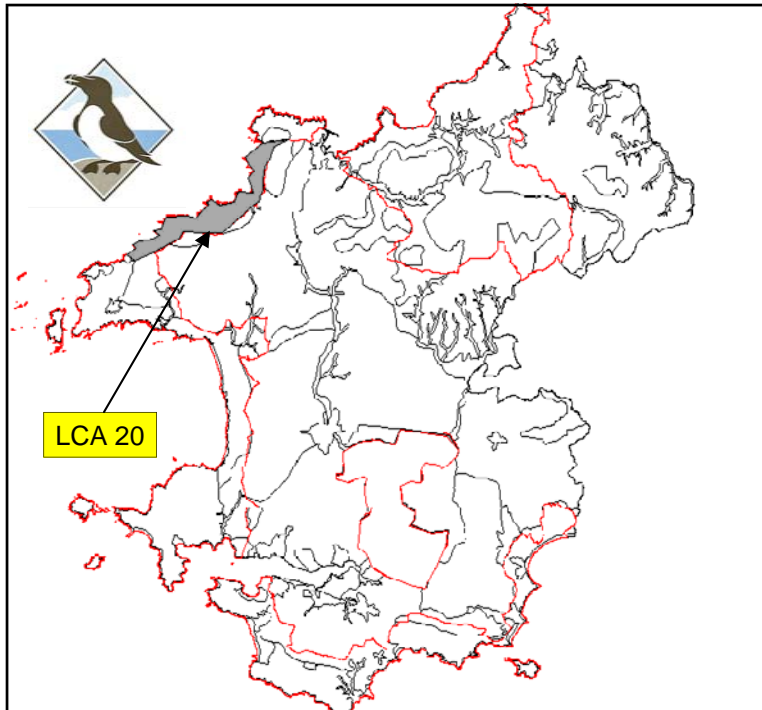


Pembrokeshire Coast National Park LCA 20 - TREFIN



Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

This is a large linear coastal LCA running southwards from the prominent rocky hill of Garn Fawr south westwards to the eastern end of the Carn Llidi hills up to but excluding Carn Penberry. Rocky cliffs are virtually continuous, punctuated by sheltered coves and inlets, such as Abereddy, Porthgain and Abercastle. There is a long history of quarrying along this stretch of the coast, influencing the location and the built form of the coastal villages.

Visual and Sensory Characteristics

This stretch of coast consists of a series of tall indented cliffs and steep slopes with occasional jagged rocky outcrops, contrasting with more sheltered inlets set between. The cliff tops offer extensive views north and south along the coast. The hinterland is a gently undulating agricultural landscape of medium-sized fields with a close visual relationship with the adjacent coast. The area is interspersed with regular scattered farmsteads and occasional hamlets and small villages. There are dispersed areas of small woodland clumps and expanses of woodland and scrub.

Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

Habitats include fens, reed beds, lowland heathland, maritime cliffs, rocky and sandy shores. The area supports important species that include peregrine falcon, chough, grey seal, adder, common lizard, otter and orchid species.




Geological Characteristics

In the north is a gently sloping coastal surface developed to the north of the Croesgoch-Mathry ridge. It rises to around 90m AOD towards the east but includes a platform at around 60m in the Abercastle area, which is cut by the Abercastle valley. The southern area is dominated by a long, low ridge with rounded crests and broadly WSW-ENE orientation. It rises to around 130m AOD, falling to the north towards a coastal platform and also to the south, towards the drift-filled basin of Tretio Common. It includes the distinct craggy knoll of Carn Penberry. The bedrock geology is dominated by Ordovician slates and the coast is characterised by Ordovician mudrock.

Historic and Cultural Characteristics

The extreme south western part of this LCA lies within the St David's Peninsula and Ramsey Island Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. There are prehistoric monuments, a chambered tomb, Bronze Age round barrows, Iron Age hill forts, Early Christian monuments and industrial archaeological sites, all of which are of national significance. It includes Iron-age/Romano-British hill forts at several locations, and the industrial harbour at Porthgain. It is an area that is coming under intense pressure from second-home owners, in common with some other areas of the National Park. National Trust ownership includes two areas adjacent to St.Nicholas, others near Porthgain and Abereddy. The extreme north eastern edge of this LCA includes a small section of the Pen Caer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales.

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
20	Trefin	24 - High 25 - Outstanding 91 - Moderate	90 - Outstanding 105 - Outstanding 106 - Moderate 107 - High 111 - Moderate	385 - High 405 - Moderate 409 - Moderate 440 - High 672 - Moderate 740 - Moderate 804 - High 827 - Moderate 873 - High 995 - Outstanding 996 - Moderate	46059-High 46060-High 46066-Outstanding 46086-Outstanding 42279-Outstanding	004 - Outstanding 512 -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)

- An exposed and diverse coastal landscape with extensive views along the coastline
- There is a strong, long-established settled character, arising from small scale settlements and scattered farmsteads within an undulating, predominantly pastoral farmland landscape. There is a very distinctive local vernacular architecture, stone-built with slate / grouted roofs
- The field pattern is well defined and imparts a rich texture to the open landscape, where small areas of woodland and scrub serve as punctuation points. The importance of the traditional field boundary hedgebanks and dry-stone walls cannot be over-emphasised and the quality of their condition as a result of management practices is a defining element within the landscape
- There are nationally important habitats well represented here, notably lowland heathland habitats and the coastal cliffs. The cliffs along the greater part of the length of the coast in this LCA are assessed as being of outstanding value, which is supported by the designation of over 50% of the coastline as SSSI, Special Area of Conservation or Special Protection Area
- The wealth of historical and archaeological features present, dating from prehistoric times to the recent industrial past, contribute to the outstanding historical value of much of this landscape, some of which is of national importance. At the northernmost extremity of this LCA, there is a small part of the Pen Caer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales. This large and distinctive headland forms a landscape strong in elements of historic continuity and survival, from the prehistoric period onwards.
- The industrial remains are at a landscape scale and include the iconic 'blue lagoon' at Abereidid and the hoppers at Porthgain. The stretch of coast between Abereidid and Porthgain is a walk-through of industrial history, with stone quarries, workers' cottages, the manager's house, tramways and jetties, all of which contribute to the story of this landscape
- There are Conservation Areas at Trefin (designated August 1997), including the historically important site of the bishop's palace, and at Porthgain (designated November 1997) in recognition of the large scale industrial heritage - especially the harbour, lime kilns and structures of this small commercial port and fishing village. These and earlier slate quarrying related structures including the lime kiln, harbour and Pilots House give Porthgain a unique historic character.

Discernible Landscape Trends

- The farmed landscape appears to be in a constant state of management and condition. Management type and intensity varies across the area but is considered to be largely appropriate for the agricultural nature of the area
- Field boundary management is locally variable.

Management Guidance

- Conserve extensive views along the coastline and the undisturbed nature of cliffs and inlets
- Retain and conserve expanses and clumps of woodland as important visual punctuation points; promote re-planting with broadleaved species
- Increase areas of unmanaged coastal grass and gorse scrub, but do not allow bracken encroachment into lowland heath and coastal grasslands
- 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 that grazing levels are ideal for marsh fritillary butterfly and orchid species to flourish
- Do not allow agriculturally 'improved' land to extend into lowland heathland and coastal grassland areas
- Ensure that as far as possible no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged
- Ensure that industrial remains are visible and understandable.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.