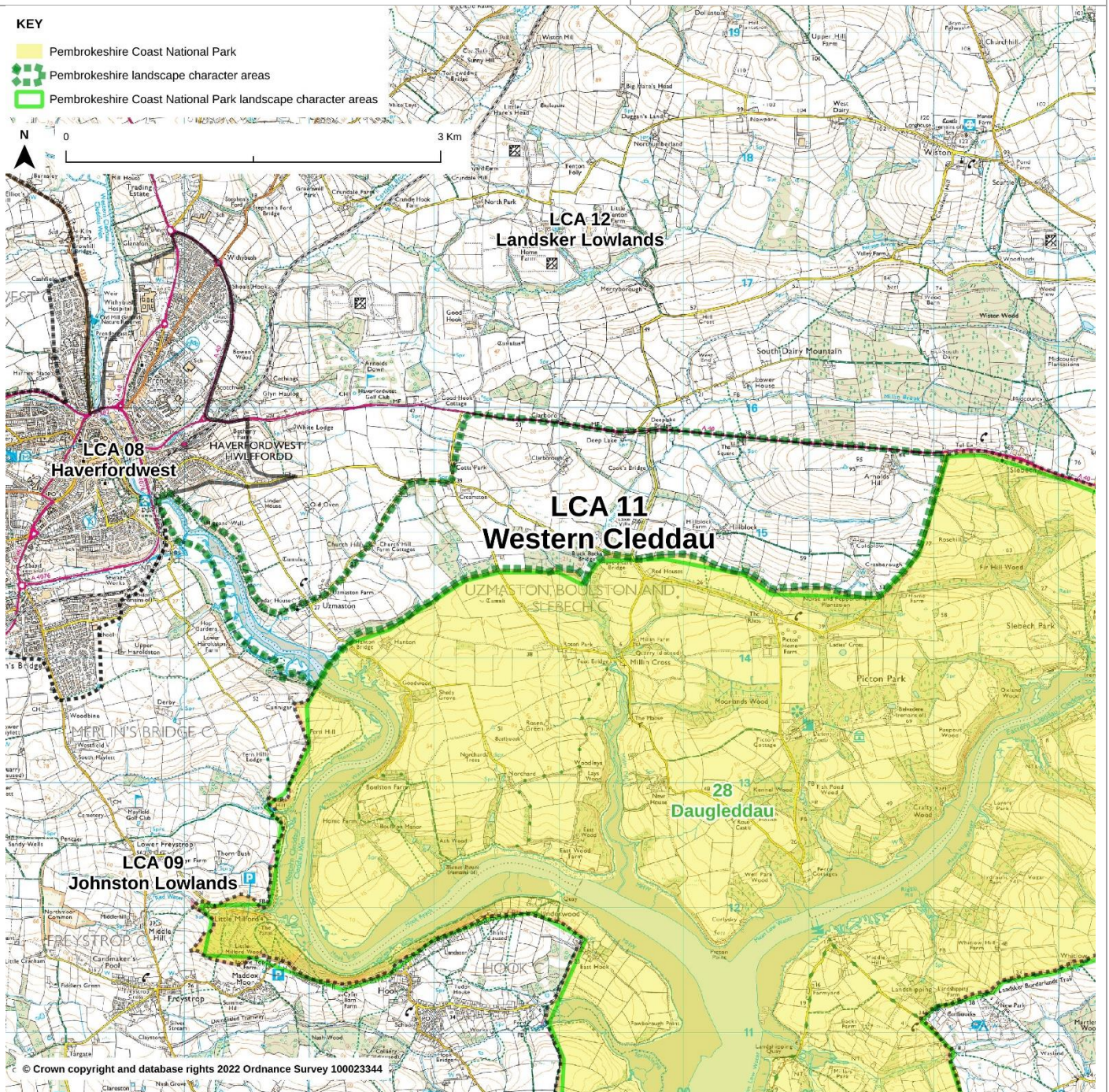
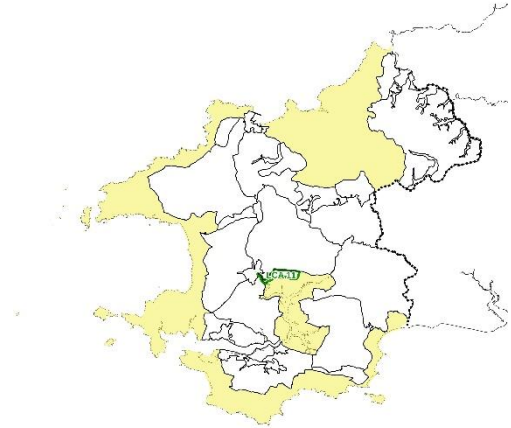


## Landscape Character Area 11: Western Cleddau

### Location

This small LCA is located to the east of Haverfordwest bordered by the A40 to the north and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park to the south and including part of the Western Cleddau.







View from south of Arnolds Hill towards Haverfordwest



View along the Western Cleddau river to Haverfordwest at the railway and Freemans Way crossing.

### Summary description

This LCA falls from prominent ridgelines along the busy A40 to the north down to the low lying tidal estuary of the Western Cleddau. The largely tranquil pastoral farmland is dissected by small streams with woodland and has an estate character to the east lying just north of Picton Castle in the National Park and more irregular field patterns on the more gently sloping land to the west. The area is lightly settled and tree cover contributes to its secluded character.

### Key characteristics

- **Prominent ridgeline and slopes rising to 95m AOD at Arnolds Hill to the east with lower hills (50m AOD) to the south and west dissected by a series of small streams like Millins Brook flowing south and west to the Western Cleddau.**
- **Tidal Western Cleddau is bounded by small steep slopes on its northern edge (25m AOD down to 5m AOD) with mudflats and saltmarsh on the flat valley floor and forming part of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC/Milford Haven Waterway SSSI.**
- The underlying geology of the hills and slopes is dominated by Silurian mudstone. The Western Cleddau forms part of the upper reaches of the drowned ria of the Milford Haven Waterway with estuarine deposits.
- To the east farmland appears to form part of **estate farmland relating to Picton Park to the south with regular field patterns with grass and arable bounded by trimmed hedges. To the west the field pattern becomes more irregular ranging from small to large fields, primarily pastoral with some outgrown hedges with some trees.**
- **Broadleaved trees create enclosed riparian corridors along most watercourses and**

**there are distinctive belts of replanted/restored ancient woodland along the straight approaches to Picton Castle.** There are blocks of mixed and conifer plantations to the east.

- **The settlement pattern consists of small hamlets, scattered farmsteads with associated farm buildings, isolated dwellings, including gentry houses and an absence of settlements.**
- The historic parks and gardens of Picton Park and Slebech Park lie in the Cleddau valley to the south and **evidence of estate character is indicated by engineered stone bridges (one castellated) on the approach lanes.**
- The Milford Haven Waterway Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest and the listed church of St Ismaels at Uzmaston lie on the slopes to the west and a single listed house lies to the east.
- **The ridge to the north forms an important skyline visible to the north and south and there are hilltop views to the south.**
- **Key views south across and along the Cleddau from footpaths and roads south east of Haverfordwest and south of Uzmaston.**
- Whilst the A40 is a major source of noise and movement, **tranquillity increases swiftly to the south due to landform and tree cover and the limited settlement also contributes to a sense of seclusion.**
- Culturally the area is associated with the Picton Castle estate to the south and forming part of a wider area of English speaking communities south of the Landsker line.

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

### Landscape change

- Introduction of some modern agricultural buildings at medium scale, some clad in timber and block, and some polytunnels, with potential for further intensification of agricultural use.
- A40 is a major road on the northern edge which has been improved to accommodate more traffic in the past.
- Recreational walk and trim trail along the riverside near Haverfordwest has increased use of the river corridor.
- Climate change resulting in rising sea levels impacting on estuary and banks.
- Potential pressure for renewable energy developments.

### Landscape guidelines

- Restrict expansion of Haverfordwest along the Western Cleddau to protect its tranquillity, setting and character.
- Avoid the introduction of large scale and vertical structures such as wind turbines with their likely impact on the National Park and wide visibility to the north.
- Avoid solar arrays in this tranquil landscape on especially on slopes and skylines.
- Reuse traditional agricultural buildings which are no longer in use for their original purpose in sensitive ways reinforcing the vernacular.
- Conserve and enhance the existing field boundaries gapping up hedges where necessary.
- Consider potential for increased low key recreational access to the riverside.

### Adjacent National Park landscape character areas:

LCA28 Daugleddau

### Adjacent/nearby National Park seascape character areas:

SCA 33 Daugleddau- overlaps area

Pembrokeshire County Landscape Character Assessment

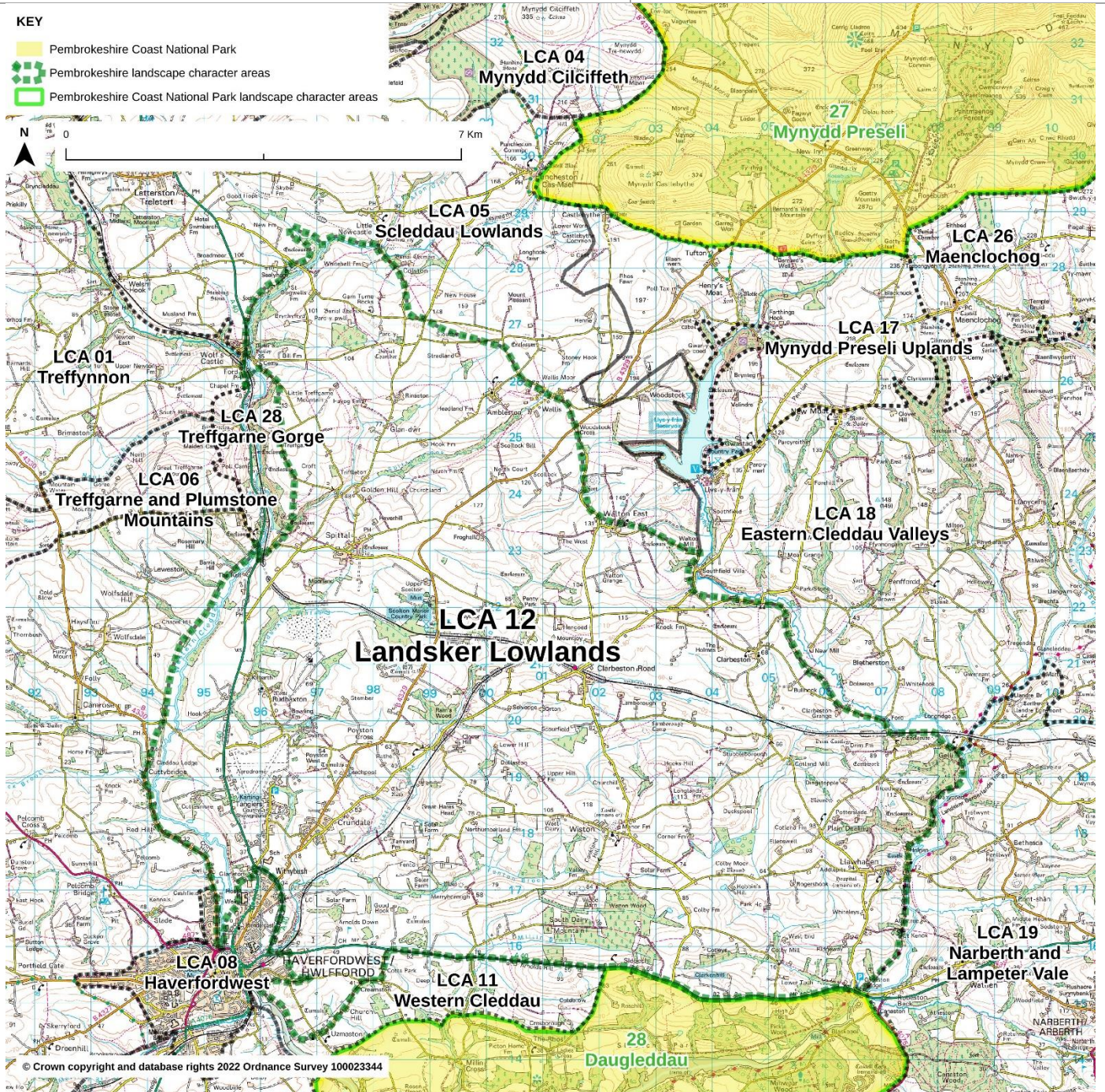
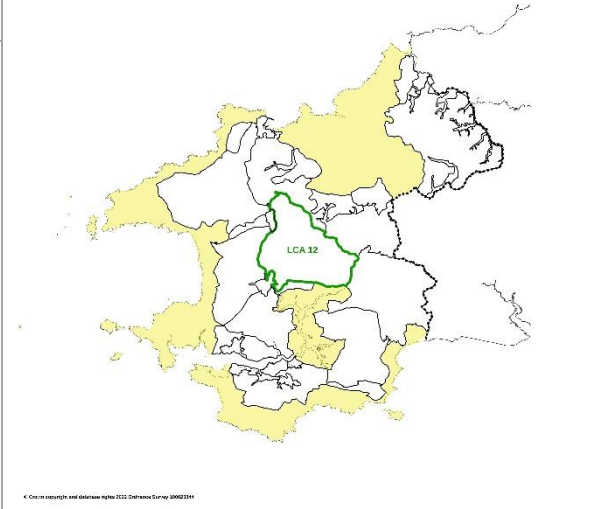
<b>LANDMAP aspect areas and value:</b>				
Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas	Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Geological Aspect Areas	Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas	Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas
<b><i>050 – high</i></b> 051 – outstanding	<b><i>43903 - high</i></b> 43904 – moderate 46204 – outstanding 43907 - outstanding	<b><i>186 – moderate</i></b> 183- moderate 182 – moderate 128 – high	<b><i>109</i></b>	<b><i>512 – moderate</i></b> 807 – low
<b><i>Bold italic</i></b> text indicates the prevailing aspect area where one exists				



## Landscape Character Area 12: Landsker Lowlands

### Location

This LCA is centrally located in the County and is directly north east of Haverfordwest with the Preseli fringes to the north. It is bordered by the A40 to the south and west and the railway lines between Swansea and Haverfordwest and Fishguard pass through it.







View north from the A40 near Arnolds Hill looking towards the Preselis



Field gate view north east from near Spittal looking towards the Preselis

### Summary description

A large hills and valley landscape forming the watershed between the Western Cleddau and Eastern Cleddau with numerous wooded tributary valleys and strong ridges. The area is largely pastoral with some arable with well defined hedges, often with trees. The clustered villages with occasional farmsteads and dwellings are largely rural and some are of particular historic interest such as Llawhaden and Wiston with their castles on the Landsker line. The area is generally tranquil although the character is modified to the south west around Haverfordwest with associated small airport and commercial development at Withybush and along part of the A40 corridor.

### Key characteristics

- **A hills and valley landscape with the hills and ridges with gently rounded profiles reaching 145m AOD to the north around Ambleston but often at over 100m AOD dissected with valleys around 50m AOD and falling to the Western Cleddau and Eastern Cleddau valley floors at around 10m AOD.**
- The underlying geology is dominated by Ordovician slates to the north and west and more pronounced parallel east west Silurian mudstone ridges to the south, with alluvial and glacial deposits in the larger valleys.
- **The tributaries of the Western Cleddau dominate** and include Spittal Brook, Rudbaxton Water, Poyston Water, Cartlett, Fenton and Millin Brooks with Deepford Brook and other

tributaries flowing to the Eastern Cleddau, most of which are in the Cleddau Rivers SAC/Afon Cleddau SSSI with their associated corridors.

- **The tributary stream valleys often have steep sides and enclosed narrow floors with semi-natural habitats including grasslands.**
- **Ancient woodland lies primarily in small linear patches on steep valleys and hillsides but also in more substantial blocks such as Wiston Wood to the south.**
- Other ancient woodlands have been replanted with conifer plantations such as Drim Wood to the east and Rams Wood to the west and there are substantial rectilinear plantations south of Wiston Wood towards the A40.
- **Largely pastoral but with substantial patches of arable land on well drained upper slopes** such as around Ambleston and Scolton. Field patterns vary from relatively **regular medium and large fields on more open upper slopes and ridge tops to more enclosed small-medium irregular fields on lower valley slopes and floors** although there are variations. **Medieval strip fields are apparent such as at Amblestone and Crundale and common land** is associated with Wallis Moor to the north east.
- **Field boundaries are a mix of trimmed and outgrown hedges, hedgebanks and post and wire with trees in places, featuring on local ridge skylines, framing views** and contributing to the area's character.
- **Settlement is largely limited to a few scattered nucleated rural villages** such as Spittal, **farmsteads including some on spring lines, and individual dwellings.**
- **Some settlements have particularly distinctive historic character including the ridge top settlements of Llawhaden and Wiston and form part of the Landsker Line and there are 19<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings and gentry houses including Scolton Manor historic park and garden.**
- **Llawhaden Conservation Area is in a commanding location above the Eastern Cleddau with its listed buildings including castle and hospital with views to the south and west.**
- **The hilltop settlement of Wiston has a castle, listed manor house and church of St Mary.**
- **There are numerous scheduled monuments such as prehistoric forts,** and camps such as north of Llawhaden and around Wiston and Rathes such as at Rudbaxton and a burial chamber at Garn Turne Rocks.
- Milford Haven Waterway Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest lies directly to the south creeping into the area around Haverfordwest.
- The largest settlement is at Crundale which is an outlier of Haverfordwest and close to Haverfordwest airport at Withybush with associated commercial uses forming a modified, partially developed character unlike the rest of the character area.
- Clarboston Road is also a somewhat suburban but small settlement on the watershed between the Eastern and Western Cleddau and associated with railways which run across the area exploiting three tributary valley floors to navigate routes to Swansea, Fishguard and Haverfordwest/Milford Haven. These do not disturb the tranquillity of the area markedly.
- The A40 is the largest road running on the ridge to the south and near the Western Cleddau to the west and is a source of noise and movement and other uses such as landfill lie nearby.
- Large solar farms lie to the south, just east of Haverfordwest.
- Isolated single/double small wind turbines lie on hill and ridge tops mainly to the west.
- Despite development around Haverfordwest and the environs of the A40, **tranquillity increases significantly away from these areas with a network of largely narrow rural lanes and public footpaths and largely unspoilt open ridgelines and associated skylines and enclosed, intimate valleys.**

- **Views are possible to the Preselis to the north and Roch castle to the west from ridges and upper slopes and the area is highly intervisible with the Park and in its setting.**
  - **The southern part of the area is also in the setting of the National Park associated with the Cleddau rivers and Daugleddau.**
  - The Landsker Borderlands trail runs just to the east along the Eastern Cleddau valley and has views into the area which often forms a skyline.
  - The Landsker Line through the area indicated by the Norman castles built to protect (now) English speaking communities to the south is still recognised as a local cultural influence.
- \* **Note: Bold text** indicates key characteristics and qualities contributing most to sense of place.

### Landscape change

- Haverfordwest and commercial development at the airport influences the character to the south west and there may be pressure for more expansion here.
- Light pollution can spill from Haverfordwest edge into the area, particularly from commercial, sport and school developments.
- Large scale solar farms to the north east of Haverfordwest have modified the landscape and there is likely to be pressure for more.
- Wind turbines are small scale and incrementally implemented but there may be pressure for more and at larger scale.
- There may be pressure for further development related to the transport corridors.
- Incremental development of rural villages with suburban detailing of dwellings and boundary treatments eg closeboard fences on road fronts.
- Conversion of traditional farm buildings to residential or holiday accommodation has taken place and the introduction of large scale farm buildings to support modern agricultural practices continues.
- Areas of conifer plantation particularly along the A40 have been introduced and have replaced ancient woodlands in places.

### Landscape guidelines

- Avoid wind turbines including medium and larger scale models especially close to sensitive receptors such as the National Park, Treffgarne Rocks and gorge and on prominent ridges such as around Wiston and Llawhaden and along the A40.
- Site any future solar farms in discrete locations avoiding prominent slopes and tranquil rural areas.
- Plan any major settlement expansion to minimise the impact on the landscape and provide a strong green infrastructure linking into the wider landscape such as along stream corridors.
- Expansion of rural settlements should be sensitive to avoid adverse effect on their character.
- Fell and replace coniferous woodland blocks over time with broadleaved woodland or at least soften edges and place broadleaves adjacent to watercourses and improve biodiversity and recreational value.
- Retain Slebech Church to the south as a landmark feature on the ridge (although outside the area in the National Park).
- Protect the character and setting of historic features, especially settlements and castles on the Landsker line and improve and/or maintain interpretation.
- Conserve and enhance hedge banks and hedgerows encouraging the growth of hedgerow trees.
- Replanting of existing coniferous plantations with native broadleaf species or opening up of the plantations to increase biodiversity.



**Adjacent National Park landscape character areas:**

LCA28 Daugleddau

**Adjacent/nearby National Park seascape character areas:**

SCA33 Daugleddau

**LANDMAP aspect areas and value:**

Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas	Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Geological Aspect Areas	Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas	Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas
<b><i>042 – moderate</i></b>	<b><i>46204 – outstanding</i></b>	<b><i>180 – moderate</i></b>	<b><i>097</i></b>	<b><i>512 - moderate</i></b>
040 – moderate	46208 – outstanding	168 – outstanding	094	832 – moderate
091 – high	43903 – high	049 – moderate	095	971 - moderate
039 – high	46110 – high	069 – moderate	223	118 – low
	46111 – high	169 – moderate		471 – high
	46108 – high	179 – moderate		772 – high
	43905 – moderate	173 – moderate		800 – high
	46224 – moderate	186 – moderate		938 – high
	46209 – moderate	182- moderate		
	46210 – moderate	187 – moderate		
	46023 – moderate	171 – moderate		
	46109 – moderate	172 – moderate		
	46107 – moderate	175 – moderate		
	46106 – moderate	174 – moderate		
		114 – moderate		

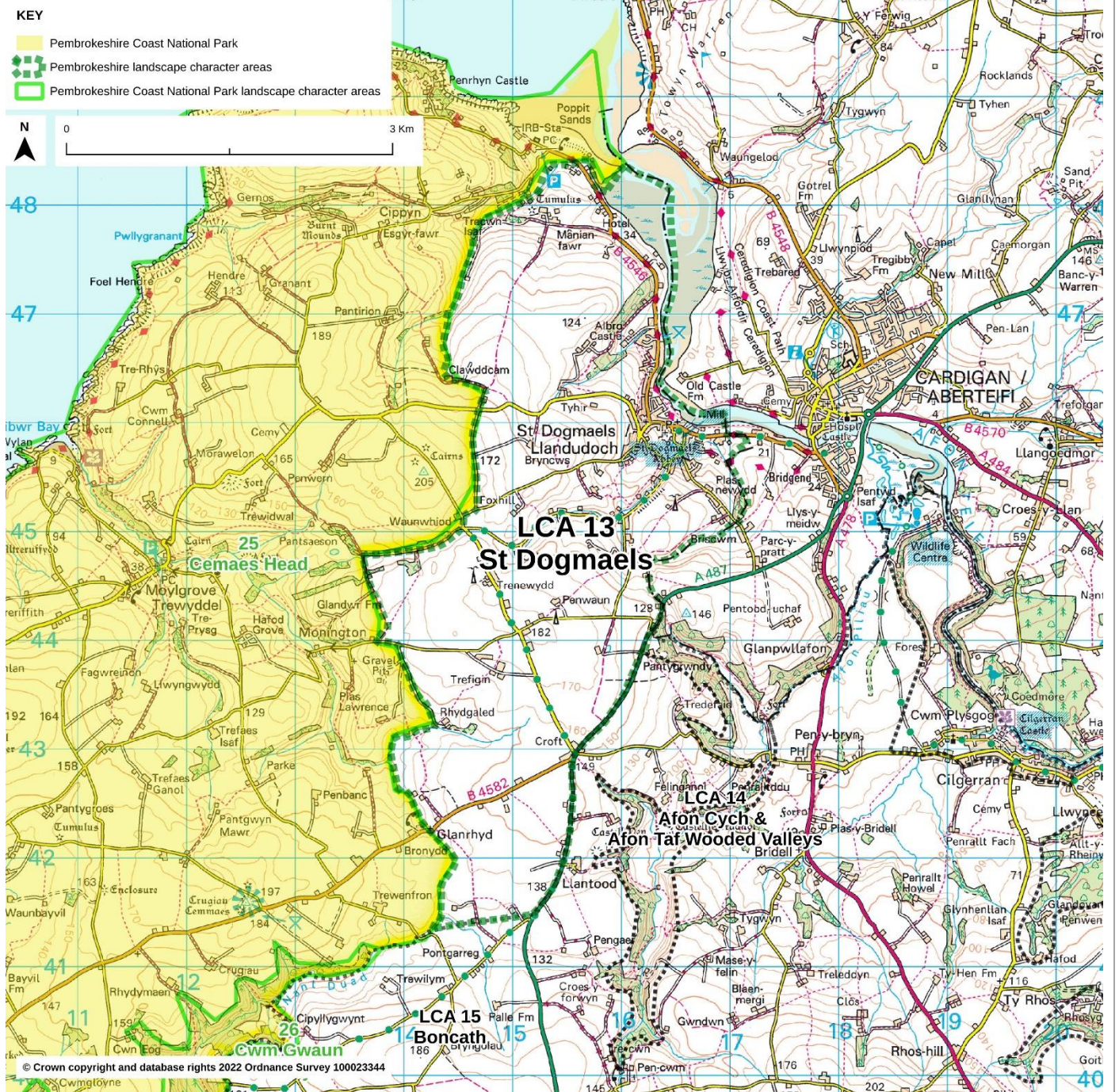
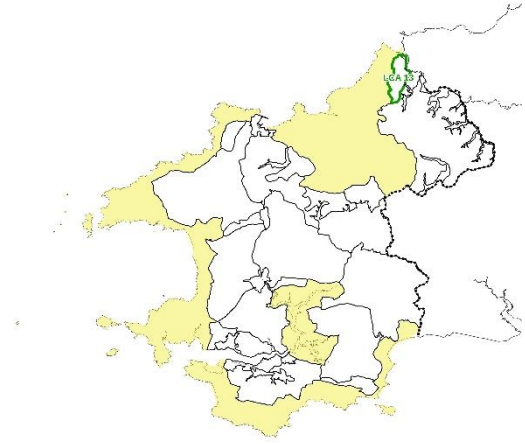
***Bold italic*** text indicates the prevailing aspect area where one exists



## Landscape Character Area 13: St Dogmaels

### Location

This area is located on the far north eastern edge of the County near the mouth of the Teifi west of Cardigan and between the National Park and boundary with Ceredigion.







View across the area into the National Park near St Dogmaels



St Dogmaels Abbey



St Dogmaels at the water's edge

### Summary description

This area rises from the scenic River Teifi estuary to the north up steep partially wooded slopes onto a rolling pastoral landscape with a mix of large and small regular and irregular fields with hedgebank and hedgerow boundaries and incised by steep wooded valleys. The historic settlement of St Dogmaels with its Medieval Abbey is the main focus with scattered farmsteads and occasional isolated dwellings elsewhere.

### Key characteristics

- **Rising to 182m AOD at Croes-y Fran the land slopes down to the Teifi estuary to the north with some steep slopes adjacent to the river and tributary valleys. The land slopes more gently down to the south and west where the land is around 100m AOD.**
- **Dynamic tidal Teifi estuary including sand and gravel with silt, saltmarsh and dunes towards the coast lie in the Teifi SAC and SSSI.**
- Geology dominated by glacial and fluvio-glacial processes and boulder clay/till deposits with Ordovician mudstone slate lying centrally.
- **Primarily pastoral landscape mainly of improved grassland with some semi-improved grassland and limited arable to the south in large to small regular and irregular fields bounded by hedgerow and hedgebank boundaries with trees within managed hedges with gorse.**
- **Ancient woodlands and scrub in narrow and steep valley sides and along stream corridors with a scattering of small woodlands and plantations to north. Open to the south.**
- St Dogmaels is the largest settlement with sparse rural settlement pattern of farmsteads and isolated houses away from St Dogmaels inland and a relatively undeveloped and

open river edge along the Teifi.

- **St Dogmaels is focused on the ruins of the Medieval Abbey and numerous listed buildings within the town** along with the 19<sup>th</sup> century parish church forming the core of the Conservation Area **but distinctive linear development lies along the Teifi to the north and picturesquely climbs the wooded valley sides to the south west.**
- In the wider landscape scheduled monuments include Foxhill Round Barrow and a baptismal pool.
- To south on the eastern fringes of Preselis evidence of historic industrial activity such as listed chimney at Llanfyrnach Mine and associated small scale tip and listed chapel at Glandwr to the south.
- The northern half of the area lies within the Lower Teifi Valley Landscape of Special Historical Interest.
- **Strong sense of place with scenic views along Teifi estuary with backcloth of wooded and pasture valley sides and unspoilt skylines.**
- **Open rolling windswept character of the upper slopes contrast with the intimate, sheltered and enclosed wooded valleys.**
- **Key views are from the Wales Coast Path, from Poppit Sands and from leisure sailors on the Teifi, National Cycle Route 82 and also on higher open slopes with views to the north and towards the Preselis to the south west.**
- **Area acts a strong rural setting of St Dogmaels Conservation area and the National Park.**
- **Sense of tranquillity especially along the Teifi and in enclosed valleys such as Cwm Degwel.**
- Culturally a strong sense of place focussed primarily on the Teifi and St Dogmaels but also influenced by the Preselis with a high incidence of Welsh speakers and local cultural traditions.

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

### Landscape change

- Management of agricultural fields and associated boundaries is varied and gaps in hedgerows and post and wire fencing are now more common.
- Wireless masts around Treenydd and St Dogmaels and small scale wind turbines to the west form vertical man made features inland.
- St Dogmaels village has extended with some modern development including to the north.
- Some recreational and visitor pressure on the Teifi and fringes.
- Potential for flooding of low lying coastal areas.

### Landscape guidelines

- Conserve and enhance the historic character of St Dogmaels and its abbey and the setting of the settlement limiting expansion into noticeable locations or along the Teifi.
- Conserve the Teifi, its edges and its relatively unspoilt valley sides backcloth, managing recreational pressures to allow enjoyment of the resource.
- Improve interpretation of historic features such as the abbey and church.
- Conserve and enhance traditional field boundaries retaining strong tree cover such as in Cwm Degwel.
- Retain settlement pattern and appearance of traditional buildings and conserve historic landscape elements.
- Limit the scale and number of further vertical elements such as turbines and avoid adversely affecting the setting of the Teifi, St Dogmaels and the National Park.



**Adjacent National Park landscape character areas:**

LCA25 Cemmaes Head

**Adjacent/nearby National Park seascape character areas:**

SCA1 Teifi Estuary- 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
<b><i>107 – moderate</i></b> 009-moderate CRD339 – high CRD343 – high CRD525 – moderate	<b><i>46126 – high</i></b> 46130 – high 46124 – outstanding CRD220 – outstanding CRD229 – outstanding CRD251 - outstanding	<b><i>005 – moderate</i></b> 018 – moderate 003 – moderate CRD033 – moderate CRD035 – moderate CRD031 – moderate CRD032 – moderate CRD037 – high	<b><i>211</i></b> 013 045 047 083 084	554 – low 017 – moderate CRD097 – low CRD092 – low

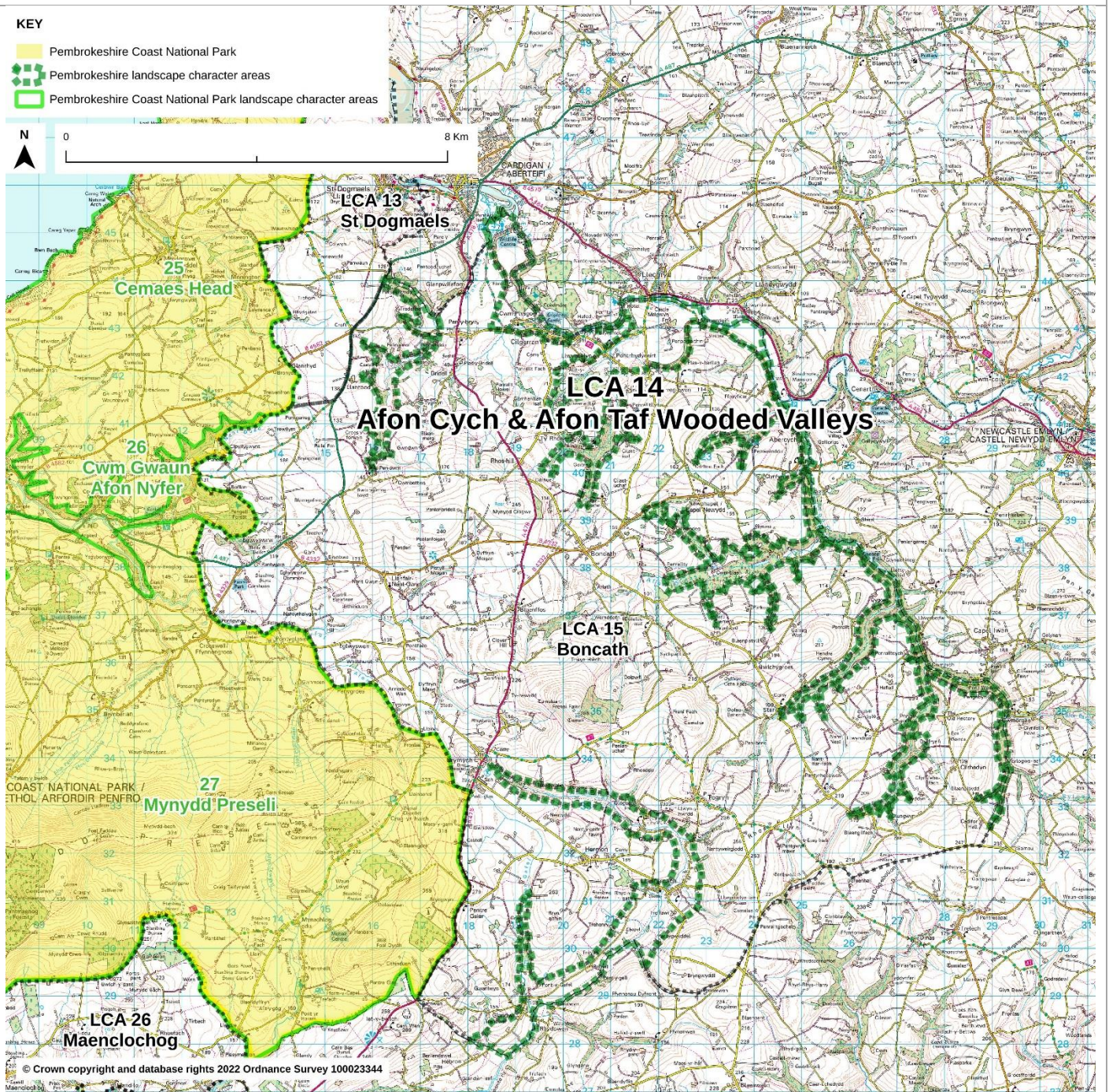
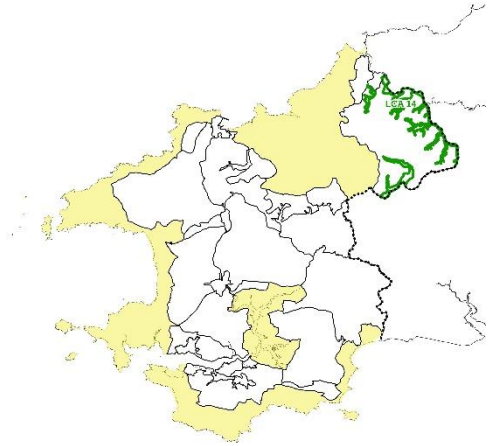
***Bold italic*** text indicates the prevailing aspect area where one exists



## Landscape Character Area 14: Afon Cych and Afon Taf Wooded Valleys

### Location

This series of separate valleys are located in north east Pembrokeshire in the catchment of the Teifi and Taf and bordering both Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire.







Close view of typical valley floor



Typical view across wooded valley



Cilgerran Castle within village

### Summary description

These narrow wooded lowland valleys are part of the Teifi and Taf catchments, cutting through a rolling landscape, and have fast flowing streams along the valley bottoms and steep sides covered in dense stands of broadleaf and coniferous woodland, some ancient. Between the woodland lies pasture in generally small irregular fields with wet rough grazing. Historic Cilgerran with its castle is the largest settlement, along with the bordering village of Llechryd and the small village of Abercych, but otherwise there is a general absence of settlement, apart from farmsteads and groups of farm buildings and occasional historic parks and gardens with associated listed structures.

### Key characteristics

- **The steep sided edge and hinterland of the Teifi around Cilgerran, the steep sided small tributary valleys with sinuous watercourses draining into the Teifi** ie Afon Piliau, Afon Morgenau, Afon Dyfan flowing into the Teifi, the Afon Dulas, Afon Cneifa, Afon Pedran and Afon Pibydd joining the Afon Cych to the east which itself runs into the Teifi and the Afon Taf and Afon Gafel draining to the south.
- **Slopes vary from 25-75m in height and some valleys widen out and some have flat bottoms.**
- Underlying geology of glacial and fluvio glacial deposits and meltwater channels. Areas of flood plain with bedrock formed by underlying Ordovician slate which has been quarried in places but is now derelict.
- Coedmor National Nature Reserve and Cilgerran Wildlife Centre are partly located within

the area along the Teifi and River Teifi SAC and SSSIs which extend up the Afon Cych and Dulas valleys.

- **Mixed age broadleaf woodland often on the steeper slopes, some ancient, with conifer and mixed plantations in places, all of which heighten the sense of enclosure and apparent height of the valleys.**
- **Between the woodland blocks and patches the valleys are primarily pastoral and improved grassland with some semi-improved grassland, wet rough grazing and arable in small hedged and hedgebank bounded regular and irregular fields.**
- **The historic linear settlement of Cilgerran is distinctive with its castle located above the dramatic steep wooded valley of the Teifi.**
- **Outside Cilgerran, the settlement pattern is sparse and rural with a limited number of farmsteads and some isolated dwellings- it is less settled in the Afon Cych and its tributaries to the south east.**
- Small scale and boutique caravan and camping such as at Forest Farm north west of Cilgerran.
- Partly within the Lower Teifi Landscape of Special Historic interest limited to the north whilst the wider area is rich in prehistoric and medieval and post-medieval interest.
- **Series of scheduled monument promontory forts** such as Castell Felin-Ganol in the Afon Piliu valley to the north and Cilgerran Castle.
- **Registered Parks and Gardens** at Castell Malgwyn, Ffynone and Cilwendeg **with associated listed structures lie partly in the valleys, enjoying the often dramatic juxtaposition between the tops and the valley sides.**
- **Listed Buildings and structures are concentrated in Cilgerran but also scattered across the valleys such as fine houses, old farmsteads and the bridge at Cwm Cych.**
- **The combination of topography, fast flowing watercourses, woodland and sparse historic settlement give the valleys a strong sense of place.**
- **There are numerous scenic, yet intimate, views and vistas in the valleys framed by landform and woodland with unspoilt skylines.**
- **The enclosed and sheltered valleys have a high level of tranquillity being inaccessible in places and are traversed by a sparse network of minor roads, tracks and footpaths with an absence of main roads.**
- Cultural influences are focussed on the Teifi and include Welsh place names indicating the Welsh language and cultural heritage remain strong.
- \* **Note: Bold text** indicates key characteristics and qualities contributing most to sense of place.

### Landscape change

- Replacement of ancient woodlands with conifers and mixed plantations.
- Management of agricultural fields and associated boundaries is varied and gaps in hedgerows and post and wire fencing are now more common.
- Development pressures to extend existing settlements.
- Recreational and tourism infrastructure such as caravan and camping increasing.
- Former small quarry areas are generally naturalised.
- Light pollution from settlements outside the area, including Crymych.
- National Development Framework pre-assessed area for wind energy overlaps valleys to the east which could lead to a substantial change in context character.
- Increasing run off in periods of extreme weather.

### Landscape guidelines

- Ensure longer term woodland management is appropriate to aid water retention, including replacement of conifers with broadleaves especially at edges and along riparian corridors.
- Manage watercourses and corridors to improve flood management and water retention.
- Conserve and enhance traditional field boundaries retaining strong tree cover.



- Retain settlement pattern and appearance of traditional buildings and conserve historic landscape elements.
- Locate and manage camping and caravan sites in line with separate County guidance.
- Locate and plan wind energy developments in the least sensitive landscapes at an appropriate scale especially avoiding the setting of the National Park and avoiding prominent skylines.
- Reinforce Welsh culture with retention of Welsh place names.

**Adjacent National Park landscape character areas:**

None-  
Ceredigion County to the north and Carmarthenshire County Council Special Landscape Area: Teifi Valley to the east.

**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
<b><i>002 – high</i></b>	<b><i>46241 – high</i></b>	<b><i>028 – moderate</i></b>	001	<b><i>381 - high</i></b>
001 – moderate	46118 – high	007 – high	002	545 – high
005 – moderate	42474 – high	037 – moderate	002	370 – low
007 – moderate	46119 – high	036 – moderate	003	884 – low
008 – moderate	46135 – outstanding	032 – moderate	004	554 – low
	46116 – outstanding	033 – moderate	005	370 – moderate
	46117 - outstanding	031 – moderate	005	382 – moderate
	46121 - moderate	026 – moderate	006	823 – moderate
	46122 – moderate	012 – moderate	009	454 - moderate
	46237 – moderate	025 – moderate	011	431 – moderate
	42434 – moderate	027 – moderate	012	854 – moderate
	46238 – moderate	008 – moderate		492 – moderate
	46239 – moderate	011 – moderate		352 – moderate
				906 – moderate
				668 – moderate
				766 – moderate

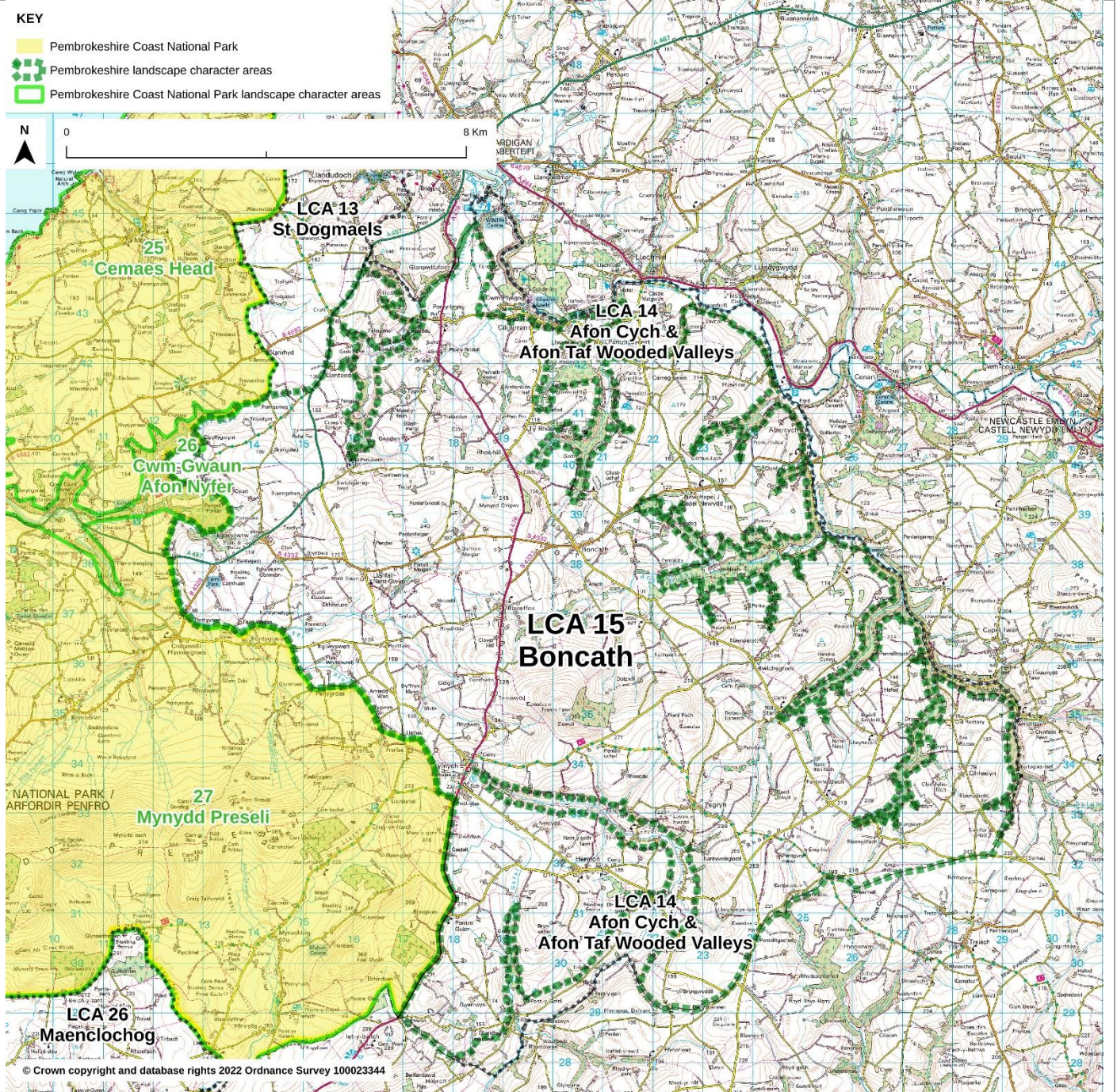
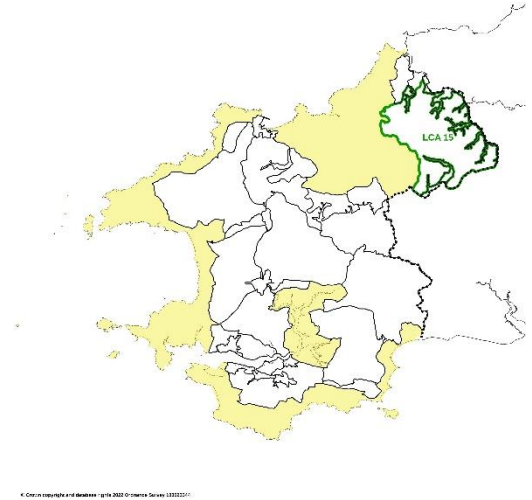
***Bold italic*** text indicates the prevailing aspect area where one exists



## Landscape Character Area 15: Boncath

### Location

This area is located at north east Pembrokeshire lying between the Preselis to the south west and the Teifi and Cych valleys to the north and east bordering both Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire.







View southwest from near Bwlch y Groes



View east towards Cilgerran

### Summary description

An area of rolling pastoral farmland to the north of the Preselis with a few areas of grazed moorland and a conifer plantation on the exposed hilltop of Frenni Fawr. The area is incised with small steep sided wooded valleys with watercourses feeding into the Afon Taf and Afon Cych. Settlements are generally linear in character with some having industrial origins such as Crymych, with others having a more rural historic character such as Eglwysrwr. There is a strong historic character in parts with some prehistoric and medieval interest as well as some registered parks and gardens.

### Key characteristics

- **Rolling land rising from around 17m AOD near the Teifi to the north to around 235m AOD around Crymych to the south with a number of distinct domed open hills such as Frenni Fawr and Frenni Fach which are outliers east of the Preselis at 395m AOD and 301m AOD respectively.**
- **Rolling landform incised by small valleys with watercourses linking into the Teifi to the north, the Taf to the south (both in LCA 14) and the Nyfer to the west.**
- Geology is dominated by Ordovician slates and sandstones forming the lower slopes of the Preseli Hills. Narrow flood plain/drift fill also located along with the upper part of the Afon Nyfer system. Likely to be underlain by glacial deposits and infilled bases of adjacent steep valley sides.
- **Predominantly improved pasture with some semi-improved pasture, rough grazing and pockets of arable land with regular fields on higher ground and irregular patterns more apparent around valleys.**
- **Hedges and hedgerows are both trimmed and outgrown, some with trees on lower slopes such as around the Taf valley.**
- **Woodland cover tends to be small scale and linear in character, some being ancient**

**woodland**, and there are blocks of conifer plantations east of Frenni Fawr.

- **Patches of acid grassland and dry heath present on more exposed hilltops** including Frenni Fawr and Frenni Fach commons.
- **Settlements are linear in character at their historic core, and where elevated, feel exposed.** Crymych is the largest settlement with associated large 20c school which dominates the southern edge whilst **Eglwysrw has a more historic character with its Conservation Area and listed buildings** such as the Serjeants Inn and Courthouse.
- **Outside the linear settlements there is a scattering of farmsteads, dwellings and larger country houses with listed buildings including churches, chapels, dwellings and mills.**
- **Within the area, overlooking the adjacent valleys in LCA 14, there are parts of Castell Malgwyn, and gentry mansions at Ffynone and Cilwendeg Registered Parks and Gardens and associated listed houses and structures.**
- **Prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments lie on higher ground such as round barrows on Frenni Fawr and Frenni Fach** and defended enclosures and there are various medieval mottes/baileys on the northern fringes of the Preselis such as Castell Eglwysrw and there are post medieval quarries.
- Lower Teifi Valley Landscapes of Special Historic and Mynydd Preseli Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest on the fringes to the north and south respectively.
- Two A roads pass through the area linking to Cardigan to the north- the A478 and A487 with interlinking B road. Traffic is a source of movement and noise locally but elsewhere there is a loose network of minor lanes and footpaths linking the small settlements.
- National Cycle Route 47 runs east to west, and 82 to the north west.
- **There are fine expansive views over the area, especially from Frenni Fawr and Frenni Fach, as well as from the adjacent Preselis. The LCA acts as important part of their setting, and they act as a strong backcloth.**
- **There is a strong relationship between this area, the Preselis, the Teifi and the incised valleys of LCA 14 with this area acting as part of the setting.**
- **The area is generally tranquil away from the A and B roads.**
- There are a few small scale wind turbines on local high points.
- The Preseli Hills are locally considered as mountains with strong cultural traditions. Culturally, the area retains a locally significant Welsh speaking culture and was the location for social unrest of the 19<sup>th</sup> century tithe wars. Some settlements are former industrial communities including Glogue and Hermon with Crymych becoming the focus for Welsh language cultural activity during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Teifi Valley is also noted for the survival of the Welsh language reflected in place names and culture.

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

### Landscape change

- There is an increasing presence of modern agricultural buildings associated with the individual farm units which are out of scale and character with the area.
- Management of agricultural fields and associated boundaries is varied and gaps in hedgerows and post and wire fencing are now more common.
- The area contains a significant level of recent development which is out of character such as concrete blocks and cladding used in commercial buildings eg Crymych and modern brick built housing estates, although stone and render feature in some individual buildings and extensions.
- There is further development pressure to extend existing settlements.
- One Planet developments and new uses such as vineyards are changing character at a small scale.
- Recreational and tourism infrastructure such as caravan and camping increasing.
- Former small quarry areas are generally naturalised.



- Light pollution from settlements including Crymych.
- National Development Framework pre-assessed area for wind energy overlaps valleys to the south east which could lead to a substantial change in character.

### Landscape guidelines

- Conserve and enhance the heathland and moorland character of Frenni Fawr and Frenni Fach whilst managing access.
- Conserve and enhance traditional field boundaries including hedgebanks and hedgerows retaining strong tree cover where appropriate.
- Ensure longer term woodland management is appropriate, including replacement of conifers with broadleaves especially at edges and along riparian corridors.
- Retain settlement pattern and appearance of traditional buildings and conserve historic landscape elements particularly in farm complexes, avoiding the development of new scattered rural dwellings.
- Locate and manage camping and caravan sites in line with County guidance.
- Locate and plan wind and solar energy developments in the least sensitive landscapes at an appropriate scale especially avoiding the setting of the National Park and avoiding prominent skylines and slopes.
- Reinforce Welsh culture with retention of Welsh place names.

### Adjacent National Park landscape character areas:

LCA25 Cemaes Head  
 LCA26 Cwm Gwaun/ Afon Nyler  
 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 Aspect Areas	Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas
<b>003 – moderate</b> 006 – low 105 – high	46136 – low 46140 – moderate 46319 – moderate 46318 – moderate 46142 – moderate 46454 – moderate 46133 – moderate 46132 – moderate 46237 – moderate 46239 – moderate 46122 – moderate 46126 – high 46118 – high 46119 – high 46120 – high 46134 – high 46141 – high 46137 – high 42455 – high 46241 – high 42474 – high 46117 – outstanding 46116 – outstanding 46135 – outstanding 42264 – outstanding	<b>029 – moderate</b> 007 – high 030 – moderate 037 – moderate 023 – moderate 060 – moderate 025 – moderate 028 – moderate 024 – moderate 018 – moderate 010 – moderate 020 – moderate 027 – moderate 036 – moderate	<b>007</b> 010 210 016	<b>431 – moderate</b> 554 – low 370 – low 884 – low 499 – moderate 454 – moderate 854 – moderate 906 – moderate 668 – moderate 766 – moderate 823 – moderate 920 – high 455 – high 510 – high 774 – high 545 – high 381 – high 587 – high

**Bold italic** text indicates the prevailing aspect area where one exists