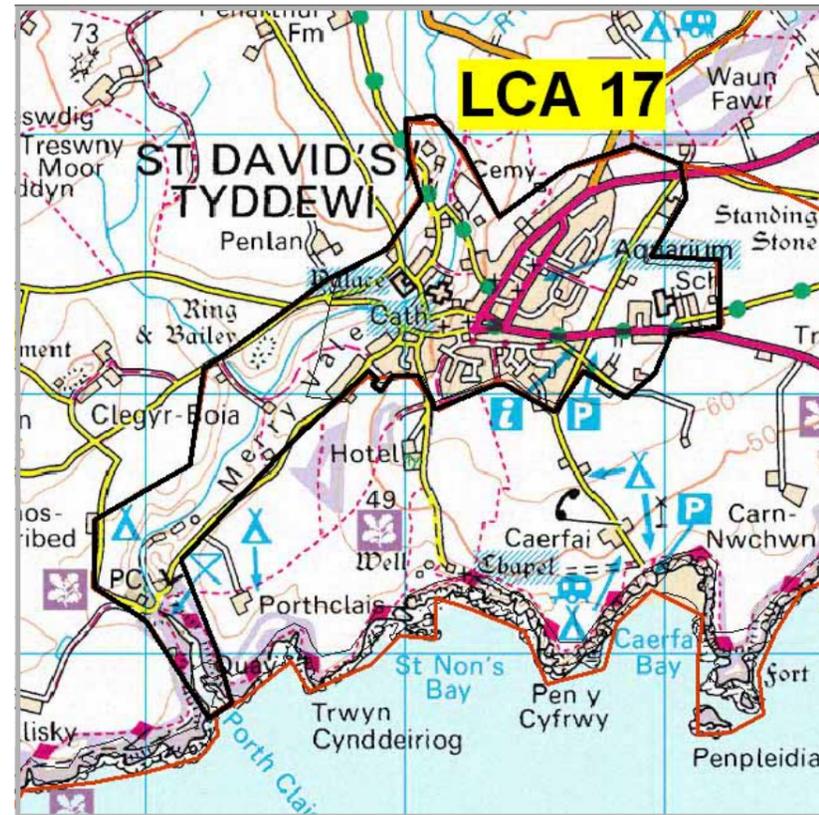
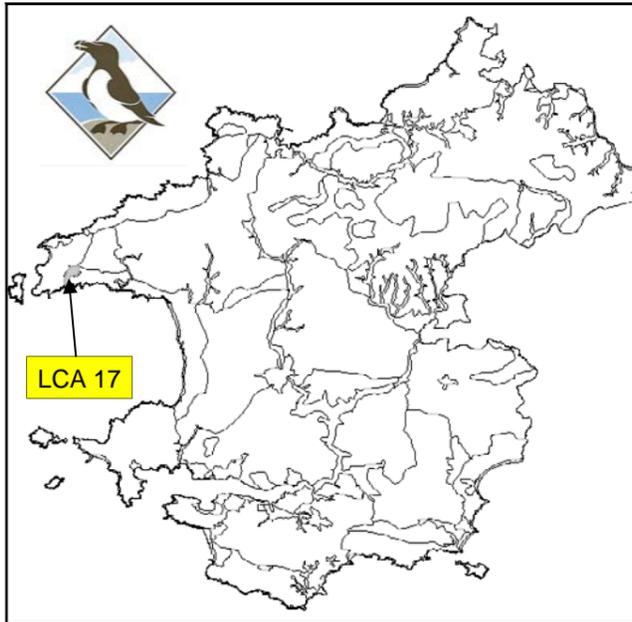


Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
LCA 17 - ST. DAVID'S



Map Notation:

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

Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

This LCA is tightly drawn around the urban area of the city of St. David's, with an extension south westwards down the valley of the River Alun, Merry Vale, a long-established link from the city to the sea at Porth Clais and an important transport link for commercial traffic during the height of lime production in the area. Primarily an urban area, lying at approximately 50m AOD, surrounded by open rolling lowland landscape of the St. David's Headland.

Visual and Sensory Characteristics

St David's is an attractive small city, centred on the historic buildings which form an important central point within the surrounding agricultural and coastal landscape, although its position set down in the river valley means that the cathedral building does not dominate the city or the local landscape. The city has a small scale feel, with tourism dominating the style of retail and catering outlets. The cathedral and its associated walled areas and buildings act as a strong focal point which help to define the character and sense of place.

Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

The urban area consists primarily of built form with some open areas of grassland. This is a mosaic landscape comprised of dense scrub, semi-improved grassland, marshy grassland and bracken. Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats include purple moor grass and rush pasture. The area supports numerous birds including peregrine falcon and chough.

Geological Characteristics

This is valley-delineated terrain, gently rising up from the coast to the S, and from the E, to a form a low dome at around 75m AOD in the St. David's area. Area around is platform-like. There is also a lower area of coastal platform at around 35-40m AOD in the Caerfai Bay area. The solid geology is dominated by Pre-Cambrian igneous rocks with Cambrian to the south. Merry Vale has a narrow river course in a steep-sided valley which flows past St. David's to the sea at Porth Clais. Its source is within broad marshy areas to the south east of the Carn Lidi massif. There are also narrow flood plain areas (Quaternary: Holocene). The bedrock is dominated by Pre-Cambrian igneous rocks.

Historic and Cultural Characteristics

There are Medieval chapels, fishponds, mills, earthworks and limekilns of national significance. The links with the patron saint of Wales gives the city huge significance in the cultural landscape of Wales and the wider Christian world. There are strong historical and cultural links with the surrounding landscape of the St. David's Headland LCA. The city of St. David's has a Conservation Area, first designated in 1977 and extended in 1995; it covers much of the old city core and encompasses the cathedral close and its environs lying in the valley immediately to the west and north west of the old city. This LCA lies wholly within the St David's Headland and Ramsey Island Registered 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
17	St David's	33 - High 28 - Moderate	93 - Moderate 100 - Moderate	575 - Moderate 775 - Low	42272 - Outstanding 42275 - Outstanding 42281 - Outstanding	004 - Outstanding 150 - 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 LCA was defined by the urban form of the city itself, with the addition of the Merry Vale valley. The valley-floor setting of the main ecclesiastical site relates strongly to Merry Vale and the historic access link to the sea at Porth Clais
- There is a very strong sense of place and the nature and extent of the imposing cathedral building and the ecclesiastical ruins generates an awareness of the long-established importance of this settlement in Welsh history. The Medieval buildings and features within the cathedral close are the core defining characteristic
- St David's and its environs has a historical landscape of outstanding value and is arguably of international significance for its importance within the Christian church. The city lies at the heart of the St. David's Peninsula and Ramsey Island Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, regarded as being of continuing supreme cultural significance and importance in Wales as Dewisland
- The cathedral's imposing presence serves as a visual reminder of the importance of the city to the present day in Welsh culture. The association of this cathedral city with the patron saint of Wales means that this area is of outstanding cultural significance and value within Wales, a place of pilgrimage until the present day
- There is a large Conservation Area (designated in 1977 and extended in 1995) covering the old city core and extending down into the valley to the west and north west of the centre, encompassing the cathedral and its close and the monastic ruins.

Discernible Landscape Trends

- Recent development around the northern and eastern edges of the city in particular has a poor visual relationship to the landscape beyond, through the unsympathetic form, siting and layout of some residential areas
- Poor design and siting of buildings at the edges of the city on most approaches is resulting in arousing little sense of arrival at a city of such historical and cultural importance within Wales.
- However, a positive change in local character emanates from the recently constructed St David's Visitor Centre at the south-eastern edge of the old core of the city.

Management Guidance

- Maintain the integrity of historic buildings and archaeological sites, with particular emphasis on their visual setting
- Preserve the traditional city character, through planning of developments to ensure they are in keeping with the character of the traditional built form, whilst balancing the need for sustainable economic development serving the needs of visitors and residents alike
- Conserve the local vernacular of stone buildings with slate / grouted roofs and ensure that the siting, form, layout, construction materials and finishes of new or refurbished buildings is appropriate to the character of the city, especially at 'gateways' where such buildings will create important first impressions for the first-time visitor
- Rehabilitate the edges of the settlement so as to be more sympathetic to the surrounding Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, with particular emphasis on achieving a smooth transition from the urban edge to the open countryside
- Encourage the regular cyclical maintenance of stone wall and hedgebank boundary features, especially at important visual locations
- Conserve elements of the traditional agricultural character in the wider landscape through careful siting, form and selection materials for new agricultural buildings
- Conserve and restore as necessary the old quay at Porth Clais with its important industrial relics of the lime industry
- Maintain natural systems and ensure that as far as possible no features or deposits of geomorphological or geological significance are damaged or destroyed.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.