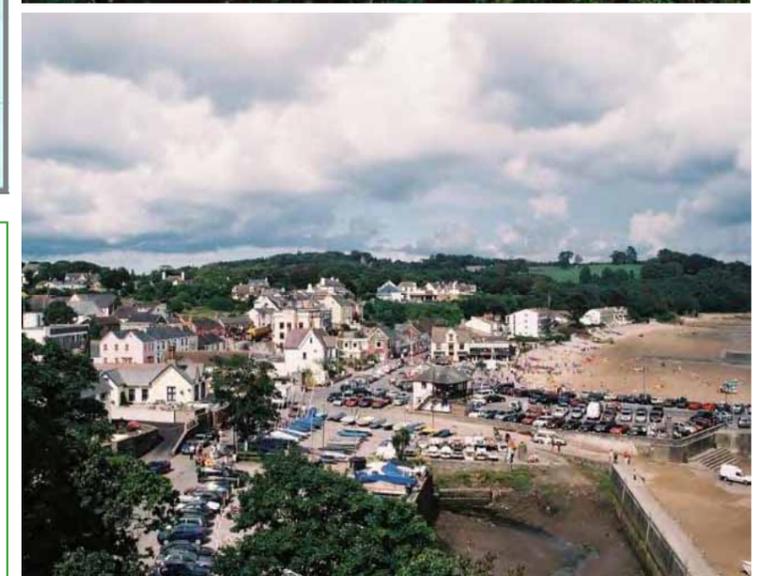
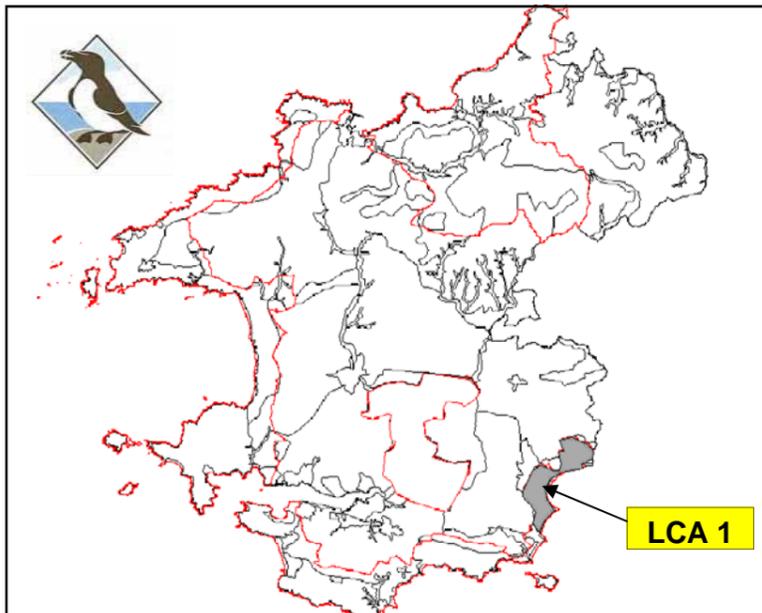


Pembrokeshire Coast National Park LCA 1 - SAUNDERSFOOT SETTLED COAST



Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

An area of land fronting a broad bay with associated rolling lowland and settlement, between Tenby and the eastern boundary of the National Park. The strong link with the coast provides a sense of place in much of the area.

Visual and Sensory Characteristics

This is a pleasant area of valleys with some visual links to the coast along Saundersfoot Bay. It contains several other small villages including Summerhill, Amroth, Wiseman's Bridge and Sardis, set amongst wooded areas along several small valleys with streams flowing to the coast. The valley sides are largely wooded with mixed species of trees within a wider agricultural landscape. There is a distinctive estate landscape character locally around Hean Castle and Coppet Hall. Although quite densely settled, the rolling landform with small river valleys running to the coast, and the amount of woodland cover and intervening agricultural land, mean that the built form is not generally intrusive, except for the higher parts of Saundersfoot when viewed from across the bay. Saundersfoot is dominated by the urban development of this large town. The built style is characterised by growth around the historic town centre that is predominantly modern housing, much of which has little association with the coastal location of the town, but the seafront and centre do have a strong coastal link that provides a sense of place. Coastal caravan parks are visually intrusive at Trevayne and New Hedges

Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

Semi-natural habitats include deciduous and coniferous woodlands (mostly plantations); mature scrub; sheltered wooded stream valleys; coastal scrub; cliffs; rocky and sandy shores and artificial structures (coast defences); cobble/pebble storm beaches. Old mine adits and tunnels on the coast are used by bats. In winter – huge numbers of scoter gather off-shore; gulls, oystercatchers and turnstones gather on shore.

Geological Characteristics

An area with broad sandy beaches with significant areas of rock platform, with cliffs behind and an associated steep coastal slope. Includes a shingle ridge at Amroth and sea defences at Saundersfoot and Tenby. There is a deeply incised coastal valley system which includes a narrow level base in extreme S. Uppermost part not significantly incised and with narrow flood plain. Dominated by 'Coal Measures' (Carboniferous) shales and sandstones.

Historic and Cultural Characteristics

There are prehistoric monuments, Iron Age forts and post medieval buildings and structures, all of which are of national significance. Holiday resorts in Pembrokeshire are a microcosm of change in holiday trends in Britain and their physical development reflects these changes. Saundersfoot is an example of this.

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
1	Saundersfoot Settled Coast	88 - High 54 - Moderate 55 - Low	217-Outstanding 200-Moderate	481 - Low 541-High 885-Moderate 533-Moderate	46160-High 46161 - High 46162-High 46173-High	003 - Outstanding 439-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)

- Although substantially settled, the area contains some attractive farmland and woodland patches which intersperse the smaller settlements and farmsteads
- There is a coastal feel with an open nature and attractive views along the coast, the view southwards from Amroth towards Tenby being notable for the prominent landmark of the church spire in the distance, seen above Monkstone Point in the middle ground
- Inland, the country estate landscape and parkland character around Hean Castle and Coppet Hall is very attractive and locally distinctive
- There are some habitats of international importance here, contributing to some parts of the landscape having a high ecological value
- The historical and archaeological features recorded here are such that the whole area merits a high historical value, especially industrial relics, such as the tramway and incline, which are comparatively rare surviving elements of local extractive industries. This industrial past is a historical quality possessed by many of the coastal towns and villages in the National Park
- The recent changes in holiday trends have eroded the original seaside town character, but the essential feel is not yet lost.
- Saundersfoot has a Conservation Area centred on the old town area along the sea front and the harbour (designated in September 1995)

Discernible Landscape Trends

- The agricultural landscape is of mixed use with a large proportion of shelterbelts and pleasant wooded valleys
- Overgrown hedges indicate a decline in traditional field boundary management practices
- Modern urban and tourism-related developments of this area have been insensitive in some locations and this has led to an apparent decline in the condition of the town, although the decline is not dramatic.

Management Guidance

- Conserve the sandy beaches and minimise the risk of water pollution incidents
- Conserve the traditional buildings along the Saundersfoot sea front, around the harbour and in the town centre, along with the tree-covered green areas to the rear of the town, especially the agricultural land to the west which divides the two sections of the built area and contributes strongly to the local sense of place
- Conserve the important archaeological sites, especially the tramway and the incline, so as to retain their integrity and their visual context
- Preserve the agricultural and woodland mosaic character, especially that of the estate landscape and parkland around Hean Castle and Coppet Hall, with the regular cyclical management of hedgerows; encourage the positive management of woodland and shelterbelts
- Encourage landowners to participate in agri-environmental schemes, with particular emphasis on the promotion of the restoration or rehabilitation of traditional field boundary hedgebanks and stone walls, especially at key visual locations
- Screen any extensions to existing caravan sites more sensitively where the location is particularly visually sensitive; reject any proposed new sites or extensions to caravan sites where the visual context is particularly sensitive, especially on the higher ground or on the skyline.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.