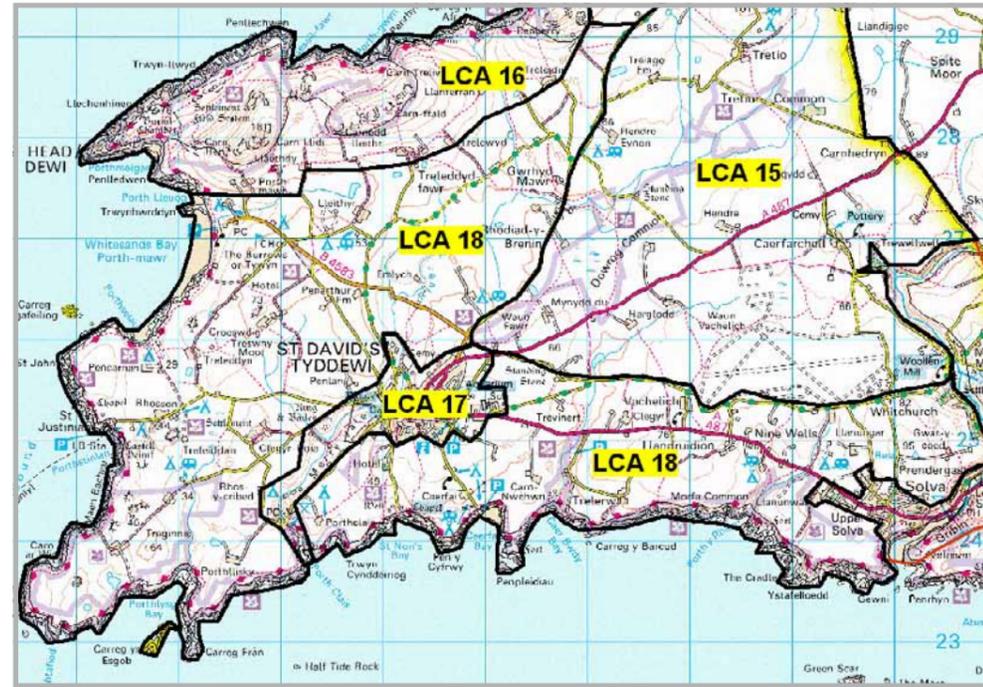
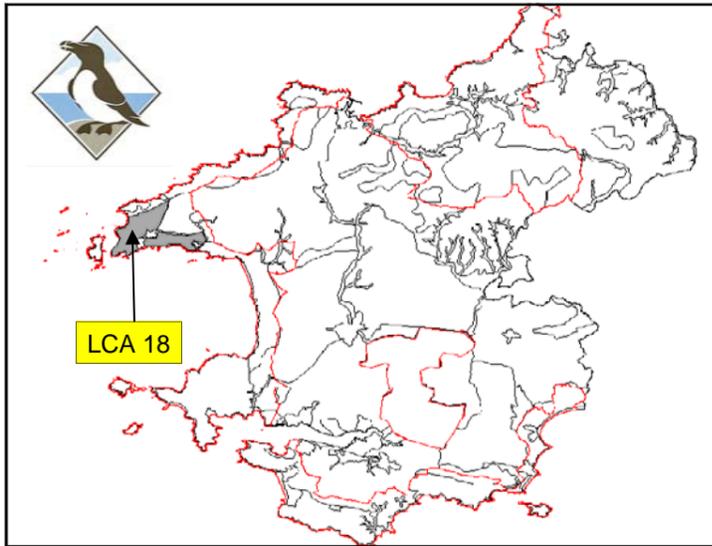


Pembrokeshire Coast National Park LCA 18 - ST. DAVID'S HEADLAND



Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

A large tract of rolling lowland and associated coastal area of cliffs and beaches occupying much of the headland.

Visual and Sensory Characteristics

This large Aspect Area on the St. David's headland is comprised of a typical west Pembrokeshire landscape, featuring gently undulating farmland with an open character. Higher ground affords views within this Aspect Area as well as accessible 'borrowed views' to the coast and Ramsey Island, the distinctive Carn Lidi hills to the north and to buildings within the city of St David's - including the Cathedral - which all add to the sense of place. The coast is characterised by a series of tall indented cliffs and steep slopes, small scale rocky headlands and inlets with sandy beaches.

Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

Habitats include dry and wet heathland, purple moor-grass and rush pastures, and swamp. The coastline is dominated by cliffs and rocky shores. There is a relict sand dune system

Geological Characteristics

A coastal platform forming the terrestrial part of the southern headland of the St. David's peninsula, dominated by a flat surface up to around 50-60m AOD with some local, broad and low mounds. Geology dominated by Pre-Cambrian volcanic rocks with glacial clays to the north east. Gently undulating terrain west of the Solva river, rising to around 90m. Dominated by Cambrian slates and sandstones with Pre-Cambrian to the north east. A low dome at around 75m in the St. David's area. Also includes a lower area of coastal platform at around 35-40m in the Caerfai Bay area. Dominated by Pre-Cambrian igneous rocks with Cambrian to the south. There is a famous coastal section including important exposures of Cambrian and Ordovician rocks. Dominated by sea cliffs with typically no or very limited areas of rocky foreshore. Locally coves have sandy beaches and the mouths of several small rias are also present.

Historic and Cultural Characteristics

As well as chambered tombs and round barrows, there are standing stones, an Iron Age Promontory fort, and abundant Early Christian monuments and chapels, all of which are of national significance. The area which surrounds the cathedral settlement of St David's is a rich archaeological landscape which contains prehistoric remains, as well as evidence of later periods. This LCA lies wholly within the St. David's Headland and Ramsey Island Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical 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
18	St David's Headland	25- Outstanding 28 - Moderate 29- Outstanding	86 - Moderate 89 - High 92-Outstanding 97-Moderate 98 - Moderate 100 - Moderate	490- High 575 - Moderate 582 - High 511- High 633- Moderate 641 - Outstanding 836 - High 888- High 957 - High 996 - Moderate	46225-Outstanding 42269-Outstanding 42270-Outstanding 42273-Outstanding 42279-Outstanding	004 - 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 is largely a rather peaceful open rural environment with attractive views to the coast and the cathedral at St David's
- There are three stretches of lowland heathland and wetlands with areas of standing water, a rare element within the National Park. There are internationally significant habitats here, especially lowland heath and grasslands
- There is a wealth of historical and archaeological features which are of national significance and result in a landscape of outstanding historical value. There are some fine examples of the distinctive vernacular Pembrokeshire houses with their 'outshuts' and massive round chimneys
- The abundance of early Christian sites is important. Whitesands Bay in particular has strong connections with St. David's, due in part to the site of the pilgrims' chapel of St Patrick in the field behind the beach. This would have been a landing point for boats for those making the pilgrimage to St. David's by sea.
- The associations with the cathedral city of St. David's are highly significant in Welsh culture and underpin this area's outstanding cultural value. The cultural value is further supported by the large continuous tract of National Trust land along the Pen Dal-aderyn promontory and running eastwards to Porth Clais and beyond to Solva. This has been formally recognised by its inclusion in the St. David's Headland and Ramsey Island Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales. There is extensive and well-preserved evidence of land use and intense ritual and religious activity from the prehistoric period onwards, including Neolithic chambered tombs and settlement, Iron Age forts and field systems.
- Clegyr Boia is the only Pembrokeshire example of a Neolithic domestic settlement, a fortified stronghold on a rocky hill outcrop to the west of St. David's.

Discernible Landscape Trends

- The area appears to be in a constant state of mixed agricultural land use of both arable and livestock farming
- Some of the farm units have recent agricultural buildings which are incongruous with this landscape and the traditional vernacular farm buildings

Management Guidance

- Any proposed caravan parks - or extensions to existing sites - to be located so as to minimise visual impact within the landscape and respect the historical significance of this area; mitigate existing visual impacts
- 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, and the regular cyclical management of hedgerows
- Do not allow agriculturally 'improved' land to extend into lowland heathland areas and ensure that any agricultural buildings respect the historical and cultural significance of the landscape in terms of their siting, layout, form and construction materials
- Ensure that grazing levels are appropriate to the important heathland and grassland habitats of ecological importance. Increase the areas of unmanaged coastal grassland and gorse scrub
- Investigate the condition of dune grassland areas and look at ways of enhancing their value
- Consider the appropriate re-use of historic farm buildings once their economic life has ended
- Ensure that as far as possible no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged
- Promote the appropriate interpretation of prehistoric remains, with particular reference to Clegyr Boia, the only Pembrokeshire example of a Neolithic domestic settlement.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.