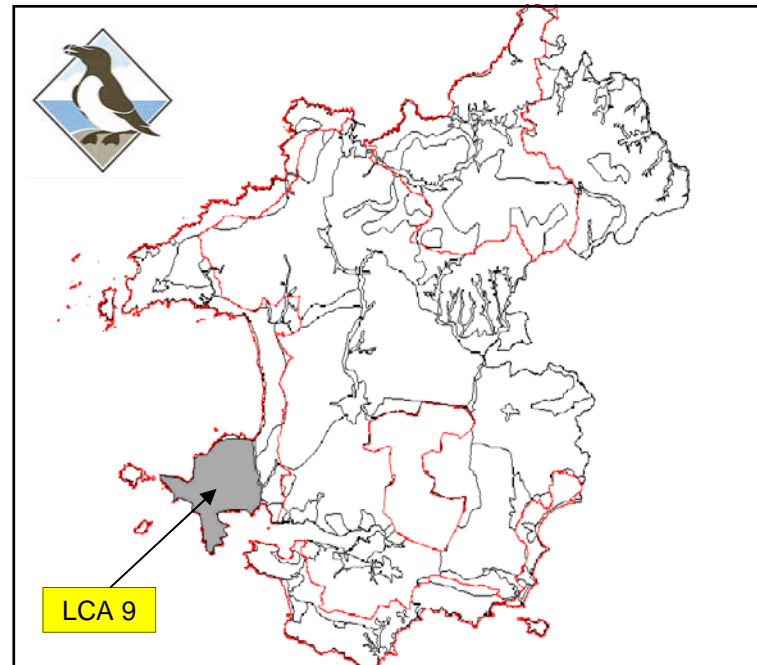


Pembrokeshire Coast National Park LCA 9 - MARLOES PENINSULA



Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

Essentially a large broad promontory, comprised of rolling lowland with associated coastal fringe, sea cliffs to the north west and south along St. Ann's Head and estuarine land along the outer northern shores of Milford Haven.

Visual and Sensory Characteristics

This area has a large tract of agricultural landscape, with scattered villages and farmsteads, forming the coastal hinterland of this large headland. This landscape is interspersed with occasional small wooded valleys and woodland belts. Views of the coast add to the sense of place as do the disused airfields at Talbenny and south of Marloes which may be considered as having a detracting effect on the landscape. There is a wetland area associated with the Dale estuary and a series of artificial ponds to the east of St Ishmael's. There are very extensive coastal cliffs between Little Haven and Dale, contrasting with the lower-lying north western shoreline of the Aberdaugleddau estuary. Each area contains a series of indented cliffs and slopes which are generally less pronounced than on more exposed parts of the coast to the north, particularly within small coves, beaches and sheltered parts of the coast. The western section of this area enjoys extensive coastal views including views of the offshore islands of Skomer and Skokholm. Views of South Hook LNG are a feature of the eastern section of the LCA.

Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

The area has a diverse range of habitats including sea cliffs, sandy and rocky shores, mudflats, saltmarsh and wet and dry heath. There are small areas purple moor grass and rush pasture, and lowland mixed deciduous woodland has developed in sheltered coastal valleys eg. Dale. Notable species include chough, peregrine fal-

Geological Characteristics

Rock cliffs and narrow rocky foreshore around St. Ann's head promontory are dominated by Old Red Sandstone siltstones and sandstones (Silurian-Devonian). Rocky cliffs and marginal sandy beaches and rocky foreshore of the Marloes promontory are dominated by Silurian volcanic rocks with some sandstones. The main terrestrial area of the Marloes peninsula is a level platform, mainly at around 60m AOD. Locally rises in the N to around 70m. Dominated by Silurian volcanic rocks with some areas of glacial clay [Quaternary: Pleistocene].

Historic and Cultural Characteristics

There are prehistoric monuments, Iron Age forts, round houses, standing stones, Medieval buildings and earthworks, 19th century military fortifications and the St Ann's Head lighthouse, all of which are of national significance. There is a small 19th century parkland at Monk Haven. Much of the LCA lies within the Milford Haven Waterway Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.

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
9	Marloes	29 - Outstanding 69 - Moderate 73-Outstanding 74 - Outstanding	136-Moderate 137-Moderate 138-Moderate 139-Moderate 140-Moderate 144-Moderate 155-Moderate	127 - Low 365 - High 602 - High 619 - Moderate 661 - High 632 - Moderate 667 - Moderate 679-Low 698 - Moderate 746-Moderate 822-High	43883-Outstanding 43884-Outstanding 43885-Outstanding 43887-Outstanding 43888-Outstanding 43891-Outstanding 43901-Outstanding 46053-Outstanding 46054 - High	003-Outstanding 819-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)

- The Marloes peninsula features attractive open rolling farmland contrasting with more sheltered wooded valleys, notably south of St. Brides, around Dale, St. Ishmael's and bordering the Sandy Haven Pill
- The high proportion of coastal views, including those out to the islands of Skomer and Skokholm, contribute greatly to the sense of place and the often outstanding visual and sensory landscape value of this large area
- There are heathland and shoreline habitats of international importance which result in some landscapes of high ecological value
- The recorded historical and archaeological features are of national importance and are such that much of this area is of outstanding historical landscape value. The long-established defensive role of the peninsula is underlined by the range of archaeological features recorded, ranging from the Iron Age through to modern military installations.
- The Milford Haven Waterway Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales encompasses a large arc of land in the southern part of this LCA, including St. Ann's headland, the villages of Dale and St. Ishmael's, up to the LCA boundary at Sand Haven Pill. This river valley and estuary landscape has an unsurpassed concentration of remains, reflecting maritime conquest, settlement, commerce, fishing, defence and industry spanning the prehistoric to modern periods.
- The historical landscape attributes also support an outstanding cultural aspect evaluation, in addition to the influence of the large areas of National Trust land to the west of Marloes village and on the western side of the St. Ann's headland. St. Ann's Head is particularly atmospheric with an enhanced maritime cultural awareness raised by the attractive range of lighthouse structures and cottages present.

Discernible Landscape Trends

- The area is generally well managed with maintained hedgebanks and occasional attractive wooded valleys
- Former military airfields at Talbenny and south of the village of Marloes are gradually being assimilated into the landscape through natural processes but they remain incongruous features in the landscape, especially where the old buildings are skyline features to the south east of Marloes.

Management Guidance

- Preserve woodland within the landscape through small scale thinning and felling to ensure a mixed age and diversity of native tree species
- Retain the agricultural character of the area through requiring that development remains low-key and in keeping with the existing area, conserving the undeveloped diverse coastline and associated views
- Ensure that any new agricultural buildings respect the historical and cultural significance of the landscape in terms of their siting, layout, form and construction materials
- Preserve the agricultural and woodland mosaic character, with regular cyclical appropriate management of hedgerows
- 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 sensitive areas of semi-natural vegetation
- Address neglect of some older farm buildings, and consider their re-use when coming to the end of their agricultural life
- Promote positive management of the garden features at Monk Haven.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.