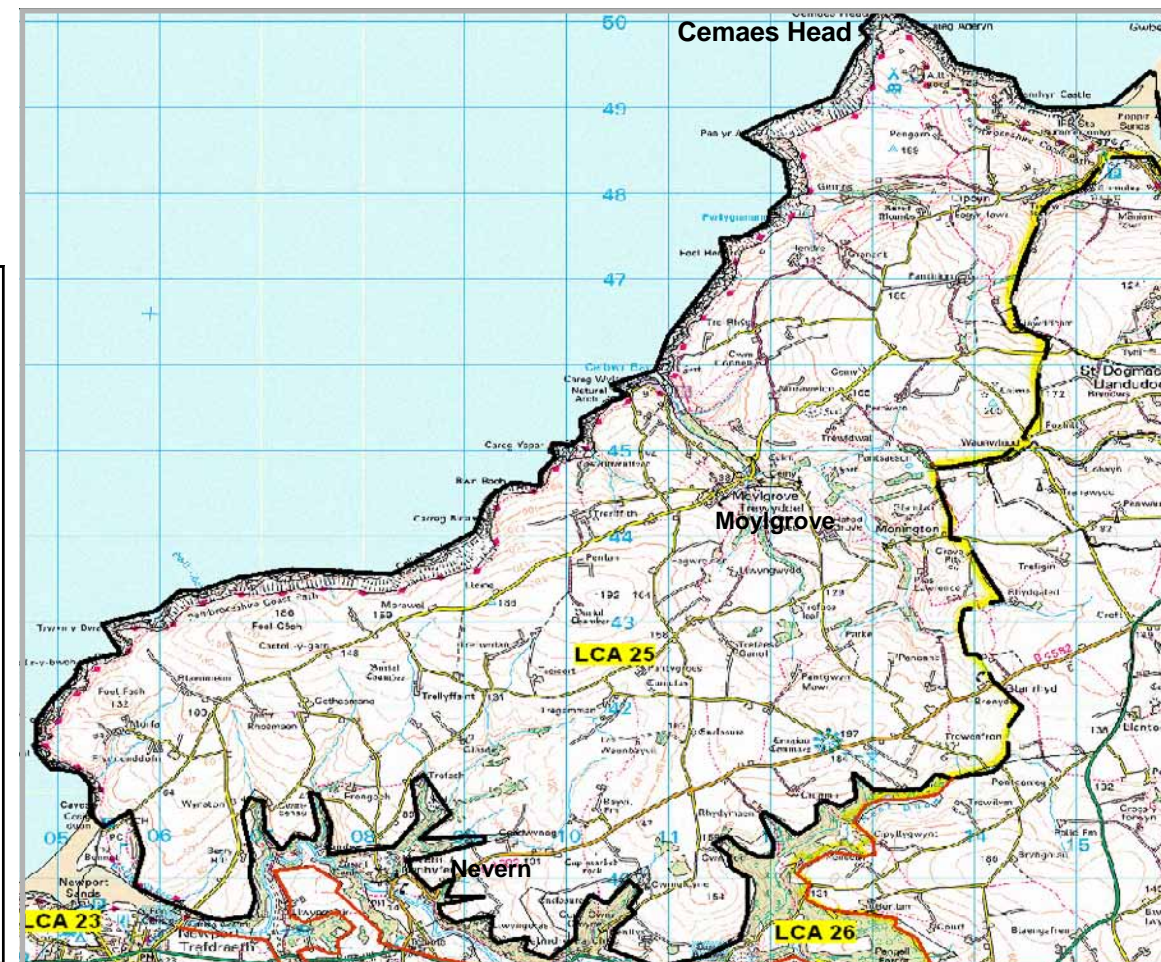
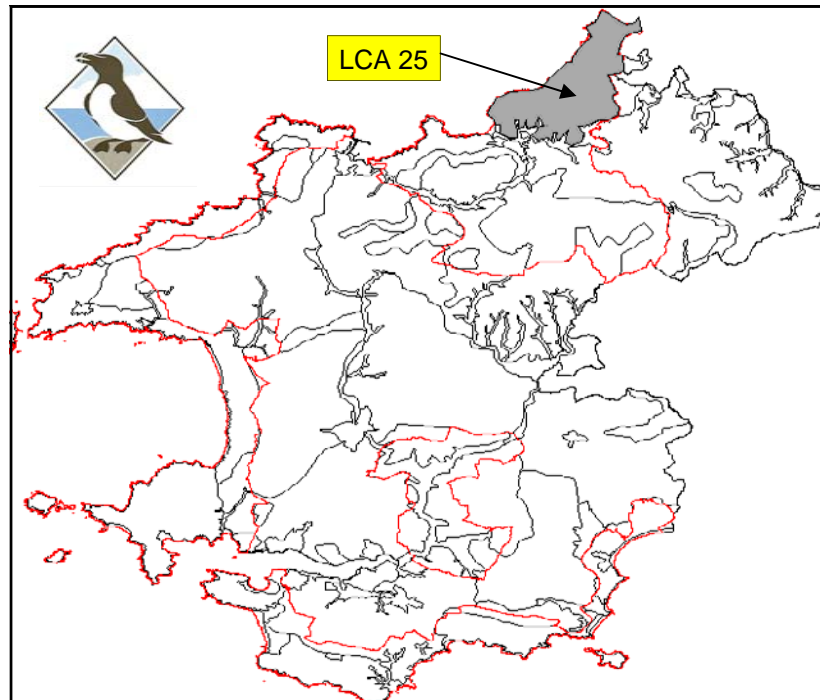


Pembrokeshire Coast National Park LCA - 25 CEMAES HEAD



Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

Dramatic sea cliffs form the northern boundary of this large tract of rolling farmland at the northern extremity of the National Park. This very large LCA stretches from Cemaes Head at its northern extremity south westwards to the boundary with LCA23 on the Nyfer river estuary north of Newport. It has an eastern boundary defined by the National Park boundary between Poppit Sands in the north east and Pengelli Forest in the south east.

Visual and Sensory Characteristics

A gently rolling predominantly farmland landscape with fields enclosed by hedgebanks that, together with the scattered farmsteads, small woodland blocks and quarries contribute to the overall mosaic pattern. There is a marked absence of settlements, Moylgrove being the sole village and this is hidden in a small wooded valley. The area is comprised of a tract of cliff coastline, marked by contrasting sandy bays at the northern end — Poppit Sands — and abuts the Newport Sands to the south west. This accounts for the strong coastal association and sense of place. Views out to the south are dominated by the Preseli Hills that form the southern skyline and provide a strong visual backdrop to the hinterland.

Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

The coastline within this area is dominated by some of the largest sea cliffs in the National Park. Habitats include sea cliff grassland and heath on the cliff tops and coastal slopes, rocky shores, and pebble/cobble beaches. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland occurs in the most sheltered coastal stream valleys. Away from the coast, this area is dominated by intensively farmed improved permanent pasture with traditional hedge banks.




Geological Characteristics

A coastal block with a broadly WSW-ENE orientation, forming a low ridge rising to around 190m AOD. Coastal cliffs lie to the north west and the lower terrain of Glanrhyd lies to the south east. In the west, the coastal slope is broken by a stepped area between Hendre and Cwm Connel. There are coastal slopes to the north east, defining the west side of the mouth of the Teifi River. The bedrock is dominated by Ordovician sandstones with a veneer of glacial deposits (Quaternary: Pleistocene), including several incised river valleys some of which are glacial meltwater channels.

Historic and Cultural Characteristics

There are prehistoric monuments, Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age forts of national significance. The historic features include burial chambers and other tumuli including the high point at Crugiau Cemmaes (197mAOD). A multi-period archaeological landscape, with artistic and literary connotations. The eastern extremity of this LCA is within the Lower Teifi Valley 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
25	Cemaes Head	10 - Moderate 17 - Outstanding 91 - Moderate	1 - Moderate 2 - Moderate 5 - Moderate 6 - Moderate 13 - Moderate 17 - Moderate 18 - Moderate	017 - Moderate 018 - Low 228 - High 299 - Moderate 484 - High 554 - Low 755 - Moderate 799 - Moderate	46127 - Outstanding 46128 - Outstanding 46129 - High 46130-Moderate 46131 - High 46236 - High	001 - High 008 - 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)

- A predominantly open, windswept farmland landscape, with traditional hedgebanks as the dominant boundary feature, imparting a strong texture to the landscape, and providing evidence of long associations with pastoral agriculture and the sheltering of livestock from the prevailing winds off the sea
- There are frequent views down to the sea and unspoilt coastal cliffs from exposed sections of minor roads along high ground, where bordering hedgebanks allow views from the road
- There are impressive views across a large tract of land towards Mynydd Preseli and Mynydd Carningli, which form the southern skyline and contribute to the strong sense of place
- Long framed views along roads formed by steep hedgebanks to either side are also a local characteristic here
- There are strong feelings of remoteness, with a sparse settlement pattern comprised largely of scattered farmsteads and isolated hamlets, and a notable absence of settlements, Molygrove being substantially hidden from view
- There are sand dunes, sandy beaches and mudflats to the western side of the mouth of the Teifi estuary at Poppit Sands
- The wealth of archaeological and historical sites are of national importance in Wales. These include a small part of the Lower Teifi Valley Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest between Cemaes Head and the Park boundary near Poppit, stretching inland to the high point of Crugiau Maen Saeson to the west of St.Dogmaels, which has Bronze Age ritual and funerary monuments.

Discernible Landscape Trends

- Hedgebank management and maintenance is inconsistent, leading to significant areas of apparent degradation of field boundaries. Hedgebank vegetation is providing less visual enclosure and shelter from prevailing westerly winds off the sea
- Replacement of some sections of hedgebank with post and wire fences, changing the character of the roadside landscape, and muting the texture of the wider landscape when this process has occurred at the scale of entire farm holdings
- Changes to the character of farmsteads by the erection of modern agricultural buildings which are not sympathetic to the character of the traditional farmstead buildings.

Management Guidance

- Protect the integrity of historic features and archaeological sites, with particular reference to their visual setting
- Maintain the local vernacular of stone buildings to conserve the scale and rural character of villages, hamlets and farmsteads
- Encourage landowners to participate in agri-environmental schemes and leave overgrown areas around the margins of arable fields for the benefit of wildlife
- Maintain field boundaries and farm in a wildlife-friendly way, by encouraging landowners to participate in agri-environmental schemes and leave overgrown areas around field margins
- Restore defunct quarry areas to increase habitat diversity, in accordance with adopted Local Biodiversity Action Plan priorities
- Promote the re-stocking of woodlands with broadleaved species
- Ensure that as far as possible no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged
- Conserve the semi-natural vegetation along the coastal path and do not allow agriculturally improved land to extend into these areas.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.
-