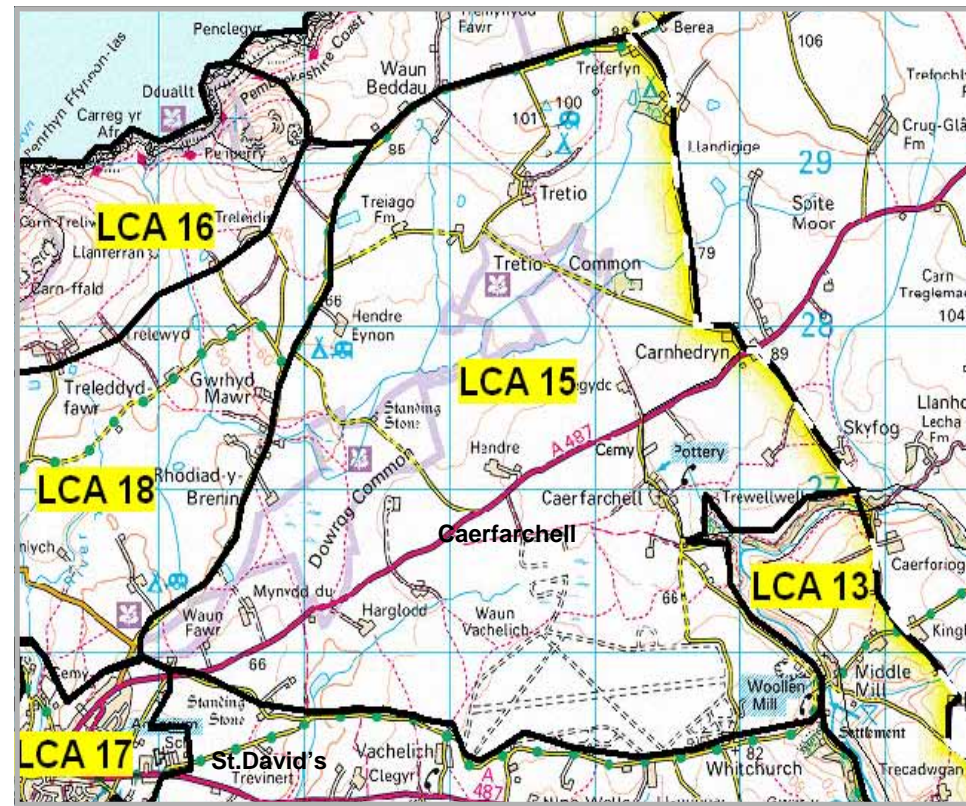
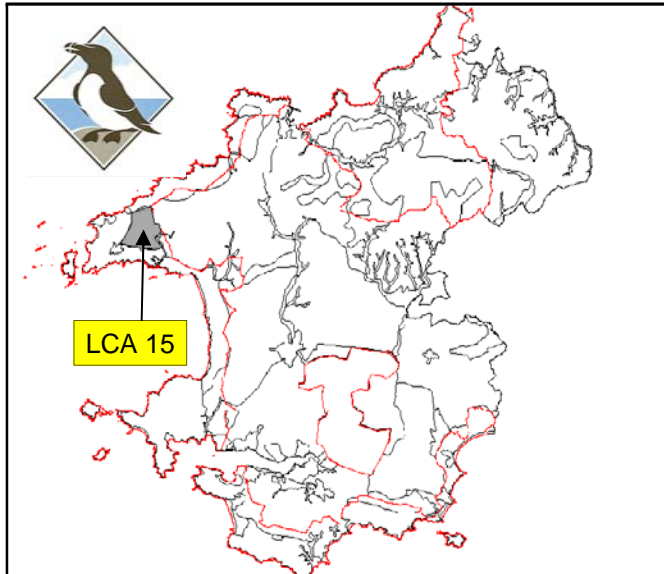


Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

LCA 15 - DOWROG & TRETIO COMMONS



Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

An inland area of exposed and slightly undulating lowland immediately north east of St David's, with two large areas of common land, Dowrog Common and Tretio Common, and the former St. David's military airfield in the south.

Visual and Sensory Characteristics

A lowland area that consists of a slightly undulating open farmland landscape, interspersed with areas of marshy grassland and scrub, the largest of which is Dowrog Common. The landscape contains scattered farmsteads and the former St. David's Airfield to the south of the area has a significant impact on the landscape. Borrowed views of the distinctive Carn Llidi hills forming the local horizon to the north west add to the sense of place.

Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

Habitats include dry heath, purple moor-grass and wet heathland. The area supports important species such as otter, water shrew, short-eared owl, hen harrier, Merlin, reed bunting, marsh fritillary butterfly and very rarely wintering Bewick's swan. There are also a number of scarce or rare plants, including lesser butterfly orchid.

Geological Characteristics

A broad basin and connected valleys with a level to very slightly undulating surface, dominated by glacial clays (Quaternary: Pleistocene). The southern land area adjacent is gently rising towards the west, to form a low dome at around 75m in the St. David's area. The bedrock is dominated by Pre-Cambrian igneous rocks.

Historic and Cultural Characteristics

There are chambered tombs, round barrows, standing stones, and Early Christian monuments, all of which are of national significance. Archaeologically, the area is very similar to the remainder of the St David's Headland.

The area which surrounds the cathedral settlement of St David's is a rich archaeological landscape which contains prehistoric remains. This LCA lies wholly within the St. David's Headland and Ramsey Island registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest in

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
15	Dowrog & Tretio Commons	30-High 31-Moderate	95-Moderate 100-Moderate	524-High 672-Moderate 779-High 917-Outstanding 949-High 996-Moderate	42273-Outstanding 42274-Outstanding 42276-Outstanding 42277-Outstanding 42279-Outstanding	004-Outstanding 819-High

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 exposed, slightly undulating area has a largely open character comprised of a mosaic of farmland, marshy grassland and scrub
- Its character is enhanced by views north-westwards to the distinctive hills of Carn Llidi and south westwards towards the city of St. David's
- There are internationally significant habitats here which contribute to the high ecological value of much of the area
- The wealth of historical and archaeological features recorded here is of national significance and result in a landscape of outstanding value. The scattered farmsteads and hamlets have a very strong architectural 'signature' which contributes very strongly to the sense of place here. There are strong archaeological similarities to the adjacent St David's Headland LCA - a historical landscape of outstanding value
- The prehistoric significance of this landscape is a key attribute, some exceptional survivals indicating that this landscape has been occupied for thousands of years. This has been formally recognised by its inclusion within the St. David's Headland and Ramsey Island Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales. There is extensive and well-preserved evidence of land use and intense ritual and religious activity from the prehistoric period onwards, including Neolithic chambered tombs and settlement, Iron Age forts and field systems within this Historic Landscape.
- The cultural value is outstanding by virtue of its position in relation to the cathedral city of St David's. Dowrog and Tretio Commons are important elements in the traditional agricultural management of the landscape. This cultural value is further supported by their acquisition by the National Trust.
- There is a Conservation Area at the long-established small hamlet of Caerfarchell (designated in March 1997), which is unusually centred on an open green.

Discernible Landscape Trends

- Appears to be in a declining state. Over a period of time the area is undergoing degradation of the marshy grassland which nonetheless remains relatively intact.

Management Guidance

- Conserve the extent and character of areas of moorland and rough grassland through appropriate livestock management. Do not allow agriculturally improved land to extend into heathland and rough grassland areas.
- Preserve the agricultural and mosaic character, with the regular cyclical appropriate management of field boundary hedgebanks
- 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 wet heath and marshy grassland habitats remain in favourable condition
- Monitor the effects of burning and grazing on vegetation
- Consider appropriate future re-use of historic farm buildings at end of agricultural life and ensure that any agricultural buildings respect the historical and cultural significance of the landscape in terms of their siting, layout, form and construction materials.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.