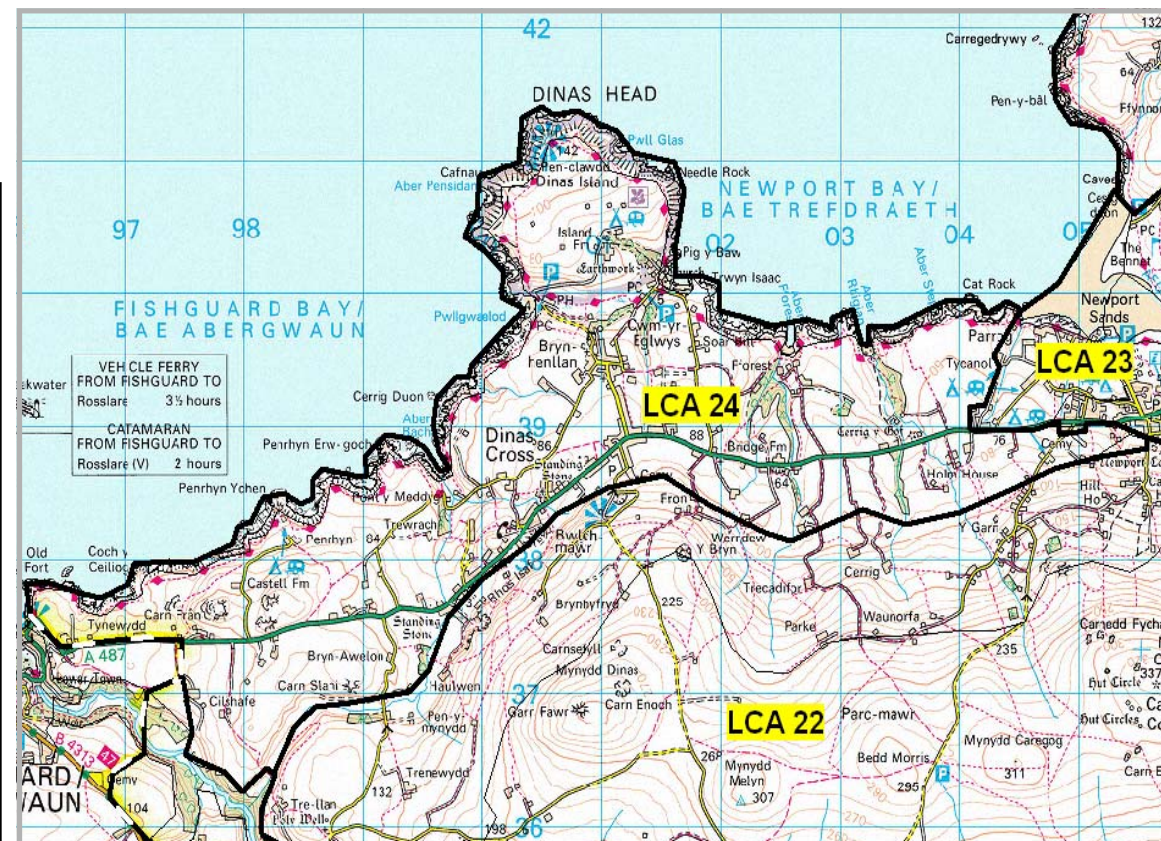
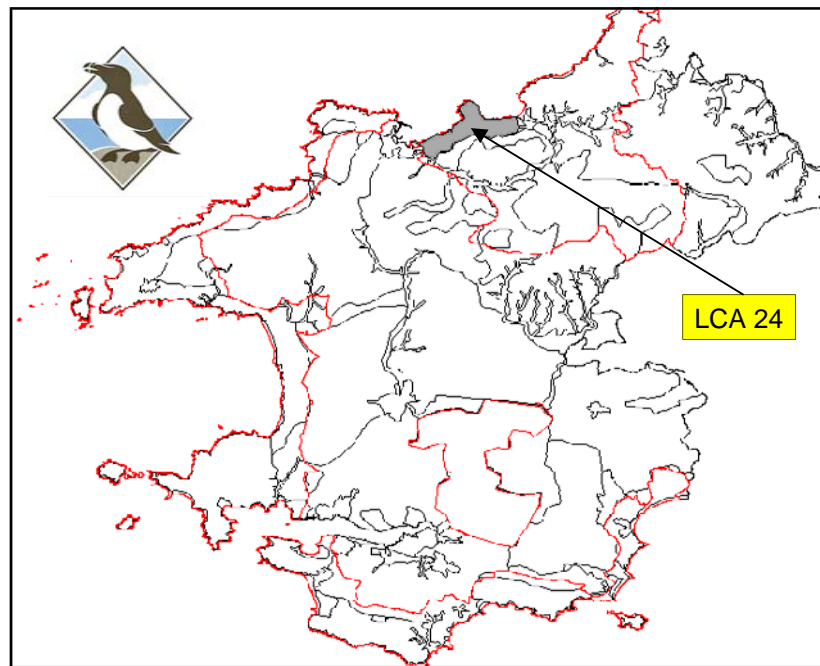


Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

LCA 24 - DINAS HEAD



Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

This large coastal and primarily linear LCA defines the stretch of coast between Newport in the north east and the outer edges of Fishguard in the south west, with Dinas Head at its centre. Newport Bay and Fishguard Bay lie to the east and west, respectively. The inland agricultural area is rather more densely settled than in comparable areas to the north of Newport, with the village of Dinas Cross at its heart. Dinas Head is a prominent landmark on the coastline, with a large area of land in National Trust ownership.

Visual and Sensory Characteristics

The area is made up of a gently rolling agricultural landscape lying along the north Pembrokeshire coast. Raised areas of land provide views of the steep rugged cliffs along the coast, with Dinas Head the prominent headland in the centre area and wide bays to either side. Views to the south east and south are dominated by the distinctive form of Mynydd Carningli and the western summits of the Preseli Hills, which form the southern backdrop up to the skyline and contribute to the sense of place. The field pattern is interspersed with scattered settlements and farmsteads, the largest of which is Dinas Cross, a linear settlement along the A487 with some buildings exhibiting traditional whitewashed walls and slate / grout roofs.

Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

The area is predominantly intensively farmed, with improved grassland and traditional field boundaries. Also present is some arable farming. Habitats include rocky shores, sandy beaches, scrub, fen, marshy grassland, maritime cliff and slope and lowland mixed deciduous woodland.





Geological Characteristics

A gently sloping coastal platform on the north side of the Mynydd Dinas-Mynydd Carningli massif, cut by several small stream valleys leading to the coast. The area includes relatively gentle lower slopes on the eastern side of massif adjacent to Cwm Clydach. The bedrock geology includes Ordovician slates and volcanic rocks. The surface geology, however, is likely to include significant glacial and peri-glacial deposits (Quaternary: Pleistocene). Dinas Island rises to around 125m AOD, the bedrock of which includes Ordovician sandstones and mudrocks. It is separated from the mainland by the Cwm-yr-Eglwys valley, a former glacial meltwater channel (Quaternary: Pleistocene).

Historic and Cultural Characteristics

Almost a third of the Newport and Carningli Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales lies within the easternmost section of this LCA, the approximate boundary running along the small wooded valley leading southwards inland from the coast near Bridge Farm. There are prehistoric standing stones, a notable Neolithic chambered tomb at Cerrig y Gof, and a Medieval church, all of national importance.

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
24	Dinas Head	18 - Moderate 19 - Outstanding	15-Moderate 16-Moderate 41-Moderate 62-Moderate	358 - Moderate 529 - High 534 - Moderate 552 - Moderate 748 - Moderate 785 - Moderate 818 - High 826 - Moderate	46070-Outstanding 46072-Outstanding 46144-Outstanding 46146-High 46147-High 46148-High 46149-Outstanding	001 - 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 this is a settled landscape, it is relatively peaceful — except for the effects of the busy main A487 road running along its main axis — and dominated by pastoral agriculture, with fields bounded mostly by traditional hedgebanks, and small pockets of woodland and scrub
- There is a distinctive sense of place derived from the extensive coastal views, across Newport Bay and Fishguard Bay, with the high prominent headland of Dinas Head providing a strong focal point and visual reference, especially when viewed from the A487 main coast road. The high ground of Mynydd Carningli, Carn Enoch and Mynydd Melyn also defines the southern boundary of this LCA and reinforces the sense of place
- Hedgebanks as traditional field boundaries are very important local landscape elements and their quality - as a direct consequence of their management - has a major influence on the perception of this landscape, including its scale and texture. They also relate directly to the long-established need to provide year-round shelter for livestock from the prevailing winds off the sea and are a locally distinctive feature of the West Wales coastal landscape
- There are important prehistoric remains in this area, notably the Neolithic tomb at Cerrig y Gof, and the extent of the Newport and Carningli Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest recognises the probable links between the coastal plateau and the adjacent very important prehistoric landscape of the Preselis and Mynydd Carningli.

Discernible Landscape Trends

- The agricultural landscape falls under varied ownership and management across the area, with a reflected variety in land use and care, although the overall impression is of a well managed productive landscape.
- Local extensification of agriculture by the removal of traditional field boundaries to increase field size, together with the replacement of hedgebanks with post and wire fences, has resulted in very obvious detrimental changes to the landscape character on the visually prominent landward slopes of Dinas Head
- The management of field boundary hedgebanks is inconsistent, leading to a more muted texture and pattern in some areas
- The trend towards the erection of modern agricultural buildings which are discordant with the traditional vernacular of the old farmsteads and less harmonious with the wider scene is subtly altering the character of the settled farmland landscape.

Management Guidance

- Consider the siting, layout, form and construction materials of future developments to ensure that they are in keeping with the existing character of traditional built form in this settled agricultural landscape
- Conserve the pastoral agricultural and woodland mosaic character, promoting and supporting the regular cyclical management of traditional field boundary hedgebanks
- Actively promote the restoration or rehabilitation of traditional field boundary hedgebanks at key visual locations, including the replacement of hedgebanks lost to agricultural extensification on the landward slopes of Dinas Head
- Encourage landowners to participate in agri-environmental schemes and leave overgrown areas around the margins of arable fields for the benefit of wildlife
- Promote active control measures to ensure that bracken does not encroach onto areas of open heathland, especially nationally designated wildlife conservation sites
- Do not allow agriculturally improved land to extend into heathland areas or coastal grassland
- Ensure that as far as possible no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged
- Conserve the important archaeological sites, so as to retain their integrity and their visual context, especially within the Newport and Carningli Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.