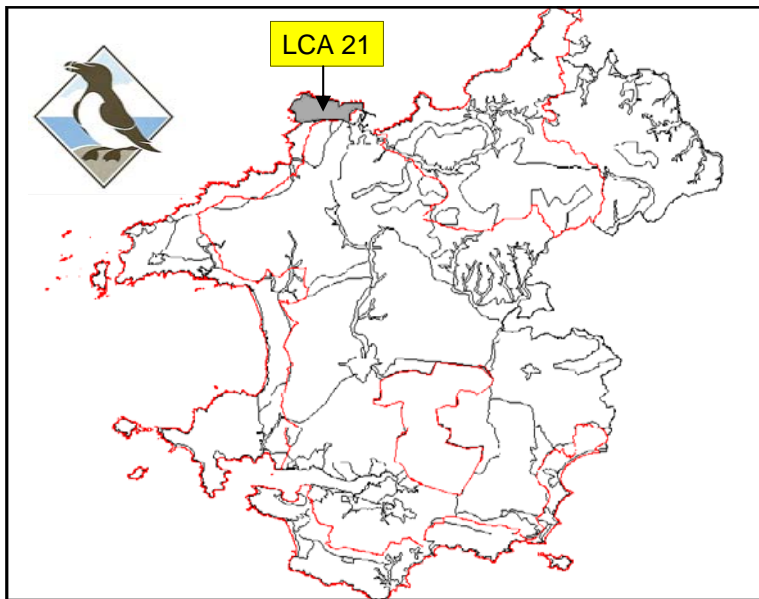


## Pembrokeshire Coast National Park LCA 21 - PEN CAER/STRUMBLE HEAD



### Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

Essentially an area of upland and coastal cliffs north west of Fishguard, where the presence of a long stretch of coast provides a strong sense of place.

### Visual and Sensory Characteristics

The north west Pembrokeshire coast consists of extensive jagged rocky cliffs with repeated sharp indentations forming angular small-scale headlands and inlets. The cliff tops are well vegetated with coastal grassland and scrub. The area is characterised by an upland agricultural landscape with well-defined field patterns and open rough grazing on the higher areas. These higher areas feature exposed, rocky hill tops set in a mosaic of rough grassland and moorland vegetation. Lower areas are interspersed with scattered small settlements and particularly farmsteads in amongst the agricultural landscape. Hill tops provide panoramic views of the Preseli Hills to the east, and along the coast, which add to the local distinctiveness.

### Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

Habitats include maritime cliffs, grassland, heathland and rocky shores. Rocky islets support breeding sea-birds. Important species include grey seal, peregrine falcon and chough.

### Geological Characteristics





Rocky coastline between Goodwick and Aberbach, including the Strumble Head peninsula. Sea cliffs rise to around 120m AOD west of Harmony, but are lower in the Goodwick area, where shore areas have been developed as a harbour. Rocky foreshore areas are generally very narrow or absent, even in coves. Bedrock dominated by Ordovician slates and volcanic rocks. There is a coastal platform and slopes on the north side of the Llanwnda massif. Dominated by an apron of glacial clays to the south (Quaternary: Pleistocene) which thins northwards, revealing exposures of Ordovician volcanic bedrock in a belt adjacent to the cliffs, including shallow valley-forms.

### Historic and Cultural Characteristics

There are Prehistoric field systems and inscribed stones, Iron Age forts, chambered tombs, Medieval earthworks, all of which are of national significance. The whole of this LCA is within the Pen Caer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales.

This LCA includes the Strumble Head lighthouse. It is an area that is coming under intense pressure from second-home owners.

### Map Notation:

-  National Park Boundary
-  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
21	Pen Caer/ Strumble Head	22 - Outstanding 23 - High 24 - High	80 - High 91 - Outstanding	436 - Moderate 568 - Moderate 662 - High 730 - Moderate 827 - Moderate 975 - High	46061-Outstanding 46063-Outstanding 46065-Outstanding 46066-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)

- This LCA has outstanding values recorded in four of the five evaluated landscape Aspects.
- An extensive area of wild, open moorland and farmland with attractive views to rocky coastal cliffs and the Preseli Hills
- There is a strong sense of exposure and remoteness here, resulting from the high elevation, sparse vegetation cover, proximity to the sea and the sparse settlement pattern
- There are many notable historical and archaeological sites which result in this LCA being of national importance with outstanding values in both historical and cultural landscape Aspects.
- This is a landscape with exceptional prehistoric remains, especially on the marginal farmland. The Iron Age fort at Garn Fawr is probably the most prominent feature, both physically and perceptually, and lies adjacent to another Iron Age fort at Garn Fechan.
- The historical importance of this landscape has been formally recognised by its inclusion in 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, quite possibly from the late prehistoric period onwards. It exhibits distinctive Welsh settlement forms and contains actual and suggested evidence for the archaeology of the early church in Wales, preserved in both upstanding monuments and in crop-mark sites
- The area is of cultural importance nationally, being the location of the last invasion of the British mainland in the 18th Century (1797).

### Discernible Landscape Trends

- The level of care given to the land is varied and on the open hilltops is appropriately low in intensity. The area appears to be in a relatively constant state, despite previous deterioration through conversion of moorland into farmland.

### Management Guidance

- Conserve upland areas of moorland and rough grazing through appropriate livestock management
- Consider the restoration of farmland on higher ground to moorland, if opportunities arise
- 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.
- Do not allow agriculturally improved land to extend into heathland areas or other areas of sensitive semi-natural coastal vegetation
- Ensure that bracken does not encroach on more valuable grassland and heathland habitats by promoting appropriate control methods
- Monitor visitor erosion pressures and ensure that coastal footpath erosion is minimised
- Maintain the extant historical field systems and ensure that significant historical and archaeological features are not adversely affected by land management or development, including their visual setting.
- Ensure that as far as possible no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.