i>Chamaecrista caribaea</i>	A(i)	—	—	—	—	✓	
<i>Ponthieva brittoniae</i>	A(i)	—	✓	—	—	✓	
<i>Sporobolus bahamensis</i>	A(i)	—	✓	—	—	—	
<i>Stenandrium carolinae</i>	A(i)	—	—	—	—	—	

IPA criterion C qualifying habitats

HABITAT	QUALIFYING SUB-CRITERION	≥ 5% OF NATIONAL RESOURCE	≥ 10% OF NATIONAL RESOURCE	1 OF 5 BEST SITES NATIONALLY	AREAL COVERAGE AT SITE
Tropical dry forest	C(iii)	—	—	✓	
Ironshore	C(iii)	—	—	—	

General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry Forest	—	
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes	—	
Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry Shrubland	—	

Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
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Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Residential & commercial development - Housing & urban areas	High	Ongoing - increasing
Biological resource use - Logging & wood harvesting	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Agriculture & aquaculture - Annual & perennial non-timber crops - Small-holder farming	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Climate change & severe weather - Storms & flooding	High	Ongoing - increasing