## **LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 1: TREFFYNNON**

## **Location:**

Located at the north west of Pembrokeshire with the National Park boundary to the north, west and south in part. The A487 runs through the north of the area.







View north between Hayscastle Cross and Brawdy



View west from near Wolfscastle



View west along the A487 to Mathry

## **Summary Description:**

This area generally comprises open rolling farmland of medium sized fields traversed by a network of lanes bordered by hedges/hedgebanks. Occasional small clumps of woodland and scrub belt exist throughout the area. Villages include the hilltop villages of Mathry, Croesgoch and Hayscastle Cross and Cawdor barracks at Brawdy (and the site of the former RAF Brawdy Airfield), as well as farmsteads and occasional hamlets. Several small scale wooded valleys are relatively visually contained. The northern fringes and higher ground provide views to the coast. Brawdy former RAF base and airfield lies within the south east of the area.

## **Key Characteristics**

- Underlying geology forms a series 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.
- The settlement pattern consists of scattered farmsteads and occasional hamlets and nuclear and linear villages including Mathry, Square and Compass, Hayscastle Cross and Croesgoch, mostly 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century although they may have earlier historic cores.
- The landscape is predominantly rich pastoral farmland. Medium sized regular and irregular fields
  of improved grassland with arable forming a notable element and set within a rolling lowland of
  bordered lanes, occasional small clumps of woodland and relatively visually contained small scale
  wooded valleys containing streams, brooks, the Solva River and the Western Cleddau.
- Habitats are a mosaic of broad leaved woodland, dense scrub, marshy grassland and bracken with wooded habitats in long thin watercourse valleys. Small areas of other habitats, most notably marshy grassland and wet heath are present.
- The road pattern largely comprises rural lanes and B Roads with the A487 traversing across the north of the area.
- The area contains a rich variety of SMRs, SAMs, Listed Buildings, and a Conservation Area at Mathry with a number of archaeological sites, from all periods, including medieval churches, medieval castles of stone and earthwork, and Neolithic monuments.
- Cultural influences include a higher incidence of Welsh speakers than further south and Brawdy
  airfield, a disused Second World War airfield 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
  14<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment.

#### **Key Qualities**

A large area of cultivated rolling lowland agricultural landscape with small areas of woodland, managed hedges and dense network of narrow lanes. Settlements are relatively few, and farmsteads frequently punctuate the landscape. Traditional houses and farm buildings, and archaeology provide a strong sense of a long lived area. Noise and sense of movement at A roads can impact on roadside communities whilst narrow twisting roads into valley bottoms provide a sense of enclosure and seclusion. The area is relatively self-contained and inward looking, although views to the coast to the north and west introduce a coastal association and views toward Carn Ingli to the east help to provide a sense of place.

#### Landscape Change (LCA Specific)

#### **Past and Present**

- Whilst conversion of traditional agricultural buildings to other uses including residential and holiday accommodation has helped to retain them, the introduction of modern large scale agricultural buildings can be unsightly.
- Hedgerows have largely been retained, however they can be poorly managed or have been replaced by post and wire fencing.
- Renewable energy development including wind turbines is largely sporadic and small scale.
- Lighting at farms and hamlets has introduced localised light pollution away from main settlements.

• Touring caravan and camping sites are mostly well screened and seasonal, however static caravan sites can be poorly screened and intrusive.





Post and wire fencing within the LCA

Brawdy Barracks

#### **Future**

- Increasing pressure for residential development both at settlements and as isolated development.
- Closure of Brawdy's Cawdor Barracks would likely lead to pressure for redevelopment and cultural and economic change.
- Continued threat of loss or neglect of traditional hedgebank boundaries and woodland.





Compact buildings at Mathry retain traditional View out into the National park to the north east character

## **Key Sensitivities**

- Panoramic views out to the coast the introduction of large scale or dominant features interrupting skyline views towards the coast would significantly affect the relationship with adjacent areas.
- Alterations to the form and character of traditional buildings, including domestic and agricultural buildings.
- Enlargement of field areas and loss of woodland mosaic cover.

• Introduction of large scale and intrusive tourism accommodation.

## **Guidelines to Protect / Conserve / Enhance**

- Improved management of hedgerows, tree belts and woodland patches which add diversity and character to the landscape and biodiversity.
- Maintain settlement character and ensure future development is well related to the character and form of settlements and farmsteads.
- Avoid intrusive skyline developments.



Hedgerow trees near Hayscastle Cross



Caravan park near A487 is poorly screened



Caravan park and wind turbine near Brawdy

**Adjacent Authority LCAs** 

PCNPA: LCA21 Pen Caer/ Strumble Head

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 2: ST NICHOLAS

## **Location:**

This LCA is located to the north of Pembrokeshire and west of Fishguard and Goodwick. Its northern border runs along the National Park boundary near Strumble Head.







View towards Garn Gelli from the North East



View east towards Carn Gelli



View to the North East from near St Nicholas

## **Summary Description:**

This LCA generally comprises pastoral farmland with fields bounded by hedgebanks with few settlements (St Nicholas and Rhosycaerau) and sparse hamlets and farmsteads. There are occasional small wooded clumps and scrub. At the east there are lowland hills with exposed rocky outcrops set in a mosaic of rough grassland and moorland. The hill tops provide

panoramic views to the Preseli Hills to the east and the coast to the north and west which adds to the sense of place.

## **Key Characteristics**

- Glacial and periglacial processes have shaped the lowland ridges of Ordovician volcanic rock outcrops and igneous intrusions with outwash plain dominated by sands and gravels which have been worked in areas. Active processes include streams, springs, pools and bogs.
- A gently undulating agricultural landscape of irregular medium sized fields with occasional wooded clumps and scrub and bordered by hedges and hedgebanks, and series of low hills featuring exposed rocky outcrops set in a mosaic of grass and moorland.
- The settlement pattern is formed by scattered farmsteads, and occasional hamlets and villages including St Nicholas. Development is generally small scale and appropriate / sympathetic to the traditional stone and render materials of the area whilst more modern materials, including steel frame, exposed breeze block and sheets have been used in some agricultural buildings. Some 20<sup>th</sup> century properties are generic and lack a local design influence.
- Visual connections include views to the north and west coast from higher ground and cross to the Preseli Hills in the east. The rolling agricultural landscape maintains a coastal association and sense of place retains a strong feeling of the exposed, tranquil and remote landscape.
- Cultural associations are local and dominated by agricultural and rural development including Georgian, Late Medieval and Victorian and Edwardian periods, with a general mix of English and Welsh place names and more bilingual than lowlands to the south.
- This relatively small aspect area contains a prehistoric circle and standing stone and chambered tomb, listed church and chapel and farm buildings.
- Habitat is generally improved grassland of fields and field boundaries. Small areas of other habitats including wet heath, scrub, marshy grassland, coniferous and broadleaf woodland.

## **Key Qualities**

A strong coastal association is formed by views to the coast, particularly from higher ground where exposed rock and stone provide a stronger sense of ruggedness and exposure than areas generally to the south. Quietness and tranquillity is pervasive here and cultural associations with traditional buildings, historic and ancient monuments, Welsh place names and signage provides a sense of history and human habitation over time. Modern agricultural buildings, the Beacon and post 1950's residential development feel discordant in the landscape. Views to the south east extend into the rolling lowlands below Fishguard and Goodwick and provide a visual contrast to the ruggedness and sense of exposure in this part of northern Pembrokeshire.

## Landscape Change (LCA Specific)

#### **Past and Present**

- Materials are generally appropriate in recent small scale domestic developments using traditional stone and render whilst agricultural developments have largely used modern inappropriate materials.
- Stone walls and hedgebanks are in poor condition in places.
- Modern vertical structures are absent, excepting the aircraft navigational beacon near St Nicholas.

#### **Future**

- Potential for continued use of inappropriate materials in agricultural development
- Climate change influences on habitat and biodiversity
- Pressures for the introduction renewable energy development in exposed locations





Agricultural buildings south of St Nicholas

Excessive signage to the south of St Nicholas

## **Key Sensitivities**

- Loss of attractive views both into and out of the area
- Loss of sense of tranquillity and remoteness which provides a strong sense of place

## **Guidelines to Protect / Conserve / Enhance**

- Ensure agricultural development using modern materials is not prominent in the landscape.
- Ensure any future domestic development complements local vernacular traditions
- Ensure attractive panoramic views to the coast are protected from inappropriate development
- Ensure appropriate management of the agricultural landscape to maximise potential for nature conservation and enhancement, including reducing bracken encroachment and supporting retention of moorland.



Modern agricultural building and National Park beyond



Garden produce for sale



View of the navigational beacon

## **Adjacent Authority LCAs**

PCNPA: LCA21 Pen Caer/Strumble Head; LCA20 Trefin

SCA 10 Crincoed Point and Strumble Head

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 3: FISHGUARD COASTAL

## **Location:**

This LCA is located to the north of Pembrokeshire and lies at the coast adjacent to the National Park to the north at Carcoed and Penrhiw and to the east to Slade, it also extends westward into Goodwick Moor.







Urban view from Fishguard across the harbour



Views into Fishguard from the north west



Lower Town Fishguard

## **Summary Description:**

This LCA comprises the settlements of Fishguard, Fishguard Lower Town and Goodwick, adjacent harbour and beach area, including the ferry port of Fishguard and the North Breakwater. Agricultural fieldscape and moorland provide a It extends to the National Park boundary to the north at and beyond Goodwick, agricultural fieldscape and moorland on the slopes above Goodwick and provide a setting and backdrop when viewed from the south and east. At the low lying Goodwick Moor, public access is provided via boardwalks to public rights of way which sit above the marsh which is prone to flooding. Lower Town retains its maritime character along the waterfront.

## **Key Characteristics**

- Much of the underlying geology is overlain by built development, Ordovician igneous rock is exposed at the cliff but also extends inland at higher ground. Much of the low lying land is developed as part of the harbour but to the west, glacial boulder clay / till sits within the river flood plain system. To the south of Fishguard, sedimentary Ordovician slate dominates.
- Fishguard and Goodwick are distinct but closely related settlements, separated by marshland, fields, and small areas of deciduous woodland. Urban areas retain a strong maritime association and at the coastal edge and from higher ground offers views of the coast, with a focal point being the lighthouse and breakwater across the harbour.
- The northern part of the area lies within the historic landscape of Pen Gaer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head, and the historic cores of Fishguard, Lower Town and Goodwick retain much of their original character as Conservation Areas where many of the buildings are listed.
- Goodwick contains a well preserved character as a late 19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> century harbour / railway town located on the southeast-facing valley side. Although a nucleated settlement, open spaces and wooded steep valley sides interspersed with houses lend a rural aspect to sloped areas of Goodwick and help to define its character.
- Fishguard has medieval origins but development is generally 18th and 19<sup>th</sup> century, with most building having taken place once the town was connected to the railway network. Nineteenth century terraced housing lies further out, and 20<sup>th</sup> century housing estates have been developed at the edge of the town.
- Lower Town Fishguard retains an intimate character of a small maritime village, however the A487 travels through it, across a narrow bridge and roadway and traffic can be a significant detractor.
- Outside built areas the archaeological resource is limited but includes prehistoric burial chambers.
- Significant views exist both into Fishguard, Lower Town and Goodwick from outside the area as well as significant views out of the area into the national park to the east in particular.
- The public right of way network is strongly associated with access to the coast and green spaces and provides links to the National trail (coast path).
- Cultural associations have changed over time as older industries and harbour trade, religious and sailing activities are replaced by modern ferry transports. 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.

## **Key Qualities**

The historic cores of Goodwick, Fishguard and Lower Town Fishguard retain their character albeit affected by heavy traffic movement and associated noise through Fishguard and onto Lower Town. Away from historic cores,  $20^{th}$  century development is out of keeping at the urban edge. Perceptions are still strongly associated with maritime location and coastal access provides a sense of tranquillity away from the busyness of the urban areas. The ferry port provides a nationally recognised modern cultural international dimension, and Goodwick and Fishguard are linked by their importance as centres of travel and commerce. The beach front at Goodwick and harbour at Lower Town provide opportunities for accessing the marine environment where sights and sounds of the coast pervade. The Gwaun valley extends to the east.

Landscape Change (LCA Specific)

**Past and Present** 

- Historically, flooding has occurred within low lying coastal areas including areas of built development.
- Light levels throughout the urban and built area introduce light pollution and provide a clear sense of safety at the ferry port.
- Single medium / large scale turbine development behind Fishguard is widely visible.
- Modern traffic levels have impacted upon amenity within the historic core of Fishguard and Lower Town.
- Development at the edge of the urban area does not generally reflect historic character.
- The Fishguard by-pass is stark within the local landscape.



The Chimneys Link Fishguard



Goodwick built character and setting

#### **Future**

- Climate change is likely to impact on low lying Goodwick Moor and Lower Town Fishguard resulting in increased likelihood of flooding
- The continued operation of the ferry facility and potential investment in a sensitively designed marina would enhance the vitality of the urban area



View over the ferry port and water front from Clement Road



Roadside view into Lower Town when walking from the north

#### **Key Sensitivities**

- Maintain the character of the undeveloped coastline away from the urban area
- Retain the sense of community where both Welsh and English are spoken
- A decease of ferry traffic would have a major detrimental effect on the economy of the settlement and surrounding area and impact on urban landscape.
- Climatic impact on the low lying Goodwick Moor and Lower Town increasing the duration and intensity of existing flooding and impacts on flora and fauna, and built development.
- Avoid skyline development including renewable developments

## **Guidelines to Protect / Conserve / Enhance**

- Maintain the character of the historic Conservation Areas and setting of Listed buildings through sensitive maintenance, renovation or redevelopment.
- Retain the maritime character of the sea front at Goodwick and Lower Town.
- Seek to minimise the impact of transport patterns on the social fabric of the community.
- Retain and enhance the green space between Goodwick and Fishguard, encouraging sensitive recreational access and improved fauna and flora.
- Where appropriate soften urban edges with sensitive screening and planting.



*Urban edge development* 



Key views north from the Slade



1936 Eisteddford Gorsedd Circle at Penslade with Fishguard beyond

## **Adjacent Authority LCAs & SCAs**

PCNPA: LCA21 Pen Caer/ Strumble Head,

SCA10 Crincoed Point and Strumble Head, SCA7 Fishguard and Goodwick Harbours

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 4: MYNYDD CILCIFFETH

## **Location:**

This LCA is located to the north of Pembrokeshire and borders the National Park near the Gwaun valley at the foot of the Preseli Mountains. Focusing on Mynydd Cilciffeth and Ysgubor Mountain, the area extends west towards the A40.









View of Mynydd Cilciffeth from Puncheston Common



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

## **Summary Description:**

This LCA generally comprises the upland exposed farmland of Mynydd Cilciffeth and Ysgubor Mountain with regular and irregular fields, conifer plantations, scattered farmsteads and isolated cottages. Mature trees at field edges become scarce at higher ground and are windswept providing a sense of exposure. Moorland remains at the summit of Mynydd Cilciffeth. There are no settlements within the area.

## **Key Characteristics**

 Underlying geology is dominated by Ordovician slate with stream and springs emerging and surface stone scatters and forming a saddle between the Skybir and Mynydd Cilciffeth massifs

- There is a strong upland nature with scattered farmsteads, isolated cottages, forest and scrub with an agricultural setting and allowing borrowed views to the east across the Preseli mountains.
- Mynydd Cilciffeth is characterised by open moorland and heathland. The openness of the area lends itself to extensive borrowed views across the adjacent areas of rolling farmland and valleys to the coast.
- Farmsteads in the area generally form nucleated and low lying building groups within the landscape, with traditional materials and design remaining. Modern agricultural buildings are generally muted in colour but can be numerous.
- The historic environment the survival of evidence for prehistoric ritual/funerary activity on Mynydd Cilciffeth and Ysgubor Mountain and an extensive, well-preserved series of multi-period settlement/agricultural features. The regular and irregular fieldscapes are mostly large enclosures and 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Culturally forms part of a wider area of more bilingual character than lowland areas to the south, and remains reinforced by Welsh place names.
- Landscape habitats at Mynydd Cilciffeth include wet heathland, and acid and marshy grasslands and is distinct from the improved grassland which covers much of the area and coniferous plantation to the west.

#### **Key Qualities**

Extensive panoramic views out of the area provide a strong sense of place and reach across wooded valleys to the west, coast to the north and Preseli mountains to the east. The moorland and exposed rock at the summit of Mynydd Cilciffeth adds to the attractive qualities of this area where a sense of exposure and peacefulness is reinforced by natural soundscape. The upland areas retain a sense of exposure and wildness whilst the lower slopes form part of the wider managed landscape managed for agriculture and forestry, where isolated farmsteads and cottages, post and wire rather than stone and hedgebank enclosure do not yet override the sense of history.. Traditional house types, small farmyards and close knit buildings and the absence of modern telecommunication and renewables in the landscape help reinforce a sense of history.

## **Landscape Change (LCA Specific)**

#### **Past and Present**

- Conifer plantations can add interest but detract from upland character and overall coherence of the landscape.
- Management of upland areas appears to be constant, although it is known to be declining and biodiversity being lost. The introduction of coniferous plantations and regular fieldscape at lower levels introduce a sense of highly managed rural landscape.
- post and wire is visible through poorly managed hedgebanks.
- Isolated caravans can appear at field margins although their use is unclear



Low lying and muted farm buildings near Puncheston



Traditional and modern farm buildings form nucleated groups at the foot of Mynydd Cilciffeth

#### **Future**

- Potential for upland character to be impacted by inappropriate scale and character of development and landscape character as well as biodiversity value of heathland and moorland
- Management of hedgerows and potential further introduction of post and wire fencing and loss of field boundaries



Isolated dwelling on the hillside



Extensive views out to the coast

## **Key Sensitivities**

- Exposed and undeveloped upland character.
- Scale, form and colour of farm buildings.
- Extensive views out of the area.
- Retention of field boundaries of traditional materials and construction.

## **Guidelines to Protect / Conserve / Enhance**

- Consider the appropriateness of conifer plantations in the upland landscape and increase the potential to assimilate into the landscape once clearance has taken place through replanting with deciduous species and historic fieldscape.
- Reinstate appropriate cyclical hedgerow management where field boundaries have become overgrown or sparse and retain historic field boundaries.
- preserve remaining areas of marshy grassland and moorland
- Ensure upland and exposed character is not threatened by residential or other developments including skyline or vertical structures.
- Ensure continuation of nucleated farm buildings of appropriate scale and muted colour









Post and wire fencing

Hedgebank on Mynydd Cilciffeth slopes

Drainage ditch

## **Adjacent Authority LCAs**

PCNPA: LCA27 Mynydd Preseli; LCA 26 Cwm Gwaun / Afon Nyfer

#### LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 5: SCLEDDAU LOWLANDS

## **Location:**

This LCA is located to the north of Pembrokeshire and directly south of the urban area of Fishguard and extending south through Letterston and towards Walton East. The A40 runs through the area.







Field gate view south between Letterston and Little Newcastle



View south west towards Treffgarne from near Puncheston



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

## **Summary Description:**

This LCA generally comprises undulating agricultural landscape with large villages including Letterston, Puncheston and Scleddau and smaller scattered settlements throughout. The area includes small occasional patches of moorland scrub, woodland and streams in valley bottoms.

## **Key Characteristics**

- Geology is formed by broad ridges of Ordovician sedimentary slate bedrock, interspersed within branches of the Western Cleddau valley river system (broad river valleys and incised only further to the east) and associated glacial meltwater channels, glacial and fluvioglacial valley deposits.
- Generally comprises an undulating agricultural landscape with large villages including Letterston and Scleddau and smaller dispersed settlements throughout the area. The area includes occasional

- patches of moorland scrub, woodland and plantation and contains streams throughout. Raised areas of land offer views out to the north and east to the Preseli Hills and coast which adds to the sense of place.
- A large proportion of agricultural buildings are modern and utilising steel frame and metal sheeting construction as well as modern residential buildings at settlements constructed largely of brick and blockwork with render.
- The road pattern is formed by a network of narrow lanes and single track roads, with the A40 trunk road cutting through the western side from Haverfordwest to Fishguard in the north and providing a local visual and noise detractor.
- Agricultural fieldscape is generally small and enclosed as well as some large more intensively managed fields with varied hedgerows, some sparse and some replaced with post and wire.
- There is a large number of recorded sites particularly prehistoric and medieval SAMs and a
  number of listed buildings within the archaeological resource. A system of fossilised medieval strip
  fields surround the village of Letterston. Merged medieval open fields, enclosed into strips by
  stony banks survive south of Fishguard.
- Culturally this area 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. Crossed by major road and railway systems, both of which influence modern cultural and economic importance.
- Habitats are largely areas of improved grassland with relatively little arable and some small areas
  of other habitats. To the east in particular, a mosaic of blocks of marshy grassland, especially
  bordering water courses, dense scrub, wet modified bog and broadleaved woodland supports a
  number of key species.
- Many villages and hamlets have medieval origins but have become dominated by 20<sup>th</sup> century and modern developments.

## **Key Qualities**

Attractive views in and out of the area towards the Preseli Hills to the east provide a sense of place whilst the rolling farmland punctuated with villages and sporadic houses as well agricultural farmsteads provide a sense of long history of agricultural management and settlement in a rich and verdant landscape. Locally, the A40 sweeps through the landscape with local visual and noise intrusion. The road does however have important modern cultural associations and provides access to Ireland via the Ferry port at Fishguard.

## Landscape Change (LCA Specific)

#### **Past and Present**

- Intensification of farming practices has changed the fieldscape and introduced discordant modern agricultural buildings which can sit poorly within the landscape.
- Wind turbines within the area are mostly of a sympathetic scale punctuate the landscape but do not dominate. Large scale solar park development has taken place within the area.
- Introduction of unsympathetic 20<sup>th</sup> century development at some village edges has taken place along with the unsympathetic expansion of settlements.
- Caravan park developments are largely limited to touring sites but may impact on views into the area.



View west over the edge of Scleddau into Cefn Coed



Waldo Williams plaque at Puncheston common relating to Waldo's time as a teacher at Puncheston school

#### **Future**

- Further intensification of agricultural practices is likely to impact upon the rural landscape with further introduction of buildings and light pollution particularly across open landscapes.
- Residential development at settlements is likely to extend villages into countryside

## **Key Sensitivities**

- Hedgerow management and its impact on the agricultural landscape
- Field pattern and boundaries, particularly of remaining medieval strip field systems
- The extent of light pollution and spill into adjacent rural areas could be significant across areas of open landscape



View out across Trecwn (LCA27) from the south west

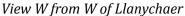


The A40 into Letterston from the south

## **Guidelines to Protect / Conserve / Enhance**

- Further development at villages within the area should ensure that village edges are softened and assimilated within the landscape.
- Preserve and enhance areas of less intensively managed habitat including moorland (Tregroes and Letterston) and marshy grassland
- Encourage sensitive lighting schemes to help maintain and reduce current localised light pollution.







**Puncheston Common** 



Touring caravan at an elevated location within the east of the area which may have a seasonal impact

## **Adjacent Authority LCAs**

PCNPA: LCA27 Mynydd Preseli; LCA 26 Cwm Gwaun / Afon Nyfer

SCA7: Fishguard and Goodwick Harbours

SCA6: Fishguard Bay east

# LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 6: TREFFGARNE AND PLUMSTONE MOUNTAINS

## **Location:**

This LCA is located to the west of Pembrokeshire and borders the National Park boundary to the west near Newgale. It includes Dudwell, Plumstone, Leweston and Great Treffgarne Mountains, individual farmsteads, isolated dwellings and stretches of Nant-y-coy Brook.







View to Great Treffgarne Mountain from Plumstone Mountain



View onto Great Treffgarne Mountain from the east



View across Plumstone and Dudwell Mountains from the north

## **Summary Description:**

This LCA generally comprises low upland hills of open moorland and rocky exposures at Plumstone and Dudwell Mountains. The slopes comprise enclosed pasture with few areas of small low growing woodland interspersed among the rectangular fields on the mid and lower reaches of the hills including a managed conifer plantation and tree lined edge to Nant-y-coy Brook.

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Underlying geology is dominated by hard Ordovician volcanic rocks forming a narrow ridge east-west with rocky tor features and steeply sloping in places. Occasional small historic quarries are present.
- Largely pastoral, the agricultural landscape is interspersed with open moorland at Dudwell mountain and conifer plantation to the south west. Regular rectangular field patterns suggest 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure of former common land, possibly of medieval origin.
- The settlement pattern consists of scattered farmsteads and isolated dwellings below the ridgeline with an absence of villages, hamlets or large conglomerates of agricultural buildings.
- Semi-natural habitats formed by dense scrub and wet heath with areas of bracken and planted coniferous woodland, along with purple moor grassed meadows exist. The Nant-y-coy Brook winds along the northern edge for much of the boundary.
- Key views to the west of Roch Castle and the coast, and to the east of the Preseli's across the rock outcrops and Treffgarne Gorge and rolling farmland, and distant views to the north west of rock outcrops near St David's and occasionally Ramsey Island.
- The road pattern comprises metalled and un-metalled single track lanes which provide access to individual farmsteads and properties, with the B4330 dissecting the area north south.
- Culturally dissected by the Landsker line, Plumstone and Treffgarne rocks are locally recognised landmarks providing recreational opportunities and extensive views out of the area.
- Recorded archaeology includes prehistoric Bronze Age barrows, defensive Rath and post-medieval quarries.

#### **Key Qualities**

Sense of place is formed by the open and exposed nature of the ridge. Areas of moorland and outcrops of rock provide habitat, visual interest and contrast to the intensively managed pastoral agricultural landscape which surrounds it. Extensive views out of the area onto settled and intensively managed rural landscapes, including the Haven developments to the south remove any sense of isolation. However, areas away from traffic noise, particularly the A40 retain peaceful quality, and sense of place is re-enforced by local cultural associations. Wet heath, moorland, conifer plantation, and brook with wooded edge provide a broad diversity of habitat.

## Landscape Change (LCA Specific)

#### **Past and Present**

- Hedgerow maintenance and management is inconsistent and loss of hedge and replacement
  with post and wire fencing particularly apparent at Great Treffgarne. Post and wire fencing
  provides less shelter to livestock, reduced habitat and influences a more open landscape
  character.
- Farm buildings are generally low lying and situated within farmsteads. Modern blockwork has replaced traditional materials, and colours are muted.
- Past planting of relatively small angular blocks of managed conifers at south western edge

- Recreational area at Plumstone provides access to open access land, but hard surfacing detracts from the natural character of the moorland as does the raised reservoir and wooden fencing
- Visual detractors include turbines to the east and north, and are particularly prominent across Treffgarne Gorge.
- Isolated 20th century dwellings lack local vernacular style and introduce modern materials.





Moorland track with access to Dudwell mountain, and views east across Treffgarne Gorge

#### **Future**

- Continued change through modernisation of agricultural buildings and general decline of hedgerows affecting the traditional sporadic development and character of the landscape.
- Potential for positive management of land if conifer plantation felled, perhaps to broadleaf woodland or heath.
- Potential for conflict between recreation pressures and nature conservation at Plumstone affecting the integrity of habitats.





Recreational picnic area within wet heath at Dudwell , post and wire at Great Treffgarne

#### **Key Sensitivities**

- Changes to field patterns and boundary treatments affecting the overall character of the area
- Potential amalgamation of farm holdings and intensification of land use, or construction of larger farm buildings
- Introduction of visually intrusive vertical structures currently absent from the area, including renewable energy and antennae
- Introduction of further built development including individual dwellings and expansion of Treffgarne settlement into the area
- Changes to heath and moorland management and loss to more intensive agricultural management.

#### **Guidelines to Protect / Conserve / Enhance Local Landscape**

- Conserve the open heathland and moorland at Plumstone Mountain by ensuring conservation grazing is well managed and protected. Loss of grazing is resulting in loss of habitat to scrub.
- Maintain the open quality of the upland which has a visual influence well outside its boundary, retaining the existing small scale and nature of built development.
- Causeway conifer plantation manage as trees reach maturity and potential for felling to enhance biodiversity.
- Improve and introduce linkages between semi- natural habitats within and adjacent to the area.
- Encourage appropriate recreational access and improve understanding of the species, habitats and archaeological heritage of the area
- Resist introduction of large scale and vertical structures into the landscape
- Continuation of traditional grazing to maintain and enhance conservation value



Grazing ponies on open access land adjacent to the stark impact of the reservoir fencing



Views to outcrops to the west and Preseli's beyond are impacted by turbines



Farmstead well located within the landscape

## **Adjacent Authority LCAs**

PCNPA: LCA13 Brandy Brook

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 7: PELCOMB AND SIMPSON CROSS

## **Location:**

This LCA is located to the west of Haverfordwest, and borders the National Park boundary to the west. The A487 cuts through the area towards St David's City and the Western Cleddau River passes to the east.







Haverfordwest to Dale Road at the junction to Broadway



View from the A487 to the North East, with Dudwell Mountain (LCA6) beyond



View north east from west of Portfield gate.

## **Summary Description:**

This LCA generally comprises an agricultural, rolling landscape with small scattered wooded valleys and areas of higher ground with rough grazing. The Western Cleddau river passes outside the eastern boundary of the area. Small villages, hamlets, farmsteads and isolated dwelling houses punctuate the area. Borrowed views and glimpses of the coast to the west are limited.

## **Key Characteristics**

- Underlying geology is formed by sedimentary Ordovician and Silurian mudrocks, long low slopes of millstone grit and deeply cut stream valleys.
- Rolling farmland with small scattered villages including Simpson Cross, Camrose, Keeston, Pelcomb
  Cross, Dreenhill and Portfield Gate, enhanced by the very occasional wooded tranquil valleys and
  coastal glimpses from western areas. Agricultural fields of varying sizes with occasional exposed
  higher land providing open grazing and lower wooded valleys being less intensively managed.
- The archaeological resource comprises substantial evidence of prehistoric settlement and ritual / funerary activity, field pattern including relict strip fields (Wolfsdale) and defended enclosures.
- Culturally, this character area forms part of the wider, rich agricultural lowland populated by English speaking communities to the east and south in particular.
- Habitat is dominated by improved grassland for cultivation with a network of diverse hedgerows
  with small areas of dense scrub, marshy grassland and ribbons of semi-natural broadleaf
  woodland along watercourses which is likely to support commoner LBAP species. At the north of
  the area, broadleaf and coniferous woodland and associated areas of heath and bracken are
  evident.
- The A487 traverses the area from Haverfordwest to Roch and provides open views into surrounding areas, whilst a network of B and minor roads radiate through the area.

## **Key Qualities**

Occasional borrowed views of the coast, and to rocky outcrops in the vicinity of Great Treffgarne from higher ground, distant views toward the Preseli's to the east and refineries at the Haven to the south contribute to the sense of place. Tranquil sheltered valleys provide relief from localised busy A road traffic, and much of the area is rich managed farmland with farm buildings nestled within the landscape.

#### **Landscape Change (LCA Specific)**

#### **Past and Present**

- Agricultural buildings which support modern practices are generally well placed within the landscape.
- Localised light pollution exists at scattered farmsteads and villages.
- Traditionally built cottages with rendered stone make up a large proportion of residential buildings. Modern houses are of brick or stone and often rendered. Although not in-keeping with traditional styles their individual and low key appearance means that they do not look out of place.
- Medium sized wind turbines at the east of the area detract in local views whilst smaller ones are a feature scattered throughout the area.
- Whilst few caravan parks exist within the character area, some are in elevated locations to
  maximise views towards the coast and Preseli's. Small scale touring sites are otherwise disassociated with the coast and generally discrete within the landscape.





Caravan Park at Nolton Cross, and compact farmstead well sited within the landscape

#### **Future**

• Continued intensification of agriculture has the potential to introduce larger scale farm holdings and insensitively sited agricultural buildings within the landscape with resultant increases in light pollution.





Simpson Cross Village edge development is generally low key in style. Pelcomb Cross service station boundary lacks integration with local landscape patterns.

## **Key Sensitivities**

- Loss of well-defined field boundaries and secure, appropriate boundaries to developed areas.
- Further expansion of prominently sited tourist accommodation including static and touring caravans
- Introduction of further medium scale wind turbines in exposed locations and their individual or cumulative impact on wider views.

## **Guidelines to Protect / Conserve / Enhance**

- Preserve the agricultural landscape and wooded areas within it, including hedgerows through appropriate management including retention of specimen trees within hedgerows
- Ensure further agricultural buildings are well located within the landscape and that style and appearance are appropriate
- Encourage field margins to be managed for the benefit of wildlife
- Ensure any future tourism related accommodation is sustainably located and has an acceptable impact.
- Encourage sensitive lighting schemes to help maintain and reduce current localised light pollution.







Unimproved grazing land near Cream Pots

Views over uncultivated land and beyond near Sutton

Agricultural building prominent at the roadside

## **Adjacent Authority LCAs and SCAs**

**PCNPA:** LCA13 Brandy Brook; LCA12 St Brides Bay; LCA9 Marloes; LCA11 Herbrandston Refinery Fringe

SCA21 St Brides Bay Coastal Waters East

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 8: HAVERFORDWEST

## **Location:**

This LCA is located in central Pembrokeshire and closely relates to the county town of Haverfordwest. Surrounding areas mainly comprise open rolling lowland in agricultural use, as well as recreational, tourism and transport uses including Haverfordwest airport.







View towards Quay Street from Picton Fields



View towards Haverfordwest from the A4078 at Dredgman Hill



painted render houses along Milford Road towards Merlin's Hill

## **Summary Description:**

This LCA comprises the urban area of Haverfordwest county town. The historic core has developed alongside the Western Cleddau river and remains the commercial focus of the town. Historic sites include the priory ruin, castle, gaol and riverside warehouses. Suburban areas

generally contain more modern developments including Pembrokeshire College, Withybush Hospital, Withybush Industrial area, residential and retail development. Where the town rises up away from the river, views are possible to the north sweeping over rolling farmland with views of the Preseli's on the skyline, with closer views available to the south. The Racecourse at the west of the town provides an important recreational resource and links the town with the countryside. The town warrants its own LCA due to its historic and cultural character of its extensive built nature.

Haverfordwest is the infrastructure hub of the County with many commuting routes converging on the town including one of the routes to Ireland and a railway.

## **Key Characteristics**

- Underlying geology is mainly mudstone Silurian shale sedimentary bedrock with engineered features and reclaimed / infilled land over. Landform dominated by past fluvioglacial and current stream / river processes.
- Housing with some retail and industrial development form the built area. Although the town retains
  character within its historic core, which is defined by buildings built of stone, elsewhere
  construction materials are largely modern and unsympathetic and of styles typical of the last
  century.
- Habitats are largely open spaces of amenity grassland, street trees in places, small areas of broadleaved woodland, and remnant hedgerows with areas of scrub at roadside verges. The Western Cleddau and Cartlett Brook flow through the centre and are designated for nature conservation value for flora and fauna, although some invasive plant species are also present.
- Listed buildings and structures are numerous including medieval, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century development all of which contribute to the historic character of the town. Significant elements include the medieval castle, medieval street plan, burgage plots and churches, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings.
- Haverfordwest has been the commercial centre of Pembrokeshire and county town since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and is culturally significant.
- Road pattern largely comprises of the main road transport routes which converge at
   Haverfordwest to serve both the north and south of the County. The urban area is accessed via a
   network of B and minor roads, generally with footpaths. Busy, heavily trafficked nature of the
   town is due to the convergence of various transport routes.

## **Key Qualities**

This urban area has, since the 16<sup>th</sup> century been the administrative centre of the County. Its historic core retains its planned medieval layout and many fine listed buildings within the Conservation Area. A significant historic heritage is present within the core of the town including the medieval castle, street plan, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings and churches. The Cleddau River which was once navigated for trade into Haverfordwest, is still navigable upto the town and provides an attractive feature and key focal point within the town. Some green areas within the town are attractive, however mixed building types and heavy levels of traffic on the A4076 and associated main roads detract from the appearance of some areas. The convergence of various commuting routes leads to a perceived unsafe and noisy reception for visitors and contributes to an overall weak sense of place. Substantial light pollution associated with street lighting, recreational facility lighting and illuminated buildings exists, although this also can create night time vibrancy if sensitively applied. Views into and out of the town are generally limited, but the Preseli's at the skyline can be seen to the north and rolling countryside to the south.

#### Landscape Change (LCA Specific)

#### **Past and Present**

- Considerable light pollution has been introduced from specific developments and road network, including commercial and historic properties and recreational activities
- Intensive development has been detrimental to overall biodiversity interest although particularly the river corridors and areas of scrub and woodland offer wildlife value and green infrastructure in contrast to developed surroundings
- A moderate number of modern buildings have supported a diverse range of activities at the town but with little reference to its historic character
- Modernisation / loss of traditional buildings, although several historic buildings along the river require investment
- Loss of cattle market at The Mart ground, distancing the town from its agricultural hinterland
- Haverfordwest is the administrative centre for the county and continues to receive considerable pressure to its road network, contributing to the busy, polluted and heavily trafficked nature. High Street is an Air Quality Management Area.





Green Wedge along Freeman's Way and sub-urban development at Snowdrop Lane

#### **Future**

- Climate change driven influences likely to result in increased risk of flood along the river corridor and into the commercial hub of the town.
- Potential for in appropriate development to erode historic and cultural character and contributes to sprawl
- Increased intensity of traffic, potential air pollution, and conflict between modes of movement
- Risk of lack of investment in properties negatively affecting the commercial core of the town as shopping patterns change





Gateway into Haverfordwest historic centre and the river environment where buildings require investment

## **Key Sensitivities**

- The Conservation Area of Haverfordwest, namely the form and character of traditional buildings and streets, including domestic and commercial properties and open spaces within the town centre
- Historic and archaeological features
- The character, recreational and wildlife value of the River Cleddau
- Vibrancy and community hub of the town centre

## **Guidelines to Protect / Conserve / Enhance**

- Assess and protect and enhance the value of open spaces within the town including the green riparian zone along the river corridor.
- Increase the character and attractive elements of the built town through public realm improvements, regeneration of derelict properties and introduction of new green infrastructure
- Ensure new development conforms to the highest design guidelines of spatial layout, quality of architecture and public spaces which contribute to sense of place.
- Address movement conflicts including optimising pedestrian routes through the town centre and along the river.
- Continue to pursue water quality improvements to the rivers flowing through the town for public, recreational and wildlife benefits.
- Control invasive species.
- Develop lighting guidance to account for visual impact, historic buildings impact and impact on protected species
- Take opportunities to improve the sense of place both at gateways to the town and within it.

## Pembrokeshire Landscape Character Assessment



Recreational open space at Priory ruin Ancient Monument provides PRoW into the town centre



Gateway improvements into the town at the Merlin's Bridge roundabout.



Active travel routes improve recreational opportunities

## **Adjacent Authority LCAs**

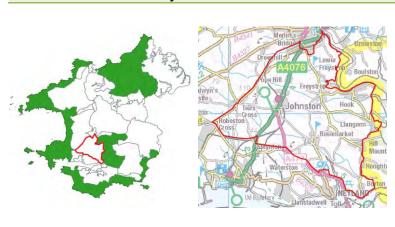
PCNPA: no LCAs

Seascape Character Area 33 Daugleddau

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 9: JOHNSTON LOWLANDS

## **Location:**

This LCA is located in central Pembrokeshire and nestled south of Haverfordwest and north of Milford Haven and west of the Cleddau rivers and National Park boundary. It extends east to the National Park boundary.





Typical rolling landscape



*Views south from Bolton Hill (west of Johnston)* 



and view south from the edge of Llangwm

## **Summary Description:**

This LCA generally comprises a rolling plateau landscape of gentle hills and valleys between Haverfordwest and Milford Haven. Farmland dominated by pastoral agriculture with

hedgebanks, trees and woodland belts in valleys. The area is interspersed with scattered village settlements and farmsteads and there are busy A roads - the A4076 and A477, linking Haverfordwest with Milford Haven and Neyland/Pembroke Dock as well as quiet rural lanes. Views south to the Haven are dominated by refineries and wind turbines and pylons in places.

Johnston in particular hosts both commercial and industrial / business uses and is midway along the rail and road transport links between Haverfordwest to the north and Milford Haven to the south.

It includes the settlements of Johnston, Hook, Llangwm, Hill Mountain, Rosemarket, Tiers Cross, Burton and Freystrop. Largely agricultural outside of settlements with scattered farmsteads and pastoral and crop growing.

## **Key Characteristics**

- The underlying geology is complex and generally comprises bands of 'Old Red Sandstone' sedimentary siltstones, sandstones and mudstone overlain with minor glacial deposits, and a broad strip of Precambrian igneous rock across the central area, generating a fairly uniform gently undulating landform.
- The settlement pattern consists of villages and farmsteads as well as isolated dwellings within an agricultural landscape of small and medium sized fields, including areas of medieval strip fields.
- Whilst there are traditional buildings and materials retained in the area, these are dominated by mix of modern built development including residential, agricultural and commercial uses.
- The agricultural landscape is formed by a generally consistent rolling farmland providing a modest sense of place that becomes influenced to the south due to proximity to Milford Haven and energy related development.
- To the east the area is interspersed with scattered village settlements and farmsteads and is characterised by its visual and physical interrelationship with the Daugleddau river, giving much of this area a peaceful and pleasant aspect, with the National park forming the boundary.
- Views to the south are dominated by industrial and renewable energy developments, as well as pylons in some places.
- Settlements are generally nucleated, largely with medieval origins. All housing types are represented, including gentry houses, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century and more recent housing.
- Culturally, this area forms part of rich pastoral landscape of the English speaking communities of Southern Pembrokeshire.
- There are a very large number of archaeological sites from all periods. There are a large number of listed buildings including Medieval churches, and scheduled monuments include prehistoric, medieval and 18<sup>th</sup> century defense features.
- Habitats are dominated by improved grassland with some arable, set amongst a strong structure
  of hedgebanks, as well as semi natural broadleaved and coniferous woodland, marshy grassland,
  scrub, streams and ponds on poorer quality land.

#### **Key Qualities**

This landscape is largely managed for agriculture, and increasingly to supply renewable energy via wind turbines and solar farm developments which can be visually intrusive. There is a relatively dense network of settlement, but the area retains pleasant internal views such as in valleys and out to the north where the Preseli hills are visible. Views to the south are affected by the detractors of energy related development and the area is crossed by imposing pylons. Traffic noise has a significant impact where roads are locally busy but much of the area retains a sense of tranquillity especially towards the Daugleddau river. English speaking heritage is evident in place names and English remains the dominant language within the community.

## Landscape Change (LCA Specific)

#### **Past and Present**

- Appropriate low intensity management of patches of woodland and hedgerows / hedgebanks have provided attractive features with nature conservation value
- Exploitation of mineral resources at Bolton Hill hard rock quarry and small scale old coal workings
- The A4076 and A477 and rail line traverse the area and traffic noise and volume are locally intrusive
- The refineries, wind turbines and pylons (energy related developments) in places have dominated views, particularly to the south
- Solar farms have been developed particularly along transport routes but are only locally intrusive and elsewhere visible in close views.
- Johnston is dominated by 20<sup>th</sup> Century housing and commercial development and is divided by the A4076 road and railway corridors which significantly diminish its coherence. Elsewhere settlements are well preserved, nucleated and of medieval origin which has remained largely intact in spite of modern development
- Intrusive light pollution exists around settlements, particularly at school and recreational facilities, increasingly at farmsteads and from the industrial fringe to the south





The historic core of most settlements is still apparent (Llangwm).

Traffic intrusion occurs at Johnston

#### **Future**

- Further pressures for development and extension of existing built areas at settlements which are relatively well related to main towns.
- Potential pressures for further renewable energy development with significant visual impact and erosion of landscape character.
- Growth in traffic volumes and potential for increased congestion of main highways through the area.
- Continuing intensification of agricultural practises and changes to the agricultural landscape
- Potential for further appropriate re-use of traditional agricultural buildings

• Increasing potential for active travel and increased local recreational use of walking / cycle tracks as well as commuter routes.





Hedgerow / hedgebank management and intensification of agricultural practices can have significant habitat and nature conservation impact

#### **Key Sensitivities**

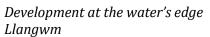
- Well-defined field boundaries and urban edge boundaries
- Increased adverse visual impact of cumulative renewable energy developments
- Loss of Medieval field boundaries where these remain.
- Intensification of agriculture into poorer quality land especially wetland and valleys
- Intrusive light pollution into rural dark skies beyond settlements

#### **Guidelines to Protect / Conserve / Enhance**

- Avoid further adverse negative impact on the environment from future developments, infrastructure or industrial developments in the area
- Improve the quality of the built form through appropriate design guidance
- Re-instate regular management of hedgerows where this has become neglected
- Careful management of the urban fringe from Haverfordwest and Milford Haven into the area ensuring boundaries and well maintained and distinct.
- Appropriate re-use should be considered for historic farm buildings which may be coming to the end of their use within agriculture.
- Seek solutions to ensure the road network remains free flowing and congestion and resultant air pollution is minimised.
- Ensure that renewable energy development is appropriately sited within the landscape and does not contribute to a negative cumulative effect with existing energy related developments
- Ensure any future expansion of the quarry remains well screened
- Where settlements coincide with the water side, prioritise retention of environmental quality, buildings quality and habitat

## Pembrokeshire Landscape Character Assessment







Traditional agricultural buildings may be appropriate for sensitive restoration and re-use



Ensure solar farms within the landscape retain landscape and visual softening measures

## **Adjacent Authority LCAs and SCAs**

PCNPA: LCA 28 Daugleddau

SCA32 Inner Milford Haven, SCA33 Daugleddau

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 10: THE HAVEN NORTH

## **Location:**

This LCA is located on the northern shores of the Milford Haven Waterway. It excludes the urban area of Milford Haven but includes refinery developments to the east and west and several settlements. The northern boundary is formed by the A477 and railway lines and the southern boundary is formed by the edge of the town or the waterway.



View towards Llanstadwell and Milford Haven from Trafalgar Terrace, Neyland



Road south from Sentry Cross to Waterston



Views towards the former Murco Oil Refinery from Thornton Ind Estate (LCA22)

## **Summary Description:**

This LCA generally comprises agricultural land and extends to coastal areas where industrial development and settlements create a built up coastal fringe. The LCA is separated from areas to the north by the communication links of the A477 and railway lines which serve to increase the influence and relationship with the coastal industrial areas of the Liquefied natural gas terminal at Waterston and the former oil refineries at Waterston and Robeston Cross in the north west. This LCA contains the settlements of Neyland, Llanstadwell, Thornton, Waterston and Liddeston but excludes Milford Haven.

There is a powerful presence of large turbines throughout the area. Despite carrying a strong legacy of previous uses the coastal edge is a focus for leisure, particularly water based activity at its western and eastern extremities of Gelliswick and Neyland.

## **Key Characteristics**

- The geology is dominated by 'Old Red Sandstone' Silurian sedimentary sandstone, cut by river and stream valleys flowing into the Milford Haven Waterway.
- Smaller settlements are 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century and generally compact and linear in character. Most are dominated by residential development and English speaking communities. Neyland is more coherent in layout and contains a broader range of uses, including light industry and commercial uses. Traditional terraces at Neyland, largely painted in pastel colours overlook the marina, waterway and old railway terminus.
- The area was once characterised by a diversity of industries and activities, maritime port, trade and fishing and these have evolved and grown or waned over time.
- The area contains two former oil refineries and chemical workings, a large liquefied natural gas installation and many large wind turbines.
- The northern edge of the area is bordered by busy A roads and north-south railway links. The remainder although largely quiet is heavily influenced by urban and industrial surrounds.
- Away from built areas, the landscape is dominated by rich pastoral agriculture with a mix of hedgebanks and narrow belts of woodland in valleys. The fieldscape is generally one of large regular fields with little rough ground remaining.
- The PROW network excludes the public from large industrial areas and links instead to the highway network, although recently cycle and walking tracks have expanded opportunities for active travel. The main leisure route is the Wales Coastal Path which runs along the southern edge of the Milford Haven Waterway.
- The recorded archaeological resource and listed buildings include pre-historic, medieval, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings, structures and fortifications.
- The area is almost wholly within the Milford haven Waterway Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
- Habitat within built areas is largely formed by garden space and Improved agricultural grassland dominates away from the coast. The coastal edge is characterised by low cliffs naturally vegetated with coastal scrub.

#### **Key Qualities**

Working Liquefied natural gas plants and former oil refineries (now used for storage) have a perceptual influence over the immediate area and wider landscape which goes beyond their visual influence and includes a sense of activity and industry. Active refineries within and outside the area (to the south) compound this sense through discharges to the atmosphere, noise and visually and at the waterside where jetties remain at Waterston and Gelliswick. Neyland marina succeeds in retaining links to the water environment as a recreational resource and through its continuing marine industry. The area has a strong industrial and coastal character throughout large parts of the area through which the coastal path runs. Key views out are across the Haven to largely industrialised and built coastal edge. Views into the area encompass large scale wind turbines which dominate the skyline in places. Existing refinery development which initially justified the impact of large scale wind turbines has been overwhelmed and the Haven can be considered saturated with turbines along the northern shoreline. Light pollution particularly from energy related development impacts on the night sky across the south of the county. Away from the coastal edge quiet country lane hedges are tall and billowy and can quickly achieve a sense of separation from settlements, and complement rich and productive agriculture.

## Landscape Change (LCA Specific)

## **Past and Present**

- Dominance of oil refineries and associated developments as visual detractors during the day, and from necessary light pollution at night
- Introduction of large scale wind turbines particularly at the Haven and further inland.
- The small traditional linear settlements at the coastline have largely retained historic character whilst areas where there has been 20<sup>th</sup> century development are dominated by less sympathetic industrial and commercial development particularly at the periphery of the built area.





Commercial development along the A477 at Little Honeyborough

View onto large turbines from the north

#### **Future**

- Potential for changes to the fossil fuel energy sector could impact on landscape both for the expansion of sites and potential de-commissioning.
- Pressure for further development to extend built areas into the countryside however potential conflict with existing turbines may restrict opportunities.
- Potential for continuing change in retail patterns and its influence on maintaining a commercial core at Neyland.
- Increasing leisure and recreational opportunities on the waterway and via the active travel network.
- Potential for increased traffic levels as improved connectivity to the south of the Haven via the Cleddau Bridge resulting from removal of toll charges
- Global warming raising marine water levels affecting development along the edge.





Views east onto the waterway at Llanstadwell

View into Neyland marina

## **Key Sensitivities**

- Evolution of energy development and potential for changes to the nationally important energy economy and resultant impact on landscape of failing or changing industry.
- Potential for large scale development associated with deep water harbour at the Haven.

## **Guidelines to Protect / Conserve / Enhance**

- Prevent future sprawling development at settlement edges and ensure sensitive style and siting of future development within the landscape which retains character of traditional settlements
- Conserve the marina area at Neyland and associated viewpoint from the car park looking over the Haven.
- Seek to preserve the cultural and archaeological heritage of the area and to maximise its accessibility to the public.
- Intertidal coastal area is vulnerable to pollution. There is a need to make sure that this risk is minimised
- Recognise the impact of wind turbine development



*Uncultivated land within the former railway cutting* 



views out from Neyland Marina



Views into Waterston refinery

## **Adjacent Authority LCAs**

**PCNPA**: LCA none

SCA32 Inner Milford Haven