

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

LCA 12 - ST. BRIDE'S BAY

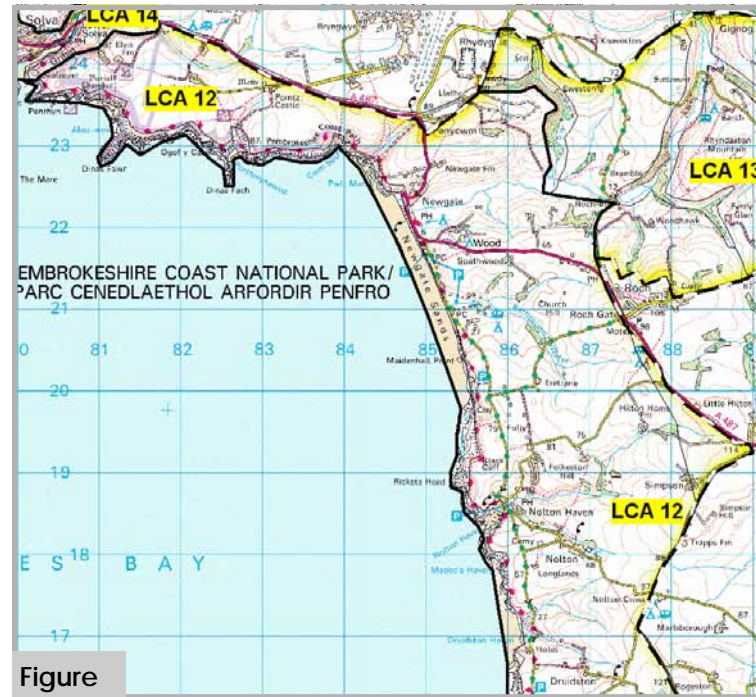
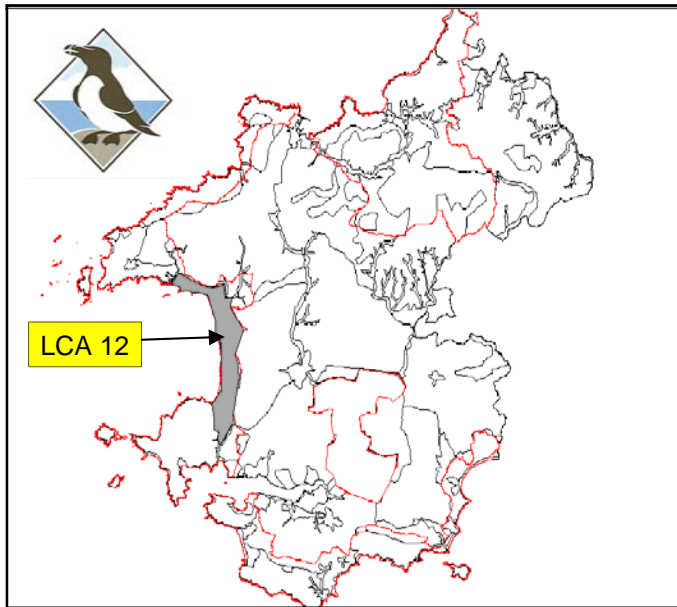


Figure
Refer to Figure 2 for southern area

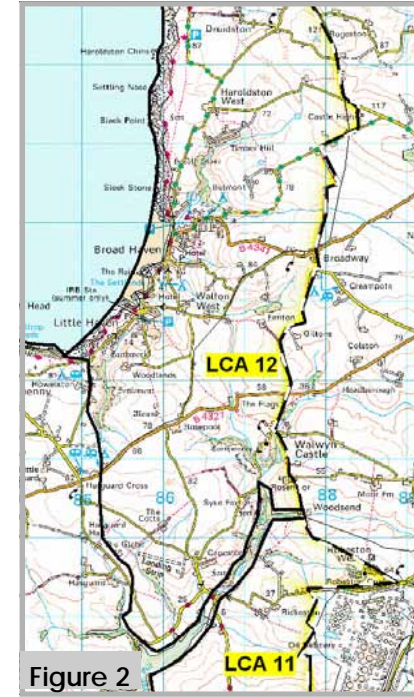


Figure 2

Map Notation:

- National Park Boundary
- Boundary
- LCA Boundary
- LCA Boundary defined by the National Park Boundary

Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

A very large expanse of rolling lowland and associated coastal cliffs and beaches between Solva and Little Haven. The coastal features here provide a strong sense of place.

Visual and Sensory Characteristics

This agricultural landscape overlies a gently undulating landform on the coastal hinterland of this area on the west coast of Pembrokeshire. The landscape contains small wooded valleys and some overgrown hedges and areas of scrub. It has scattered small villages and farmsteads, some with tourism developments, including caravan parks. The strong coastal character arises from a repeated pattern of shallow indentations of small scale rocky headlands and inlets, interspersed with a number of broad sandy beaches. There are extensive views along the coastline and across St. Bride's from the coastal villages and many of the local roads and footpaths.

Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

Habitats include sea cliff heath and grassland, deciduous woodland and scrub. The coastline is dominated by cliffs with extensive rocky and sandy shores. The flood plain of the Brandy Brook at Newgale is characterised by areas of marshy grassland and reed bed.

Geological Characteristics

Rock cliffs - up to c.80m AOD - and associated beaches of the central and southern part of St. Bride's Bay, between Nolton Haven and Little Haven. This section includes some areas of rocky foreshore and short lengths of barrier beach (with incised valleys behind), dominated by sandstones and shales of the Carboniferous Coal Measures. An extensive, stream-dissected area occupying the hinterland of the Havens coast and passing inland is cut by coastal, incised valleys. The bedrock here is dominated by Carboniferous shales and sandstones

Historic and Cultural Characteristics

There are prehistoric ritual sites, round houses, standing stones, Iron Age hill forts, and Medieval earthworks, all of which are of national significance. A small part of this LCA includes an area of the Milford Haven Waterway Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.



Evaluation & Recommendations

LCA No.	Character Area	Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
12	St Brides Bay	29 - Outstanding 72 - High	119-Outstanding 120- Moderate 123 - Moderate 131 - Moderate	437 - High 502 - Moderate 672 - Moderate 746 - Moderate 753 - High 944 - Moderate	43891-Outstanding 46054 -High 46056 - Moderate 46058 -High 46060 -High 46229 -High	003 -Outstanding

LANDMAP Aspect Evaluation Terms:

Outstanding: Of International or National Importance
 High: Of Regional or County Importance
 Moderate: Of Local Importance
 Low: Of Little or No Importance

(The reference numbers in the table refer to the discrete Aspect Areas identified)

Special Qualities (Key Landscape Characteristics)

- This is a very large tract of landscape with a strong visual relationship to the coast from the broad views across St. Brides Bay and along the coastline, which is mostly undeveloped
- There is a high degree of exposure, especially along the higher ground and along the wide expanse of cobble beach that is Newgale Sands; there is more shelter within the lower areas of the rolling farmed landscape
- The sight and sound of this expanse of sea is a constant presence, a perception heightened by the sound of waves breaking onto the cobble beach when there is sufficient wind to raise the swell, and apparent in short, medium and long distance views
- There are some landscapes of high ecological value with habitats of international importance
- The historical and archaeological features present result in a historical landscape with mostly high value and some outstanding value, which underpins the outstanding cultural value. The cultural value is further supported by the continuous tract of open access National Trust land along the northern stretch of coast running eastwards from Solva almost to the northern tip of Newgale Sands.

Discernible Landscape Trends

- The area is managed in a fairly constant state as generally low intensity farmland with frequent grazing including some rough scrub areas towards the coast
- The landscape remains generally attractive and relatively unspoilt except for some of the fringes of the coastal settlements where there are several caravan parks

Management Guidance

- Tourism developments - particularly extensions to caravan parks - should be sited and designed to avoid adverse landscape and visual impacts
- Ensure that any new agricultural buildings respect the historical and cultural significance of the landscape in terms of their siting, layout, form and construction materials
- Preserve the agricultural and woodland mosaic character, with regular cyclical management of hedgerows, including the reinstatement of appropriate hedgerow management where these field boundaries have become overgrown
- Encourage landowners to participate in agri-environmental schemes, with particular emphasis on promotion of the restoration or rehabilitation of traditional field boundary hedgebanks and stone walls at key visual locations
- Ensure that the risk of water pollution incidents is kept to a minimum and conserve the single beach, within defined limits of sustainable management in the context of the more immediate effects of global warming
- Do not allow agriculturally improved land to extend into heathland areas
- Assimilate developments into the landscape at the edges of settlements through careful siting, selection of materials, form and screening.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.