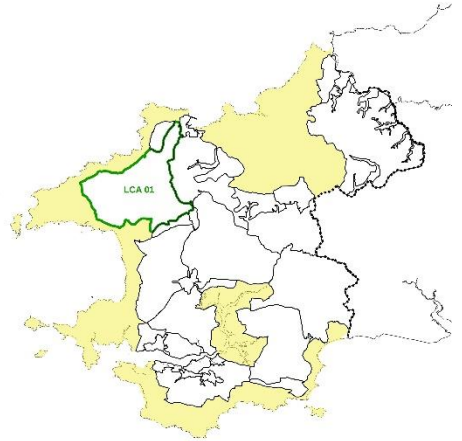


Landscape Character Area 1: Treffynnon

Location

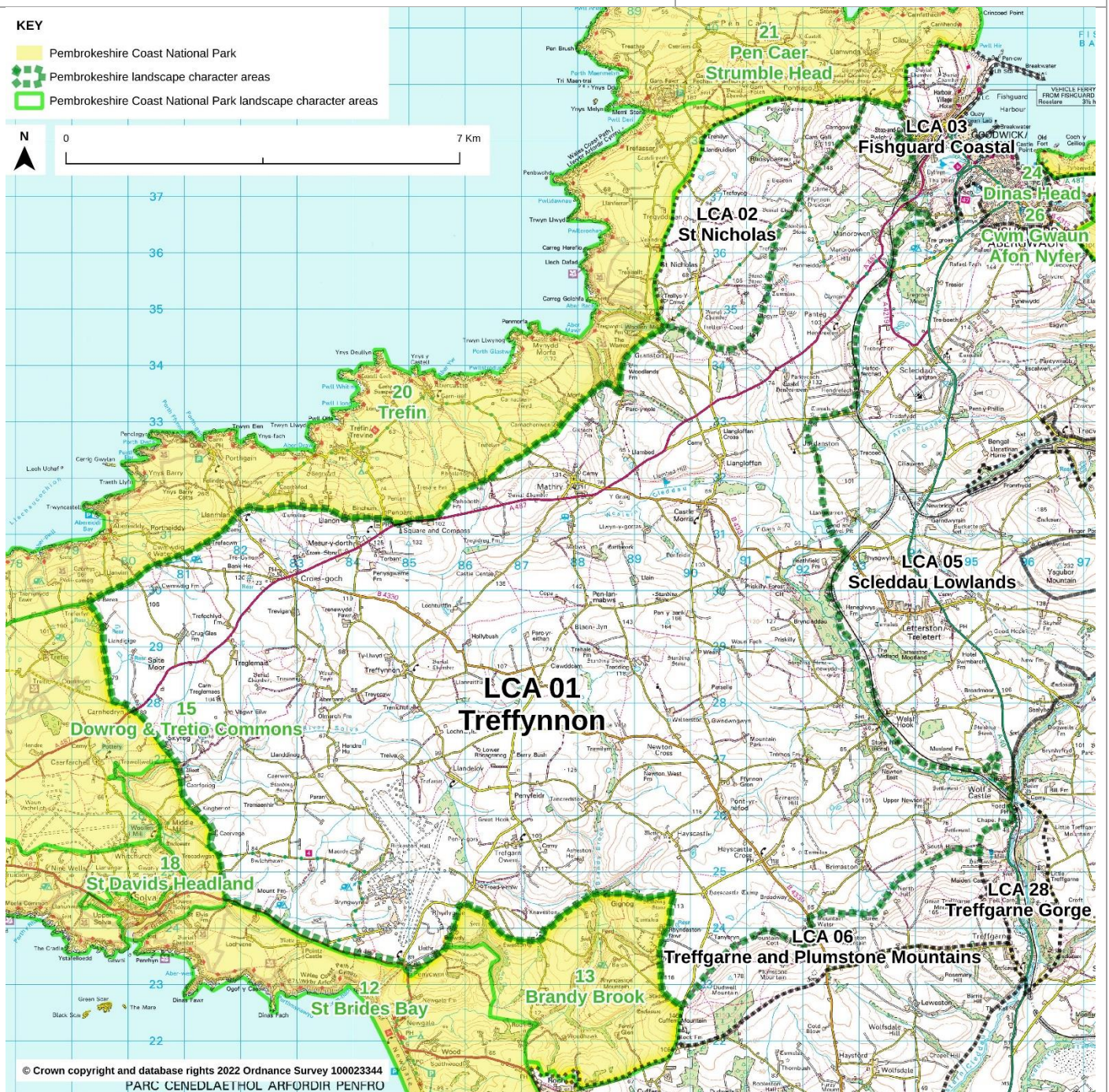
Located in the north western part of Pembrokeshire and to the south west of Fishguard. The National Park lies directly to the north, south and west. The A487 runs through the northern edge of the area linking Fishguard with St Davids.



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KEY

- Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
- Pembrokeshire landscape character areas
- Pembrokeshire Coast National Park landscape character areas



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PARC CENEDLAETHOL ARFORDIR PENFRO



View west from near Wolfscastle



View west along the A487 to Mathry

Summary description

An extensive area of relatively open rounded rolling pastoral ridges and hills interspersed with the small scale valleys of the Western Cleddau, River Solva and Brandy Brook with their associated narrow floodplains with marshy grassland. Most tree and scrub cover occurs in riparian corridors but there are occasional small clumps or belts of woodland, some associated with rural settlement. Small rural villages include the distinctive clustered hilltop settlement of Mathry as well as scattered farmsteads and occasional hamlets. These are linked by relatively quiet lanes but the busier A487 coast road links Fishguard with St Davids outside the area. The area forms part of the setting of the National Park and fringes and higher ground provide long views towards the coast and sea and to upstanding landforms such as Garn Fawr, Ramsey Island and St Brides Bay. The former RAF airfield at Brawdy and Cawdor Barracks lie on the south eastern edge.

Key characteristics

- Landform comprising of **rounded low rolling ridges and hills interspersed with the small scale steep sided valleys** of the Western Cleddau, River Solva and Brandy Brook **with their associated narrow floodplains.**
- Underlying geology of low broad ridges dominated by Ordovician and Cambrian sandstones and slates, with volcanic extrusions. Previous glacial processes have resulted in glacial, periglacial and fluvioglacial deposits particularly in valley bottoms.
- **Predominantly pastoral farmland**, largely of good quality Grade 3a classification, **with medium-sized regular and irregular fields** of improved grassland with some arable bounded mainly by **trimmed hedges and hedgebanks which contribute to the open character of the area** which is similar to the adjoining areas to the north and west.
- **Occasional small clumps and belts of wind sculpted woodland and relatively visually contained small scale wooded and scrub valleys.**
- Key habitats including the loose mosaic of broadleaved woodland, dense scrub, marsh and marshy grassland and bracken with wooded habitats often along narrow valley bottoms

and wet heath. Designations include Corsydd Llangloffan National Nature Reserve which is part of the Cleddau Rivers SAC and related SSSI which bounds and penetrates the area, and the Comins Tre-Rhos and Ysgeifiog Moor SSSIs on the small commons.

- **Dispersed predominantly rural settlement pattern, with the distinctive hilltop clustered settlement of Mathry** and valley side settlement of Llangloffan, and linear settlements at Square and Compass, Hayscastle Cross and Croesgoch, which are mostly 19th and 20th century although they may have earlier historic cores. Elsewhere there are **occasional hamlets and scattered traditional farmsteads linked by a network of quiet lanes.**
- **A rich variety of historic features and scheduled monuments** such as prehistoric camps (eg Castle Villa) and enclosures (eg Castell Hendre-Wen), burial chambers/standing stones (eg Clyn-Ffwrn), Mottes (eg Hayscastle), listed buildings such as medieval churches, halls (eg Rickeston) and farmhouses, and a Conservation Area at Mathry.
- Road pattern largely comprising a **fairly even network of quiet rural lanes** and B roads with the busy A487 traversing across the north of the area. National Cycle Route 4 runs to the west and across the northern edge towards Fishguard.
- More recent development including a disused Second World War airfield at Brawdy which maintains a long history of military presence in Pembrokeshire. A number of airfield buildings and installations, including barrack blocks, are still visible, along with the airfield runways and roadways. Cawdor Barracks is currently in use by the 14th Signal Regiment.
- Static and touring caravan parks dotted across the area, mostly close to the A487 or Brawdy. A few small wind turbines scattered across the higher ground, mainly focussed towards the south but set back from the coast.
- **Long boundary with the National Park with similar landform and landcover and forming part of its setting.**
- **On the higher ground, which act as local skylines, the relatively low hedges allow long views across the area towards the coast and sea within the National Park to the north, west and south. The area is also intervisible with these areas and landforms such as such as Garn Fawr to the north and Carn Penberry to the west.**
- **The area feels exposed and tree cover is windswept in places indicating the close relationship with the coast.**
- **Tranquillity increases away from the A487 and Brawdy.**
- **Valleys provide enclosure through landform and tree and hedge cover and can feel secluded.**
- The area lies just north of the Landsker Line and cultural influences include a higher incidence of Welsh speakers than further south although there are mix of Welsh and English place names.

* **Note: Bold text** indicates key characteristics and qualities contributing most to sense of place.

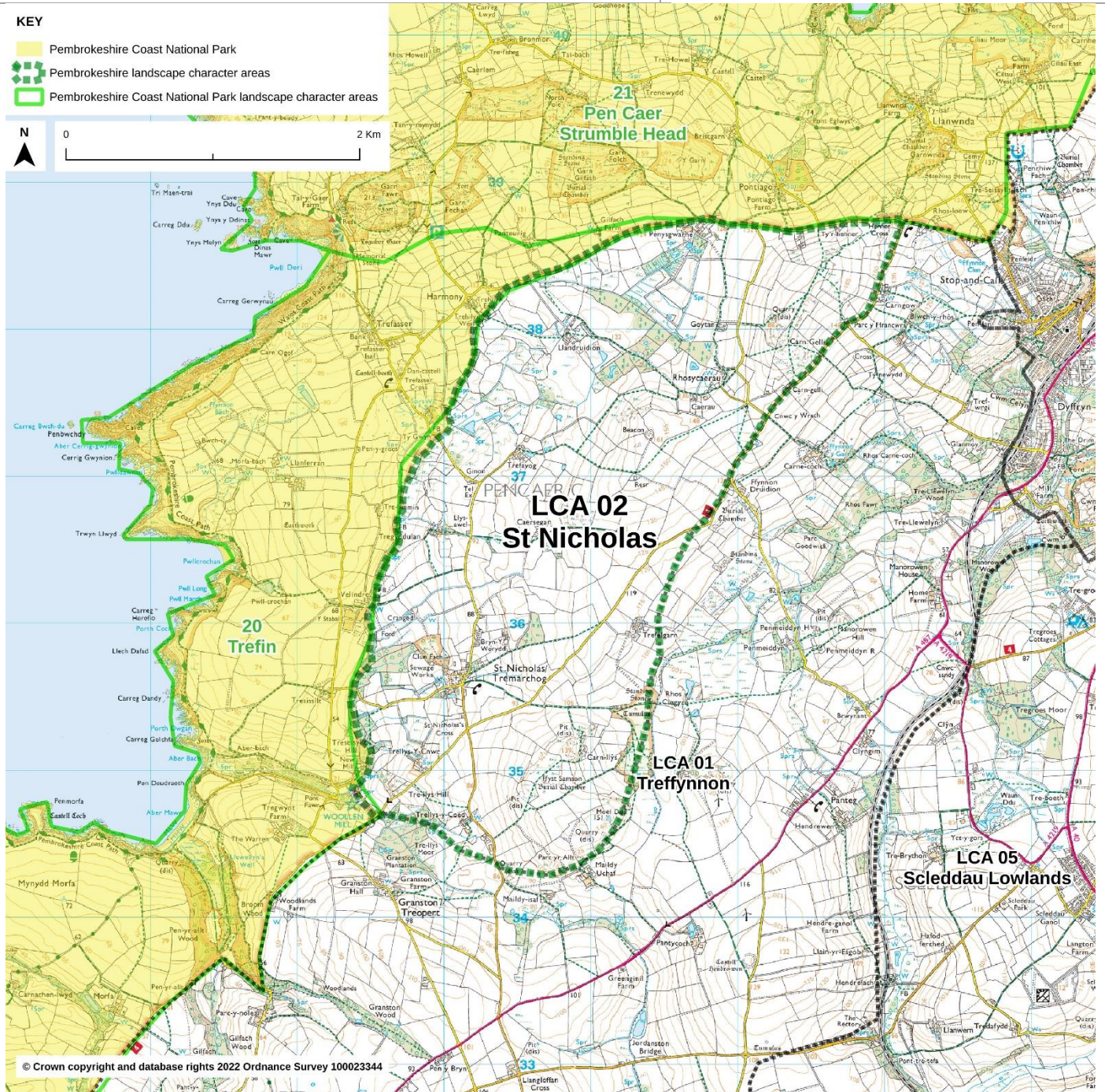
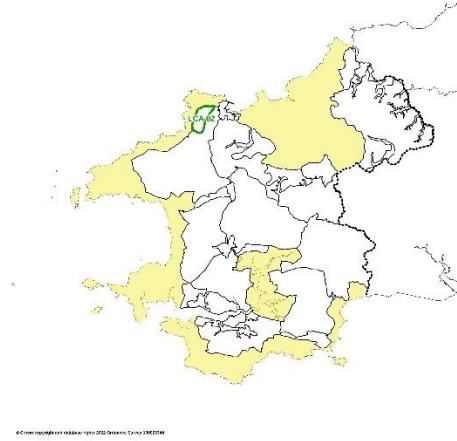
Landscape change

- Deterioration of hedgerows and traditional hedgebanks and some replacement by post and wire fencing.
- Introduction of modern large scale agricultural buildings in places which are noticeable elements.
- A scattering of small scale renewable energy development, mainly wind turbines.
- Static caravan sites becoming more noticeable alongside more discreet seasonal touring caravan and camping sites.
- Increase in incremental residential development in rural settlements and potentially more intense redevelopment at former RAF Brawdy/Cawdor Barracks.
- Increased use of intense lighting on farms, small rural settlements and caravan sites.
- Scrubbing over of commons.

Landscape Character Area 2: St Nicholas

Location

This small LCA is located to the north west of Pembrokeshire and west of Fishguard and Goodwick. It is bounded by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park to the north and west.





View east towards Carn Gelli



View to the North East from near St Nicholas

Summary description

An undulating tranquil pastoral landscape with hills with exposed rocky outcrops and prehistoric monuments set in a mosaic of rough grassland and moorland to the east and gentle valley with some poorly drained rough pasture, patches of woodland and conifer plantations to the west. There are few settlements (the main being St Nicholas and Rhosycaerau) and farmsteads and dwellings are linked by narrow lanes bounded by hedgebanks and hedges. The hill tops provide panoramic views to the Preseli Hills to the east and the coast and sea to the north and west which adds to the maritime influenced sense of place.

Key characteristics

- **Gently undulating landform with a series of small hills upto 161m AOD with exposed rock outcrops eg Carn Gelli to the east and watercourses and gentle valley to the west draining springs, pools, bogs, wet heath and marshy pastures and falling to around 30mAOD to the south.**
- The lowland hills are Ordovician igneous extrusions (basalt) with the valley shaped by glacial and periglacial processes with outwash plain of sands and gravels which have been worked in areas.
- **A mainly pastoral landscape, mostly improved but with rough pasture on poorly drained land, with irregular small to medium sized fields to the west and more regular fields used for arable on the hill slopes to the east, bordered by stone walls, hedgebanks and hedges with a mix of trimmed and outgrown hedges with bracken.**
- **Occasional woodland and scrub clumps, some associated with settlements, some small conifer blocks to the north and limited tree cover elsewhere, some with windswept**

profiles due to the maritime influence.

- **The hills are open featuring mosaics of grass and moorland around the rocky outcrops and Rhos y Clegyrn is open country.**
- **The settlement pattern is sparse centred on the diminutive settlements of St Nicholas to the south and Rhosycaerau to the north and is generally formed by scattered farmsteads and dwellings. Traditional stone and render** are the main materials. Listed buildings include St Nicholas church, Penysgarne Farm complex and Rhosycaerau chapel.
- **Prehistoric remains reinforce the area's sense of place and include Rhos y Clegyrn Circle and standing stone and also Ffyst Samson burial chambers.**
- **There are a few narrow lanes and paths linking settlements, some very small commons and open country,** and an absence of main roads. National Cycle Route 4 runs through the southern part of the LCA.
- The beacon is a small low steel circular structure on the highest point, visible on the skyline.
- **The area has a strong connection to the rugged landscape of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park to the north with views to and from Garn Fawr and Garn Gilfach which connect visually to the rock outcrops within this area, as well as to the other side of the valley to the west within the Park.**
- **Key views are to the north and west coast from higher ground and across to the Preseli Hills in long distance views to the east.**
- **The landscape has a coastal association and sense of place with the wind sculpted trees, glimpsed views of the sea from some elevated locations, a strong feeling of the exposure on the tops and tranquillity throughout.**
- Cultural associations are indicated by a mix of English and Welsh place names indicating a more bilingual culture than the lowlands to the south.
- Should we mention Strumble Head lighthouse to the north – the light from which can be seen all the way to St Davids on clean nights? Aware of latter but do you specifically know it is visible in this area? I thought it was very largely screened by landform and streetview seems to bear that out. If it is visible in a few locations I am not sure it is a key characteristic.

* **Note:** Bold text indicates key characteristics and qualities contributing most to sense of place.

Landscape change

- Stone walls and hedgebanks are gappy and outgrown in places with increased use of post and wire fencing.
- Bracken is encroaching in places.
- Establishment of conifer plantations on poorer ground.
- Modern vertical structures are absent, although there is a low profile aircraft navigational beacon on the highest hilltop.
- Pressures for the introduction of renewable energy development in exposed locations.

Landscape guidelines

- Conserve and enhance hedgebanks, stone walls and hedgerows avoiding use of post and wire fencing where possible.
- Conserve and enhance heathland and other biodiverse habitats and reduce bracken encroachment.
- Replace conifer plantations with broadleaf planting over time or soften edges and locate broadleaves along watercourses.
- Limit further residential and other development within the area to maintain its quiet, highly rural character.
- Ensure any future small scale development and renovations respect local vernacular

traditions.

- Avoid vertical structures including wind turbines and masts which would adversely affect the setting of the National Park.

Adjacent National Park landscape character areas:

LCA20 Trefin

LCA21 Pen Caer/Strumble Head- overlaps area

Adjacent/nearby National Park seascape character areas:

SCA 10 Crincoed Point and Strumble Head

LANDMAP aspect areas and value:

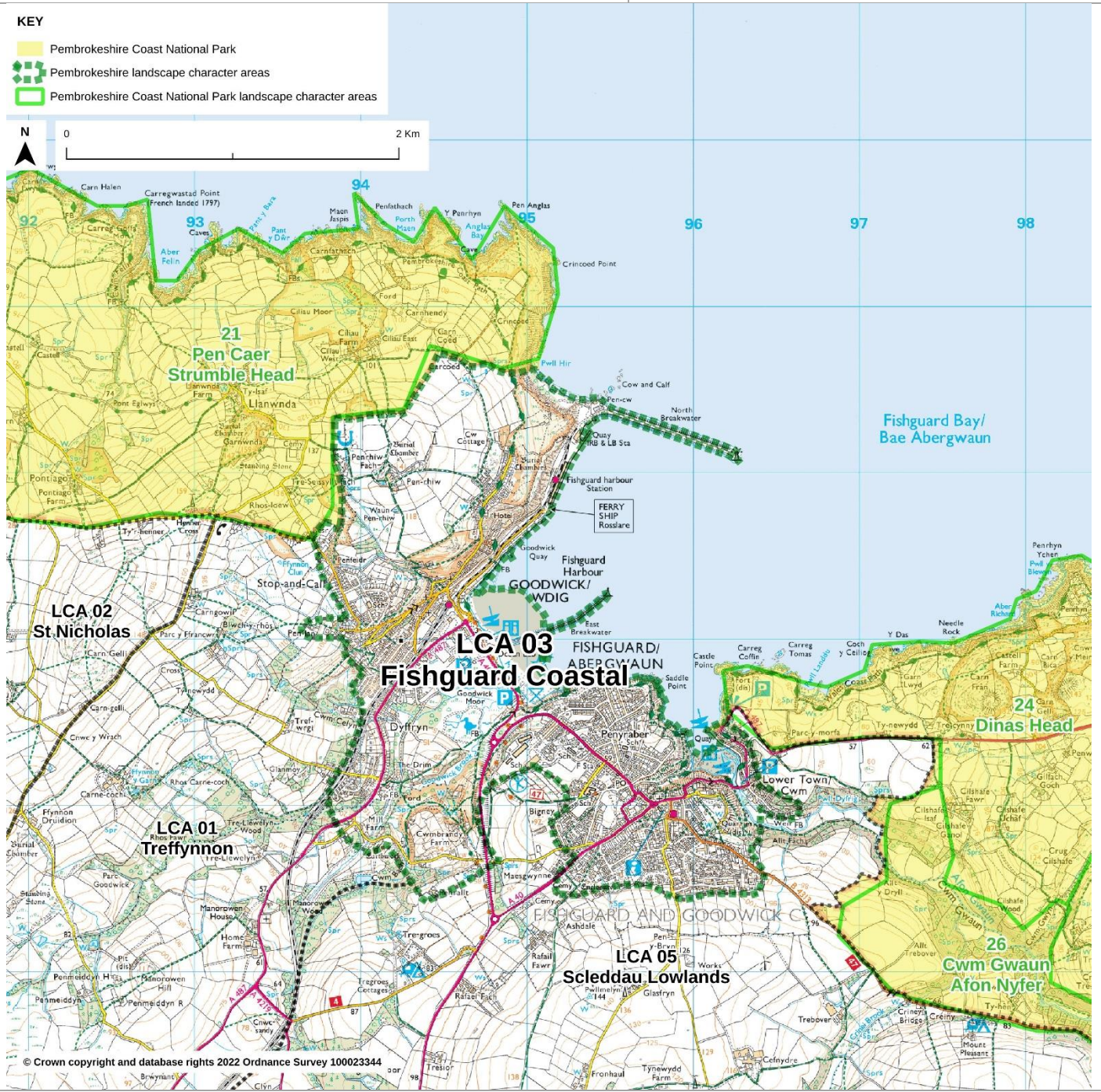
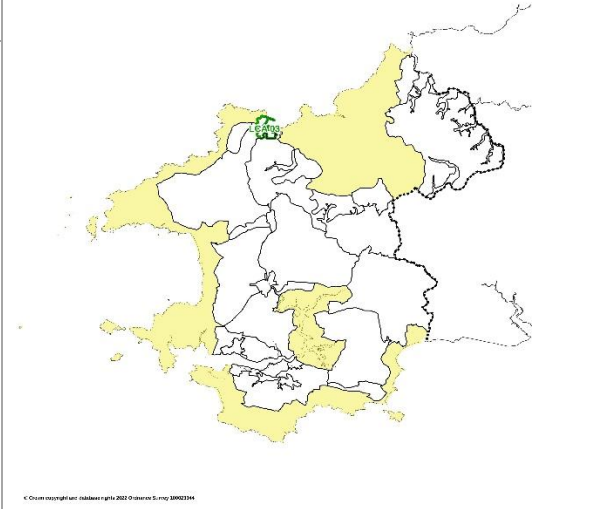
| Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas | Historic Landscape Aspect Areas | Geological Aspect Areas | Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas | Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| <i>024 – outstanding</i> 023 -outstanding | <i>46060 - high</i> 46230 -low 46066 -high 46065 - high 46231 - high | <i>079 – moderate</i> 074 - high | <i>044</i> | <i>827 – moderate</i> 659 – moderate 716 –moderate 675 – high 730 -moderate |

Bold italic text indicates the prevailing aspect area where one exists

Landscape Character Area 3: Fishguard Coastal

Location

This LCA is focussed on the urban settlements of Fishguard and Goodwick and their environs which are located on the north coast of Pembrokeshire adjacent to the National Park to the north and west.





Lower Town Fishguard



Views into Fishguard from the north west

Summary description

The settlements of Fishguard, Fishguard Lower Town and Goodwick, with their respective old and new harbours and cliffs are separated by a beach backed by the flat wetland of Goodwick Moor. Goodwick and Fishguard Harbour are an active ferry port with infrastructure and a major breakwater. The area includes part of the setting of the built up area with steep slopes of pastoral land and moorland extending to the National Park boundary to the north beyond Goodwick and to the south of Goodwick Moor. The enclosed Gwaun valley and its slopes provides the landscape setting to the east. Both settlements have strong historic maritime character with Conservation Areas and listed buildings, particularly Fishguard.

Key characteristics

- **The headland to the north above Goodwick rises to 141mAOD at Pen-rhiw whilst Fishguard rises to around 100m AOD to the south from 50m high coastal cliffs and just above sea level at the Lower Town and Goodwick Moor.**
- The steep headland and cliffs are formed mostly of resistant Ordovician volcanic gabbros striking east– west while mudstones and sandstones dominate in the harbour areas. To the west, glacial boulder clay / till sits within the river flood plain system. To the south of Fishguard, sedimentary Ordovician slate dominates.
- **Fishguard town is set on top of exposed north facing rocky cliffs with semi-natural vegetation including rough grasses, bracken and scrub and forming part of Fishguard Cliffs SSSI which lies either side of the old harbour.**
- Fishguard has medieval origins but development is generally 18th and 19th century, with most building having taken place once the town was connected to the railway network. Nineteenth century terraced housing lies further out, and 20th century housing estates have been developed at the edge of the town.
- There is a distinct difference between upper town and lower town although both lie within Fishguard Conservation Area. **In Upper Town listed buildings are concentrated along High Street, Main Street and West Street such as the fine Town Hall. In the Lower Town, the focus is on the picturesque intimate harbour with its moored boats, stone harbour walls, listed cottages along Quay Street and Newport Road.**

- **The steep wooded slopes of the enclosed River Gwaun valley and around the Slade separate the two settlements and are key elements in the setting of both settlements, especially as a backcloth to Lower Town, framing views.**
- **Plas Glyn-y-Mel historic Park and garden lies on the south western edge of the town largely located within Cwm Gwaun.**
- **The centre of Goodwick has a well preserved character as a late 19th – early 20th century harbour/railway town located on south east-facing slopes.** In Goodwick Conservation Area there is a scattering of listed buildings such as the Goodwick Institute centrally and, to the north east, the Fishguard Bay Hotel with associated well wooded historic park and garden. Areas and strips of white rendered development extend inland and **on the steep slopes are interspersed with open spaces, semi-natural vegetation and woodland which help to break up the built form and create an open skyline in places.**
- **The open, exposed pastoral slopes around Penrhiw above Goodwick have low hedgebanks and form part of the setting of the settlement and the adjacent National Park.** Penrhiw burial chamber and others lie on lower slopes as well as listed farmhouse just below.
- PenGaer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head Landscape of Special Historic Interest covers part of this area.
- The modern harbour itself, known as Fishguard Harbour, is located in Goodwick and is functional with large scale structures such as quay sides and breakwaters with associated movement of ferries to Ireland, trains linking to South Wales, and the movement of vehicles and people at times.
- Goodwick Parrog consists of a beach and refurbished waterfront and provides an attractive area to accommodate visitors in a landscaped setting.
- **Goodwick Moor separates the two main settlements behind the beach and is a low lying flat and open wetland and marshy pasture with a series of watercourses and drains, some scrub and trees including ancient woodland along the course of Goodwick Brook.**
- **Gentle pastoral slopes with trees at the Drim and a mix of open and scrubby semi-natural vegetated slopes rising south of Goodwick Brook with small scale fields around Cwmbandy Farm provide a backcloth to the levels and link into the cliffs around Fishguard, overall separating the two settlements along with the Moor.**
- **Key views are from the Coast Path and elsewhere including from within the Conservation Areas such as the framed views into and from the Lower Town harbour, from the cliff tops overlooking the Lower Town and along the coast in both directions, such as from Castle Point, from the waterfront behind the beach both out to sea and inland, along the Gwaun valley.**
- **The area provides the setting and is intervisible with the National Park to the north west and south east, such as Castle Point with its associated historic significance.**
- The Coast Path follows much of the coast and the public right of way network is strongly associated with access to it and green spaces. National Cycle Route 4 runs through the town.
- The A40 and A487 and associated link roads run through the area and the urban areas are generally busy but tranquillity occurs in places such as in enclosed valley locations.
- Cultural associations have changed over time as older industries and harbour trade, religious and sailing activities are replaced by modern ferry transports. The area is associated with the last invasion of Britain by the French- the fort at Castle Point (east of Lower Town and outside the LCA) was important in the area's defence. Improvement to road and pedestrian linkages are underway and recently re-established rail connections will further influence cultural activity. The Welsh language is spoken within the community

and place names reflect local linguistic traditions.

* **Note: Bold text** indicates key characteristics and qualities contributing most to sense of place.

Landscape change

- The potential for flooding in low lying coastal areas and valley floors including areas of built development is likely to increase.
- Lighting levels increasing throughout the urban and built area in the ferry port and new roads such as the Fishguard by-pass.
- Single medium scale turbine development behind Fishguard is widely visible.
- Increase in traffic such as in the historic cores of Fishguard and Lower Town.
- Development at the edge of the urban area on skylines in places.
- Potential increase in activity/built development of ferry port facilities.

Landscape guidelines

- Conserve and enhance the wooded slopes and semi-natural coastal edge around Fishguard and Lower Town and Goodwick.
- Conserve and enhance the green space between Goodwick and Fishguard including Goodwick Moor and slopes to the south and west, maintaining a strong separation of the built up areas, encouraging sensitive recreational access and improved biodiversity as well as accommodating/managing flooding.
- Conserve and enhance the character of the historic Conservation Areas and setting of listed buildings through sensitive maintenance, renovation or redevelopment.
- Retain the open maritime character of the sea front at Goodwick and Lower Town.
- Where appropriate, soften urban edges, especially on skylines, with sensitive planting.

Adjacent National Park landscape character areas:

LCA21 Pen Caer/ Strumble Head

Adjacent/nearby National Park seascape character areas:

SCA7 Fishguard and Goodwick Harbours- overlaps area

SCA10 Crincoed Point and Strumble Head- overlaps area

LANDMAP aspect areas and value:

| Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas | Historic Landscape Aspect Areas | Geological Aspect Areas | Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas | Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 021 - low | 46151 – high | 063 – low | | 483 – low |
| 022 - outstanding | 46061 – high | 077 – moderate | 032 | 568 – moderate |
| 024 - outstanding | 46062 – high | 245 – moderate | 081 | 730 – moderate |
| 096 - outstanding | 46192 – high | 074 – high | | 827 – moderate |
| 108 - high | 46065 – high | 091 – outstanding | | 315 – moderate |
| | 46060 – high | 043 - outstanding | | 767 – moderate |
| | 46145 – outstanding | | | 409 – moderate |
| | | | | 315 – moderate |
| | | | | 946 – moderate |
| | | | | 818 – high |
| | | | | 053- outstanding |

Bold italic text indicates the prevailing aspect area where one exists



View of Mynydd Cilciffeth from Puncheston Common



View across Trecwn from Mynydd Cilciffeth (Mynydd Craig-lwydd)

Summary Description

This LCA featuring Mynydd Cilciffeth and Ysgubor Mountain comprises of upland exposed farmland with a mix of regular and irregular fields, conifer plantations, scattered farmsteads and isolated cottages. Mature trees at field edges become scarce on higher ground and are windswept providing a sense of exposure. Moorland lies near the summit of Mynydd Cilciffeth.

Key Characteristics

- **Mynydd Cilciffeth and Ysgubor (Skybir) Mountain massifs are outliers of the Preselis rising to 335mAOD and 232mAOD respectively with the latter extending out into the lower plateau.**
- Underlying geology is dominated by Ordovician slate with stream and springs emerging and surface stone scatters and forming a saddle between the massifs.
- **The hills have rounded profiles and open, exposed slopes and unspoilt skylines with rock outcrops on Mynydd Cilciffeth's summit, and act as backcloths to the adjacent lowland.**
- **Mynydd Cilciffeth is characterised by open moorland and wet heathland and acid and marshy grasslands** and is distinct from the improved grassland with some rough grass and scrub which covers much of the area and coniferous plantation on the shoulder to the west.
- **The regular and irregular fieldscapes range from large to small enclosures, some with scrub and semi natural vegetation margins of gorse and bracken and a mix of trimmed hedges, hedgebanks and fencing.**
- **Prehistoric ritual/funerary activity on Mynydd Cilciffeth and Ysgubor Mountain and an extensive, well-preserved series of multi-period settlement/agricultural features** including Summertown Camp hillfort to south, the Iron Age/Romano-British settlement at Fagwr-Fran Moor, and Mynydd Cilciffeth round barrows all of which are scheduled

monuments.

- **There is a strong upland character with scattered farmsteads and isolated cottages at lower levels** linked by narrow roads running north south.
- **Farmsteads in the area generally form small nucleated and low lying vernacular building groups, with traditional materials.** Modern agricultural buildings are generally muted in colour.
- Open country lies on the eastern edge of Mynydd Cilciffeth, small commons at Mynydd Graig-lwyd and Windy Hill.
- **There are panoramic and distant views from the area over the areas of rolling farmland and valleys and to the coast and extensive views to the area from the surrounding lowlands and from the Preselis within the National Park.**
- There is access through open country, commons and public rights of way crossing the upland but the summits are not publicly accessible. National Cycle Route 47 crosses from north to south.
- **Strong sense of tranquillity and exposure in this largely unsettled upland area.**
- Culturally the area is north of the Landsker Line and forms part of a wider area of more bilingual character than lowland areas to the south, and remains reinforced by Welsh place names. There are strong cultural traditions in the Gwaun Valley to the north of this LCA which influence this LCA, including following the old Julian Calendar and celebrating 'Hen Galan' on 13th January.

* **Note:** **Bold text** indicates key characteristics and qualities contributing most to sense of place.

LCA landscape change

- Conifer plantation forms noticeable rectilinear block in the saddle.
- Rationalisation of some fields, loss or reduced maintenance of hedges/hedgebanks and improvement of pastures affect historic character and reduce biodiversity.
- Use of post and wire fencing increasing openness.
- Isolated caravans located at field margins although their use is unclear.

LCA guidelines to protect, conserve and enhance

- Maintain the openness and unspoilt character of the upland hills and ridge and associated skylines, retaining the existing small scale nature of built development.
- Consider replacing conifer plantation with broadleaf or mixed plantations over time planting stream courses and edges with broadleaves to enhance its appearance and to enhance biodiversity.
- Conserve the open heathland and moorland and marshy grassland by ensuring conservation grazing is well managed and protected.
- Reinststate appropriate cyclical hedgerow management where field boundaries have become overgrown or sparse and retain historic field boundaries.
- Improve and introduce linkages between semi-natural habitats within and adjacent to the area through reinstatement of hedge planting, with some trees at lower levels, and establishment of species rich headlands/corridors in places.
- Avoid vertical structures such as wind turbines and other large-scale development such as agricultural sheds on or near the skyline and upper slopes.
- Conserve character of nucleated farm buildings of appropriate scale and muted colour.
- Avoid residential development in this sparsely settled area including individual dwellings.
- Manage recreational access to avoid damage to moorland and improve understanding of the species, habitats and archaeological heritage of the area.

Adjacent National Park landscape character areas:

LCA 26 Cwm Gwaun / Afon Nyfer

LCA27 Mynydd Preseli

Adjacent/nearby National Park seascape character areas:

-

LANDMAP aspect areas and value:

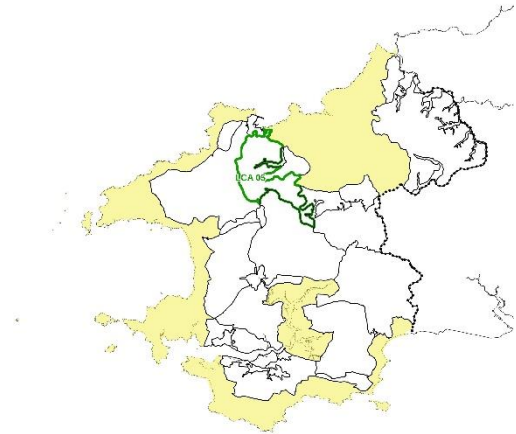
| Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas | Historic Landscape Aspect Areas | Geological Aspect Areas | Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas | Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| <i>044 – high</i> 106 - high | <i>46112 – high</i> 46098 – high 46099 – high 46102 – high 46101 – high 46113 – moderate 46114 – moderate | <i>071- moderate</i> 081 – moderate 067- moderate | <i>099</i> 207 | <i>832 – moderate</i> 660 – low 693 – low 315 – moderate 800 – high 555- high |

Bold italic text indicates the prevailing aspect area where one exists

Landscape Character Area 5: Scleddau Lowlands

Location

This LCA is located to the north of Pembrokeshire and bordering Fishguard to the north and the Preseli fringes to the east. It extends south through Letterston and towards Wolf Castle. The A40 runs through the area.





View south west towards Treffgarne from near Punctheston



View north into small area of relic Medieval strip fields to the east of Scleddau

Summary description

This LCA comprises undulating predominantly pastoral landscape with low open hills and small wooded valleys sloping from the Preselis to the east down to the valley floor of the Cleddau to the west. There are larger rural settlements such as Letterston and Scleddau on the busy A40 but smaller scattered settlement elsewhere, especially to the east. The area includes remnant medieval strip fields in places and small occasional patches of moorland scrub and commons to the east.

Key characteristics

- **Undulating landform and incised valleys falling from the north and Preselis fringes to the east, with minor ridges and rounded hills upto 210mAOD, down to the broader Western Cleddau valley to the west running south down to 40mAOD at Wolf's Castle.**
- Geology is formed by broad ridges of Ordovician sedimentary slate bedrock, interspersed within branches of the Western Cleddau valley river system and associated glacial meltwater channels with glacial and fluvio-glacial valley deposits.
- **Sinuuous watercourses** of the Cleddau, Crinel Brook, Nant-y-Bugail, Afon Anghol and Spittal Brook, **some with narrow valley floors to the east and some with distinctive flat bottoms eg Esgyrn Bottom** (U shaped glacial valley).
- **The valley floors include areas of marshy grassland, wet modified bog, scrub and trees and the small scale steeper valley sides to the east also include broadleaved woodland, much of it ancient.**
- Cleddau Rivers SAC covering various tributaries, Afon Cleddau, Esgyrn Bottom and Wallis Moor SSSIs.
- High quality agricultural land means this is a **largely pastoral landscape of improved grassland mixed regular and irregular small to medium scale fields with hedgebanks and post and wire boundaries which contribute to openness. Trees are limited outside valley bottoms. Medieval strip fields are a feature often associated with settlements such as Letterston and near Punctheston. Merged medieval open fields, enclosed into strips by stony banks survive south of Fishguard.** Arable use occurs in isolated areas such as in larger fields to the west.
- **Series of commons on the edge of the Preselis** including Punctheston, and Castlebythe

Commons and Wallis Moor with upland grassland, moorland and scrub.

- **Distinctive settlements such as the linear Letterston and Puncteston**, largely well spaced rural farmsteads and various widely scattered listed buildings such as the house at Ciliauwen, chapels such as Capel Saron in Letterston and Sion in Scleddau and Ty Newydd and Long Hook Fawr farmhouse to the south.
- **Scattered scheduled monuments, often on open high ground** including Castell Pant-y-Philip and Pen Bicas enclosures and Cwm-Wyntyll, and Bucket Camp all in the vicinity of Trecwn valley and Castle Flemish to the south.
- Plas Glyn-y-Mel historic park and garden on the south western edge of Lower Fishguard largely located within Cwm Gwaun. Essentially this valley is a continuation of the valley PCNP LCA 26 within the National Park with similar characteristics.
- Many settlements have medieval origins but have been extended markedly in the 20th century and later, particularly near the A40, and modern developments are largely of brick and blockwork with render.
- A large proportion of agricultural buildings are modern and utilising steel frame and cladding construction.
- Solar farm at Trecoed, north of Letterston.
- Transport corridors such as the A40 and railway to Fishguard cut through the landscape utilising the Cleddau valley in parts. Elsewhere there is a **network of narrow lanes and single track roads with relatively few public footpaths**. National Cycle Route 47 runs to the east.
- **Generally open including hills and ridge tops with their open skylines with low hedgebanks and hedges at lower levels and few trees allowing views to the Preselis.**
- **Enclosed, sheltered narrow tributary valleys and enclosed valley bottom of the Cleddau valley with more woodland.**
- **The eastern part of the area forms part of the setting of the National Park at Mynydd Castlebythe and the Gwaun valley and the sloping setting to Llys-y-fran to the east.**
- The northern edge of the area overlooks Fishguard harbour and is included in SCA7.
- Culturally this area lies north of the Landsker Line and forms part of a wider area, more bi-lingual in character than lowlands to the south of the County, and reflected in a general mix of Welsh and English place names.

* **Note: Bold text** indicates key characteristics and qualities contributing most to sense of place.

Landscape change

- Intensification of farming practices has introduced arable and improved grassland use, modern agricultural buildings and lighting into the landscape, reduced biodiversity and increased use of post and wire fencing.
- Small-medium scale wind turbines in places.
- Large scale solar farm development has taken place within the area.
- Introduction of 20th century development on some settlement edges.
- Lighting mainly associated with main road corridor.
- Caravan and camping sites are largely limited to touring sites.

Landscape guidelines

- Integrate further residential development to reflect linear (eg Letterston) or other relevant pattern, with appropriate planting mitigation and vernacular boundary treatments like walls, hedgebanks or native hedges and avoid skylines.
- Avoid ribbon development on A40.
- Encourage sensitive lighting schemes to minimise spread and intensity and help maintain and reduce current localised light pollution.
- Maintain the openness and unspoilt character of the low hills and ridges and associated skylines.

- Conserve and enhance areas of less intensively managed habitat in farmland including hedge margins, moorland (Tregroes and Letterston) and marshy grassland.
- Conserve semi-natural habits in valley floors and narrow valley sides including ancient woodland to reinforce green infrastructure connection.
- Conserve traditional field pattern especially strip fields.
- Avoid larger scale wind energy development particularly where it would affect the setting of the National Park and consider cumulative effects.
- Avoid solar farms on noticeable slopes and close to the Preselis and consider cumulative effects.
- Conserve character of nucleated farm buildings of appropriate scale and muted colour.
- Consider caravan and camping development in line with county guidance.

Adjacent National Park landscape character areas:

LCA 27 Mynydd Preseli

LCA 26 Cwm Gwaun / Afon Nyfer

Adjacent/nearby National Park seascape character areas:

SCA 7 Fishguard and Goodwick Harbours- overlaps area

SCA 6 Fishguard Bay east- overlaps area

LANDMAP aspect areas and value:

| Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas | Historic Landscape Aspect Areas | Geological Aspect Areas | Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas | Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <i>041 – moderate</i> | <i>46060 – high</i> | 110 – outstanding | <i>096</i> | <i>315 – moderate</i> |
| 020 – high | 46150 – moderate | 045 – high | 098 | 693 – low |
| 043 – moderate | 46113- moderate | 044 – high | | 358 – moderate |
| | 46213 – moderate | 046 – high | | 767 – moderate |
| | 46106 – moderate | 245 – moderate | | 409 – moderate |
| | 46105 – moderate | 078 – moderate | | 832 – moderate |
| | 46103 – moderate | 076- moderate | | 512 – moderate |
| | 46104 – moderate | 065 – moderate | | 077 –high |
| | 46232 – high | 067 – moderate | | 304 – high |
| | 46193 – high | 066- moderate | | 800 – high |
| | 46194 – high | 083 – moderate | | 722 – high |
| | 46112 – high | 082 – moderate | | 675 – high |
| | 46214 – high | 082- moderate | | 838 – high |
| | 46111 – high | 069 – moderate | | 825 – high |
| | 46108 – high | 062 – high | | 053 - outstanding |
| | 46208 - | 081 – high | | |
| | outstanding | 049 – high | | |
| | | 179 – high | | |

Bold italic text indicates the prevailing aspect area where one exists