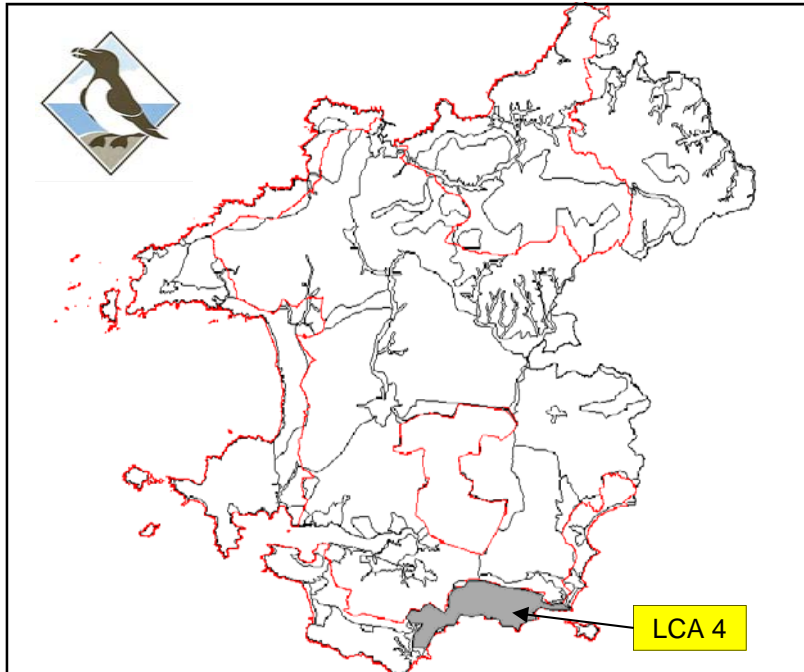


## Pembrokeshire Coast National Park LCA 4 - MANORBIER/FRESHWATER EAST



### Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

A large tract of rolling lowland with an indented cliff coastline lying between Stackpole and Tenby.

### Visual and Sensory Characteristics

This area is characterised by agricultural land on the hinterland of the south east Pembrokeshire coast. Small and medium-sized fields, occasionally with overgrown hedgerows, are interspersed with settlements, including Jameston and scattered farmsteads; the villages of Manorbier and Freshwater East lie on the coast. Attractive views to coastal cliffs to the east enhance the coastal feel. Visual detractors include caravan sites and modern housing, especially on the steeply sloping coastal edge at Freshwater East. There is an extensive series of rocky cliffs and steep slopes with some small sheltered coves and coastal grassland above. The cliffs are particularly impressive at Lydstep Point and Proud Giltar, at around 35 metres AOD, from which there are fine views of Caldey Island to the south east.

### Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

There is a diverse range of habitats including sand dunes, cliffs, sandy beaches, rocky shores, reed bed (at Freshwater East), scrub, deciduous woodland and dry heathland. The area supports numerous important species including chough, peregrine falcon and a large number of rare plants.

### Geological Characteristics

Rock cliff and shore between Skrinkle Haven and Freshwater East. Above cliff, steep grassy coastal slope often present. Rocky foreshore well developed along the Manorbier coast, with areas of sand. Includes the sandy bay of Freshwater East with dunes behind. Dominated by Old Red Sandstone, siltstones and sandstones (Silurian-Devonian). Broad and remarkably level area around 35-50m developed on Carboniferous limestone which rises slightly north and south towards Old Red Sandstone escarpments.

### Historic and Cultural Characteristics

There are prehistoric monuments and round barrows, Bronze Age forts, Iron Age forts, a Medieval castle, and Post-Medieval buildings, all of which are of national significance. The eastern part of this LCA includes the Manorbier Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales whilst the western part contains a small area of the Stackpole Warren Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales. Manorbier was the home of the chronicler Gerald of Wales who provided the earliest description of the Medieval landscape of Manorbier.

**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
4	Manorbier/ Freshwater East	58 - Moderate 59 - Moderate 61 - Moderate 80 - Outstanding 83 - Outstanding	222-Outstanding 224-Moderate	392 - Moderate 453- Outstanding 470-Outstanding 467 - High 608-Moderate 808-Outstanding 982-Moderate	46076-Outstanding 46077-Outstanding 46078-Outstanding 46080-Outstanding 46082-Outstanding 46083-Outstanding 46084-Outstanding 46173-High	003-Outstanding 005-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 attributed across all five of the evaluated landscape Aspects.
- This area of farmland landscape with traditional built forms predominant in the villages and agricultural buildings is pleasant, with a coastal feel, enhanced by attractive views of coastal cliffs to the east. Hedgerows are especially important landscape elements, providing a tangible link to earlier settlement
- The exposed nature of the cliff tops contrasts strongly with the sheltered coves
- There are some internationally important habitats present, contributing to the outstanding ecological value of some landscapes
- There is a very strong historical and cultural sense of place here, which is very different from that encountered in north and west Pembrokeshire, typified by the Medieval open field system which has survived remarkably well in the area - the strip-fields which lie either side of the Ridgeway between Lamphey and to the south of St Florence. The wealth of historical and archaeological sites documented means that extensive areas of historic landscapes have an outstanding value attributed to them. Of particular note are the Medieval buildings: the Lamphey Bishop's Palace, a moated house site at Hodgeston and the extremely well preserved manorial landscape of Manorbier, with its imposing castle dominating the village scene, the prominent church and a dovecote
- The historical value in turn supports the cultural value of this landscape as being outstanding. This has been formally recognised by its inclusion in the Manorbier Registered Landscape of Special Historical Interest in Wales. The present day landscape is one almost wholly shaped by Medieval territorial organisation, settlements and land use. It has associated historical cultural value as the home of Gerald of Wales
- There are Conservation Areas at Manorbier (designated in September 2001) and Portclew (designated in February 2002).

### Discernible Landscape Trends

- The area is in a generally well maintained condition that is appropriate to the agricultural nature of the landscape. However, there are signs of a reduction in traditional hedgerow management practices and the management of small woodlands
- Caravan parks have eroded the visual quality in places, especially in the vicinity of Freshwater East.

### Management Guidance

- Improve the integration of tourism development into the landscape, especially the more effective assimilation of caravan parks into the rural coastal landscape
- Preserve the agricultural and woodland mosaic character, with regular cyclical management of hedgerows, reflecting their importance as historic boundary features
- 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
- Prevent degradation of the Medieval strip-field system and its boundary hedgerows
- Ensure that the risk of water pollution incidents is kept to a minimum and conserve sandy beaches
- Find appropriate new use for traditional farm buildings at end of their agricultural life
- Conserve coastal habitats by managing footpaths along the cliff tops to protect sensitive vegetation and prevent over-grazing. Do not allow agriculturally improved land to extend into semi-natural vegetation areas.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.