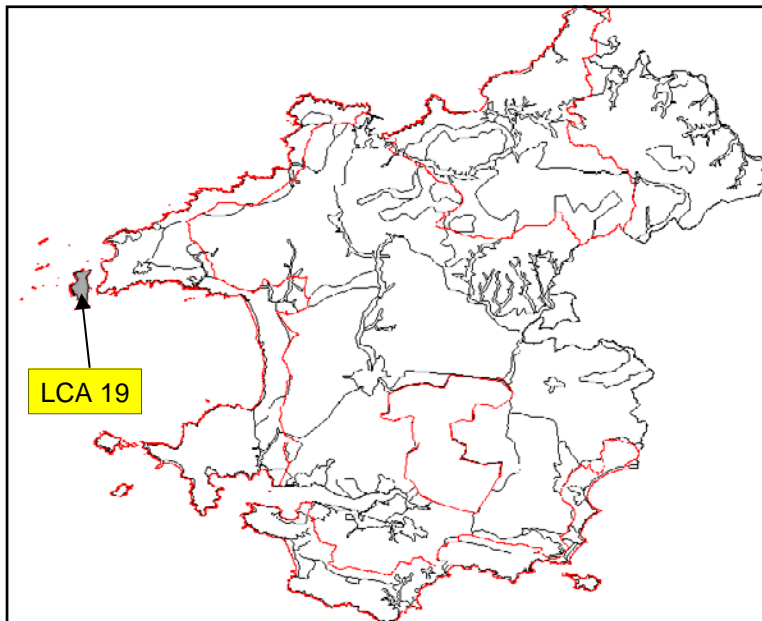


Pembrokeshire Coast National Park LCA 19 - RAMSEY ISLAND



Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

An impressive island lying close to the mainland to the south-west of St David's, characterised by rocky coastal cliffs and rocky outcrops at the summit, separated by a narrow channel with strong tides.

Visual and Sensory Characteristics

The island has very low development levels and is mostly covered in grassland with scrub areas, giving an attractive unspoilt character and a strong coastal association. The coastline consists of a series of tall indented cliffs and steep slopes with corresponding jagged rocky outcrops.

Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

Habitats include lowland heathland, lowland dry acid grassland, purple moor-grass and rush pastures, maritime cliffs, rocky shores and exposed storm beaches. Ramsey supports a number of important species including chough, skylark, peregrine falcon, grey seal, rare species of invertebrates and important sea bird colonies. Juniper bushes have also been recorded on the steep south facing cliffs.

Geological Characteristics

Ramsey Island has rocky sea cliffs and local areas of foreshore and beach. The bedrock is dominated by Ordovician volcanic rocks, with slaty mudrocks and sandstone to the north east.

Historic and Cultural Characteristics

There is a Medieval chapel and there are round barrows, all of national significance. From the 13th century, Ramsey Island was a valuable part of the St. David's Episcopal estate and arable farming has continued until recent years, which has all but obliterated traces of earlier, probably prehistoric, field systems. This LCA lies wholly within the St. David's Headland and Ramsey Island Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales.

The offshore islands of the Pembrokeshire coast are of international importance for their spectacular natural heritage, diversity of habitats and species, and archaeological evidence.

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
19	Ramsey Island	25 - Outstanding 93 - Outstanding	85 - Outstanding	297 - Outstanding 536 - High 735 - High 892 - Outstanding	42282-Outstanding 42283-Outstanding	636-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

Special Qualities (Key Landscape Characteristics)

- The offshore islands of the Pembrokeshire coast are of international importance for their spectacular natural heritage, diversity of habitats and species, and archaeological evidence. Ramsey is an excellent example, with the full range of these attributes
- There is a pervading sense of exposure and wildness, of being 'at the edge', in this undisturbed coastal landscape with extensive views of the surrounding coast
- The great sense of remoteness and strong coastal sense of place are of great importance, coupled with the island effect of arousing curiosity and a tendency to want to cross the water and explore land which is beyond the mainland and surrounded by sea, made all the more challenging by the strong tidal races through the narrow channel
- Ramsey has outstanding values across all five evaluated landscape Aspects.
- Its historical importance has been formally recognised by its inclusion in the St. David's Headland and Ramsey Island Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales
- Ramsey Island LCA has a preponderance of outstanding values recorded across four Aspects.

Discernible Landscape Trends

- The area is in a constant state regarding its management and condition.

Management Guidance

- Monitor extent of bracken growth and control as necessary to conserve the heathland and grassland habitats
- Eradicate rats and prevent re-colonisation
- Ensure that the risk of water pollution incidents is kept to a minimum
- Conserve the coastal cliff habitats, coastal grassland and heathland and their associated fauna, insofar as is sustainable in the context of natural forces of coastal erosion and change
- Preserve the unspoilt coastal character of the island by avoiding uncharacteristic built development or land use
- Maintain the wildlife value of the area as a bird reserve which can be enjoyed to a managed extent by the public through controlled access
- Ensure that as far as possible no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost, damaged or made inaccessible (e.g. due to development, or through inappropriate restrictions resulting from the focus on bird conservation on the island).
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.