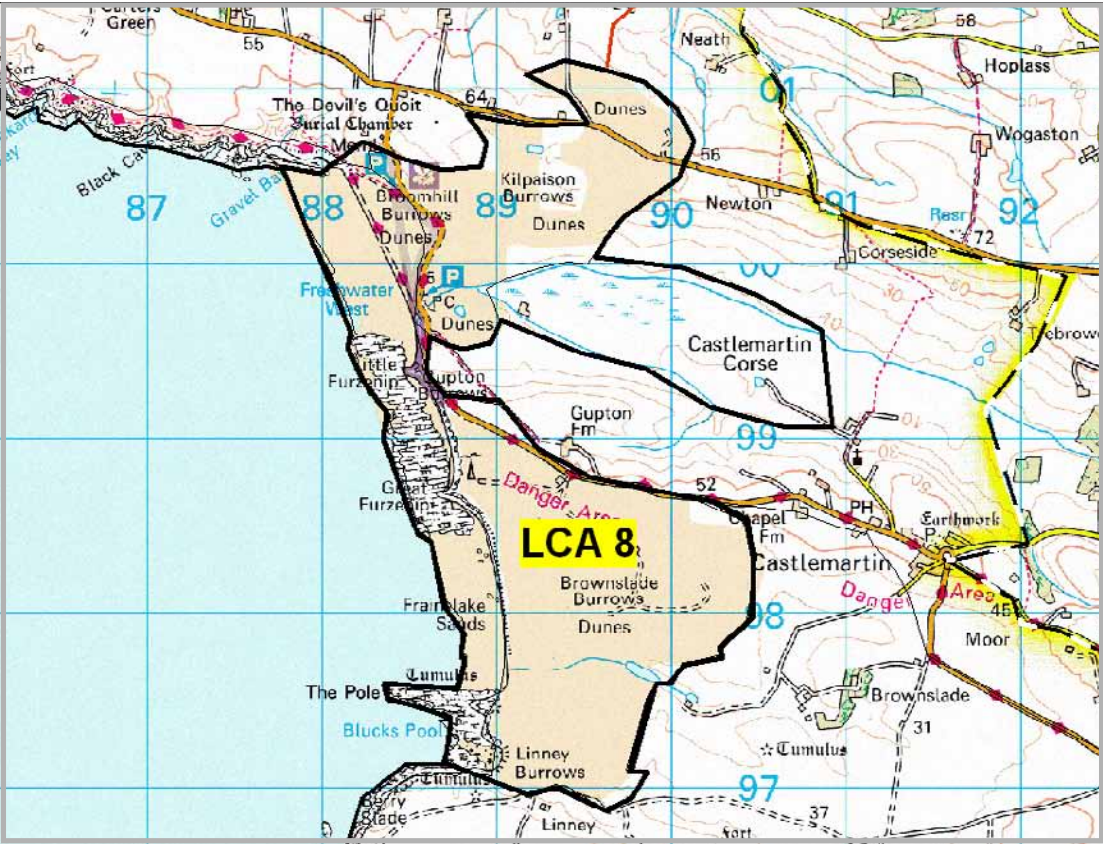
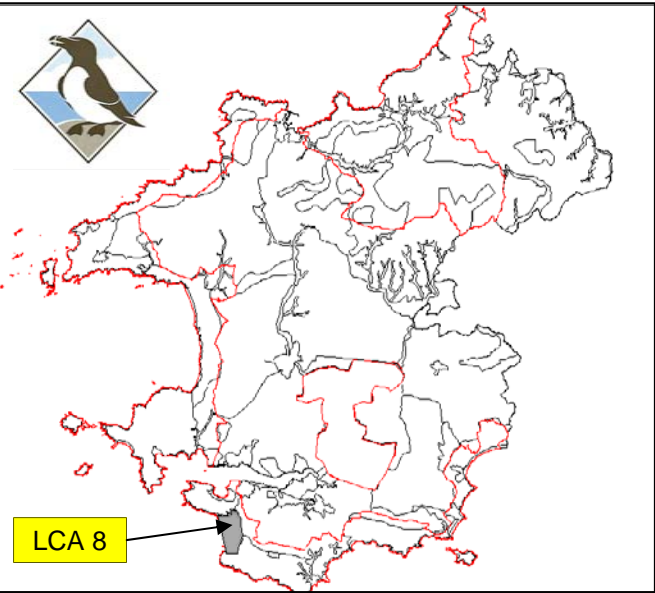


Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
**LCA 8 - FRESHWATER WEST/
BROWNSLADE BURROWS**



Location, Context and Physical Characteristics

An area of rolling lowland, almost devoid of settlement, with associated coastal areas of fixed sand dunes, low sea cliffs and bays.

Visual and Sensory Characteristics

The landscape is characterised by a distinctive gently undulating open area dominated by sand dunes backed by marshy fields at the western end of Castlemartin Corse. The close visual and sensory association with the coast adds to the sense of place, especially when strong south-westerly winds blow and raise a high surf along the broad sweep of exposed beach and rocky foreshore.

Vegetation and Habitat Characteristics

Habitats include coastal sand dunes, fens, reedbeds, purple moor grass and rush pastures, lowland calcareous grassland, maritime cliffs, littoral and sub-littoral. The area supports numerous important species include chough, over-wintering lapwings, waders, grey seal, adder, grass snake, slow worm, rare invertebrates (including scarce blue tailed damselfly and great green bush cricket), and several important plant species, including fen pondweed and marsh helleborine.

Geological Characteristics

Extensive sand dune system which rises from beach level over former cliff areas (Quaternary: Holocene), in part stabilised and with sand pits. Includes a sand beach and extensive area of rocky foreshore in centre of Bay with adjacent sea cliffs. Castlemartin Corse is WNW-ENE orientated valley with moderately steep slopes on either side and a broad floor. Latter includes a lower, flat area which is marshy to the W and a slightly higher very gently sloping terrace-like features on the S side of the valley. Seaward end of valley to W blocked by dunes of Broomhill Burrows. Includes a minor side valley to N with a narrow floodplain. (Quaternary: Pleistocene-Holocene).

Historic and Cultural Characteristics

There are abandoned military structures and Iron Age forts of national significance. Many of the features have been preserved through sand inundation, and so the dunes at Kilpaison and Brownslade Burrows are very important in the physical preservation of archaeological sites. Castlemartin Corse is also of historical significance. The beaches 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.

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
8	Freshwater West	61 - Moderate 79 - High 81-Outstanding	235 - Outstanding 239 - High	142 - Outstanding 359 - High 531 - High 780 - High 865 - High	46188 - Outstanding 46189 - High 46190 - High	003 - Outstanding 705 - 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 was defined by its vast stretch of sand beach backed by an extensive system of fixed sand dunes, which are very rare in the National Park. These are in turn backed by a broad, shallow lowland valley managed for pastoral agriculture on land largely reclaimed from marsh. It is a landscape of outstanding geological value
- There is a highly exposed feel to this landscape with a constant awareness of the wind and the sea, sharpened by the sound of crashing of waves along the beach when the prevailing south-westerly winds reach sufficient strength
- Although there is a well-used paved public road passing through the dune system, its alignment and the scale of the adjacent sand dunes mean that it is not visible for much of its length along the low ground, thus contributing to the sense of remoteness of this place
- The high level of exposure, together with its relative isolation and lack of settlement, contribute strongly to a pervading sense of remoteness and wilderness here, evoked by the wind-swept undulating sand dune landscape. This in spite of the proximity of the Castlemartin firing ranges and the tops of high stacks at the Texaco oil refinery which intrude above the horizon to the north-east
- The range of habitats present is of nationally significant importance
- Old military installations provide reminders of the historical national importance of the nearby Milford Haven as a sea port and the need to protect its installations against attack.
- The elevated cultural value is supported by the presence of a tract of National Trust land in the northern section on part of Broomhill Burrows.

Discernible Landscape Trends

- The natural sand dune succession appears to be in a constant state with only local signs of erosion along informal footpaths through the dunes
- Accumulations of litter and debris in the dunes and at the car parks is a local phenomenon derived largely from flotsam being blown inland from the exposed beach when the winds blow from the south west.

Management Guidance

- Retain and conserve the sense of remoteness
- Ensure that the area is not spoilt by accumulations of flotsam and jetsam
- Protect the natural sand dune succession with marram grass communities to the rear of the Burrows by managing footpath use and avoiding any development which would disrupt this succession
- Ensure that scrub/bracken spread are monitored and subject to appropriate control measures as necessary to prevent colonisation of dunes and coastal grassland
- Ensure that drainage is not altered to detriment of semi-natural marshland communities on Castlemartin Corse, including integrated catchment management in collaboration with the National Trust.
- Ensure that as far as possible ancient monuments and remains are not lost or damaged.