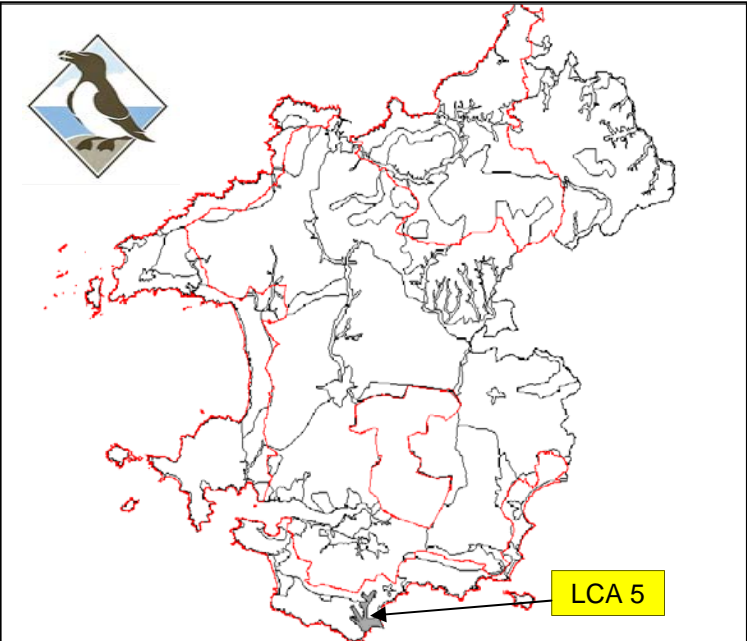


Pembrokeshire Coast National Park  
LCA 5 - STACKPOLE



Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

A wooded branched lowland river valley and associated coastal dune system, sandy beaches and low sea cliffs at the southernmost tip of Pembrokeshire.

Visual and Sensory Characteristics

Stackpole Court is defined by a landscape of a tranquil valley system with densely wooded sides to the upper valley areas and with estuarine waters. There is a mosaic of agricultural areas and woodland in the riparian zone. These lower areas include open sheets of water created by damming to create lagoons, work undertaken during significant historical landscaping of the former Stackpole estate. Stackpole Warren is situated at the mouth of the Stackpole Court valleys. This area forms a series of mature dunes fronting a small sandy bay and a raised rocky outcrop, which gives the majority of the area a sheltered feel. The margins of the area have a coastal grassland cover. There are two small stream outlets from the dammed river behind.

Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

There is a diverse range of habitats associated with the old Stackpole Estate, including rocky and sandy shores, sand dune, dune grassland, calcareous fresh water lakes. Other habitats include lowland mixed deciduous woodland, and a small amount of lowland heathland. Notable species include chough, adder, grass snake, slow worm, several species of bat and rare invertebrates. There are also significant colonies of seabirds on the cliffs.

Geological Characteristics

Flooded coastal, incised, branching valley system with steep sides - water level artificially maintained. Sand dunes form barrier with sea. Bedrock dominated by Carboniferous limestone. Stackpole Warren is an area of sand dunes, partly stabilised/modified overlying a Carboniferous limestone platform (averaging around 35m above sea level). Includes adjacent sandy beaches at Barafundle Bay and Broad Haven.

Historic and Cultural Characteristics

There are prehistoric settlements, an Iron Age fort and Post-Medieval estate buildings, all of national significance. The estates represent, in landscape terms, the residual effect of feudalism and landed gentry. The tendency today is for the estates to function as visitor attractions, incorporating the conservation ethic. The National Trust's Stackpole Estate, which includes Barafundle Bay and the delightful freshwater lily ponds at Bosherton, is situated between the villages of Stackpole and Bosherton. Stackpole Warren - between Linney Head and Stackpole Head - is a Registered Landscape of Special 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	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 )
5	Stackpole	61-Moderate 62 - High 89 - High	240-Outstanding 242-Moderate 243-Moderate	377- Outstanding 444- Outstanding 467 - High 573 - High 608 - Moderate	46173-High 46182-Outstanding 46183-Outstanding 46184-High	705-Outstanding 852-High	

**Special Qualities (Key Landscape Characteristics)**

- This area is made up of a naturalistic yet previously much landscaped series of wooded valleys that are generally very sheltered and pleasant. There is a distinct feel of being within a long-established estate parkland and woodland landscape within the confines of the river valley
- The diverse range of habitats present, some of international importance, include landscapes of outstanding ecological value
- The historical and archaeological value of the area is also outstanding, with evidence of long-term continuous management of landed estates since feudal times. The Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales at Stackpole Warren contains a rare survival in Wales of buried archaeological landscape - covered by wind-blown sand which is extremely well preserved. It includes horizons and deposits representing diverse land use and ritualistic activity from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age/Romano-British periods, with a proven and exceptional potential for further study
- The beaches of Pembrokeshire form a very important part of the coastline and the concept of the National Park. Culturally they hold high significance in the minds of local inhabitants and visitors
- The National Trust’s Stackpole Estate is set in an area of outstanding natural beauty, and much of it is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Some 202 of its 810 hectares are also designated National Nature Reserves managed jointly with the National Trust and The Countryside Council for Wales. These factors underpin the outstanding cultural landscape value attributed to this area.

**Discernible Landscape Trends**

- The estates landscape has undergone attractive landscape work in the past, followed by abandonment, with natural succession reclaiming the designed landscape and threatening some species, such as those dependent upon open water. New management approaches propose a compromise between restoring the historic landscapes and the SSSI and retaining the richest parts of the new landscapes
- Stackpole Warren appears to be under an appropriate low intensity management regime which is in keeping with this fragile dune environment.

**Management Guidance**

- Retain the historically-altered landscape, with a reflection of previous landscaping to create current attractive features
- Encourage landowners to participate in agri-environmental schemes, with particular emphasis on promotion of the restoration or rehabilitation of traditional field boundary hedges, fences and walls at key visual locations, accompanied by environmentally sympathetic practices of soil and water management
- Ensure that the risk of water pollution incidents is kept to a minimum and conserve the sandy beach
- Promote the restoration of the estate parkland character and key elements, and ensure that any new buildings respect the historical and cultural significance of the landscape in terms of their siting, layout, form and construction materials
- Maintain character to ensure preservation of the integrity and the visual setting of archaeological sites, especially at Stackpole Warren
- Preserve the Stackpole Warren dune system through minimising footpath erosion
- Manage visitor pressures throughout so as to minimise the impact of erosion on vulnerable ground and visually sensitive locations, including implementing a policy of dispersing visitors into the parkland.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.