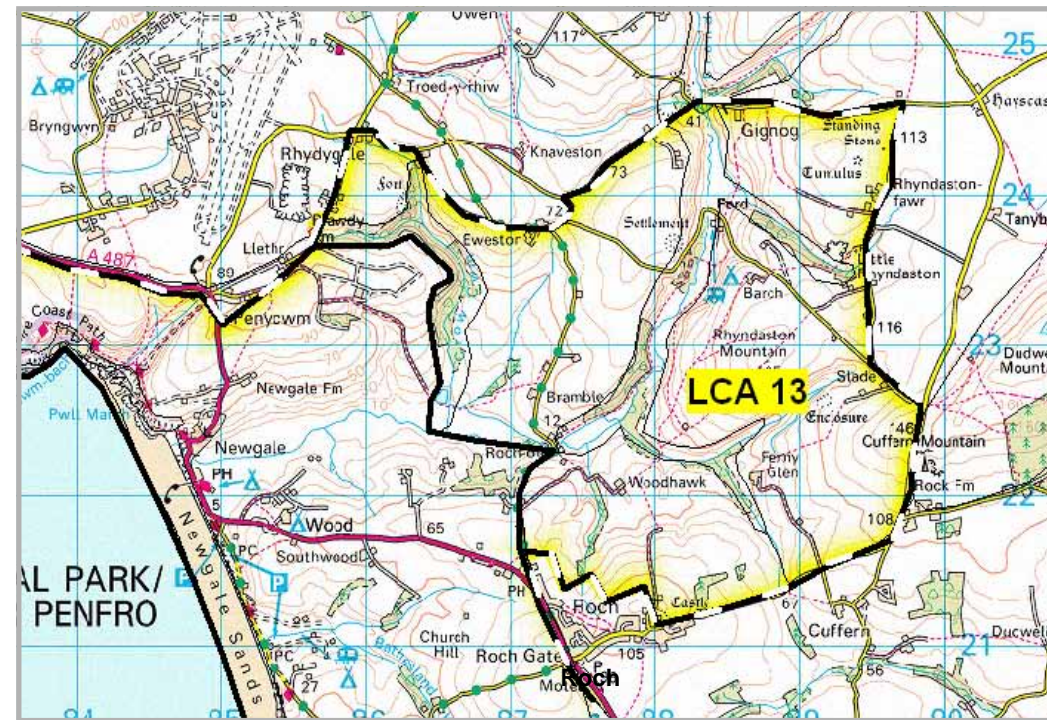
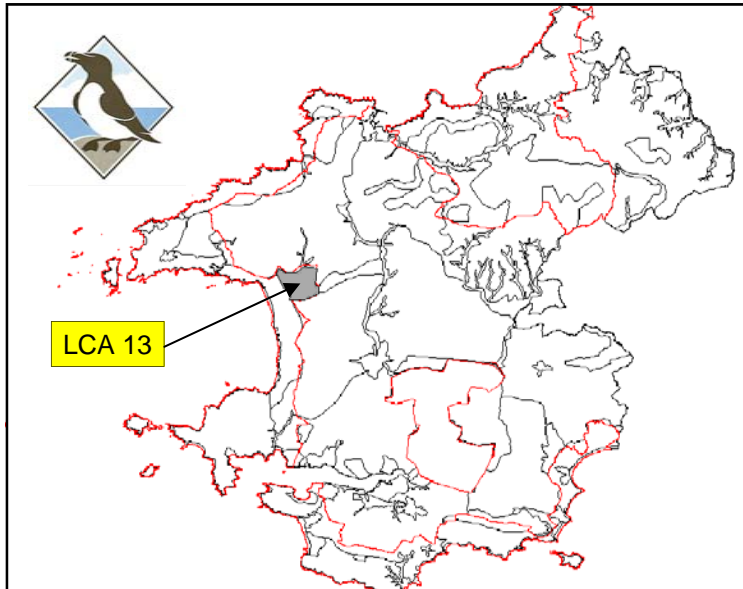


Pembrokeshire Coast National Park LCA 13 - BRANDY BROOK



Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

A distinctive inland branched lowland river valley and associated rolling lowland with no connection to the coast to the north east of Roch.

Visual and Sensory Characteristics

Brandy Brook contains a network of small scale watercourses with mostly wooded lower slopes to their valley sides. Tree cover is generally of broadleaved species and predominantly occurs on the valley floor with some agricultural hedgerow boundary trees on the upper valley margins. Occasional isolated farmsteads are scattered throughout the valleys and on the edge of the surrounding higher ground. The prominent and distinctive form of Roch Castle is a recurrent defining landmark feature on the skyline in many views both across and within this area.

Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

A diverse range of habitats is associated with the river valley, including alder woodland, wet heathland, dry heath and purple moor-grass meadows. Local BAP priority habitats include purple moor grass and rush pasture, wet woodland, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, and lowland heathland. The area supports important species that include otter, marsh fritillary and lesser butterfly orchid.

Geological Characteristics

A steep-sided, incised inland river valley system. The bedrock dominated by sandstones and shales of the Coal Measures, with overlying alluvium (Quaternary: Pleistocene-Holocene).

Historic and Cultural Characteristics

Prehistoric ritual monuments, Iron Age hill fort, and Medieval earthworks, all of national significance. The prehistoric survivals are probably the most important historical features of this landscape.

Map Notation:

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



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
13	Brandy Brook	36 - Moderate 71 - Moderate	113-Moderate	096- High 672 - Moderate 944 - Moderate 971 - Moderate	46060-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 secluded area of low-lying wooded valleys cutting through rolling lowland is very settled sheltered, tranquil and inward-looking, with an intimate atmosphere in places
- There is a scattered settlement pattern consisting entirely of isolated farmsteads
- There is no link to the sea and views of the sea, although not far away, are only possible from the higher ground of the upper valley slopes. Views within the valley are generally short-distance
- There is a strong visual relationship with the prominent local landmark of Roch Castle in the south western corner of the LCA, which forms a skyline feature in many views from within the LCA
- There are some habitats of international importance, notably wet alder woodland as well as heathland and wet grassland areas
- The incidence of a number of historical and archaeological sites - especially the prehistoric survivals - results in a landscape of high historical value and outstanding cultural value.

Discernible Landscape Trends

- The wooded and agricultural areas of land are generally managed at low yet appropriate intensity, and the trend appears constant
- There has been a noticeable change in the scale and texture of the farming landscape to the north of Roch village caused by the removal of traditional field boundary hedgebanks, the creation of larger field by amalgamation and new boundaries being demarcated by post and wire fences.

Management Guidance

- Preserve the agricultural and woodland mosaic character, with the regular cyclical appropriate management of hedgerows
- Encourage landowners to participate in agri-environmental schemes and leave overgrown areas around the margins of arable fields for the benefit of wildlife. Do not allow agriculturally improved land to extend into sensitive areas of semi-natural vegetation
- Conserve the existing woodland cover with its predominantly broadleaved character
- Hedgebanks should be managed more appropriately in places, so as to retain the herb-covered bank topped with a dense species-rich hedge that is of high value to wildlife. The replacement of post and wire boundary fences with traditional hedgebanks should be promoted and encouraged, especially where viewed from main public roads
- Create a softer northern edge to residential areas in Roch village through appropriate planting on nearby land by agreement
- Preserve the landscape setting of Roch Castle (a Grade I listed building) in the south western area of this LCA and conserve distant views from viewpoints along public roads in the area.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.