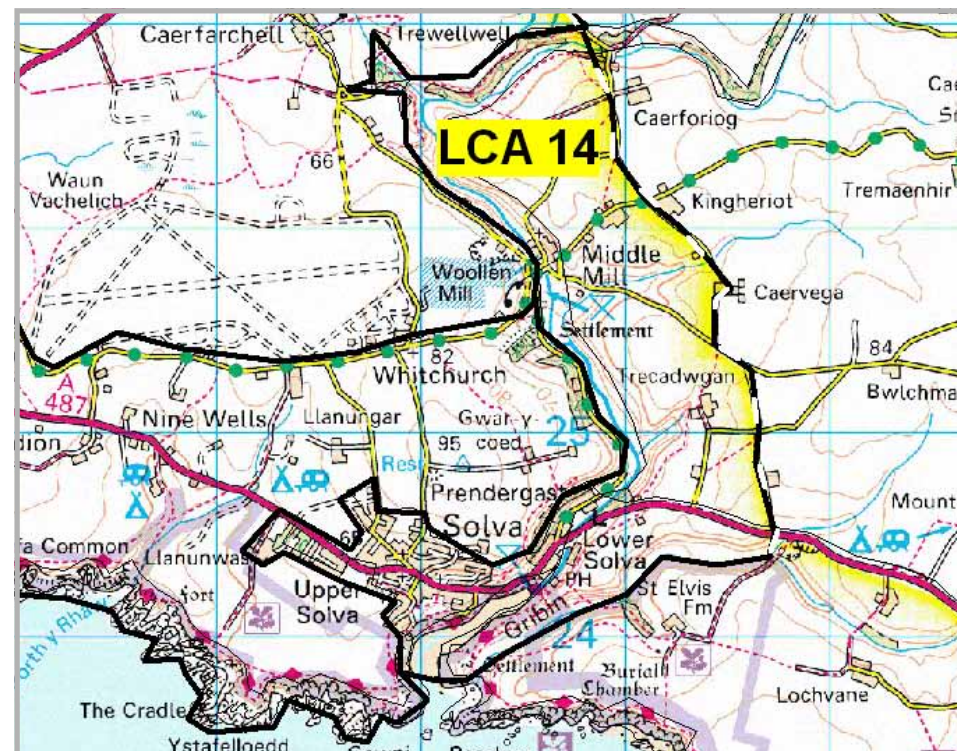
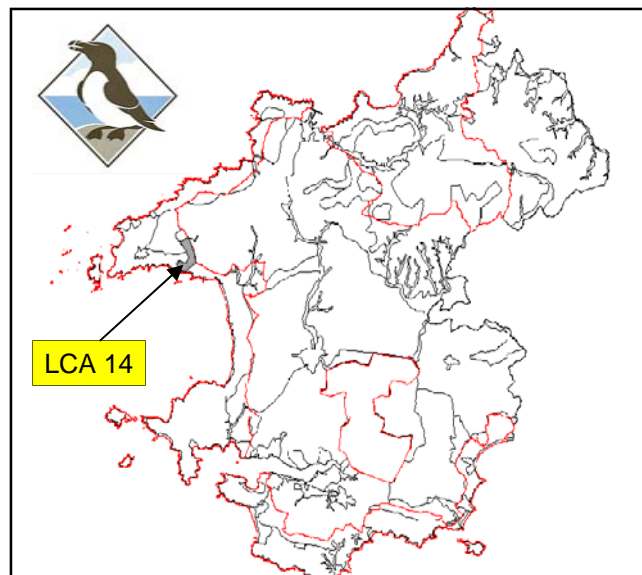


## Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

### LCA 14 - SOLVA VALLEY



#### Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

A narrow estuarine lowland river valley incised into the surrounding rolling lowland and coast. The coast provides a strong sense of place for the adjacent harbour settlement.

#### Visual and Sensory Characteristics

A small scale and attractive estuarine village well situated on the west bank of the lower Solva river. The oldest parts of the village possess a traditional character due to the prevalence and extent of traditional cottages, running inland from the harbour - with its colourful small boats - along the pleasant wooded valley of the Solva river. The village has a strong coastal association and the views to the coast from the harbour impart a strong sense of place to the village.

#### Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

There is a diverse range of habitats associated with the valley, including some internationally important habitats such as wet heathland with cross-leaved heath and dry heath. Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats include lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland heathland and maritime cliff and slope. Priority species present are chough, peregrine falcon, rare lichens and invertebrates.

#### Geological Characteristics

Incised, steep-sided lower section of the Solva Valley, excluding the inter-tidal area. Locally flat base indicates infill, probably including estuarine alluvium. Bedrock is Cambrian sandstone and mudstone. Gently undulating terrain west of the Solva river and rising to around 90m is dominated by Cambrian slates and sandstones with Pre-Cambrian to the NE.

#### Historic and Cultural Characteristics

There are prehistoric ritual monuments, an Iron Age hill fort, a medieval earthwork and a moated site, together with Post-Medieval buildings and structures, all of which are of national significance.

The indigenous cultures are now less obvious because of being replaced by a yachting culture; but Solva still has remnants of a Welsh language culture and way of life. A small part of this LCA lies within the St Davids Peninsula and Ramsey Island 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
14	Solva Valley	28-Moderate 29-Outstanding 34 - High 35 - High 72-High	97 - Moderate 101- Moderate	519 - Moderate 641-Outstanding 672 - Moderate 773-High 996 - Moderate 957 - High	42278-Outstanding 46060-High 46090-High 46225-High 46091-Outstanding	003-Outstanding 004-Outstanding 565 - 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 Solva Valley is very sheltered by being incised into the surrounding rolling coastal plateau, with an intimate and tranquil atmosphere on the valley floor
- The old core of the village around the western side of the harbour has a strong sense of place and many of the buildings retain a traditional appearance, stemming from its past function as an industrial harbour settlement with an important post-Medieval lime works trade
- The valley has several extant reminders of its industrial past, especially the lime-kilns by the harbour, and there is a working woollen mill at the hamlet of Middle Mill, to which the valley provided an important transport link. Although there is an active hard rock quarry near Middle Mill, it does not intrude visually into the valley landscape
- The historical and archaeological sites recorded in the area are such that it has landscapes of outstanding and high historical value
- The cultural value is high, resulting from a residual Welsh culture in spite of dilution by more recent influx of marine-related recreational pursuits. The cultural value is further supported by the tract of National Trust land along the lower estuary and across the river mouth.
- There is an extensive Conservation Area (designated in June 1997) covering Lower Solva, an extensive section of the Solva valley and the oldest parts of Upper Solva, reflecting the historical and cultural importance of the settlement.

Discernible Landscape Trends

- Communal and residential areas of the village and harbour in Lower Solva are generally well managed and there is an attractive tree cover along the narrow wooded margins of the village
- The upper parts of the more recently settled western fringe areas of the village have lost their traditional built form and character, with the result that the sense of place is lost beyond the oldest parts of Upper Solva.

Management Guidance

- Conserve the small estuarine character of the village with its associated harbour and wooded valley, including the promotion of appropriate broadleaved woodland management, especially in the vicinity of the quarry near Middle Mill
- Preserve the agricultural and woodland mosaic character, with the 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 coastal heath areas
- 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
- Conserve the important archaeological sites, especially the lime kilns, so as to retain their integrity and their visual context
- Conserve the traditional built character of this coastal village and its landscape setting, and promote the proper visual assimilation of the edges of Upper Solva into the surrounding agricultural landscape through planting schemes by agreement
- 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.