



# Gower Landscape Character Assessment

March 2013





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## 1. Executive Summary

1.1 This Landscape Character Assessment Study was commissioned by the City and County of Swansea Council (CCS) in July 2012. It has been funded by CCS in partnership with The National Trust, the Countryside Council for Wales, the Rural Development Plan for Wales and The Heritage Lottery Fund.

1.2 The Study was managed by a Steering Group comprised of officers of the Gower Landscape Partnership, with the support of key stakeholders and co-sponsors of the project.

1.2 Current baseline data from the evaluated LANDMAP Aspects, surveyed in the City and County of Swansea by specialists using the LANDMAP methodology, was obtained from the Countryside Council for Wales. This data was scrutinised in detail and used as a common base, supplemented by detailed field work, in order to identify and demarcate candidate areas of common landscape character – *Landscape Character Areas*. These were mapped and described and the findings issued to the Steering Group for review and comment. These candidate Landscape Character Areas were presented for discussion and ratification to a day-long Technical Workshop held at the Civic Centre, Swansea. This was attended by Gower Landscape Partnership officers, technical officers of the Council (planning policy and nature conservation), the Gwent-Glamorgan Archaeological Trust, the Countryside Council for Wales, The Gower Society, and representatives of Gower Walking Festival and Tourism Swansea Bay. This Technical Workshop allowed for review and refinement of the candidate Landscape Character Areas, through a process of detailed deliberation and amendments, leading to final confirmation of their names, geographical extent and the position of their boundaries. There was also a wide-ranging discussion of common themes and issues arising from the work to date, in respect of the forces for landscape change and potential

management and policy approaches which might be considered in order to address these concerns.

1.3 In all, 41 discrete Landscape Character Areas of varying size have been identified within the Gower AONB and the area of Swansea contiguous with the AONB to the north of the boundary. In several cases, the landward boundary of the Landscape Character Area identified does not correspond with the AONB boundary, meaning that the common landscape character continues into the administrative area of Swansea beyond the AONB, implying that sensitive areas of high value landscapes may also lie outside the AONB although adjacent to it.

1.4 Data Sheets have been produced for each Landscape Character Area. Within these sheets, detailed descriptions of the main attributes are included, derived from detailed scrutiny of the five underlying LANDMAP Aspect datasets - Visual & Sensory Landscape, Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Historical Landscape and Cultural Landscape - and amplified as appropriate, using the observations from our field work and our independent experience and professional judgement. An oblique angle aerial photograph and other representative photographs taken within the Landscape Character Area are included to illustrate its general appearance, and to highlight particular forces for landscape change relevant to each area. The Study has also identified in some detail the key characteristics or special qualities of each Landscape Character Area by identifying the key AONB special qualities present in each case. In addition, any trends in the state of the management of the landscape which can be readily discerned have been noted, such as the changes in field boundaries resulting from different agricultural practices, or the changes to vegetation in relation to different management practices on common land. Finally, management guidance notes for each Landscape Character Area have also been set out, noting the main points to be taken into account in both the land use

planning and land management processes. These are derived from identifying and describing forces for landscape change - using an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats - and then examining these in relation to the AONB special qualities present in any given Landscape Character Area.

1.5 It should be noted that detailed reference to underlying LANDMAP Aspect Data is required when considering the detailed assessment of landscape character in relation to any given development proposal or land management activity. In addition, the whole of Gower has been subject to detailed Historic Landscape Characterisation, and this important historical and archaeological resource should also be utilised in the land use, development and land management context. This resource is accessible via the Gwent Glamorgan Archaeological Trust (GGAT). The Registered Historic Landscapes at West Gower and Cefn Bryn are material considerations in the planning process.

1.6 The special qualities of the landscape have also been described in summary form, abstracted from information provided by the Gower Landscape Partnership. These are important in determining planning policy objectives in the emerging Local Development Plan (LDP) and informing the production of subsequent revisions to the statutory AONB Management Plan.

1.7 As a follow-on from this Study, in statutory land use planning terms, this document has two potential roles. Under the emerging City and County of Swansea LDP, following appropriate public consultation, it may be adopted as the basis for specific Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG); and it may also be formally incorporated into the adopted LDP with the status of a Background Paper forming part of the required sound evidence base.



## 2. Introduction

2.1 This Landscape Character Assessment Study was commissioned by the City and County of Swansea Council (CCS) in July 2012. The Brief was issued by the Gower Landscape Partnership. The Gower Landscape Partnership has been established from a wide cross section of organisations to bid for Heritage Lottery Fund monies under their Landscape Partnership programme, and from the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013, which is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The CCS is the lead body in the Partnership.

2.2 This project has received funding through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 which is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. It has also received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund under its Landscape Partnership programme. Other funding partners include the Countryside Council of Wales (CCW), CCS and The National Trust.

### Need

2.3 The purpose of the Landscape Character Assessment Study is to support the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid by identifying how the area is unique, *as a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements, be it natural (soil, landform) and/or human (for example, settlement and development) in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.*

2.4 The authors of the Study were required to work directly with the Gower Landscape Partnership Steering Group to develop an impartial assessment of landscape character of the HLF bid area, having particular regard to the relationship be-

tween the land and sea and to include special comment on the seascape, where appropriate.

2.4 The Study Methodology draws upon baseline data gathered by CCW using the LANDMAP methodology developed by CCW and used throughout Wales for the systematic assessment of landscape character, in order to aid policy formulation, development control decisions and the evolution of land management policies in the pursuit of sustainable development.

2.5 The study encompasses all of the area of the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and land to the north of the AONB boundary within the administrative area of the City and County of Swansea as far as the main railway line between Gowerton and Loughor.

### City and County of Swansea Local Development Plan

2.6 CCS is in the course of preparing its Local Development Plan (LDP). The new planning framework requires such a Plan to have a sound evidence base and a key issue for plan preparation will be landscape, especially its character and sensitivity to development, and its capacity to absorb change without detriment to its character. CCS is also required to put in place a Management Plan for Gower AONB.

2.7 It is intended that the Landscape Character Assessment arising from this Study may form a Background Paper in support of the emerging LDP and, following appropriate public consultation, may form the basis of specific Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to the LDP, once it has been adopted.

## 3. The Study Brief

3.1 The Gower Landscape Partnership set out the following explicit requirements in the Study Brief:

- Use CCW's LANDMAP as a foundation for the Study methodology;
- Adhere to the current national guidance related to Landscape Character Assessment, including guidance related to landscape capacity and sensitivity. The definition of both landscape areas and types should be made explicit in the text;
- Define what is meant by landscape in terms of the European Landscape Convention; and link this directly to the AONB's existing special qualities - land and sea;
- Identify and describe *Landscape Character Areas* that provide more specific geographic representation of the area's special qualities and sense of place, particularly remoteness, tranquillity and wildness;
- Identify any additional special qualities that may arise from the assessment, as derived initially from the description of the Aspect Areas that underpin the *Landscape Character Areas*;
- Provide a clear understanding of the area's landscape and settlement pattern, including a description of the key characteristics of the settlements and their relationship with the landscape setting.
- Assess development threats and impacts - both within and from outside of the area - to understand what implications different types of development could have on the defined *Landscape Character Areas* or particular viewpoints within these Areas;
- Provide management recommendations with respect to existing and potential recreation pressures and visitor management issues, including proposed recreational/access developments and promotion;
- Provide for each special quality identified in each *Landscape Character Area* an understanding of condition, trend, existing management and tolerance to change so that they can be mapped;
- Provide management recommendations with respect to other factors influencing landscape change, including agri-environment and forestry policies;
- Utilise existing base mapping and contextual infor-



- information obtained from the Steering Group and relevant partners to formulate boundaries and better understand the Study area's character;
- Resolve anomalies and inconclusive boundaries either between *Landscape Character Areas* or for areas that extend beyond the area's boundary, through consultation with the Gower Landscape Partnership Steering Group and verification in the field. Field work may require night time assessments to ascertain impacts on the area's special qualities.
- Provide a rationale and justification for the identified *Landscape Character Area* characteristics and boundaries to be included in the final report. This should include a map which indicates boundaries;
- Refer directly to the existing Historical Characterisation Assessment of the AONB and the current Historical Characterisation Assessment work being undertaken for the Crofty / Penclawdd and Gowerton area;
- Consult with the Gower Landscape Partnership Steering Group regularly throughout the assessment process.

## 4. The Study Methodology

### 4.1 Background

4.1.1 This Landscape Character Assessment has been undertaken in recognition of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) created by the Council of Europe, which promotes landscape protection, management and planning, and was signed by the UK Government in 2006. The ELC defines landscape as:

*'An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.'*

4.1.2 The candidate '*Landscape Character Areas*' were identified from information derived primarily from the current quality-assured LANDMAP Visual & Sensory Aspect, data gathered by the various 'Aspect Specialists' and obtained from CCW, in accordance with the required methodology set out by

CCW in June 2002. This was augmented by direct reference to the current quality-assured LANDMAP Geological Landscapes Aspect data – the complex geology is a key determinant of the varied landscape character across Gower. The preliminary identification of candidate Landscape Character Areas was based primarily on landform, land cover and settlement pattern. Further Landscape Character Area boundary refinements were made on the basis of Historical Landscape and Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas in appropriate cases.

### 4.2 Landscape Assessment based upon LANDMAP

4.2.1 LANDMAP is the Welsh approach to the process of landscape assessment. It is a Geographical Information System (GIS)-based resource, where information about the landscape is recorded, organised and evaluated into a nationally consistent spatial data set. LANDMAP is a partnership programme between CCW and all of the Unitary and National Park Authorities of Wales. LANDMAP has been developed to provide an information resource that gives equal consideration to all facets of the landscape for use in sustainable landscape decision-making. Its value as an information resource is noted in *Planning Policy Wales (5th Edition, Nov 2012; para. 5.3.13)*

4.2.2 LANDMAP information focuses attention on the individual parts of the landscape that are most important and in need of sustaining, but in a context that also values the ordinary as well as the spectacular landscape, in order to uphold Wales' diverse landscape heritage.

4.2.3 The core of LANDMAP information comprises five spatially-related datasets, recording information about the physical, ecological, visual and sensory, historical and cultural influences on the landscape. *It is the use of all five layers of information that promotes sustainable landscape decision-making*, as

what may be less important in one particular layer may be of high importance in another. *Giving all five layers equal consideration ensures no aspect of the landscape is overlooked.* Specialist surveyors in their particular Aspect collect LANDMAP Information in a structured and rigorous way that is defined by the LANDMAP methodology (CCW, 2001 and updated in 2003). More recently, socio-economic information and indicators have been incorporated alongside LANDMAP Information to provide contextual information to aid the understanding of the influences of socio-economic processes in directing the nature and scale of landscape change.

4.2.4 The process for developing LANDMAP Information is the same for all five evaluated Aspects. Initially, the study area is classified into different 'landscape types' which are defined as discrete geographical areas; these are known as Aspect Areas. It should be noted that 'landscape types' are generically described and can occur in one or more geographical locations; as distinct from 'Landscape Character Areas', which are unique individual areas of common character with a specific name and which may contain one or more 'landscape types'. Aspect Areas are mapped and 'Collector Forms' are completed by entering the compiled data for each identified area. The information on the Collector Forms is obtained primarily from desk study work, which may be refined by field assessment; however some questions can only be answered properly through field assessment. A technical report is also completed to explain judgements and any deviations from the method. A Quality Assurance procedure is then carried out on the assessment, in order to ensure consistency and quality control of the outputs.

4.2.5 *Table 1, overleaf*, summarises the stages of the development of LANDMAP information gathering, and its subsequent application to land use planning and the development of this Landscape Character Assessment Study.

C O R E  S T A G E S	Stage 1 Orientation
	o Project planning
	Stage 2 Creation of Spatial Framework (GIS) and Database
	Evaluated Aspects (Quality Assured)
	o Geological Landscape
	o Landscape Habitats
	o Visual & Sensory
	o Historic Landscape
	o Cultural Landscape
	o Public Perception
	o Stage 3 (Optional)
	o Landscape Characterisation (Development of Landscape Character Areas from core LANDMAP Information above)
	o Secondary Products (e.g. Supplementary Planning Guidance, Design Guidelines, Landscape Strategy)

4.2.6 The first step in developing the core *LANDMAP Information* for each ‘Evaluated Aspect’, as shown in the table, was to classify the Study Area into geographically identifiable ‘Aspect Areas’ of common characteristics and qualities (identified as polygons in a single GIS layer). This was done using the prescriptive hierarchical classification system unique to the methodology for each Evaluated Aspect, such as the Geological Landscape or Visual & Sensory.

4.2.7 Then, for each Aspect Area identified, specialists developed a survey record that describes and documents the landscape character, qualities and features. Management recommendations and urgency of management have also been recorded for each Aspect Area, in addition to an overall evaluation of value, current condition and predicted trend. Where appropriate, an assessment of an Aspect Area’s tolerance to certain changes has been assessed.

4.2.8 LANDMAP information is managed through a GIS. Each spatial layer can be viewed independently or overlaid by other Evaluated Aspects (or other compatible datasets), in order to interrogate the data to support analysis and decision-making.

4.2.9 LANDMAP has the following important attributes:

- it provides users with the opportunity to combine environmental, cultural and heritage information with economic and social indicators to assist with sustainable decision-making
- it provides a framework of information for developing landscape strategies and guidelines that reflect an area’s sense of place; and ensures the characteristics that define that sense of place are recognised and are managed in a sustainable manner
- it provides a comprehensive and integrated baseline of information, against which decisions can be assessed and change can be monitored.
- it incorporates socio-economic information as a context for landscape changes
- it assists decision-making at a range of levels. from the local to the national scale
- it facilitates transparency in decision-making.

4.2.10 In isolation, *LANDMAP* is not a sustainable development tool and is not used as such. It is, however, a major source of information and knowledge which is used for the basis of decision support in the arena of sustainable management of the Welsh landscape.

4.3 Landscape Characterisation - the Process of Identification and definition of Landscape Character Areas

4.3.1 By examination of the LANDMAP Visual & Sensory Aspect classifications at Level 1, then level 2, e.g. *rolling lowland*, the draft candidate *Landscape Character Areas* began to emerge. Further detail was then added by examination of Level 3 data, e.g. *mosaic rolling lowland*. In some areas, examination

to the greater detail of Level 4 was required, e.g. *rolling farmland mosaic*, in order to define candidate Landscape Character Area boundaries which are defensible with the required degree of confidence.

4.3.2 The next stage was to identify and delineate the patterns of the natural aspects, from examination of the Landscape Habitats Aspect data and the Geological Landscape Aspect data. In some instances, it was not possible to achieve a suitable demarcation based upon these three data sets alone, and so reference to the Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape Aspects data has provided additional information, which has allowed for a final judgement to be made on the extent and boundaries of some of the Landscape Character Areas. Further refinement was achieved by overlaying the Historical Landscape and Cultural Landscape Aspects data onto the above assembled information, including reference to published and emerging Historic Landscape Characterisation information. In defining several of the Landscape Character Areas, Historical and Cultural Aspects data were pivotal, notably at Penrice and Rhossili & Middleton.

4.3.3 Targeted field survey was then undertaken, in order to verify some of the inter-relationships between Aspects, and also to achieve boundary verification prior to the confirmation of the candidate Landscape Character Areas. These proposed ‘candidate Landscape Character Areas’ were then presented to a Technical Workshop in November 2012, convened by the Gower Landscape Partnership Steering Group, for detailed discussion and amendment, as required, then for approval before proceeding to the next stage of the character assessment.

4.3.4 The final stage of this process was to scrutinise the agreed candidate Landscape Character Areas so as to create clearly defined and mutually exclusive Landscape Character Areas. Again, targeted field survey allowed for verification of judge

ments (goodness of fit) made in the desk evaluation process. A record of any judgements or decisions regarding cross-boundary matters or contentious issues has been retained, in the interests of transparency and accountability.

4.3.5 Out of this process, it has been possible to identify the 'special qualities' of the Gower AONB, particularly as expressed through the identification of the *key characteristics* of any given Landscape Character Area. Appropriate supporting photographs have been included in order to illustrate these points. An essential output of this process has also been to take cognisance of the discernible trends in the landscape - these were noted in outline in the LANDMAP Visual & Sensory Aspect data and from our experience and observations during the field verification - and to examine the landscape and visual implications of these trends, in order to make appropriate management recommendations for each discrete Landscape Character Area. Many of these forces for landscape change relate to management activities, landscape elements or features not subject to the development planning process or subject to development control.

4.3.6 The identification of candidate LCAs and their verification through detailed fieldwork was undertaken by a team of three Chartered Landscape Architects - John Campion CMLI, Anthony Jellard CMLI and Rob Malcomson CMLI. The use of three landscape surveyors working in tandem with these qualifications, and with a wide experience of landscape and visual assessment work, was a deliberate approach designed to eliminate any personal bias and to achieve a consensus judgement in each case. The educational disciplines of this team embraced landscape design and management, geology, ecology and town planning.

## 5. Baseline LANDMAP Data

### Commentary

5.1 The baseline LANDMAP data collected for each Aspect is subject to a rigorous process of Quality Assurance, put in place by CCW for the collection of data using the revised methodology effective from June 2003. Notwithstanding this process, we were not able to agree with the demarcation of some of the underlying Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas identified within Gower AONB, such as the extremely large Llanddewi Aspect Area [SWNSVS876]. We considered that some identifiable areas with distinctive Visual and Sensory attributes were not acknowledged by the Visual & Sensory Aspect specialist, and so we have used our own expertise in this field and our professional judgement to amend the baseline information, such as the small but locally distinctive landscape feature of Burry Pill, which we consider warrants its own Landscape Character Area and has been assessed as such.

### Support Role of other LANDMAP Aspect Areas

5.2 The nature of the Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas is such that they tend to be much larger in extent and less detailed in their descriptions than those defined for the other four evaluated Aspects. The role of Cultural Landscape characteristics therefore tends to be less crucial than the other Aspects in the precise demarcation of LCA boundaries, especially when the required sequence of overlaying mapped data from the evaluated Aspects is taken into consideration. We found that there was a strong positive correlation within much of the south of Gower between the Visual and Sensory and the Geological Aspect data. This is particularly evident when looking at the upland and lowland commons, in contrast to the surrounding enclosed farmland. Historical Landscape Aspect data was very important in identifying and demarcating LCA boundaries in a number of

cases and this data was reviewed in conjunction with the relevant published and emerging Historic Landscape Characterisation work.

## 6. Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

### 6.1 An Overview of the Gower AONB Landscape Character

6.1.1 The Gower landscape varies considerably from north to south and east to west across the peninsula, and from enclosed farmland and sheltered wooded valleys to wide open exposed upland and lowland commons. The coast varies from settled inner estuary along the north coast, to wild open sandy beaches and cliffs in the west and south west, and to more settled, small scale coves and bays with cliffs and beaches along the south coast moving to the east.

6.1.2 In the west, the underlying geology is very influential in determining the LCAs and drawing their boundaries. The landscape in the west is generally more open and the inland LCAs are much larger and readily discernible, relating to prominent high or conspicuously low-lying features, such as Rhossili Down and Llangennith Moors, respectively. The west coast and the Loughor Estuary are divided into large coastal LCAs, reflecting their large scale.

6.1.3 The massive open Old Red Sandstone ridge of Cefn Bryn is a defining focal feature in Gower, a visual reference point in much of the west and centre of the peninsula. To the north and east of Cefn Bryn, the landscape changes scale progressively to the east. The LCAs tend to become much smaller in extent and the long distance views so readily obtainable in the west become foreshortened, by the more gently rolling terrain and significant blocks of dense woodland which break up the farmland and separate the smaller lowland commons. The



deeply incised wooded valley LCAs at Parkmill and Bishopston Valley are sinuous linear features which reach northwards into the enclosed farmland of the eastern peninsula. The unusual large block of forestry at Cillibion Plantation LCA, almost connecting with the northern extremity of Parkmill, has an important visual effect in separating and defining the edges of large areas of adjacent commons at the Welsh Moor & Forest Moor, Pengwern Common and Cefn Bryn Common LCAs.

6.1.4 In the east, urban influences on landscape character are very significant along the south coast between the Mumbles Head in Limeslade LCA and Pwlldu & Caswell Bay, recurring at Pennard LCA, and along the eastern boundaries of the Clyne Common, Southgate & Pennard, Barland and Clyne Valley LCAs. In the north, in the three LCAs identified which lie partly or substantially beyond the AONB boundary, urban edges influence landscape character around the Crofty to Three Crosses, Llanmorlais and Dalton's Point LCAs.

## 6.2 Key Characteristics/Special Qualities of the Gower AONB Landscape

6.2.1 Planning Policy Wales states that ‘

*the primary objective for designating AONBs is the conservation and enhancement of their natural beauty. Development plan policies and development control decisions affecting AONBs should favour conservation of natural beauty, although it will also be appropriate to have regard to the economic and social well-being of the areas. Local authorities, other public bodies and other relevant authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to AONB purposes’ (PPW Edition 5, Nov 2012, para.5.3.5).*

6.2.2 The identification of special qualities and key characteristics plays an important role in understanding what it is which contributes to natural beauty and what people consider such special qualities to be. In the 2005 Residents Survey [source: *Gower Today*], 87% of residents who responded thought that

the quality of the environment and landscape was very important to their quality of life. The three landscape features identified most often by residents as giving Gower its special distinctive character were:

- Sandy beaches
- Cliffs
- Commons.

The presence of such landscape features has been duly noted where it occurs in the identified LCAs.

6.2.3 This has been amplified by commentary in relation to other discernible qualities which we have described as key characteristics - the building blocks which go together to make up the landscape of a given area of common character. These can be either positive elements or negative - sometimes the detrimental elements can outweigh the attractive features and have a characterising influence. For instance, the intrusive effects of hard urban edges onto very attractive scenery can erode the visual quality of otherwise unspoilt areas, such as at Southgate, where there is a harsh transition from the urban edge into the unusual and distinctive sand dune landscape of Pennard Burrows. In other areas, the visually intrusive effects of man-made power and communications infrastructure can reduce the feeling of remoteness and impinge on attractive views across open common land and coastal edges. Caravan sites are a particular concern in Gower AONB, especially those permanent sites on exposed coastal areas which are open to long views from visually sensitive locations. Again, specific management guidelines have been included to address this issue.

6.2.4 Where particular landscape elements which make a unique contribution to character are key to the conservation of landscape character - such as the traditional boundary hedgebanks or stone walls defining the edges of commons or separating fields - these have been noted, and specific management

guidelines have been provided to safeguard them and promote their long-term conservation. Where landscape elements are intrusive to the extent that they are detrimental to landscape character - such as overhead lines in particularly sensitive locations - specific management guidelines address the matter of placement underground.

## 6.3 The Gower Landscape Character Areas

This Landscape Character Assessment Study has identified and demarcated 41 discrete Landscape Character Areas within the defined Gower study area:

### LCA 1 Rhossili Bay

Centred on a 3-mile long arc of sandy beach, backed along the eastern side by the sharply rising landform of Rhossili Down, and to the north by the sand dunes at Llangennith Burrows.

### LCA 2 Rhossili & Middleton

Gently rolling farmland with a coastal character and more densely settled, separated from the larger and more sparsely settled Llanddewi & Reynoldston LCA adjacent to the east by a small but significant lowland stream valley at Pitton, just to the east of Middleton.

### LCA 3 Rhossili Down

A distinctive tract of prominent upland forming the westernmost high ground of the Gower peninsula. Providing the backdrop to Rhossili Bay, there is a strong coastal sense of place in this area of open, exposed rough grazing grassland, which is substantially common land, at an elevation of between 100 and 190m AOD.

### LCA 4 Hardings Down

A small inland hill that forms part of the western high ground of the Gower peninsula but is a distinctive landscape unit.

### LCA 5 Llangennith Moors

This LCA is a tract of unusual lowland moorland within Gower, ly-

ing at the back of extensive sand dune systems at Broughton and Hillend. just to the west of Port Eynon Point.

### **LCA 6 Whiteford**

A 3-mile long sandy beach, backed by extensive sand dunes with distinctive belts of coniferous woodland, beyond which lies the Loughor Estuary.

### **LCA 7 Llanmadoc Hill**

A distinctive upland area of open common land rising to 185m AOD and influenced by its coastal proximity.

### **LCA 8 Llangennith and Llanmadoc**

An area of well-contained, open rolling farmland encompassing these two nucleated settlements, situated below and wrapping around Llanmadoc Hill and the western slopes of Hardings Down.

### **LCA 9 Ryer's Down**

The easternmost and lowest of the four large areas of distinctive exposed common land overlying Old Red Sandstone in north-west Gower, rising to 114m AOD at its summit.

### **LCA 10 Burry Pill**

Burry Pill LCA is strongly based upon the sinuous lowland river valley landform which, although not deeply incised in its upper reaches, is set sufficiently below the surrounding rolling lowland farmland to have a strong sense of place.

### **LCA 11 Llanddewi and Reynoldston**

A very extensive LCA, a gently rolling lowland open farmland landscape on land ranging from 20m to 110m AOD, traversed by hedges, with a simple network of small roads bordered by hedge banks that connects the isolated small settlements, often characterised by a church tower.

### **LCA 12 Tears Point to Overton Mere**

A particularly fine stretch of coastal cliffs of indented form, partially covered by scrub, with rock outcrops, and backed by open rolling lowland farmland in the Llanddewi & Reynoldston LCA. It is defined in the west by Tears Point and in the east by Overton Mere,

### **LCA 13 Port Eynon Bay**

This LCA has a curved sandy and shingle beach, in the west backed by the tourist-influenced village and caravan park of Port Eynon; and in the east backed by the sand dunes at Horton, with wooded cliff slopes above and beyond to the east. The rocky headland of Port Eynon Point defines the south-western end of the Bay, whilst the eastern end is formed by the cliffs running along to Oxwich Point.

### **LCA 14 Penrice**

This LCA is a planned, formal estate landscape with a distinctive unique parkland and woodland character, which has minor coastal influences through glimpsed borrowed views through to the adjacent Oxwich Bay LCA.

### **LCA 15 Oxwich Bay**

This is mainly characterised by a long, curved sandy beach backed by the vegetated sand dunes of Oxwich Burrows – beyond which lies the distinctive enclosed wetland of Oxwich Marsh - and Nicholaston Burrows and cliffs to the east. The rocky headland of Oxwich Point defines the southern end of the Bay. Shire Combe, at the eastern extremity of Three Cliffs Bay marks the eastern end.

### **LCA 16 Nicholaston and Penmaen**

A relatively narrow band of rolling lowland farmland, sandwiched between the break of slope along the coast above Oxwich Bay and the break of slope at the base of the rising common land of Cefn Bryn. It wraps around the eastern end of Cefn Bryn and runs north to meet the distinctive wooded valley at Parkmill, and east as far as the stream valley at Pennard Pill, with Pennard Burrows beyond.

### **LCA 17 Cefn Bryn**

This LCA is a broad, imposing open ridge of exposed rough grazing grassland, ranging between 100m and 190mAOD, and highly visible from many parts of Gower and beyond to the north.

### **LCA 18 Cefn Bryn Common**

This LCA is distinct from the adjacent Cefn Bryn ridge as it occupies the broad tract of lower-lying, open common land below and to the north of Cefn Bryn.

### **LCA 19 Llanrhidian**

An area of rolling farmland landscape, with small fields bounded by hedgerows and a distinctive dip-and-scarp landform running east-west, parallel with and adjacent to the Loughor Estuary.

### **LCA 20 Loughor Estuary**

This coastal LCA is founded upon a very large expanse of flat estuarine marsh, with some areas of rough grazing, and extensive mud/silt flats, situated between the River Loughor and the rising ground of the landward rural landscape. It is located between the seaward end of the estuary at Whiteford Point and Salhouse Point at Crofty.

### **LCA 21 Welsh Moor and Forest Common**

This LCA encompasses two linked areas of lowland common land in close proximity which are characterised by their distinctive open rough grazing land, and enclosure at their southern boundaries by extensive tracts of woodland. This is an area of heath and marshy grassland situated within a wider area of improved grassland, on part of a gently sloping plateau sandstone/millstone grit.

### **LCA 22 Cillibion Plantation**

This LCA is characterised by a large, almost continuous tract of mixed woodland. It is comprised of a significant proportion of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, smaller areas of plantation broadleaved woodland and significant plantation coniferous woodland, with a small residual open element of marshy grassland.

### **LCA 23 Pengwern Common**

This is strongly based upon the area of grazed open common land, bounded by Cillibion Plantation in the west, surrounded largely by improved grassland in the mosaic farmland to the north and south, and by a narrow belt of wooded farmland at Cartersford Bridge, which effectively visually separates it from the adjacent Fairwood Common to the east.

### **LCA 24 Lunnon**

The Lunnon LCA is a continuous tract of enclosed mosaic rolling farmland which wraps around the north-eastern and north-western arms of the distinctive wooded valleys of the Parkmill LCA.

### **LCA 25 Parkmill**

This LCA has a very strong sense of place, which is largely defined by its dry valley landform, cut into the underlying limestone, and its mature woodland cover. The secluded and unspoilt nature of the woodland in the valley gives the area a peaceful feel of a wooded area that is not spoilt by strong urban influences, even on the southern outskirts at the small village of Parkmill with the busy main road (A4118).

### **LCA 26 Southgate and Pennard**

This LCA is characterised by settled farmland with discernible rural elements, but strongly urban-influenced along its western and eastern margins, at Southgate in the west and the edges of Kittle, Bishopston and Pyle in the east, along the boundary of the AONB.

### **LCA 27 Pennard Burrows**

This LCA is one of the most distinctive and well-defined in Gower, with a very strong sense of place. It is comprised of an extensive area of sand dunes extending inland from the sandy beach of Three Cliffs Bay, which is largely enclosed to the north and east by the village of Southgate, and so some extent by Northhill Wood to the west.

### **LCA 28 Pwlldu Head**

This is an area of exposed indented coastal cliffs, partially covered by scrub, with rock outcrops and a rocky foreshore, running along the coast from Shire Combe in the west to Pwll Du Head in the east.

### **LCA 29 Bishopston Valley**

This LCA is defined by a distinctive narrow, steep-sided and heavily-wooded stream valley running up from the sea at Pwll Du Bay inland as far as the village of Kittle. It cuts deeply into the adjacent Southgate and Pennard LCA.

### **LCA 30 Pwlldu and Caswell Bays**

This is a locally distinctive area of coastal cliffs partially covered by scrub, with sand and shingle beaches enclosed by a rocky foreshore. It is defined in the west by Graves End near Pwll Du Point, and by Whiteshell Point in the east, just beyond Caswell Bay.

### **LCA 31 Newton Cliff**

This LCA is situated on Newton Cliff, between Whiteshell Point in the west and Snaple Point in the east. It is an area of common land and golf course, enclosed to the north by Bishop's Wood and the urban edge, and to the south by coastal cliffs and a rocky foreshore.

### **LCA 32 Langland**

This very distinctive small LCA is founded upon Langland Bay, with its strong definite sense of place as an established seaside settlement, backed by well-wooded cliffs and slopes. Snaple Point forms its western extremity and the eastern end is close to Rothers Torr.

### **LCA 33 Limeslade**

This LCA is an area of exposed common land, enclosed to the north by the urban edge and to the south by the indented coastal cliffs, with small sand and shingle beaches enclosed by a rocky foreshore. The prominent rocky landform of Mumbles Head marks the south-eastern extremity, whilst the western end is marked by Rothers Torr at the edge of the Langland LCA.

### **LCA 34 Clyne Common**

This large LCA is the easternmost of the extensive Gower commons. It is primarily defined by its large tract of open rough grazing grassland and the Blackhills and Clyne golf courses, but demarcated by the wooded farmland of the outer areas of the Clyne Valley in the north; by the hard urban edges of Mayals to the east, and Newton and Murton to the south; and by enclosed wooded farmland to the west in the Barland LCA.

### **LCA 35 Clyne Valley**

This urban edge LCA is a large and distinctive, steep-sided wooded valley that runs along the Clyne River, adjacent to the ur-

ban area of Swansea, with the course of a dismantled railway line on the western side of the river and the southern edge of Upper Killay forming the AONB boundary. Its northern and eastern boundaries are defined by the urban edges of Dunvant, Killay and Lower Sketty. In the west, the boundary is demarcated by the urban area of Upper Killay and the edges of the northern section of Fairwood Common.

### **LCA 36 Barland**

This LCA is largely defined by the characteristics of all of the adjoining areas. It is not accessible by public roads and is quite enclosed by woodland and mature field boundary hedgerows with trees which prevent long range views into or out of it.

### **LCA 37 Fairwood Common**

An extensive area of gently rolling, rough grazing common land that rises to 104m AOD traversed by busy roads. It includes Swansea Airport in the south eastern corner.

### **LCA 38 Mynydd Bach y Cocs**

This distinctive small LCA is based upon another area of rough grazing common land, but it is small scale and different in form and appearance from most of those in Gower. It has a narrow linear and sinuous form, and its definition is based largely upon the land cover, resulting from its management as common land.

### **LCA 39 Llanmorlais**

An extensive tract of rolling lowland farmland in north Gower, lying between 20m and 120m AOD, with a mosaic pattern of hedges, and a noticeably wooded character derived from the scattered copses, broadleaved woodlands and conifer plantations within the area.

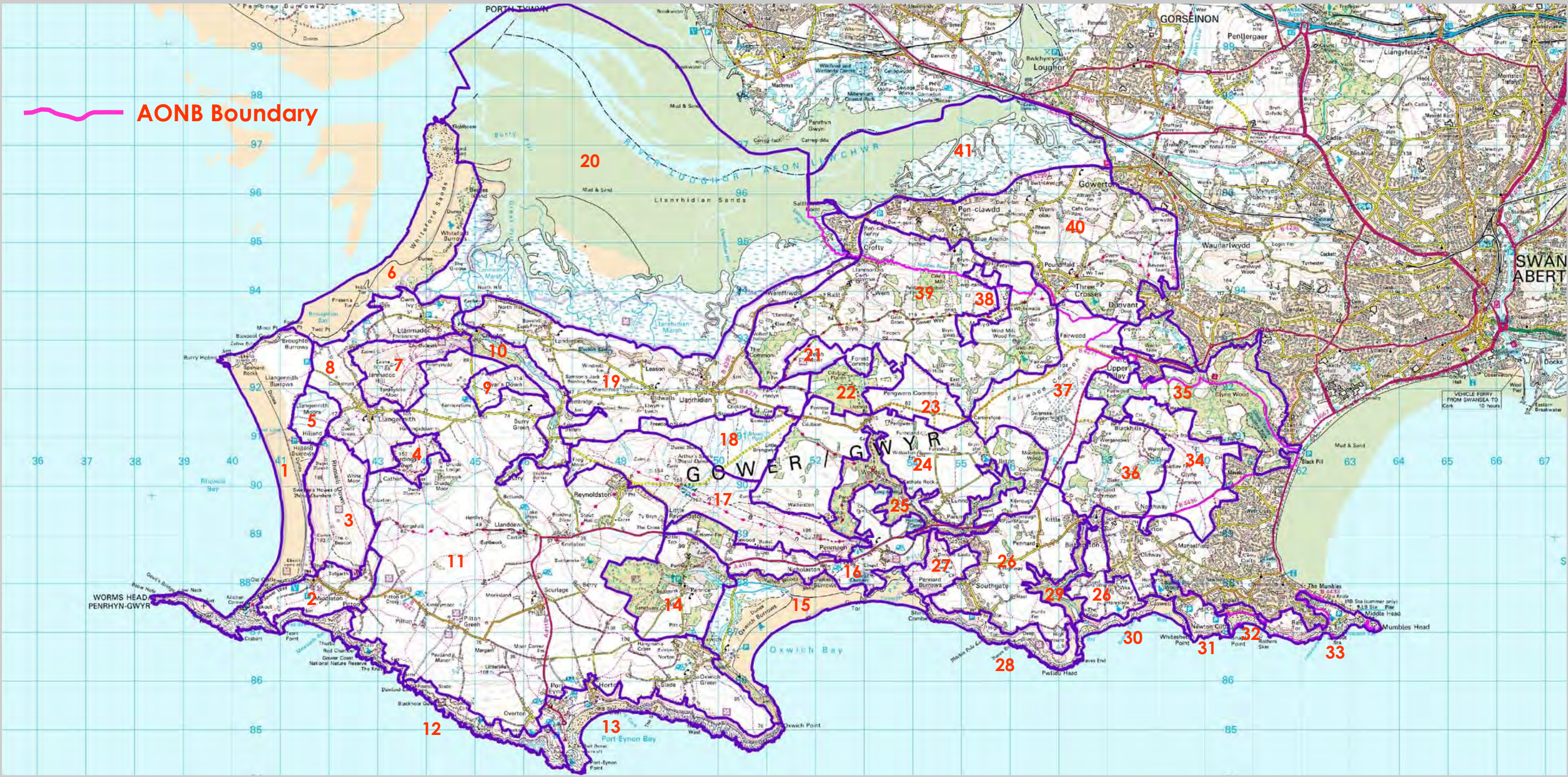
### **LCA 40 Crofty to Three Crosses**

This LCA, lying to the north of the AONB boundary, is an area of rolling lowland farmland, with an urban influence in the eastern area, where the urban edge encircles the rural area. The western area includes the coastal settlements of Crofty and Penclawdd.

### **LCA 41 Dalton's Point**

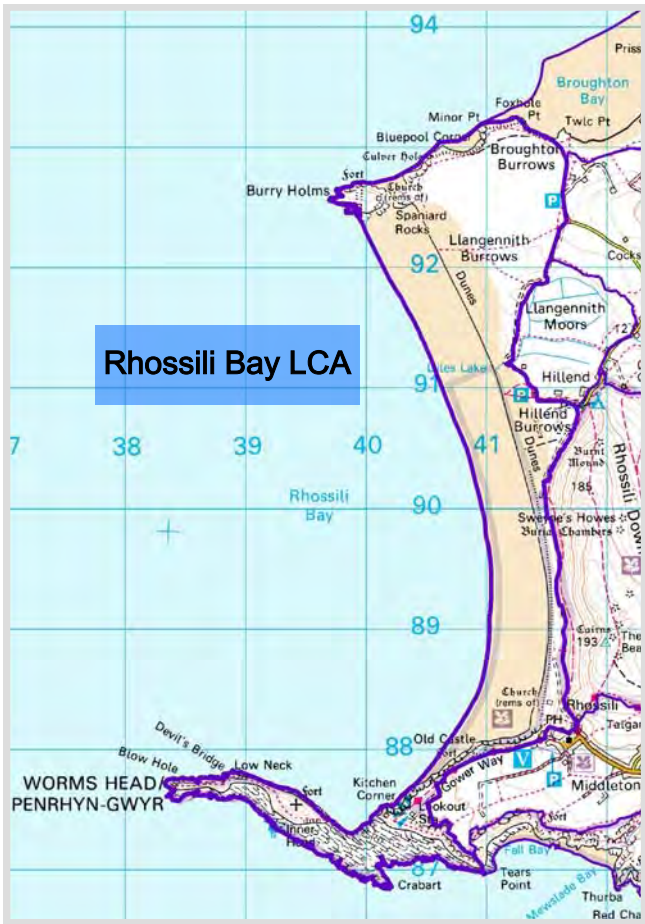


Gower Landscape Character Areas





Rhossili Bay LCA 1



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
1	Rhossili Bay	790 - Outstanding 496 - Outstanding 408 - High 842 - Outstanding	014- Outstanding 015 - High	420 - High 611 - High 730 - High 792 - Outstanding	400 - Outstanding 726 - Outstanding 759 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding 035 - Outstanding 052 - High



The dramatic sweep of the intertidal area at Rhossili Bay, viewed northwards from the high ground near Kitchen Corner near the start of Gower Way. Rhossili Down provides an impressive backdrop to the coast and Old Rectory house is a notable landmark



Burry Holms seen in the view north-westwards beyond the extensive fixed sand dunes of Llangennith Burrows at the northern end of the bay

Description:

This picturesque LCA is centred on a 3-mile long arc of sandy beach, backed along the eastern side by the sharply rising distinctive landform of Rhossili Down, and to the north by the sand dunes at Llangennith Burrows and Broughton Burrows. The distinctive rocky headland of Worms Head defines the southern end of the Bay. The northern end is demarcated by Burry Holms. There are no settlements and few detracting elements - the single built form of the Old Rectory house provides a notable focal point in outstanding panoramic views from the National Trust shop in Rhossili to the south. The coastal cliffs and steep land has an indented nature and they are partially covered by scrub with rock outcrops, generally nearer the base. The locally extensive areas of fixed sand dunes at Hillend Burrows, Llangennith Burrows and Broughton Burrows are characterised by a distinctive hummocky appearance. There is a strong coastal sense of place and there are unusual and distinctive

landform features. The area is substantially unspoilt and its scenic quality is outstanding.

The intertidal zone, cliffs, rock outcrops and sand dunes have generally high habitat value and there are rare species and habitats present, with protection as both national and international designated sites.

This LCA lies wholly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. This historic landscape retains outstanding integrity with its pattern and detail which is highly visible and easily understood and includes features of exceptional historic importance which are nationally rare or unique, such as the Prehistoric Burry Holms Camp, Medieval Hermitage Site on Burry Holms, and the remains of Medieval Building and Church at Rhossili, all recognised as being of national significance through scheduling. The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the

peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell. Extensive areas are in National Trust ownership.

The only significant detracting elements in this fine landscape are the intrusive caravan sites at Broughton Burrows and Hillend. The latter has grown in size over the years with increasing light pollution from the caravans and associated infrastructure.



The distinctive and dramatic landform of Worms Head seen from west of Rhossili village, with The Gower Way path at the edge of The Vile. Open Access Land lies between it and the cliff edge





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View westwards towards Burry Holms over Broughton Burrows showing intrusive effects of caravan sites seen against a dark land backdrop. The site to the right of the photograph is partly screened by the hedgebank on the boundary



Rhossili Bay LCA 1

**Strengths:**  
A large-scale, dramatic and highly attractive sweep of coastal landscape for the most part, with no settlements within it. Largely unspoilt  
A strong coastal sense of place, coupled with an impressive backdrop of high ground at Rhossili Down  
Picturesque, with panoramic long views out to the open sea and across the entrance to the Loughor Estuary  
Imposing large areas of distinctive fixed sand dunes

**Weaknesses:**  
The open nature of this landscape means that intrusive and incongruous features - especially the caravan parks at Hillend and Broughton - can be seen from long range along the bay, from the high ground on the coastal edge including the major visitor destination of Rhossili, since there is minimal screening by intervening landform. This intrusive effect includes light pollution in an otherwise very tranquil scene  
Dune habitats are vulnerable to erosion by excessive visitor use

**Opportunities:**  
Integrate caravan sites into the rural coastal scene, through the creation of appropriate new landform and the effective conservation management of fixed sand dunes and existing field boundary hedgebanks  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

**Threats:**  
*Caravan Parks* are an established feature at the coastal edges, notably at Hillend. They are conspicuous in certain views from public roads and higher ground viewpoints, and are discordant elements in an otherwise largely balanced and harmonious rural coastal landscape with extensive fine views. Light pollution disturbs the high level of tranquillity  
*Building developments* which may adversely affect the sensitive edge of Rhossili village, including the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs

- Management Guidelines:**
- Retain and conserve the fixed sand dunes, both for habitat conservation reasons and their screening function in relation to intrusive caravan and camping sites
  - Control caravan and camping site developments or extensions in the northern section of the LCA, so that intrusive visual effects are prevented
  - Consider incentive schemes to alter the colour of caravans where they cannot be effectively screened or assimilated into the landscape by landform or vegetation
  - Ensure that the Rhossili settlement edge is conserved in a sensitive manner which takes account of the high degree of visibility across this landscape
  - Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks and stone boundary walls
  - Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter
  - Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites

Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has outstanding Visual and Sensory value, with iconic landforms at Worms Head. Major experience of seascape and distinctive coastal features - beach, dunes and cliffs
- High level of tranquillity, due to little settlement and the screening effects of the adjacent high ground to the east
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the western section

- this LCA lies wholly within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape
- Gower Way promoted long distance route starts at Kitchen Corner and runs along the southern boundary of the LCA
- Cultural Landscape and Geological Landscape value is outstanding
- Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas have generally high value



Rhossili & Middleton LCA 2



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
2	Rhossili & Middleton	876 - High	010 - High 012 - Outstanding	894 - Moderate	726 - Outstanding 792 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding 035 - Outstanding 051 - Outstanding 052 - High



Rhossili village by the churchyard, with its distinctive stone boundary walls and houses. Overhead lines are a detracting element in the village, which is a very popular visitor destination



View eastwards along the road towards the western edge of Middleton village with the linking feature of the stone boundary wall. Overhead lines detract from an otherwise largely unspoilt view

Description:

This distinctive LCA is gently rolling farmland with a coastal character and more densely settled, separated from the larger and more sparsely settled Llanddewi & Reynoldston LCA adjacent to the east by a small but significant lowland stream valley at Pitton, just to the east of Middleton. The linear settlement of Middleton and the more nucleated settlement of Rhossili are connected by a short stretch of narrow road. Immediately to the south west of Rhossili is The Vile medieval open-field system. There are very attractive outward views, especially towards Worms Head.

There is a very strong coastal sense of place and the distinctive rocky headland of Worms Head is a prominent local landmark feature. The area is substantially unspoilt and its scenic quality is high. Locally detracting features are overhead electricity and telephone lines, in and around Rhossili and Middleton villages in particular.

This LCA lies wholly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. The key historic landscape feature of The Vile is defined by the extent of well-preserved strip field system below Rhossili village on the very south-western tip of Gower before Worms Head. Although remnants of medieval strip fields are visible elsewhere in Gower, this area stands out as the only substantially relict example of a medieval strip field system surviving on the peninsula; and one of only a few areas remaining in the whole of Britain. Such fields were divided into a series of narrow strips known as ‘landshares’ being separated by earthen banks. It has outstanding historic landscape value.

Culturally, The Vile is a historical mediaeval agricultural relic of national importance is still used for its usual purpose in a practice that has evolved over the centuries. The Gower Way promoted long-distance route runs from its start point nearby at Kitchen Corner, at

the point of the mainland headland overlooking Worms Head, along the edge of the enclosed farmland north-eastwards through Rhossili village. From here, it follows the LCA boundary along the foot of Rhossili Down to the northern edge of Middleton village.



The Vile with Worms Head in the background





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Management Guidelines:

- Ensure that the Rhossili, Middleton and Pitton settlement edges are conserved in a sensitive manner which takes account of the high degree of visibility across this landscape
- Promote the placement underground of overhead electricity and telephone lines in particularly visually sensitive areas, such as the edge of Rhossili Down in Middleton and along the main road between Middleton and Rhossili - and within the envelope of the village of Rhossili, given its high visitor attraction status
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks, earthen and rubble banks and stone boundary walls
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter



View south eastwards towards Pitton. The field boundary walls hedgebanks and earthen or rubble banks are an important characterising feature here



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has outstanding Visual and Sensory value, with iconic landforms at Worms Head - gateway to these features
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the western section of this LCA lies wholly within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape. The Vile is a unique historic landscape feature of national importance

Rhossili & Middleton LCA 2

Strengths:

A distinctive area of land located at the foot of the southern end of Rhossili Down containing three small settlements. A strong coastal sense of place, coupled with impressive views of the iconic landforms at Worms Head. Unique local landscape arising from the historic field pattern of The Vile on the headland south west of Rhossili. This is the gateway to Worms Head and the southern part of Rhossili Bay: a magnetic attraction for visitors

Weaknesses:

The open nature of this landscape means that intrusive and incongruous features such as the car park at Rhossili can be intrusive when heavily used. Denser settlement pattern so vulnerable to local character change through incongruous buildings or structures. Common edge at Rhossili Down in Middleton vulnerable to change through additional building and boundary erosion. Locally intrusive overhead electricity and telephone lines

Opportunities:

Effective conservation management of existing field boundary hedgebanks, earthen and rubble banks and stone walls to conserve these strong local characterising features. Place overhead lines underground at the edge of Rhossili Down common at Middleton, along the main road through Middleton village and within the Rhossili village envelope  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

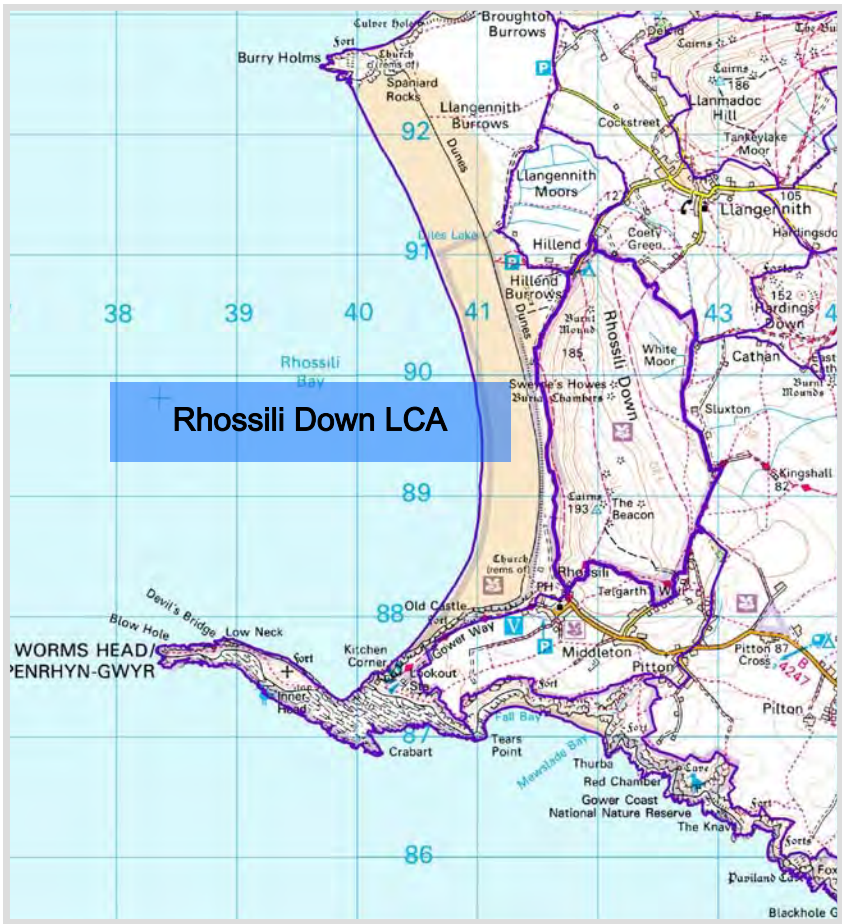
Threats:

**Overhead lines on the edge of Middleton adversely affect the character of the village edge fronting the common land at the foot of Rhossili Down. Similarly intrusive along the main road in Middleton and within Rhossili village.** They are conspicuous in certain views from The Gower Way and minor public roads. These are discordant and detracting elements in an otherwise largely unspoilt rural coastal village landscape with extensive fine sea views in many directions.  
**Building developments** which may adversely affect the sensitive edges of Rhossili, Middleton and Pitton, including the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs

- Major experience of seascape and distinctive coastal features, especially cliffs and rock formations
- The Gower Way promoted long distance route starts at Rhossili and crosses the northern edge of the LCA, increasing local accessibility
- Cultural and Geological Landscape values are outstanding



Rhossili Down LCA 3



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
3	Rhossili Down	622 - Outstanding	012 - Outstanding	894 - Moderate	190 - Outstanding	053 - Outstanding



The central section of Rhossili Down viewed south-westwards from the southern end of Hardings Down. Note the marked contrast in vegetation colour and texture between the rough grazing and heathland of the Down and the nearby enclosed farmland



Rhossili Down - its northern end seen from Hardings Down in this westward view with the open sea to the north west visible over Llangennith Moors

Description:

Rhossili Down LCA is a distinctive tract of prominent upland forming the westernmost high ground of the Gower peninsula. Providing the backdrop to Rhossili Bay, there is a strong coastal sense of place in this area of open, exposed heathland and rough grazing grassland - which is substantially common land - overlying Old Red Sandstone, at an elevation of between 100m and 190m AOD. There are extensive views out in all directions from the higher parts. There are no settlements and no visually detracting elements. The scenic quality is outstanding.

This LCA lies wholly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. A well-preserved upland landscape, the area retains features of exceptional historic importance which are nationally rare and unique.

This Historical Landscape Aspect Area, key to the historic landscape

on the register, is outstanding in its integrity, survival, condition, rarity, and potential; therefore has a maximum possible score and an outstanding overall evaluation. There are numerous archaeological features of national importance.

Around 75% of the habitats recorded on Rhossili Down are classified as dry heath, an internationally important habitat, with international and national conservation designations present.

Culturally, this LCA forms part of the group of Gower upland commons and rated as being outstanding as a collection of significant prehistoric relics of multi-period occupation in a small area. It is owned and managed by The National Trust.

The Gower Way promoted long-distance route runs along the south-eastern boundary of this LCA from the northern edge of Middleton village. The LCA area is largely designated as Open Access Land.



Rhossili Down - its southern end above Middleton village, seen from the common at Pitton Cross in this westward view





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Rhossili Down viewed from the north, showing its imposing mass and form contrasting with the lowland of Llangennith Moors in the right hand middle ground, and the enclosed farmland south of Llangennith village

Management Guidelines:

- Ensure that the Rhossili and Middleton settlement edges are conserved in a sensitive manner which takes account of the high degree of visibility from this open landscape
- Promote the placement underground of overhead electricity and telephone lines in particularly visually sensitive areas at the southern edge of Rhossili Down in Middleton
- Maintain the open character of the common, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks, earthen and rubble banks and stone boundary walls
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Promote physical bracken control to restrict further encroachment into heathland habitats and archaeological sites; implement fire management precautions during susceptible weather and ground conditions
- Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has outstanding Visual and Sensory value, with panoramic extensive scenic views over a very large area of up-land common land
- Gower commons
- Major experience of seascape and distinctive coastal features
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the western section

Rhossili Down LCA 3

Strengths:

A distinctive high mass of land forming a massive feature in West Gower, containing no settlements.  
A strong coastal sense of place, coupled with impressive views out in all directions. Highly accessible, as designated Open Access Land  
High value lowland heathland habitats and , with the Gower Way running along its south-eastern edge

Weaknesses:

Common edge at Rhossili Down in Middleton vulnerable to change through additional building and boundary erosion  
Locally intrusive overhead electricity and telephone lines on the edge of the common  
Seasonally vulnerable to fire damage

Opportunities:

Effective conservation management of existing field boundary hedgebanks, earthen and rubble banks and stone walls to conserve these strong local characterising features.  
Place overhead lines underground at the edge of Rhossili Down common at Middleton  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

Threats:

**Bracken encroachment leading to lowland heathland habitat fragmentation** which may adversely affect quality and extent of internationally-important habitats and archaeological sites; and increase fire risks  
**Overhead lines on the edge of Middleton adversely affect the character of the village edge fronting the common land at the foot of Rhossili Down.** They are conspicuous in certain views from The Gower Way and the open common land. These are discordant and detracting elements in an otherwise largely unspoilt rural coastal village landscape with extensive fine sea views in many directions.

this LCA lies wholly within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape.

- Extensive internationally important heathland habitats
- The Gower Way promoted long distance route runs along the south-eastern boundary of the LCA, increasing local accessibility
- Cultural and Geological Landscape value is outstanding



Hardings Down LCA 4



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
4	Hardings Down	623 - High	017- High	894- Moderate	190 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding 053 - Outstanding



Hardings Down northern side, viewed southwards from the road to Llangennith, showing the strong changes of character at the boundary between open common land and enclosed farmland and the earthworks of the prehistoric hill forts



Hardings Down - its south-western end, showing the marked change in vegetation colour and texture at the boundary with the adjacent enclosed farmland

Description:

Hardings Down LCA is a small inland hill upland forming part of the western high ground of the Gower peninsula. Although inland from the coast, there is still a strong coastal sense of place in this area of open, exposed heathland and rough grazing grassland - which is substantially common land - overlying Old Red Sandstone, at an elevation of between 90m and 152m AOD. There are accessible extensive views out in all directions from the higher parts. There are no settlements and no visually detracting elements. The area is substantially unspoilt and the scenic quality is high.

This LCA lies wholly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. A well-preserved upland landscape, the area retains features of exceptional historic importance which are nationally rare and unique.

This Historical Landscape Aspect Area, key to the historic landscape

on the register, is outstanding in its integrity, survival, condition, rarity, and potential; therefore has a maximum possible score and an outstanding overall evaluation. One of five upland commons of exactly similar nature - Cefn Bryn, Rhossili Down, Hardings Down, Llanmadoc Hill and Ryer 's Down - being those areas of higher ground unsuitable for arable farming which have been left out of the general enclosure of the surrounding farmland. The main interest is the large number of prehistoric funerary and ritual sites on most of these commons.

Culturally these are rated as being outstanding, as a collection of significant prehistoric relics of multi-period occupation in a small area. Hardings Down contains a number of important prehistoric sites, including two well-preserved Iron Age hill forts in close proximity.

Hardings Down is designated as Open Access Land, giving increased accessibility for enjoyment of its panoramic views.



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Hardings Down seen in the foreground



South-eastern section of Hardings Down, showing stumps in the left foreground as evidence of gorse scrub removal and grazed gorse bushes in the middle ground

## Hardings Down LCA 4

### Strengths:

A small but separate and distinctive high mass of land forming a discrete landscape feature in West Gower containing no settlements.  
A strong coastal sense of place, coupled with impressive views out in all directions, but especially over Llangennith and the nearby Llangennith and Broughton Burrows to the open sea.  
Largely unspoilt.

### Weaknesses:

Some locally intrusive overhead electricity and telephone lines along the eastern edge of the common.  
Gorse scrub invasion prone to increase if grazing regime is changed.  
Seasonally vulnerable to fire damage

### Opportunities:

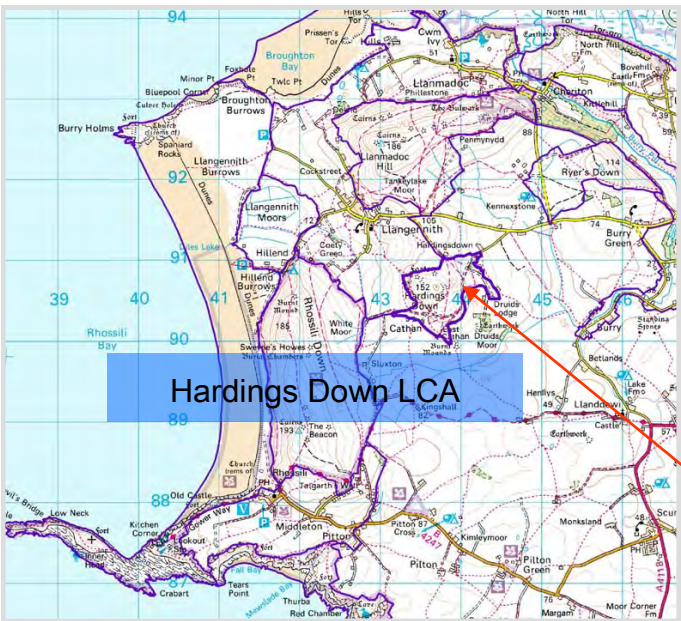
Effective conservation management of existing field boundary hedgebanks.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

### Threats:

**Bracken and gorse encroachment leading to change of colour and texture** which could reduce accessibility, increase fire risks and obscure the important hillfort earthworks and other discernible surface archaeological features  
**Overhead lines along the eastern edge of the common land.**  
These are locally discordant and detracting elements in an otherwise largely unspoilt rural landscape with extensive fine views in many directions.

### Management Guidelines:

- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks, earthen and rubble banks and stone boundary walls
- Maintain the open character of the common, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Promote physical bracken and gorse control to restrict encroachment into open habitats and archaeological sites; implement fire management precautions during susceptible weather and ground conditions
- Resist the extension of the overhead lines network in the event of additional services being provided for new or rehabilitated building developments along the common edge
- Promote the cost-effective management of access tracks to prevent excessive scouring and localised erosion of adjacent areas by storm-water run-off



### Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has high Visual and Sensory value, with panoramic extensive scenic views over a very large area of upland common land, sea and farmland. An important component of the distinctive uplands of West Gower
- Gower commons
- Major experience of seascape and inland landscape views
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the western section this LCA lies wholly within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape.
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding



Llangennith Moors LCA 5



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
5	Llangennith Moors	880- High	013- Moderate	117 - Moderate 894- Moderate	244 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding



Llangennith Moors viewed from the north, showing the contrasting landforms of the hummocky sand dunes at Hillend Burrows. Worms Head forms the distinctive distant coastal feature



Llangennith Moors, viewed from the north - the western section with Llangennith Burrows fronting the open sea beyond to the west

Description:

Llangennith Moors LCA is a small tract of unusual lowland moorland within Gower, lying at the back of extensive dune systems at Broughton and Hillend. A strong sense of place is evident, arising from its coastal proximity and accessible picturesque views, and from the rectilinear field pattern, defined by drainage ditches and the distinctive local landform.

It has an important relationship with the nearby Rhossili Down and the sand dunes of the Burrows at Hillend and Llangennith and Broughton, providing a virtually level, contrasting plane to the hummocky dunes and the dramatic downward sweep of the high ground at the northern end of Rhossili Down.

This LCA lies wholly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. A fairly rare area of reclaimed and drained wetland within Gower, with the fields defined by a regular pattern of drainage, with elements (field system, drainage ditches and field banks ) surviving in very good condition for their class.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coast-line from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell.

There are no settlements within this LCA and few visually detracting elements are present. These are in the form of the nearby intrusive and incongruous caravan sites at Hillend and Broughton, and the local low-level overhead lines network, which serves these sites and the scattered houses and farmsteads located along the adjacent areas of higher and drier ground.





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Management Guidelines:

- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the distinctive field boundary hedgebanks and the resulting field pattern
- Maintain the grazed character of the lowland grasslands, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of this unusual low-lying farmland
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Promote physical bracken and gorse control to restrict encroachment into open habitats and implement fire management precautions during susceptible weather and ground conditions
- Resist the extension of the overhead lines network in the event of additional services being provided for new or rehabilitated building developments along the common edge



Llangennith Moors at the centre of the view, seen from above at the edge of Hardings Down, showing the contrasting backdrop of Llangennith Burrows to the north west



Llangennith Moors LCA 5

Strengths:

A small an unusual area of low-lying drained land forming a discrete landscape feature in north western Gower, containing no settlements  
A strong coastal sense of place, coupled with some impressive views out to the south and west  
Largely unspoilt farmland with a settled feel

Weaknesses:

Some locally intrusive overhead electricity and telephone lines along the eastern edge of the area  
Bracken invasion prone to increase if grazing regime is changed

Opportunities:

Effective conservation management of existing field boundary hedgebanks. Habitat enrichment through carefully considered changes in grazing regimes.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

Threats:

**Bracken encroachment leading to habitat degradation** which could also increase fire risks and obscure the distinctive field pattern defined by the hedgebanks.  
**Caravan Parks** are an established feature at the coastal edge, notably at Hillend adjacent to the south and Broughton nearby to the north. They are conspicuous in certain views from public roads and higher ground viewpoints, and are discordant elements in an otherwise largely balanced and harmonious naturalistic rural landscape, especially intrusive on night-time tranquillity through increased levels of overhead lighting

Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has high Visual and Sensory value, with picturesque sea views and distinctive sand dunes. An important component of the local landscape, as a contrasting element with high moorland and sand dunes
- Important experience of seascape views to the south
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the western section

this LCA lies wholly within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape.

- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding



Whiteford LCA 6



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
6	Whiteford	572 - Outstanding 756 - High 842 - Outstanding	014- Outstanding	687 - Outstanding 964 - High	759 - Outstanding 993 - <i>Unassessed</i>	022 - Outstanding 035 - Outstanding 054 - Outstanding



The broad expanse of Whiteford Sands, viewed southwards to-wards Foxhole Point. A dramatic sweep of very exposed fore-shore, with panoramic views out to sea and across the mouth of the Loughor Estuary



Whiteford Sands - sand dunes being colonised by marram on their seaward side at the head of the beach. View northwards towards Whiteford Point. Fixed sand dunes form a wide belt on the land-ward side, with distinctive coniferous plantations as shelterbelts

Description:

Whiteford LCA is a 3-mile long sandy beach, backed by sand dunes with distinctive belts of coniferous woodland, beyond which lies the Loughor Estuary. The very strong sense of place is derived from its unique location in Gower, in that it is characterised on the west by the highly exposed open coast - windswept and remote - and on the east by the sheltered estuary and fringing marshes of the River Loughor, with settlements scattered along both sides of the river.

It has an important relationship with the nearby Loughor Estuary to the north and east, at Landimore Marsh and Burry Pill/Great Pill; and to the landward end of the promontory in the Cwm Ivy locality, providing a contrasting sweep of low-lying land as a counterpoint to Cwm Ivy

Tor and the prominent wooded escarpment running eastwards from Llanmadoc.

Internationally and nationally important habitats are present here over large areas and are protected by a number of designations, including Whiteford National Nature Reserve.

This LCA lies wholly within the West Gower section of the Gower Reg-istered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. A well-preserved be-sanded landscape.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell. It is evaluated as being outstanding as a

landscape bearing multiple environmental protection designations. The redundant Whiteford Lighthouse stands off Whiteford Point and is an evocative feature. Much of the eastern area of the LCA is desig-nated as Open Access Land and is easily accessible from the Land-scape Character Area.

There are no settlements and few visually detracting elements. These are in the form of the nearby intrusive and incongruous caravan site at Broughton Burrows at the southern extremity of the LCA, and other caravan sites on the nearby higher ground to the west of Llanmadoc vil-lage. These features erode the night-time tranquillity of the local scene.





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Management Guidelines:

- Consider incentive schemes to alter the colour of caravans where they cannot be effectively screened or assimilated into the landscape by landform or vegetation
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Promote active physical Japanese knotweed and sea buckthorn control measures to restrict colonisation of sand dune and dune slack habitats
- Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter



Whiteford Burrows - fixed sand dunes with coniferous shelterbelt plantations to the rear - view south towards the distinctive contrasting landform of Cwm Ivy Tor



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has outstanding Visual and Sensory value, with open picturesque sea views and contained views into the Loughor Estuary obtainable from within the same tract of land
- Important experience of dramatic seascape views, with an unrivalled sense of remoteness and exposure in a low-lying setting
- Expansive sweep of sandy beach

- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the western section this LCA lies wholly within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape.
- Landscape Habitats value is outstanding at Whiteford Burrows
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding

Whiteford LCA 6

Strengths:

A very large area of foreshore, sand dunes and marsh, with distinctive linear coniferous woodland planted as shelterbelts.  
A very strong coastal sense of place, coupled with some dramatic and panoramic views out, to the west and south in particular. More sheltered eastward views into the enclosed Loughor Estuary  
Substantially unspoilt, with a remote and exposed character.  
Easily accessible from the nearby Coast Path.  
Rare species and habitats with a high degree of protection from international and national designations

Weaknesses:

Fixed and shifting sand dunes and associated vegetation prone to erosion, if damaging wear occurs through excessive visitor pressure

Opportunities:

Promote changes to colours of caravans which cannot be effectively screened or assimilated into the view by landform or appropriate planting schemes.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

Threats:

**Colonisation of sand dunes by alien invasive species (Japanese knotweed and sea buckthorn )** which could cause habitat degradation.  
**Caravan Parks** are an established feature at the coastal edge, notably at Broughton adjacent to the south, and nearby to the south east near Llanmadoc village. They are conspicuous in certain views from public roads and higher ground and beach viewpoints. They are discordant elements in an otherwise largely balanced and harmonious naturalistic coastal landscape - and especially intrusive on night-time tranquillity, through increased levels of overhead lighting



Llanmadoc Hill LCA 7



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
7	Llanmadoc Hill	547 - High	017- High	146 - Moderate 520 - High	190 - Outstanding	053 - Outstanding



The broad, open stretch of Llanmadoc Hill seen in this view north from the high ground on the road to Llangennith, just to the east of the village



The western end of Llanmadoc Hill seen from the approach to the caravan site at Broughton Burrows. The colours and texture of the open upland rough grazing and heathland contrast strongly with those of the adjacent enclosed farmland

Description:

Llanmadoc Hill LCA is a distinctive upland area rising to 185m AOD and strongly influenced by its coastal proximity. It has exposed bracken and open rough grazing grassland on a prominent hill near to the coast, from which there are accessible attractive views out to sea, out onto Whiteford Point, over Landimore and Llanrhidian Marshes and the Loughor Estuary beyond. It is largely unspoilt and the three small settlements around the base of the hill - Llangennith, Llanmadoc and Cheriton - are not significant detractors.

The entire area is made up of priority habitats but grassland, heathland and flushes are under threat from large scale bracken encroachment.

This LCA lies wholly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. One of the five upland commons of Cefn Bryn, Ryer's Down Llanmadoc Hill, Hardings Down, Rhossili Down which although not contiguous, are of exactly similar nature, being those areas of higher ground unsuitable for arable farming which have been left out of the general enclosure of the surrounding farmland. The main interest is the large number of prehistoric funerary and ritual sites on most of these commons. It includes at its eastern end, above the village of Llanmadoc and to the south west of Cheriton, the imposing fortified prehistoric settlement known as The Bulwark.

Culturally, this LCA is evaluated as being outstanding as a collection of significant prehistoric relics of multi-period occupation in a small area. The area is substantially designated as Open Access Land.

There are no settlements within this LCA and few visually detracting elements.





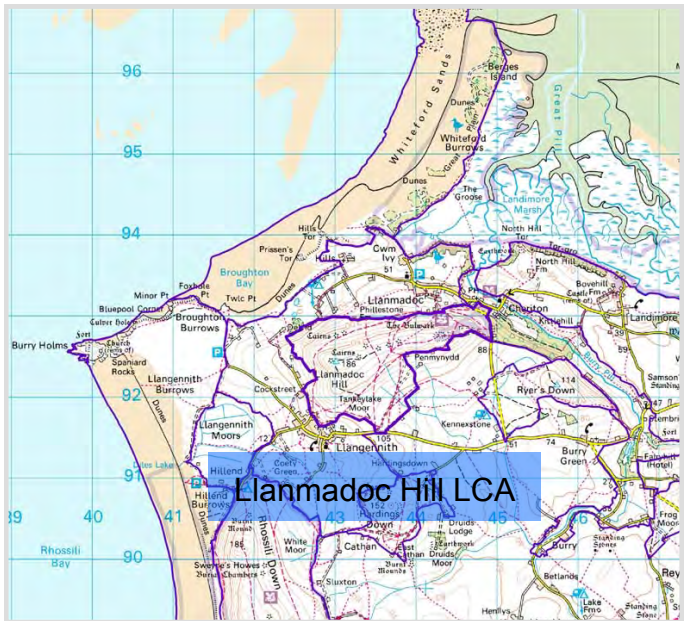
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Llanmadoc Hill viewed to the north from the south west-ern edge of Hardings Down, as the high ground inland backdrop to Llangennith village

**Management Guidelines:**

- Maintain the open character of commons, through favourable graz-ing and vegetation management, and ensure that any new develop-ment respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Promote the physical control of bracken and gorse, to maintain open character and to protect and diversify grassland and heathland habitats and archaeological sites; and to reduce seasonal fire risk



**Llanmadoc Hill LCA 7**

**Strengths:**

A prominent area of high ground close to the coast with a substantially un-spoilt and exposed character.  
A very strong coastal sense of place, coupled with dramatic and panoramic views out in all directions.  
Easily accessible through Open Access Land designation.  
Priority habitats present throughout the area

**Weaknesses:**

Open nature and habitat value has the potential to be adversely affected through changes in grazing management and gorse and bracken invasion.

**Opportunities:**

Promote continued favourable grazing and implement physical scrub and bracken control, to safeguard existing grassland and heathland habitats and wet flushes.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environ-ment features

**Threats:**

*Colonisation by gorse and bracken* which could cause habitat degradation and restrict access and degrade historic environment assets  
Seasonal threats from fire risk

**Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:**

- Landscape has outstanding Visual and Sensory value, with open picturesque sea views and panoramic views over the marshes and the Loughor Estuary
- Important experience of wide seascape views
- Gower commons
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and this LCA lies wholly

within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape

- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Highly accessible to the public



Llangennith & Llanmadoc LCA 8



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
8	Llangennith & Llanmadoc	879 - High 842 - Outstanding	016 - Moderate 017 - High 019 - High	894 - Moderate	726 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding



View west towards Llangennith towards the high ground of Llanmadoc Hill and Hardings Down. Traditional hedgebanks bounding rectilinear fields form the landscape pattern and texture of this enclosed farmland, contrasting with the high open moorland above



The distinctive landform of Cwm Ivy Tor on the escarpment to the north west of Llanmadoc village

Description:

This LCA is an area of well-contained, open rolling farmland encompassing these two nucleated settlements, situated below Llanmadoc Hill and the western slopes of Hardings Down. This land separates the higher ground of Llanmadoc Hill from the coastal dunes and the landward end of the adjoining Whiteford LCA. There is a strong coastal sense of place, with attractive long views out over the open sea to the west and north west, and over Broughton Bay and Burrows and onto the Landimore Marsh on the Loughor Estuary, to the north and north-east respectively. Each of the villages has its own important local landmark, in the form of a distinctive attractive stone-built church with a tower. It is an area with a high level of visual unity, allied to picturesque views in generally unspoilt rolling farmland.

Although the habitats valuation is moderate, field boundary hedgerows are an important contribution to this value, which reinforces their visual importance in defining fields and creating the pattern and texture of this landscape.

This LCA lies partly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. Much of the area has a complex fieldscape, evolved from an open-field system, but with elements derived from encroachment and reclamation. This contributes to its outstanding value.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and

a line from Crofty to Caswell. It is evaluated as being outstanding as a landscape bearing multiple environmental protection designations.

There are two attractive nucleated village settlements. There are significant detracting elements in the form of the intrusive and incongruous caravan site at Broughton Burrows at the southern extremity of the LCA, and other caravan sites on the nearby higher ground to the west of Llanmadoc village. These features contrast strongly with attractive landform and encroach into attractive views; they also erode the night-time tranquillity of the local scene.





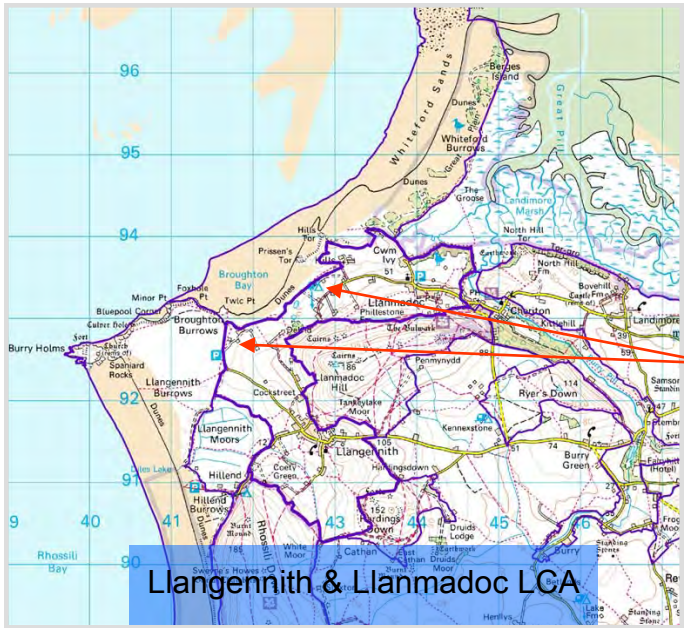
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Management Guidelines:

- Optimise agri-environment schemes to target the most visually-sensitive areas where intrusive elements are conspicuous, and to retain and conserve the field boundary hedgebank network
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks and stone boundary walls
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Consider carefully the wider potential landscape and visual impacts of farm diversification schemes and use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedgerow planting schemes, to assimilate new large-scale farm buildings
- Consider incentive schemes to alter the colour of caravans where they cannot be effectively screened or assimilated into the landscape by landform or vegetation



*Incongruous and intrusive caravan site to the west of Llanmadoc village. Higher landform to the north provides screening, but there is no such effect in this close view from the minor public road to the south*



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Attractive villages with distinctive historic church towers as local landmarks at Llangennith and Llanmadoc, with a fine hill back-drop formed by the juxtaposition of Llanmadoc Hill, Rhossili Down and Hardings Down
- Extensive sea views in an arc from west to north
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and this LCA lies partly

Llangennith & Llanmadoc LCA 8

Strengths:

- Settled farmland with picturesque views out to sea
- A strong coastal sense of place
- Substantially unspoilt farmland landscape
- Easily accessible from the nearby Coast Path

Weaknesses:

- Distinctive and historically-important fieldscape vulnerable to change through boundary hedgerow neglect or removal

Opportunities:

- Promote changes to colours of caravans which cannot be effectively screened or assimilated into the view by landform or appropriate planting schemes.
- Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

Threats:

- Caravan Parks** are an established feature at the coastal edge, notably at Broughton adjacent to the south and nearby to the south east near Llanmadoc village. They are conspicuous in certain views from public roads and higher ground and beach viewpoints. They are discordant elements in an otherwise largely balanced and harmonious naturalistic coastal landscape - and especially intrusive on night-time tranquillity, through increased levels of overhead lighting

- within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding



Ryer's Down LCA 9

LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
9	Ryer's Down	547 - High	017 - High	474 - Moderate	190 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding



Ryer 's Down viewed to the north east from the edge of Hardings Down. The contrasting colour and texture of the rough grazing upland is marked when seen with the enclosed farmland in the foreground



Ryer 's Down eastern section. The common is grazed and the encroachment of bracken and scrub is not extensive. Grazing management needs to be consistent and appropriate to prevent encroachment by bracken or gorse scrub

Description:

Ryer 's Down LCA is the easternmost and lowest of the large areas of distinctive exposed common land overlying Old Red Sandstone in north-west Gower, rising to 114m AOD at its summit. Although possessing a strong sense of place in its own right, there are clear visual links with the nearby Llanmadoc Hill (with which it shares the same V & S Aspect Area - 547) , and which are readily apparent from the public road running across the eastern section of the common from north to south. It is another relatively unspoilt area of exposed rough grazing grassland, bracken and scrub. Although some way inland from the open coast to the west, there are attractive long views out to the north over Landimore and Llanrhidian Marshes and the Loughor Estu-

ary and Whiteford Point, as well as out to sea. There are no settlements and few significant visually detracting elements.

This LCA lies wholly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. The main interest is the large number of prehistoric funerary and ritual sites on most of these commons. These contribute to its historic evaluation as outstanding.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell. It is evaluated as being outstanding as a

landscape bearing multiple environmental protection designations. It is designated as Open Access Land.



Ryer 's Down western section, viewed north-west towards Llanmadoc Hill



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Hardings Down seen in the middle ground above and to the right of Burry Pill

Management Guidelines:

- Maintain the open character of commons, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks, earthen banks and stone boundary walls
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Promote physical bracken control to restrict encroachment into heathland habitats and archaeological sites; and implement fire management precautions during susceptible weather and ground conditions
- Consider promoting the placement underground of the roadside overhead telephone lines and avoid future intensification of overhead lines



Low level overhead lines are a local detracting element in an otherwise open and largely unspoilt landscape



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Important experience of panoramic seascape and inland views, which are highly accessible as a result of the Open Access Land designation
- Gower commons
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the western section of this LCA lies wholly within the West Gower area of the Gower

Ryer's Down LCA 9

Strengths:

A distinctive outlier from the nearby uplands with its own discernible identity but a strong visual relationship with nearby Llanmadoc Hill to the north west. Although inland, still a strong coastal sense of place, coupled with highly accessible some picturesque and panoramic views out, to the west and north in particular. Substantially unspoilt, with an open and exposed character.

Weaknesses:

Open rough grassland and heathland habitats vulnerable to degradation through large scale encroachment of bracken. Seasonal fire risk. Local detracting effects of low level overhead wires alongside the only public road crossing the common

Opportunities:

Conserves and diversify grassland and heathland habitats through appropriate grazing regimes and physical control of bracken growth. Place underground the detracting overhead telephone lines alongside the public road. Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

Threats:

**Colonisation of open habitats by bracken encroachment**, which could cause extensive habitat degradation of the open grassland and heathland vegetation, archaeological sites, and restrict public access

Registered Historic Landscape

Cultural Landscape value is outstanding



Burry Pill LCA 10



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
10	Burry Pill	876 - High 878 - High 879 - High	017 - High 019 - High	894 - Moderate	154 - Outstanding 726 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding



The northern end of Burry Pill near Cheriton, where the distinctive narrow valley debouches onto the open edge of the Loughor Estuary at Llanrhidian Marsh



Burry Pill valley viewed upstream, eastwards from the edge of the adjacent lower slopes of Llanmadoc Hill. The small scale enclosed valley is a distinctive in-lier within the local rolling farmland and partly formed by the edges of Llanmadoc Hill and Ryer's Down

Description:

The Burry Pill LCA is strongly based upon the sinuous lowland river valley landform which, although not deeply incised in its upper reaches, is set sufficiently below the surrounding rolling lowland farmland to have a strong sense of place. This becomes heightened as the valley descends to the north, and then turns north-west, to pass beneath the higher ground of Ryer's Down and Llanmadoc Hill to the west, on its way to join the Loughor Estuary on Landimore Marsh. This strong sense of place emanates partly from its enclosed character, with riparian vegetation being an important defining element, and partly from the relationship of the built form to the configuration of the valley.

This LCA lies partly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. It contains the historic park at Fairyhill, a well-preserved 18th-mid 19th century park and informal wooded grounds, included as a Grade II park and garden on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales. This site includes layout and features of special interest within the national context of Wales.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell.

There is only one significant nucleated settlement located partially within this LCA - Cheriton - the predominant settlement pattern being a linear scatter of farmsteads, house and cottages aligned along the valley above the stream. There are few visually detracting elements, in the form of the occasional large scale farm buildings which contrast with the traditional buildings which form the vernacular here.



The shallow stream valley in the upper reaches of Burry Pill, with riparian vegetation along its length



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Burry Pill winding its way inland from the Loughor Estuary east of Cheriton village and Ryer 's Down

Management Guidelines:

- Maintain the distinctive character of the valley, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the valley setting
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks, earthen banks and stone boundary walls
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Promote favourable management of riparian vegetation through the use of agri-environment schemes and collaboration with the Environment Agency



The very enclosed shallow stream valley in the upper reaches of Burry Pill, with its characteristic dense riparian vegetation and farmstead close by



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has high Visual and Sensory value, with an enclosed atmosphere as it is sheltered and there are limited views out up to the adjacent higher ground, contrasting strongly with the enclosing farmland of the Llanddewi & Reynoldston and Llanrhidian LCAs
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the western section

this LCA lies partly within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape

- Registered Historic Park and Gardens at Fairyhill
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding

Burry Pill LCA 10

Strengths:

A highly distinctive landscape feature centred on a picturesque stream valley which is shallow in its upper reaches and deeply incised at its lower end near the edge of Cheriton

A very strong sense of place, characterised by the stream course with its dense riparian vegetation and a linear scatter of farmsteads, houses and cottages

Substantially unspoilt, with a settled and sheltered character

Weaknesses:

Vulnerability to incongruous building developments, if sited and designed in an unsympathetic manner, because of the narrow valley topography

Opportunities:

Maintain characteristic riparian vegetation by appropriate management, such as periodic coppicing of willow and hazel and pollarding of tree willows, as appropriate.

Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

Threats:

*Unsympathetic building developments, including large scale modern farm buildings*, which could detract from the scenic quality if sited in particularly sensitive locations.

Removal of riparian vegetation which would erode the sense of enclosure



Llanddewi & Reynoldston LCA 11

LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
11	Llanddewi & Reynoldston	876 - High	008 - High 002 - Outstanding	894 - Moderate	726 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding 047 - Outstanding



View south-westwards from Cefn Bryn towards the edge of the village of Middleton, with the prominent high ground of Rhossili Down providing the contrasting backdrop



View northwards from just north of Horton towards Reynoldston, Little Reynoldston and the distinctive ridge of Cefn Bryn forming the horizon

**Description:**

A gently rolling lowland farmland landscape on land ranging from 20m to 110m AOD, traversed by hedges with a simple network of small roads bordered by hedge banks, that connects the isolated small settlements, often characterised by a church tower. A large-scale, sparsely settled and substantially open agricultural landscape with some locally high ground; the lack of woodland allows borrowed views of the coast from some elevated areas. Woodland is dispersed, occurring in small stands and belts. There is a strong sense of place and a high Visual and Sensory Aspect value.


This extensive LCA is generally comprised of low ecological value habitat, with a few areas of higher value habitat. Hedgerows are an important contributory factor in the ecological value of area. There are a number of records of key species, including linnet, skylark and great crested newt.

Geologically, this LCA is a broad plateau of boulder clay-covered Dinantian (Lower Carboniferous) limestones sloping gently - both south and north to Llanddewi - through which runs the axis of a major east-west synclinal form. There are scattered patches of fluvio-glacial sands throughout the area.

The LCA exhibits a complex 'fieldscape', having evolved from the former historic open-field system, but with elements derived from encroachment and reclamation. The few settlements are predominantly nucleated. The area has outstanding integrity, survival and condition - and rarity. These attributes are acknowledged by the inclusion of a significant tract of it within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. It is considered to have wide-ranging scope for future historic landscape study.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of

the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell. In the south east of this LCA are the villages of Oxwich, Oxwich Green, Norton and Overton. There are several castles, notably Oxwich itself.



Strong landscape pattern and texture, resulting from repeated field boundary hedgebanks below Llanmadoc Hill and Hardings Down





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Management Guidelines:

- Optimise agri-environment schemes to target the most visually-sensitive areas where intrusive elements are conspicuous, and to retain and conserve the field boundary hedgebank network
- Ensure that settlement expansion and settlement edges are developed in a manner which takes account of the high degree of visibility across this landscape
- Consider carefully the wider potential landscape and visual impacts of farm diversification schemes and use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedgerow planting schemes, to assimilate new large-scale farm buildings
- Maintain the open character of commons, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Safeguard commons and other visually significant boundary hedgebanks as a specific policy topic (consider revocation of permitted development rights )
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites



Long view south-eastwards from the edge of Hardings Down towards the village of Scurlage, with the higher ground to the west of Penrice forming the horizon



Llanddewi & Reynoldston



Llanddewi churchyard

Llanddewi & Reynoldston LCA 11

Strengths:

A large-scale, attractive, well-managed farmed landscape, with a sparse pattern of mostly nucleated settlements. Attractive old church and churchyard at Llanddewi. Attractive village form and setting at Reynoldston situated below Cefn Bryn; a very popular visitor destination

A strong sense of place, coupled with an attractive backdrop of imposing high ground - at Rhossili Down, Llanmadoc Hill, Hardings Down and Ryer's Down to the north and west - and Cefn Bryn to the north-east

Central area is accessible via a significant stretch of Gower Way

Weaknesses:

The open nature of this landscape means that intrusive and incongruous features can be seen from medium to long range, such as caravan parks along the high ground on the coastal edge to the south-east where there is minimal screening by intervening landform or vegetation.

Opportunities:

Integrate settlement edges into the rural scene, through new hedgerow and woodland planting and management of existing vegetation

Use agri-environment initiatives to drive change and achieve landscape improvement to assimilate incongruous features, such as caravan parks

Consider the revocation of permitted development to protect boundary hedgebanks on commons and other visually significant hedgebanks from depletion or removal.

Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

Threats:

**Caravan Parks** are an established feature at the coastal edges, notably around Horton, Port Eynon and Oxwich Green. They are conspicuous in certain views from public roads and higher ground viewpoints, and are discordant elements in an otherwise largely balanced and harmonious rural landscape

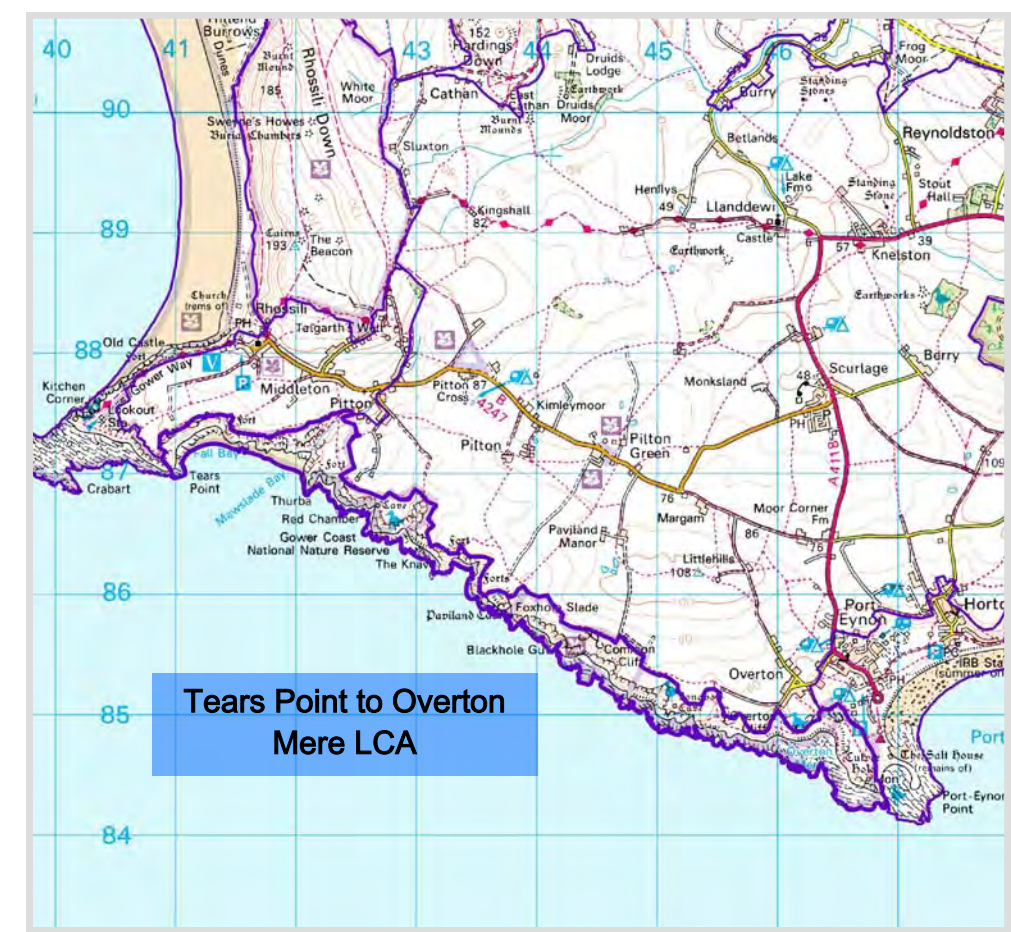
**Building developments** which may adversely affect the edges of commons, including forming breaches in - and the removal of - the characteristic boundary hedgebanks to commons

Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has a high visual and sensory value, with seascape views along the south coast
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the western section of this LCA lies within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape
- High level of tranquillity, due to sparse settlement pattern and screening effects of surrounding high ground to the north, north-west and north-east
- Gower Way promoted long distance route crosses through the core of the LCA and increases local accessibility
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding



Tears Point to Overton Mere LCA 12



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
12	Tears Point to Overton Mere	351 - Outstanding 581 - Outstanding	007- Outstanding 009 - Outstanding	114 - High 792 - Outstanding 894 - Moderate	400 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding 035 - Outstanding



Overton Mere viewed from the west towards Port Eynon Point, with the residual scars of limestone quarries evident at its land-ward end. The wave-cut rock platform is a distinctive feature contrasting strongly with the vertical cliff and scrub- covered slopes



View west from west of The Knave towards Tears Point, with Worms Head in the far distance. Dramatic rock formations contribute strongly to the seascape, which is substantially unspoilt along this whole section of the coast

Description:

The Tears Point to Overton Mere LCA is an impressive stretch of coastal cliffs of indented form, partially covered by scrub, with rock outcrops, and backed by open rolling lowland farmland in the Llanddewi & Reynoldston LCA. It is defined in the west by Tears Point and in the east by Overton Mere, just to the west of Port Eynon Point. This is an exposed, wild, rocky attractive shoreline with distinctive landform, including a wave-cut platform. There is a strong coastal sense of place, with attractive views along the coast of cliffs and beaches.

This LCA lies wholly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. The historic landscape value of the South Gower Cliffs, an area of largely unenclosed cliff top with nationally significant caves and the later pre-

historic cliff-top enclosures, is outstanding. The area is of outstanding integrity and retains most of its original character and form intact with its original pattern and detail (coastal/coastal edge features: prehistoric promontory forts, earthworks and enclosures, cave sites, etc ) and is highly visible and easily understood. The area also contains features of exceptional historic importance which are nationally rare or unique, including Paviland Caves.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell. This includes the Heritage Coast designation. Much of the LCA is designated as Open Access Land.

The only local detracting element at the edge of this fine landscape is the small village sewage treatment plant to the south of Overton. This

has no screening on the seaward side, exposing users of the Coast Path to unsightly views up the wooded valley towards Overton along which the eye is naturally drawn. Although there is a short section of stone wall at the back of the upper foreshore, this provides no visual screen, allowing open views of a functional but incongruous and locally conspicuous landscape element in an otherwise substantially unspoilt stretch of the coast.

This LCA is unique in that the great majority of its area has outstanding overall values across all 5 LANDMAP Aspects.





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Management Guidelines:

- Control caravan and camping site developments or extensions in the nearby section of the Llanddewi and Reynoldston LCA, so that intrusive visual effects are prevented
- Ensure that the Pitton settlement edge is conserved in a sensitive manner which takes account of the high degree of visibility along the coastline
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks and stone boundary walls
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter



*No planting screen to the seaward side of the village sewage treatment plant - seen at the right hand edge of this view - at Overton at the back of Overton Mere.*  
*A simple naturalistic planting scheme here would screen the plant and achieve continuity of the scrub woodland backdrop to the foreshore*



Tears Point to Overton Mere LCA 12

Strengths:

A large-scale, dramatic and highly attractive sweep of coastal landscape for the most part, with no settlements within it.  
Substantially unspoilt.  
A strong coastal sense of place, coupled with an impressive array of cliffs, rock formations and wave-cut rock platforms.  
Outstanding scenic quality, with panoramic long views out to the open sea and along the coast.  
Remote, but accessible from the Coast Path and local footpath network links inland

Weaknesses:

The open nature of this landscape means that intrusive and incongruous features can be seen from long range along the coast.

Opportunities:

Implement a naturalistic scrub woodland planting scheme to the seaward side of the Overton village sewage treatment plant.  
Local re-grading of limestone quarry scree to achieve a more naturalistic appearance near port Eynon Point overlooking Overton Mere.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

Threats:

**Building developments** which may adversely affect the sensitive edge of the coast, including large scale modern farm buildings, and the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs  
**Caravan and camping sites placed close to the coast** within the adjacent Llanddewi and Reynoldston LCA. If not properly assimilated through screening by landform, hedgebanks or colour of cladding materials, then these would be incongruous in this fine landscape

Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has outstanding Visual and Sensory value, with dramatic rock formations and cliffs. Major experience of seascape and distinctive coastal features - cliffs, beaches and wave-cut platforms - with outstanding scenic quality
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and this LCA lies wholly within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic

Landscape

- High level of tranquillity, due to absence of settlement
- High accessibility from the Coast Path
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding
- Landscape Habitats are predominantly outstanding value



Port Eynon Bay LCA 13



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
13	Port Eynon Bay	351 - Outstanding 633 - High 694 - High 876 - High 974 - High	003 - Outstanding 005 - High 007 - Outstanding	105 - Moderate 114 - High 212 - High 894 - Moderate	400 - Outstanding 726 - Outstanding 993 - <i>Unassessed</i>	034 - Outstanding 035 - Outstanding 047 - High 048 - High



View eastwards from the sand dunes at Horton towards Oxwich Point in the far distance. Strong coastal sense of place and largely unspoilt, in contrast to the area to the west of the edge of Horton village



View north from sand dunes into the western edge of Horton village. Attractive village landscape marred by intrusive chalet and caravan sites within the dune system immediately to the west and merging into the eastern edge of nearby Port Eynon village

Description:

Port Eynon Bay LCA has a curved sandy and shingle beach, in the west backed by the tourist-influenced village and caravan park of Port Eynon; and in the east backed by the sand dunes at Horton, with wooded cliff slopes above and beyond to the east. The rocky headland of Port Eynon Point defines the south-western end of the Bay, whilst the eastern end is formed by the cliffs running along to Oxwich Point. Apart from the seasonally intense local detracting visual effects of large caravan sites, the area is exposed and relatively unspoilt, with good views out to sea and along the coastal areas of cliffs and beaches. It has a strong coastal sense of place.

This LCA lies wholly within the West Gower section of the Gower Register of Historic Landscapes of Outstanding Importance in Wales. The historic landscape value is outstanding, based upon its integrity and the fact that it retains most of its original character and form intact with its original pattern and detail (coastal/coastal edge features: prehistoric promontory forts, earthworks and enclosures, cave sites etc) which are highly visible and easily understood. Culturally, Port Eynon and Horton villages on the southernmost point of Gower have unashamedly embraced tourism as their 20th/21st century contemporary cultural manifestation. They are so encompassed by caravan and camping parks that they have all but coalesced into one settlement. Nevertheless, the picturesque and historic cores of both have been designated as Conservation Areas, thereby to an extent pre-

serving their historicity and visual attractiveness. The large proportion of permanently resident retirees seem to live comfortably with the constant and regularly changing influx of visitors. That the static caravan parks intrude on the landscape cannot be questioned. The cliff edge is designated as Open Access Land between the eastern edge of Horton and Oxwich Point.



Intrusive caravan site at the western edge of Port Eynon





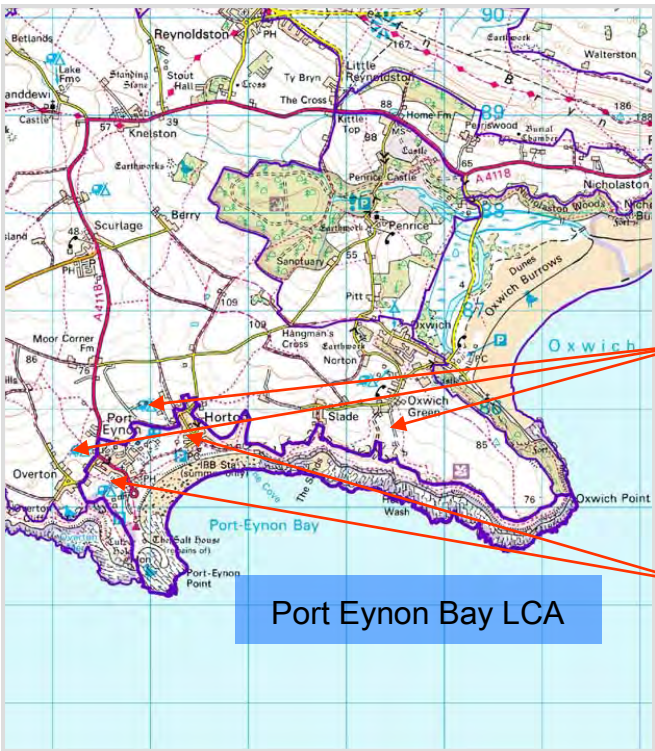
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**Management Guidelines:**

- Ensure that the Port Eynon and Horton settlement cores and edges are not further compromised by caravan, chalet or camping sites - either as extensions to existing sites or new development proposals
- Consider incentive schemes to alter the colour of caravans where they cannot be effectively screened or assimilated into the landscape by landform or vegetation
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks and stone boundary walls
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter



*Intrusive and incongruous forms of chalets and caravans at the edge of Horton, including touring vans in summer breaking the skyline above the wooded slopes*



**Port Eynon Bay LCA 13**

**Strengths:**

A distinctive stretch of the coast at the southern extremity of Gower containing two small settlements  
A strong coastal sense of place, coupled with impressive views along the coast to east and west.

**Weaknesses:**

Both villages heavily compromised by caravan and camping developments, which have an intrusive and degrading effect on the traditional village forms set into the wooded coastal slopes - Port Eynon more so than Horton.  
Locally intrusive overhead electricity and telephone lines on the landward side of the villages

**Opportunities:**

Restrict caravan siting at the edge of the wooded cliff slopes above Port Eynon and Horton in summer to prevent additional visual intrusion.  
Encourage local development of scrub woodland to reduce the visual intrusion.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

**Threats:**

**Caravan chalet and camping sites which are not designed to be assimilated into the coastal landscape.** They are conspicuous in most views from within and around the villages. These are discordant and detracting elements in this coastal village landscape with fine sea views in many directions. This includes the conspicuous incongruous site to the south of Oxwich Green, visible from the edge of Overton  
**Building developments** which may adversely affect the traditional village cores, including the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs

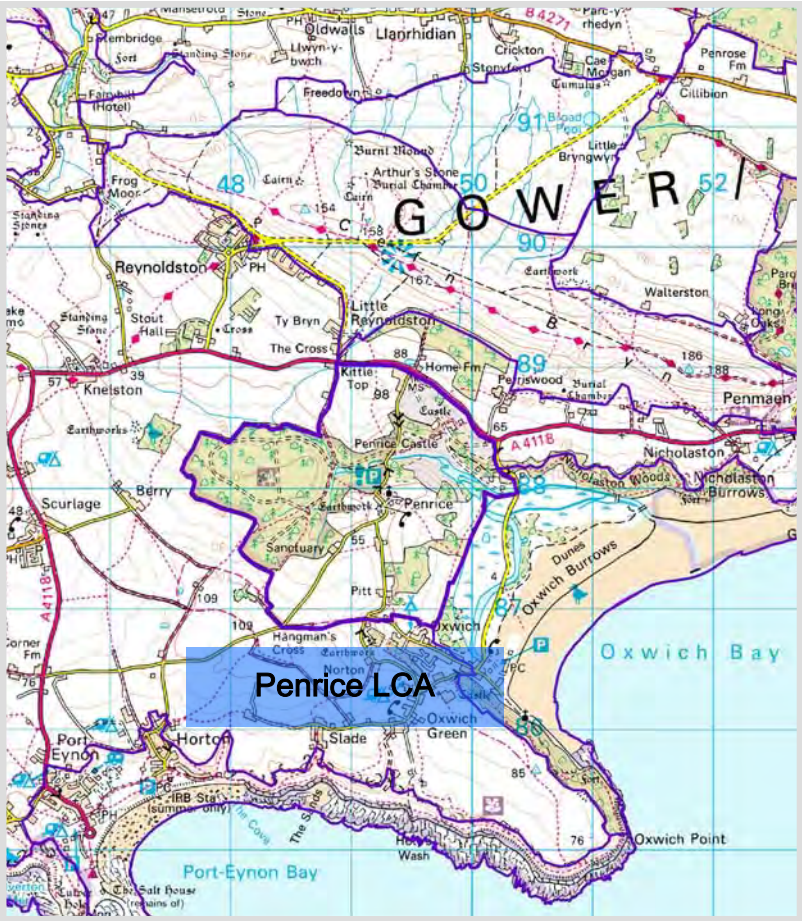
**Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:**

- Coastal slopes and cliffs east of Horton are largely unspoilt
- Sandy beaches
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the western section this LCA lies wholly within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding

- Geological Landscape value is outstanding



Penrice LCA 14



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
14	Penrice	785 - High	002 - Outstanding	890 - Moderate 894 - Moderate	726 - Outstanding	045 - Outstanding



Penrice Castle ruins seen against the backdrop of the western section of the ridge of Cefn Bryn, set down in the heavily wooded stream valley which runs to the wetland of Oxwich Marsh



Penrice Castle ornamental entrance gates leading to parkland around the 18th century manor house. Woodland sculpture is one of the features of interest in the forest walks within the valley to the north of the castle and parkland

Description:

The Penrice LCA is a planned, formal estate landscape with a distinctive, highly visible, unique parkland character within Gower, which has minor coastal influences through glimpsed borrowed views. This low-land area is enclosed by landform and dense woodland; it is small scale, sheltered and largely unspoilt. There are accessible attractive views within and into this LCA, from public roads and local rights of way, and from the Open Access Land designated within those woodland areas managed by the Forestry Commission.

It provides an interesting and notable contrast to the surrounding open farmland, the nearby open coast and the backdrop of the exposed up-land of the ridge at Cefn Bryn.

The Penrice Estate, the estate village, Home Farm, Pitt Farm and park-lands constitute a typical manorial demesne, one of the last estates and manor houses occupied by private owners on Gower. The estate village or hamlet includes the Church of St Andrew, and a half dozen white-washed cottages standing at random round a miniature green, open to the panoramic view of Oxwich Bay and its enclosing cliffs. There are prehistoric earthworks and a 12th century ringwork fortification, Mounty-borough, though it is hidden by shrubs and trees. These are incorporated into the designated Conservation Area. In addition to the occupied 18th century manor house, there is a mediaeval castle (at present in dangerous condition), an orangery, and the deceptive folly of the gate-house on the main A4118 road junction with the minor road to Oxwich. From the road through the hamlet, the square granary on its saddle

stones is an intriguing and unusual sight. In recent years, the Gower Agricultural Show has returned to the park.



A glimpsed view of part of Oxwich Bay through the formal parkland landscape at Penrice

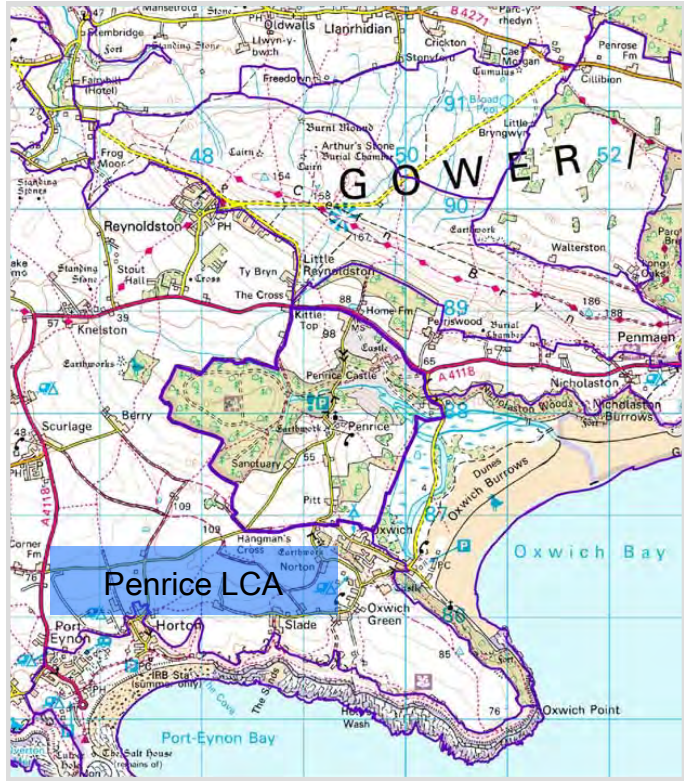




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*Penrice estate woodlands with trails with sculpture and interpretation of historical features. A very sheltered and enclosed forest landscape with a tranquil quality, but highly accessible*



Penrice LCA 14

Strengths:

A very distinctive local landscape which is sheltered and atmospheric.  
A very strong sense of place, emanating from the relationship of historic buildings to the landscape and the estate ‘feel.’  
Highly accessible through the Open Access Land designation within the woodland and the connecting local footpath network

Weaknesses:

No discernible weaknesses

Opportunities:

Effective conservation management of existing field boundary hedgebanks, earthen banks and stone boundary walls to conserve these strong local characterising features  
Ensure that the parkland and woodland character is maintained by active and considered tree management, to ensure continuity of diverse and appropriate tree cover.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

Threats:

Alteration of woodland and parkland character by the destructive effects of pathogenic tree disorders (such as ash die-back and *Phytophthora*) and sanitation clearance measures

Management Guidelines:

- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks and banks and stone boundary walls
- Continue appropriate woodland and parkland tree management, in the light of current developments in relation to the spread of pathogenic tree infections
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter

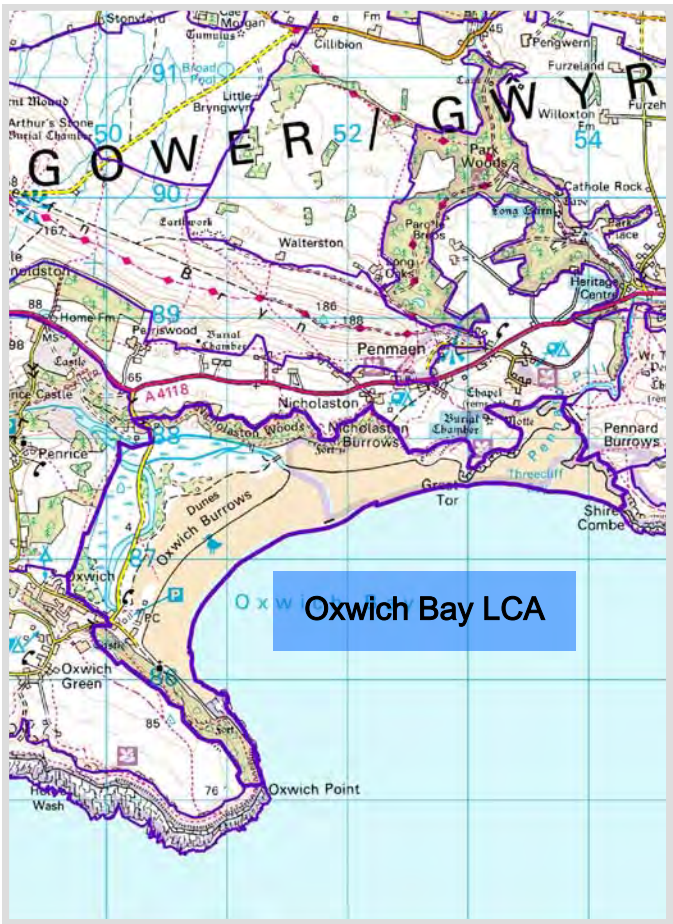
Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has high Visual and Sensory value, and is a sheltered enclave with a very distinctive settled atmosphere and a tangible sense of history
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the western section this LCA lies wholly within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape.

- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding
- Open Access Land in the woodland and local public footpaths allow close-range appreciation of the parkland and woodlands



Oxwich Bay LCA 15



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
15	Oxwich Bay	151 - High 522 - Outstanding 630 - Outstanding 694 - High 876 - High 877 - High 974 - High	001- Outstanding 002 - Outstanding 021 - High	124- Outstanding 256 - High 399 - High 478 - High 479 - High	612 - Outstanding 981 - High 993 - Unassessed	035 - Outstanding 041 - Outstanding 046 - Outstanding 047 - High



Three Cliffs Bay towards the eastern end of Oxwich Bay, with its iconic landform and broad sandy beach below the Pennard Burrows sand dunes



Oxwich Bay - view over Oxwich village from the edge of Oxwich Green eastwards over the extensive wetland, sand dunes and the back of the beach to the wooded slopes below Nicholaston



Oxwich Bay beach and the sand dunes formed at the back of the beach, separating it from the nearby wetland on the landward side

Description:

Oxwich Bay LCA is mainly characterised by a long, curved sandy beach backed by the vegetated sand dunes of Oxwich Burrows – inland from which lies the distinctive enclosed wetland of Oxwich Marsh - and Nicholaston Burrows and cliffs to the east. The rocky headland of Oxwich Point defines the southern end of the Bay. Shire Combe, at the eastern extremity of Three Cliffs Bay marks the eastern end. This LCA has a unique composition within Gower, having a small area of enclosed wetland with distinctive elements, located between a steep-sided wooded valley and wooded coastal slopes and the dunes formed along the back of a broad sandy beach. It has a strong sense of place, and there are picturesque views along the dunes and beaches to sea cliffs, and long views inland up to the prominent ridge of Cefn Bryn.

The south-western extremity of this LCA on the edge of the promontory running up to Oxwich Point lies within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. This Historical Landscape Aspect predominantly has an outstanding overall evaluation. It includes an area of well-preserved and relatively rare be-sanded landscape containing numerous and varied relict and buried features.

The area has multiple statutory environmental designations: the AONB, a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and two Sites of Special Scientific Interest - Nicholaston Woods and Oxwich Bay. The NNR has one of the richest varieties of coastal habitat in the UK. The foreshore, dunes, marshes and woodlands hold many species, particularly flowers, birds and insects, with more than 600 kinds of flowering plants found. As a consequence, the Landscape Habitats are evaluated as high for the most part with the Oxwich Marsh being of outstanding value.

This LCA is a very popular visitor destination. There is designated Open Access Land at Oxwich Point, Penmaen Burrows and at the edge of Pennard Burrows around Shire Combe. The designated areas appear to suffer little erosion - a tribute to the management of the site, in view of the many thousands of visitors to the immediately adjacent Oxwich Bay beach throughout the year.





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Intrusive man-made elements in an otherwise substantially unspoilt landscape - caravan on the sky-line and a large marquee in the grounds of the Oxwich Bay Hotel

# Oxwich Bay LCA 15

**Strengths:**  
A small but separate and distinctive high mass of land forming a discrete landscape feature in West Gower containing no settlements.  
A strong coastal sense of place, coupled with impressive views out in all directions, but especially over Llangennith and the nearby Llangennith and Broughton Burrows to the open sea.  
Largely unspoilt.

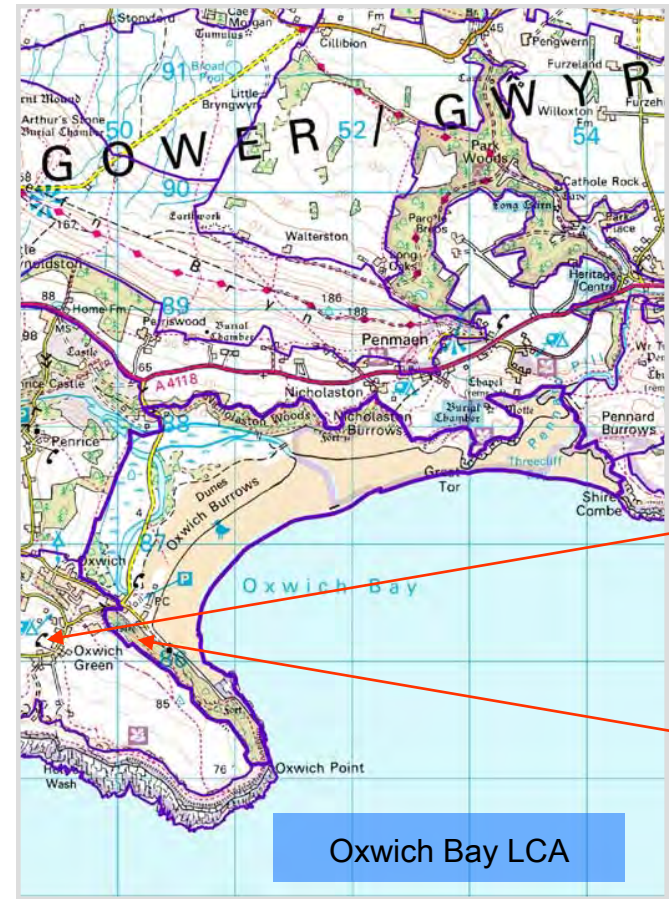
**Weaknesses:**  
Some locally intrusive features, including a marquee near Oxwich Bay Hotel which has a highly reflective roof material, and caravan sites on the skyline around Oxwich Green  
Sand dunes prone to erosion if excessive visitor use is not managed effectively and consistently

**Opportunities:**  
Effective conservation management of existing field boundary hedgebanks and stone boundary walls using traditional methods  
Promote discussions with caravan and camp site operators about colour changes to caravans and chalets if screening cannot be achieved by landform or planting.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

**Threats:**  
*Caravan and camping sites placed close to the cliffs and the tops of the coastal wooded slopes* within the adjacent Llanddewi and Reynoldston LCA around Oxwich Green. If not properly assimilated through screening by landform, hedgebanks or colour of cladding materials, then these would incongruous in this fine landscape  
*Building developments* which may adversely affect the sensitive edge of the coast, including large scale leisure and recreational buildings, and the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs

**Management Guidelines:**

- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks, earthen and rubble banks and stone boundary walls
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Maintain the character of the Oxwich Marsh wetland, through favourable vegetation management
- Continue with the effective visitor management which is successfully preventing damage to vulnerable habitats in designated sites
- Retain and conserve the fixed sand dunes, both for habitat conservation reasons and their screening function in relation to intrusive car parks and leisure facilities
- Control new caravan and camping site developments or extensions within the nearby section of the Llanddewi and Reynoldston LCA, so that existing intrusive visual effects are minimised and further intrusive effects are prevented
- Consider incentive schemes to alter the colour of caravans where they cannot be effectively screened or assimilated into the landscape by landform or vegetation



**Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:**

- Landscape has high Visual and Sensory value, with attractive coastal views and inland views to Penrice
- Extensive sandy beaches and cliffs
- Unique tranquil wetland landscape behind sand dunes on the south Gower coast
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the narrow fringe of land running up to Oxwich Point is within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape.
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding
- Highly accessible from links to main roads and the Coast Path



Nicholaston & Penmaen LCA 16



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
16	Nicholaston & Penmaen	876- High 877 - High	002 - Outstanding 020 - Outstanding	306 - Low 894- Moderate	035 - Outstanding 612 - Outstanding 726 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding 035 - Outstanding 042 - Moderate



The view west from near Penmaen towards Oxwich Point, seen in the far distance. The enclosed farmland contrasts strongly with the scrub on the cliff top and slopes



Great Torr and Three Cliffs viewed to the south from the popular picnic site and viewpoint above Penmaen village

Description:

The Nicholaston and Penmaen LCA is a relatively narrow band of rolling lowland farmland, sandwiched between the break of slope along the edge of the coast above Oxwich Bay and the break of slope at the base of the rising common land of Cefn Bryn. It wraps around the eastern end of Cefn Bryn and runs north to meet the distinctive wooded valley at Parkmill, and east as far as the stream valley at Pennard Pill, with Pennard Burrows beyond. In the west, its boundary is defined by the change of character at the formal Penrice estate farmed landscape and parkland. A distinctive coastal landscape, close to the urban edge and popular with the public, with its accessible attractive coastal views, rocky shoreline and cliffs from some viewpoints. This is comfortable set-

tled countryside with a slight maritime flavour and a strong sense of place, and there is generally unspoilt rolling farmland inland. This LCA lies partly within the Cefn Bryn section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell. It includes the Heritage Coast designation. There are two small settlements and few visually detracting elements, mostly the two large caravan and camping sites at Nicholaston and Penmaen and the odd cluster of chalets south of Notthill near Penmaen

which intrude onto Three Cliffs Bay. There are also some local concentrations of overhead electricity and telephone lines.



The view north east from near Penmaen towards the Parkmill woodlands





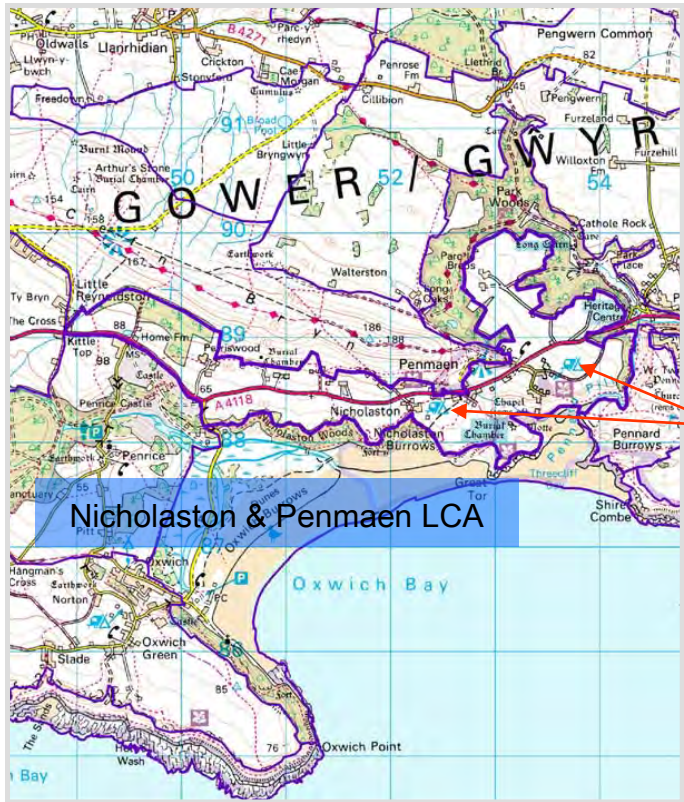
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**Management Guidelines:**

- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the distinctive field boundary hedgebanks and the resulting field pattern
- Optimise agri-environment schemes to target the most visually-sensitive areas where intrusive elements are conspicuous, and to retain and conserve the field boundary hedgebank network
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Retain and conserve the fixed sand dunes, both for habitat conservation reasons and their screening function in relation to intrusive features
- Promote the placement underground of overhead electricity and telephone lines in particularly visually sensitive areas, such as the edge of Cefn Bryn in the Penmaen area
- Control caravan and camping site developments or extensions in the northern section of the LCA, so that intrusive visual effects are prevented, including light pollution



*View from the easternmost edge of Cefn Bryn near Penmaen over the wooded farmland landscape enclosed by the Parkmill valleys, with the edge of Southgate village beyond on the horizon*



**Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:**

- Landscape has high Visual and Sensory value, with picturesque sea views over iconic rock formations and cliffs and a land back-drop dominated by the high open ridge of Cefn Bryn
- Important experience of seascape views to the south and east
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and part of the LCA lies within the Cefn Bryn area of the Gower Registered Historic Land-

**Nicholaston & Penmaen LCA 16**

**Strengths:**

A narrow band of enclosed farmland separating the lower slopes of Cefn Bryn from the coastal edge with a maritime feel  
A strong coastal sense of place, coupled with some impressive views out to the south and west, especially to the iconic rock formations at Three Cliffs  
Largely unspoilt farmland with a settled feel

**Weaknesses:**

Some locally intrusive overhead electricity and telephone lines in the Penmaen area at the eastern end of Cefn Bryn  
Intrusive chalets south of Notthill near Penmaen overlooking Pennard Pill and Three Cliffs Bay

**Opportunities:**

Effective conservation management of existing field boundary hedgebanks, especially where they form the boundaries to caravan and camping sites.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

**Threats:**

**Caravan and camping sites** are an established feature at Nicholaston and Penmaen. They are conspicuous in certain views from public roads and higher ground viewpoints, and are discordant elements in an otherwise largely balanced and harmonious naturalistic coastal landscape; and especially intrusive on night-time tranquillity through increased levels of overhead lighting  
**Sand dune erosion through excessive visitor pressure** on the western edges of Pennard Pill

scape.

- Geological Landscape value is outstanding
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding



Cefn Bryn LCA 17



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
17	Cefn Bryn	196 - High	018 - High 019 - High 020 - Outstanding	860 - High 876 - High	190 - Outstanding	043 - Outstanding



The broad expanse of the top of Cefn Bryn ridge with grazing cattle, with the view to the north east towards Lunnun LCA and the Cillibion Plantation LCA beyond



The south-western slopes of Cefn Bryn above Reynoldston village with the distinctive high ground of Rhossili Down, Hardings Down and Llanmadoc Hill forming the horizon

Description:

Cefn Bryn LCA is a broad, imposing open ridge of exposed rough grazing grassland, ranging between 100m and 190mAOD, and highly visible from many parts of Gower and beyond to the north. The highly accessible attractive views out the coast to the south, and to the broad expanse of the Loughor Estuary to the north, are significant contributors to the strong sense of place here. This **Old Red Sandstone** upland area, dominated by bracken and dry acid heath (SSSI protection), has few visual detractors apart from a Welsh Water Service Reservoir at its Eastern end and locally intrusive overhead lines. It has long-established commons rights and is designated as Open Access Land, with the Gower Way promoted long-distance route running along much of the ridge top between Reynoldston and Penmaen.

This LCA has outstanding Historical Landscape value. It contains numerous important prehistoric sites, is one of the richest archaeological areas in South Wales, and lies wholly within the Cefn Bryn section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. It is one of the five upland commons including Ryer's Down Llanmadoc Hill, Hardings Down, Rhossili Down which although not contiguous, are of exactly similar nature, being those areas of higher ground unsuitable for arable farming which have been left out of the general enclosure of the surrounding farmland. The main interest is the large number of prehistoric funerary and ritual sites on most of these commons.

It also has outstanding Cultural Landscape value. The prominent long ridge of Cefn Bryn dominates the skyline over much of Gower. It is undoubtedly one of the richest archaeological areas of South Wales, containing dense concentrations of monuments surviving on the crest and slopes of the ridge, and provides multi-period evidence of human activity from at least the 4th or 3rd millennium BC.

There are no settlements within this LCA.



The western section of the broad ridge of Cefn Bryn, viewed to the north west from the road rising up from Cefn Bryn Common





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Management Guidelines:

- Promote the placement underground of overhead electricity and telephone lines in particularly visually sensitive areas, such as the edges of Reynoldston, Little Reynoldston and Penmaen
- Resist the extension of the overhead lines network in the event of additional services being provided for new or rehabilitated building developments along the common edge
- Maintain the open character of the common, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the adjoining field boundary hedgebanks and stone boundary walls
- Promote active physical bracken and scrub control measures to restrict encroachment into open habitats and onto historic environment assets; and implement fire management precautions during susceptible weather and ground conditions
- Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter



Intrusive overhead lines - on both sides of Cefn Bryn



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Massive dominating presence, visible from most of the Gower peninsula
- Landscape has high Visual and Sensory value, with open panoramic sea views to the south and west and overland to the north and east
- Important experience of highly accessible dramatic views, with

- an unrivalled sense of remoteness and exposure inland in Gower
- Gower commons - an expansive sweep of open common land
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and this LCA lies wholly within the Cefn Bryn area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- The Gower Way runs along most of the crest of the ridge

Cefn Bryn LCA 17

Strengths:

- A very large area of high common land, with distinctive linear ridge landform with a dominant presence in Gower 's landscape
- A very strong of place, coupled with dramatic and panoramic views out, in all directions
- Substantially unspoilt, with a remote and exposed character
- Easily accessible due to Open Access Land designation and road links

Weaknesses:

- Vegetation and archaeological sites prone to damage by fire, off-road vehicles and changes in grazing regimes
- Long open views are sensitive to intrusive development and overhead lines

Opportunities:

- Placement underground of overhead lines in the most visually sensitive locations, such as at Reynoldston, Little Reynoldston and the eastern end of the ridge at Penmaen.
- Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

Threats:

- Locally high density of overhead electricity and telephone lines are incongruous and intrusive elements in an otherwise substantially unspoilt landscape* on both slopes of the ridge, with particularly noticeable effects above Reynoldston and Little Reynoldston, and at the eastern extremity above Penmaen village
- Building developments* which may adversely affect the sensitive edge of the common, including large scale modern farm buildings, and the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs
- Local erosion of historic environment assets, footpaths and access tracks* by unauthorised vehicles



Cefn Bryn Common LCA 18



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
18	Cefn Bryn Common	196 - High	019 - High	876 - High	190 - Outstanding	043 - Outstanding



The broad, open lowland heathland of Cefn Bryn Common, viewed north-westwards from the public road towards Llanrhidian village and the Loughor Estuary beyond. Although part of the wider Cefn Bryn common land, this area is distinct from the ridge



The view northwards from the northern slopes of the Cefn Bryn ridge down across Cefn Bryn Common, with Broad Pool seen adjacent to the road in the right hand middle ground

Description:

Cefn Bryn Common LCA occupies the lower ground of the open common land, below and to the north of the ridge of Cefn Bryn. It is mostly lower lying open grazing land, dominated by wet heath and marshy grassland, with pockets of scrub and bracken, the underlying geology being more water-retentive than the higher ground of Cefn Bryn to the south. There are sink holes present and locally-frequent small areas of open water, notably at Broad Pool.

There are extensive areas of rare and protected lowland heath habitats, with both international and national conservation designations (SSSI and Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Culturally and historically, this LCA is evaluated as being outstanding as long-distance route passes through the far north-eastern extremity of a collection of significant prehistoric relics of multi-period occupation in the LCA at the hamlet of Cillibion.

a small area. Part of one of the five upland commons of Cefn Bryn, Ryer's Down Llanmadoc Hill, Hardings Down, Rhossili Down which although not contiguous, are of exactly similar nature, being those areas of higher ground unsuitable for arable farming which have been left out of the general enclosure of the surrounding farmland. The main interest is the large number of prehistoric funerary and ritual sites on most of these commons.

There are no settlements and few visually detracting elements. It is readily accessible from the public roads which cross the area and is largely designated as Open Access Land. The Gower Way promoted



Broad Pool at the edge of the common with the Cefn Bryn ridge forming the horizon





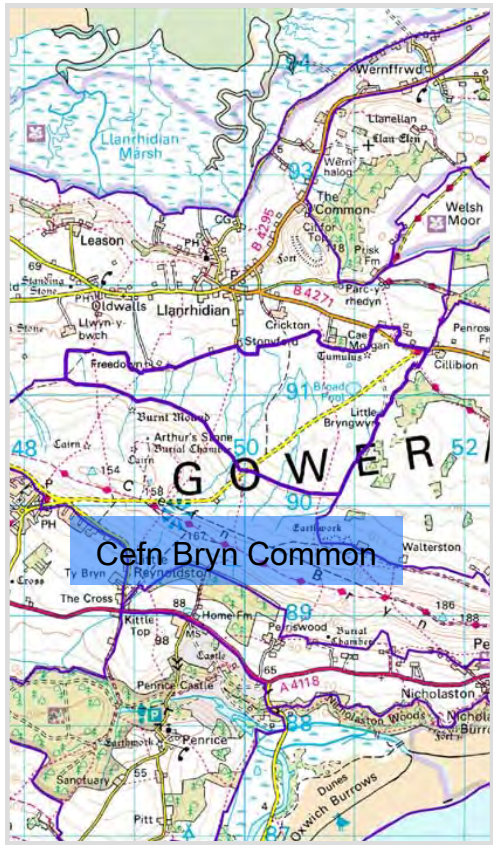
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**Management Guidelines:**

- Maintain the open character of commons, through favourable grazing and vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Promote the physical control of bracken scrub, to maintain open character and protect historic environment assets; and to diversify grassland and heathland habitats; and to reduce seasonal fire risk



*Vegetation encroachment - scrub and bracken - is controlled by livestock grazing, where the drier ground permits such growth, and so the landscape remains substantially open*



**Cefn Bryn Common LCA 18**

**Strengths:**  
A distinctive large tract of low-lying ground with a substantially unspoilt and exposed character.  
A very strong sense of place, coupled with wide panoramic views out to the west and up to the massive Cefn Bryn ridge to the south.  
Easily accessible through Open Access Land designation and linked directly to The Gower Way at its north-eastern end.  
Priority habitats present throughout the area

**Weaknesses:**  
Open nature and habitat value has the potential to be adversely affected through changes in grazing management and willow and gorse scrub and bracken invasion.

**Opportunities:**  
Promote continued favourable grazing and implement physical scrub and bracken control, to safeguard existing grassland and heathland habitats and open water pools.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

**Threats:**  
*Colonisation by willow, gorse and bracken* which could cause habitat degradation, damage to historic environment assets and restrict access.  
Seasonal threats from fire risk  
*Damage to habitats by unauthorised vehicles* encroaching from the public roads

**Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:**

- Landscape has high Visual and Sensory value
- Important experience of wide views
- Gower commons
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Highly accessible as designated Open Access Land, from public

roads and rights of way and directly linked into The Gower Way



Llanrhidian LCA 19

LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
19	Llanrhidian	876- High 878 - High	019 - High 027 - High	894 - Moderate	726 - Outstanding 368 - <i>Unassessed</i>	034 - Outstanding 035 - Outstanding 057 - High



View northwards from the edge of Llanmadoc Hill over the extreme western end of Llanrhidian LCA, showing the typical rolling farmland mosaic on the rear slope of the prominent wooded escarpment which faces the Loughor Estuary



The view westwards along the escarpment over Llanrhidian village to the horizon formed by Llanmadoc Hill to the right and Hardings Down and the edge of Rhossili Down to the left. This is very pleasant rolling wooded farmland and largely unspoilt

**Description:**

This extensive LCA is an area of rolling farmland landscape, with small fields bounded by hedgerows and a distinctive dip-and-scarp landform - including running east-west, parallel with and adjacent to the Loughor Estuary. There is coastal influence and a strong sense of place, with accessible picturesque views, especially out across the Loughor Estuary towards Llanelli and along the north coast of Gower. This is generally unspoilt rolling farmland and is comfortable settled countryside with slight maritime flavour.

Historically evaluated as being outstanding, with evidence of a complex fieldscape, evolved from open-field system, but with elements derived from encroachment and reclamation, areas of woodland, small-scale agricultural and maritime activity. In addition to outstanding integrity, survival and condition, and rarity, this Aspect Area is considered to have wide-ranging scope for future historic landscape study and potential amenity value. Notable historical landmarks are the Cilifor Top ring fort to the east of Llanrhidian village and the imposing ruins of Weobley Castle, east of Landimore, overlooking the Loughor Estuary and set against a wooded backdrop.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell. It is evaluated as being outstanding as a landscape bearing multiple environmental protection designations. There are three nucleated village settlements - Llanrhidian, Oldwalls

and Landimore. Llanrhidian village has an attractive local landmark, in the form of its church tower.

The most significant detracting element is the Llanrhidian Holiday Park which is a large caravan site set back from the main coast road north-east of Llanrhidian village and within 0.8kms of Cilifor Top. Although trees and woodland provide effective screening from the main road, the entrance is an almost industrial scale and the site is easily seen from Cilifor Top, some 65 metres above the caravan site.

The Gower Way promoted long-distance route passes through the eastern extremity of the LCA, between the hamlets of Cillibion and Prysgr.





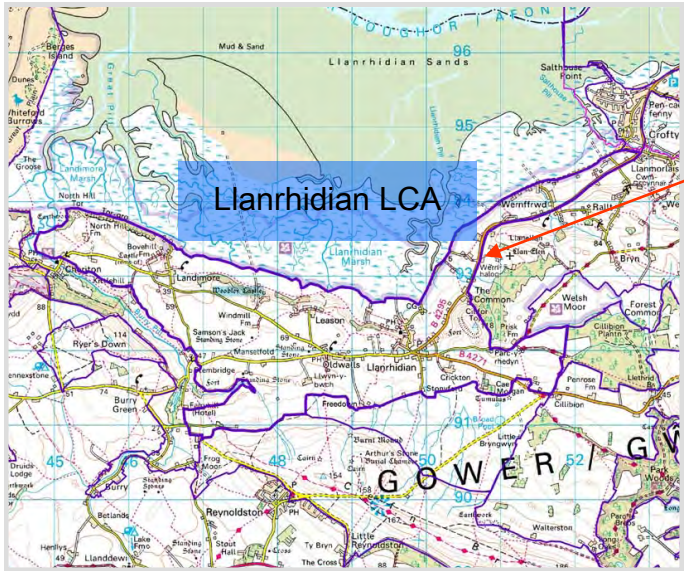
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Management Guidelines:

- Optimise agri-environment schemes to target the most visually-sensitive areas where intrusive elements are conspicuous, and to retain and conserve the field boundary hedgerow network
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgerows and stone boundary walls
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Consider carefully the wider potential landscape and visual impacts of farm diversification schemes and use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedgerow planting schemes, to assimilate new large-scale farm buildings
- Control caravan and camping site developments or extensions here and in the nearby section of the Crofty to Three Crosses LCA, so that intrusive visual effects are prevented, including light pollution
- Consider incentive schemes to alter the colour of caravans where they cannot be effectively screened or assimilated into the landscape by landform or vegetation



Modern farm buildings and modern cropping methods can be incongruous.  
The attractive wooded escarpment forms a backdrop to the ruins of Weobley Castle



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Impressive seascape experience from long views both across and along the Loughor Estuary
- Long escarpment facing the Loughor Estuary is a distinctive and impressive landform feature
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the area this LCA lies partly within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered

- Historic Landscape.
- Attractive local landmarks at Llanrhidian church tower, Weobley Castle and Cilifor Top
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding

Llanrhidian LCA 19

Strengths:

Settled farmland with picturesque views out to sea to the west down the Loughor Estuary  
A strong coastal sense of place heavily influenced by the panoramic views over the adjacent Loughor Estuary  
Substantially unspoilt farmland landscape with notable local landmarks at Llanrhidian church tower, Weobley Castle and Cilifor Top  
Easily accessible from the public road network, the nearby Coast Path and The Gower Way

Weaknesses:

Distinctive and historically-important fieldscape vulnerable to change through boundary hedgerow neglect or removal

Opportunities:

Promote changes to colours of caravans which cannot be effectively screened or assimilated into the view by landform or appropriate planting schemes.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

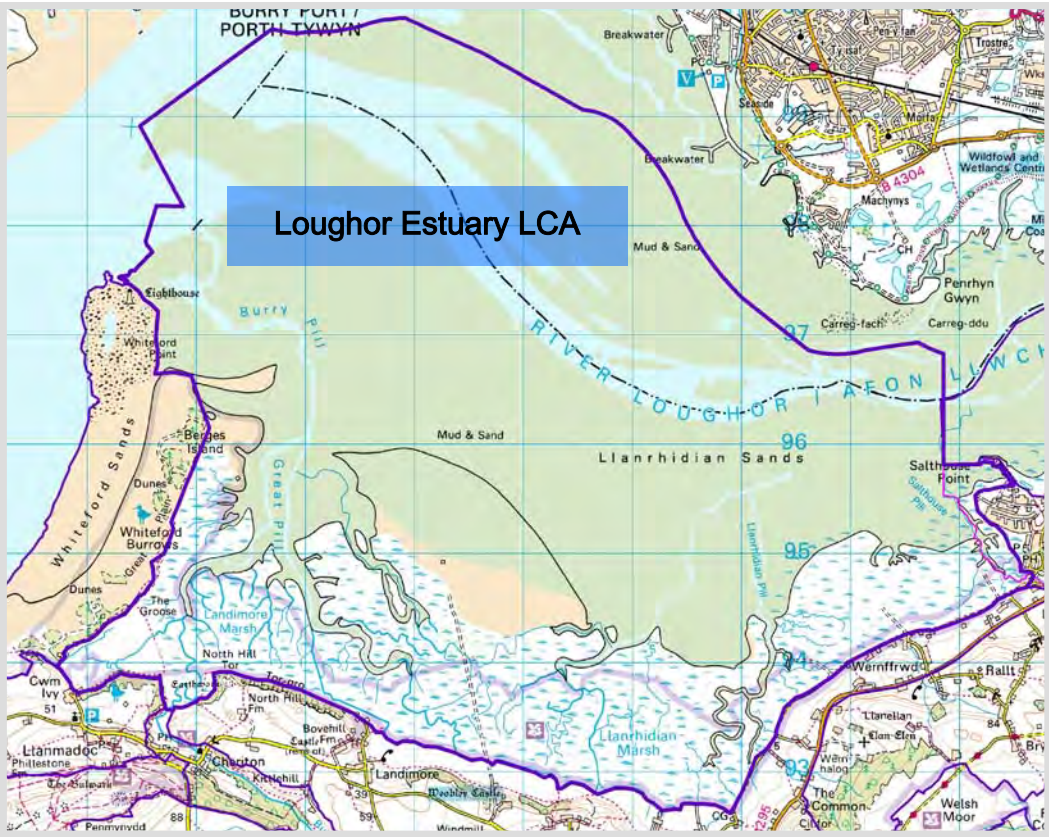
Threats:

**A Caravan Park** is an established feature at Llanrhidian Holiday Park to the north east of Llanrhidian village at the boundary of the LCA. This is conspicuous in certain views from higher ground viewpoints, especially Cilifor Top. Although well-wooded in comparison to most of the caravan sites on Gower, this screening is not effective in the view from Cilifor Top, and the main road entrance off the B4295 is more in keeping with an industrial site in terms of its scale and layout. The site is a discordant element in an otherwise well-wooded, rolling naturalistic coastal landscape - and especially intrusive on night-time tranquillity, through increased levels of overhead lighting  
**Modern large agricultural buildings** can appear incongruous in relation to small fields and the traditional small farmsteads with their vernacular stone and brick buildings



Loughor Estuary LCA 20

LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
20	Loughor Estuary	337 - High 683 - High	028 - Outstanding	191 -Outstanding 957 - Outstanding	368 - Outstanding 767 - <i>Unassessed</i>	022 - Outstanding 035 - Outstanding



Llanrhidian Marsh and the distinctive coniferous shelterbelts along Whiteford Point, with the open estuary beyond. There are wide panoramic views over the sheltered inlet



Llanrhidian Marsh showing the view eastwards up the estuary towards Salthouse Point. These very extensive marshes and inter-tidal areas have very high levels of protection as designated sites for nature conservation

Description:

The Loughor Estuary LCA is founded upon a very large expanse of flat estuarine marsh, with some areas of rough grazing, and extensive mud/silt flats, situated between the channel of the River Loughor and the rising ground of the landward rural landscape. There are long and often attractive views into this area and out along estuary which, combined with the 'sea air', engender a strong coastal sense of place, with a wilder and more remote atmosphere than the inner estuary. There are locally detracting views in some parts, such as in the extreme easternmost section which wraps around the edge of the village of Crofty near Salthouse Point.

There are no settlements within the LCA and few significant visually detracting elements.

The westernmost extremity of this LCA along the inshore side of Whiteford Point southwards to near Cwm Ivy lies partly within the West Gower section of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. These contribute to its historic evaluation as outstanding.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell - and includes the Heritage Coast designation. It is evaluated as being outstanding as a landscape bearing

multiple environmental protection designations. Much of the area of Landimore and Llanrhidian Marshes is designated as Open Access Land.



Landimore Marsh seen from above the seaward end of Burry Pill, with Whiteford Point beyond





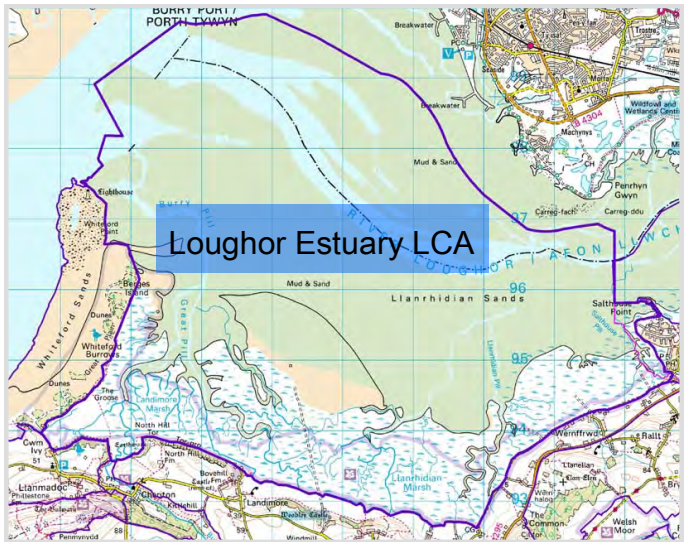
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**Management Guidelines:**

- Maintain the open character of the saltmarsh and mud flats, through favourable vegetation management,
- Ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges of the estuary
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the earthen banks and boundary walls
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Protect and where possible enhance the international and nationally important habitats present



*The vast open spaces of the estuary with its distinctive and evocative features - Whiteford Point and the old lighthouse at its seaward end*



**Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:**

- Important experience of panoramic seascape and estuary views, which are highly accessible from the extensive stretch of the Coast Path along the southern shore and the large areas of Open Access Land designated on Landimore and Llanrhidian Marshes
- Landscape Habitats value is outstanding, with international and

**Loughor Estuary LCA 20**

**Strengths:**

A very large expanse of estuarine landscape with salt marshes, mud flats, tidal creeks and sand banks.  
Very well defined by the shore line of Llanrhidian LCA and Whiteford Point and with long views along the estuary inland and out to the sea.  
Substantially unspoilt, with an open and very exposed character.

**Weaknesses:**

Vulnerable to marine and water-borne pollution.  
Local detracting effects of street lighting in the eastern section along the B4295 coastal road

**Opportunities:**

Conserve and enhance saltmarsh habitats through appropriate grazing regimes and the physical control of debris.  
Ensure that any upgrading of street lighting includes modern full cut-off lanterns, so as to minimise light pollution  
Increase the sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

**Threats:**

**Marine and water-borne pollution and debris**, which could cause extensive habitat degradation and harm to protected species

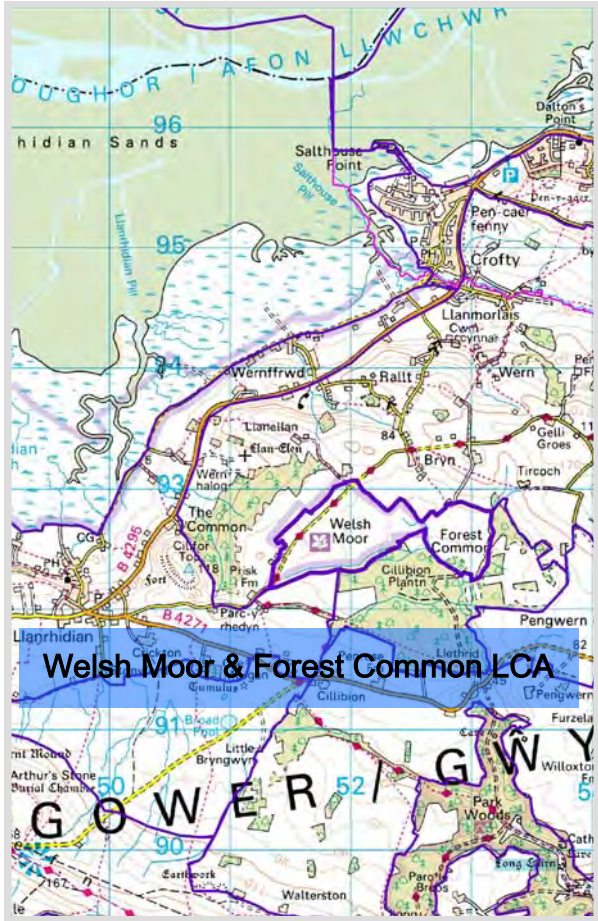
national protective designations

- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and the western section of this LCA lies within the West Gower area of the Gower Registered Historic Landscape
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding



Welsh Moor & Forest Common LCA 21

LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
21	Welsh Moor & Forest Common	436 - Moderate	024 - Outstanding	989 - High	383 - High	034 - Outstanding



The northern western section of Welsh Moor common. Scrub is confined to a narrow band of shrubby willows growing along the drainage ditch and the woodland in the background forms the edge of the common



The view south-eastwards over Welsh Moor to the edge of the Cillibion Plantation, showing the grazed heathland in good condition as a result of consistent and appropriate grazing and scrub and bracken control by The National Trust

**Description:**

The Welsh Moor and Forest Common LCA encompasses two linked areas of lowland common land in close proximity which are characterised by their distinctive open rough grazing land, and enclosure at their southern boundaries by extensive tracts of woodland. This is an area of heath and marshy grassland situated within a wider area of improved grassland, on part of a gently sloping plateau of sandstone/millstone grit. This LCA is strongly based upon the common land of rough grazing which is surrounded by lowland farmland and forested areas. It has a strong sense of place, which emanates partly from its enclosed character, with land cover being an important defining element.


Geologically, this LCA forms part of a large Geological Landscape Aspect Area in the form of a broad, gently sloping plateau formed by the

Millstone Grit Group - Productive Coal Formation (Upper Carboniferous) mudstones with sandstones and coals, dissected by the mean- lowland Gower common in the ownership of The National Trust. It contains high value habitats - notably areas of lowland heath and purple opston rivers, and by the north to east-draining Killay and Clyne rivers. moor grass - the latter a habitat of international importance, and has SSSI designation as protection.

and there is glacial sand and gravel across Welsh Moor.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large Aspect Area relating to the AONB designation itself, particularly the Gower peninsula, but with no further refinement.

There is no settlement within this LCA, but there are occasional farmsteads and smallholdings bordering the edges of the commons. Historically, this LCA also forms part of the Gower Lowland Commons Aspect Area, which has outstanding value.



Grazing horses on the south-eastern section of Welsh Moor common





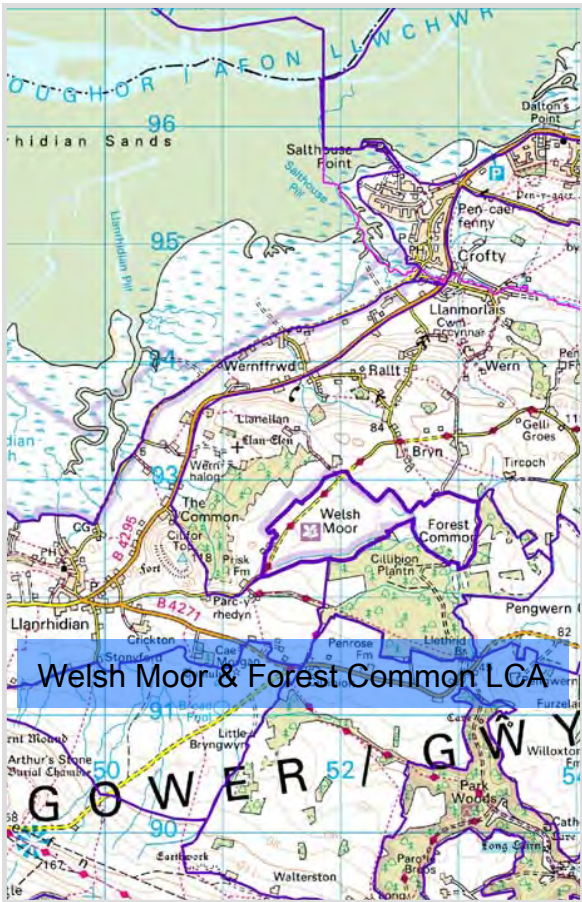
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**Management Guidelines:**

- Maintain the distinctive open character of the commons and their associated habitats, through favourable vegetation management
- Ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges of the commons
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks, earthen banks and stone boundary walls
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets



*Gorse scrub and bracken control evident at ground level and the open heathland is grazed, with the result that this is an excellent example of open lowland heathland common*



**Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:**

- Gower commons - Welsh Moor is an excellent example of a well-managed lowland common
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Landscape Habitats value is high, with SSSI designation to protect lowland heath and purple moor grass habitats
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding

**Welsh Moor & Forest Common LCA 21**

**Strengths:**

A highly distinctive landscape feature centred on a picturesque stream valley which is shallow in its upper reaches and deeply incised at its lower end near the edge of Cheriton

A very strong sense of place, characterised by the sense of enclosure and land cover.

Substantially unspoilt, with a well-managed character.

Favourable management and protection through The National Trust ownership

**Weaknesses:**

Vulnerability to incongruous building developments, if sited and designed in an unsympathetic manner, because of the open views.

Vegetation damage through unauthorised vehicle access

**Opportunities:**

Maintain characteristic vegetation by appropriate grazing management and intervention management, such as the periodic removal of invading trees and scrub and the continuation of active bracken control measures.

Considerable scope for future historic landscape research and analysis.

Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

**Threats:**

*Unsympathetic building developments, including large scale modern farm buildings*, which could detract from the scenic quality if sited in particularly sensitive locations.

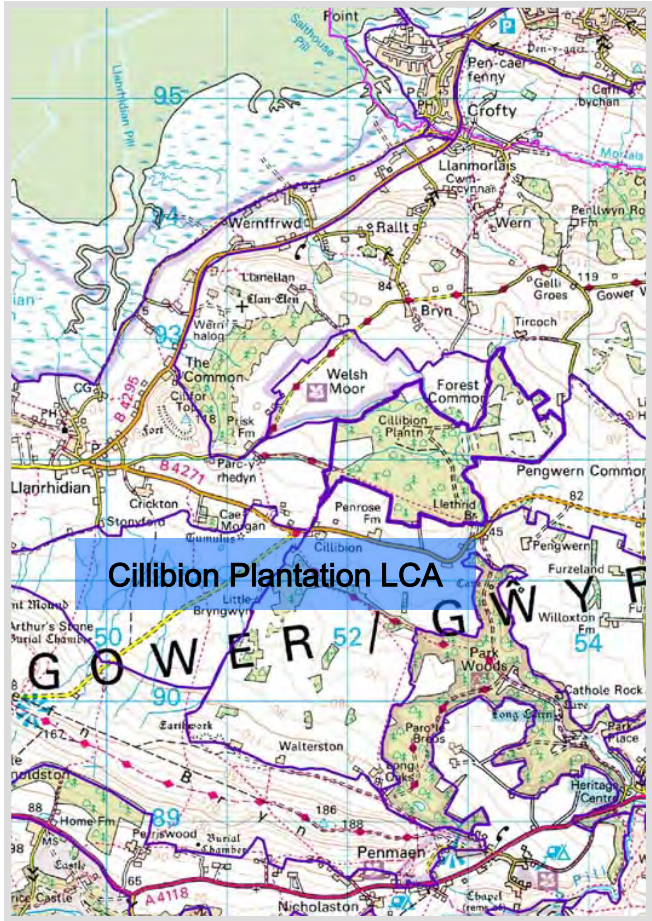
*Changes to the grazing regime* which could fundamentally alter the vegetation and habitats present, especially through woodland, trees and scrub encroachment and bracken invasion

*Local damage to vegetation and habitats by unauthorised vehicle access*

- Historic Landscape value is high



Cillibion Plantation LCA 22



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
22	Cillibion Plantation	876 - High	024 - Outstanding	856 - High	383 - High	034 - Outstanding



View south-westwards from the common at Bryn towards the imposing broad sweep of Cillibion Plantation, with the ridge of Cefn Bryn forming the horizon



Cillibion Plantation forming a defining edge to Welsh Moor common to the right

Description:

Cillibion Plantation LCA is characterised by a large, almost continuous tract of mixed woodland. It is comprised of a significant proportion of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, smaller areas of plantation broadleaved woodland and significant plantation coniferous woodland, with a small residual open element of marshy grassland.

This LCA is generally comprised of low ecological value coniferous woodland plantation habitat. The areas of broadleaved woodland are a high value habitat and are the commonest habitat type in this Landscape Habitat Aspect Area.

Geologically, this LCA also lies within a large Geological Landscape Aspect Area in the form of a broad, gently sloping plateau in generally NE dipping Millstone Grit Group - Productive Coal Formation (Upper Carboniferous ) mudstones with sandstones and coals, dissected by

the meandering upper valley systems of the southwards-draining Ilston and Bishopston rivers, and by the north to east-draining Killay and Clyne rivers. Boulder clay is extensive across slopes; valley floors have alluvium, and there is glacial sand and gravel across Welsh Moor.

Historically, this LCA also lies within the Gower Lowland Commons Aspect Area and is evaluated as high, as part of the group of extensive commons running from Welsh Moor in the west to Clyne Common in the east.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large Aspect Area relating to the AONB designation itself, particularly the Gower peninsula, but with no further refinement.

The northern section of this LCA, abutting Welsh Moor and Forest

Common, and the eastern section adjoining Pengwern Common, are designated as Open Access Land.



Cillibion Plantation, viewed north westwards from the main road crossing Pengwern Common, showing the intimate associations of broadleaved and coniferous woodland





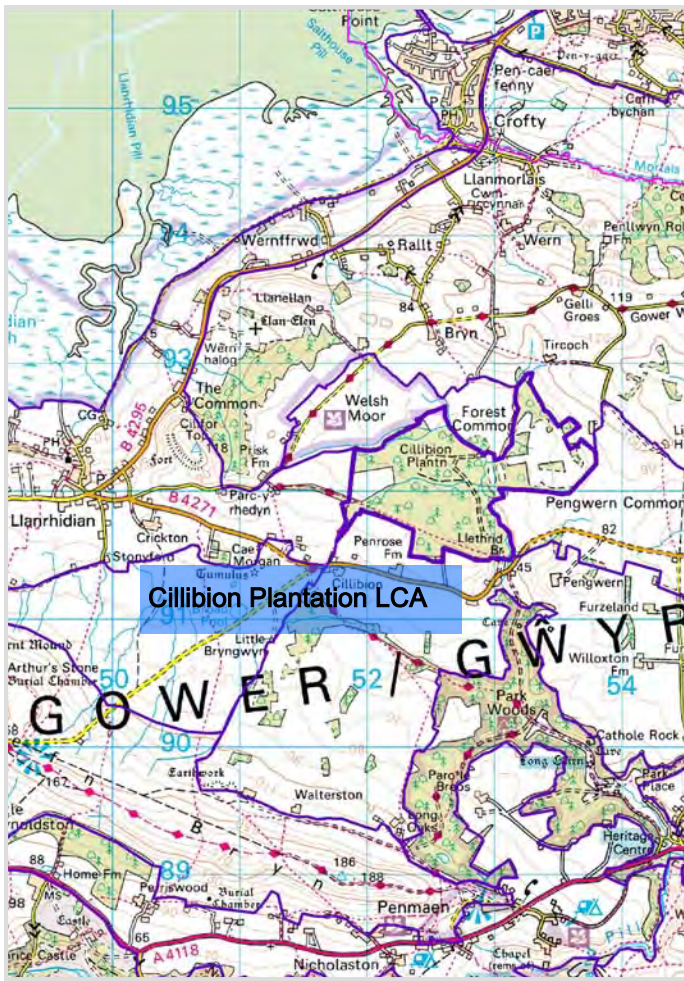
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Management Guidelines:

- Promote sympathetic forest management to conserve and enhance the appearance and accessibility of the woodland areas; conserve the interspersed open habitats
- Optimise agri-environment schemes to target the most visually-sensitive areas where intrusive elements are conspicuous, and to retain and conserve the field boundary hedgebank network
- Safeguard commons and other visually significant boundary hedgebanks as a specific policy topic (consider revocation of permitted development rights )
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets



View of Cillibion Plantation from the public road at the edge of Pengwern Common, to the east of Llethrid



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has a high visual and sensory value
- High level of tranquillity, due to absence of settlement and screening effects of dense woodland, especially coniferous
- Extensive Open Access Land designated areas increases local accessibility

Cillibion Plantation LCA 22

Strengths:

A distinctive large block of woodland with no settlement.  
A strong sense of place.  
Significant tracts of designated Open Access Land and with short links to the Gower Way

Weaknesses:

Vulnerable to effects of tree diseases and disorders (ash die-back and *Phytophthora* on larch ) and any associated sanitation felling which could change the landscape character

Opportunities:

Consider the revocation of permitted development to protect boundary hedgebanks to the adjoining the commons and other visually significant hedgebanks from depletion or removal.  
Examine the potential for forest diversification through caravan and camping site development, fully enclosed within the dense coniferous woodland areas and designed to be properly integrated into the forest and its productive management. This could be expedited if significant clear-felling is necessitated by disease control measures.

Threats:

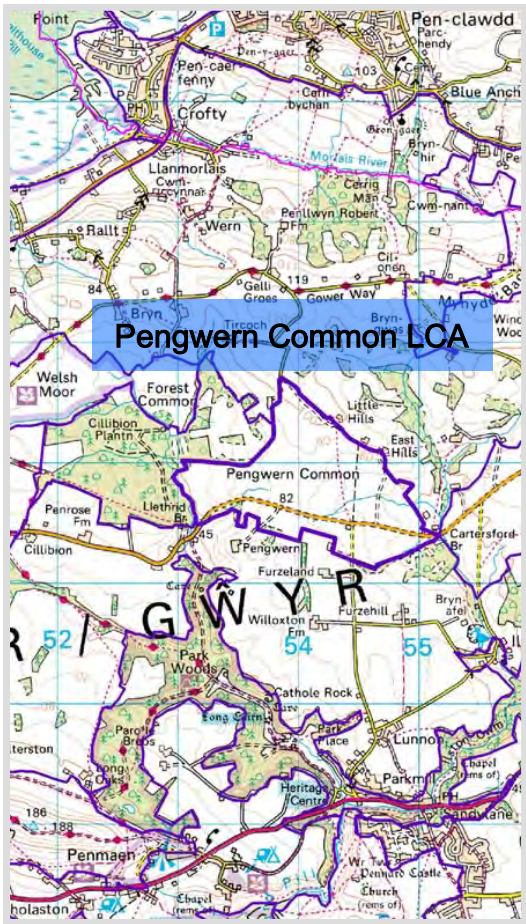
**Infectious tree diseases and disorders** (ash die-back and *Phytophthora* on larch ) which might necessitate extensive clear-felling as control measures.  
**Fire damage through accidental or deliberate fire-setting**

- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding



Pengwern Common LCA 23

LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
23	Pengwern Common	436 - Moderate	024 - Outstanding	398 - High	383 - High	034 - Outstanding



View eastwards towards Fairwood Common from the minor road leading to Lunnon village. Open heathland and rough grazing land with patches of gorse scrub



View westwards from the same location. Very exposed and wind-swept but a strong sense of place

Description:

Pengwern Common LCA is strongly based upon the area of grazed open common land, bounded by Cillibion Plantation in the west, surrounded largely by improved grassland in the mosaic farmland to the north and south, and by a narrow belt of wooded farmland at Cartersford Bridge, which effectively visually separates it from the adjacent Fairwood Common to the east. Although the Visual and Sensory Aspect Area value is moderate, its open and exposed nature means that there is a distinctive sense of place, and there are long views to the east.

This LCA is also based upon a single Landscape Habitats Aspect Area ( Pengwern Common ) evaluated as high. Extensive area of marshy grassland and wet heath are present and the area is evaluated as being in good condition. It has protection form SSSI designation.

Geologically, this LCA also forms part of a large Geological Landscape Aspect Area in the form of a broad, gently sloping plateau formed by the Millstone Grit Group - Productive Coal Formation ( Upper Carboniferous ) mudstones with sandstones and coals, dissected by the meandering upper valley systems of the southwards-draining Ilston and Bishopston rivers, and by the north to east-draining Killay and Clyne rivers. Boulder clay is extensive across slopes; valley floors have alluvium.

Historically, this LCA also lies within the Gower Lowland Commons Aspect Area and is evaluated as high, as part of the group of extensive commons running from Welsh Moor in the west to Clyne Common in the east.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large Aspect Area relating to the AONB designation itself, particularly the Gower peninsula, but with no further refinement.



View north eastwards towards the enclosed wooded farmland of the Llanmorlais LCA on the rising ground





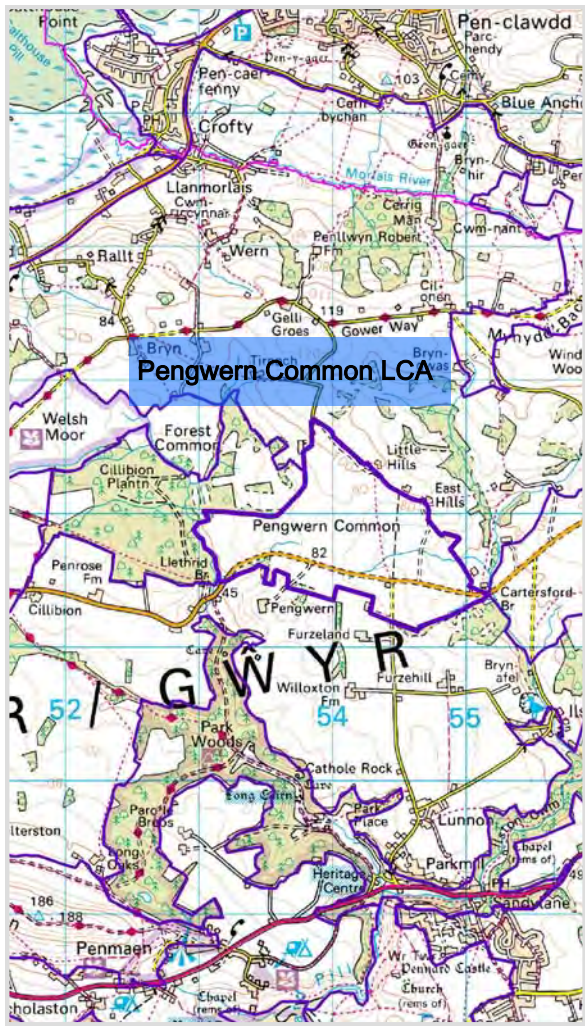
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Management Guidelines:

- Consider carefully the wider potential landscape and visual impacts of farm diversification schemes on adjoining farmsteads and use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedge-row planting schemes, to assimilate new large-scale farm buildings
- Maintain the open character of commons, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Safeguard commons and other visually significant boundary hedgebanks as a specific policy topic (consider revocation of permitted development rights )
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Discourage unauthorised vehicle access



View northwards from Lunnon road junction



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Gower commons
- High level of accessibility through road and footpath links and Open Access Land designation throughout the area
- Landscape Habitats value is high
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding

Pengwern Common LCA 23

**Strengths:**  
A distinctive lowland common landscape, open and well-managed. Highly accessible from the public road and rights of way network and from designation of the whole of the LCA as Open Access Land.

**Weaknesses:**  
Vulnerable to damage from fire and unauthorised vehicle access. Potential for intrusive visual effects from unsympathetic building developments at farmsteads located on the fringes of the common.

**Opportunities:**  
Consider the revocation of permitted development to protect boundary hedgebanks on the edge of the common. Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features.

**Threats:**  
*Building developments* which may adversely affect the edges of the common, including forming breaches in - and the removal of - the characteristic boundary hedgebanks to the common  
*Changes to the grazing regime* which could fundamentally alter the vegetation and habitats present, especially through scrub encroachment or bracken invasion of heathland and marshy grassland habitats  
*Local damage to vegetation and habitats by unauthorised vehicle access*

- Geological Landscape value is outstanding



Lunnon LCA 24



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
24	Lunnon	876 - High	020 - Outstanding	169 - Low 848 - Low 938 - Low	726 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding 042 - Moderate



Typical farmed landscape north of Lunnon village - well wooded with small fields bounded by mature hedgerows with trees, so long views across this landscape are restricted



View east from the easternmost extremity of Cefn Bryn over the Parkmill woods towards Lunnon village, seen at the centre of the picture

Description:

The Lunnon LCA is a continuous tract of mosaic rolling farmland which wraps around the north-eastern and north-western arms of the distinctive wooded valleys of the Parkmill Candidate LCA. There is no strong sense of place and the settlement pattern is sparse and predominantly nucleated, the villages of Lunnon and Ilston. Views are contained by mature boundary hedgerows and pockets or belts of woodland. It is relatively unspoilt, quiet farmed countryside and Lunnon village has attractive buildings and a sense of being a tranquil rural backwater.

Historically this area has a complex fieldscape, evolved from open-field system, but with elements derived from encroachment and recla-

mation, areas of woodland, and small-scale agricultural activity. In addition to outstanding integrity, survival and condition, and rarity, this Aspect Area, located within the Gower AONB, and partly within the Gower historic landscape on the register of historic landscapes is considered to have wide-ranging scope for future historic landscape study and potential amenity value.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large Aspect Area relating to the AONB designation itself, particularly the Gower peninsula, and falls within a small Aspect Area centred on Parkmill.

There are no major detracting features other than some local concentrations of overhead lines near the villages.

The Gower Way promoted long-distance route crosses the western section of the LCA, running north-westwards from the Parkmill woodlands along a wooded valley to meet Cefn Bryn Common just to the south of the hamlet of Cillibion.





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**Management Guidelines:**

- Consider carefully the wider potential landscape and visual impacts of farm diversification schemes and use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedgerow planting schemes, to assimilate new large-scale farm buildings
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks and stone boundary walls
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets



View north-eastwards from the eastern edge of Cefn Bryn over the Lunnun landscape beyond Parkmill woodlands in the centre of the view



**Lunnun LCA 24**

**Strengths:**

A largely unspoilt tract of tranquil, relatively enclosed wooded farmland with two small villages which have retained much of their traditional form and character.  
No obvious detracting features - the existing chalet development at Cannisland Park on the eastern extremity of the area is well-screened by mature trees and hedgerows.  
Isolated from busy roads and tourist destinations, even though close to Parkmill.

**Weaknesses:**

Relative lack of accessibility from public rights of way, so much of the eastern and central section of the landscape is not readily experienced.  
Narrow steep road access from Parkmill northwards to Lunnun village.

**Opportunities:**

Retain the isolated and tranquil rural atmosphere but promote low-key way-marking of public rights of way to encourage access links to and from The Gower Way.

**Threats:**

**Building developments** which may adversely affect the traditional village cores, including the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs.  
**Modern large agricultural buildings** can appear incongruous in relation to small fields and the traditional small farmsteads and villages, with their vernacular stone and brick buildings.

**Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:**

- High level of tranquillity - due to sparse settlement pattern and few public roads and rights of way - enclosed and rather isolated
- Historical Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding as being within the AONB but moderate locally



Parkmill LCA 25



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
25	Parkmill	113 - High	020 - Outstanding	169 - Low 729 - High	726 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding 041- Outstanding 042- Moderate 058 - Low



View eastwards from the eastern edge of Cefn Bryn to the Parkmill woodlands. These densely wooded are deeply incised into the rolling farmland of the Lunnnon area which encompasses Parkmill LCA



View north west along the valley floor towards the long burial cairn at Parc le Breos. A characteristic limestone dry valley with heavily wooded sides which has a tranquil, enclosed and isolated atmosphere

Description:

Parkmill LCA has a very strong sense of place, which is readily discernible both from the public roads (including the main A4118 ) and from the public rights of way within the valleys It is largely defined by its dry valley landform, cut into the underlying limestone, and its mature woodland cover. The secluded and unspoilt nature of the woodland in the valley gives the area a peaceful feel of a wooded area that is not spoilt by strong urban influences, even on the southern outskirts at the small village of Parkmill with the busy A4118 road. There are attractive short range views within the woodland.

This area is quite a large continuous area of mostly semi-natural broadleaved lowland woodland which is largely protected by its designation as a SSSI and is part of the Gower Ash Woods SAC.

Historically, This woodland area lies within a complex fieldscape, evolved from open-field system, but with elements derived from en-

croachment and reclamation, areas of woodland and small-scale agricultural activity. In addition to outstanding integrity, survival and condition, and rarity, this Aspect Area is considered to have wide-ranging scope for future historic landscape study and potential amenity value. Parc le Breos is a noted prehistoric long burial cairn on the valley floor.

Its Geological Landscape is outstanding, being noted for its limestone features and Cathole Cave, which has evidence of human occupation from prehistoric to Mediaeval times.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell, but this is refined by smaller local Aspect Areas centred on Parkmill and its valley. Parkmill village is the location for the Gower Heritage Centre, a popular visitor destination just off the main A4118 road. Much of the western section (Park

Woods ) is designated as Open Access Land. Accessibility is also increased by the promoted long-distance route of The Gower Way which runs through the western area of Park Woods.



The south-western arm of the Parkmill woodlands, seen from near Penmaen in this eastward view



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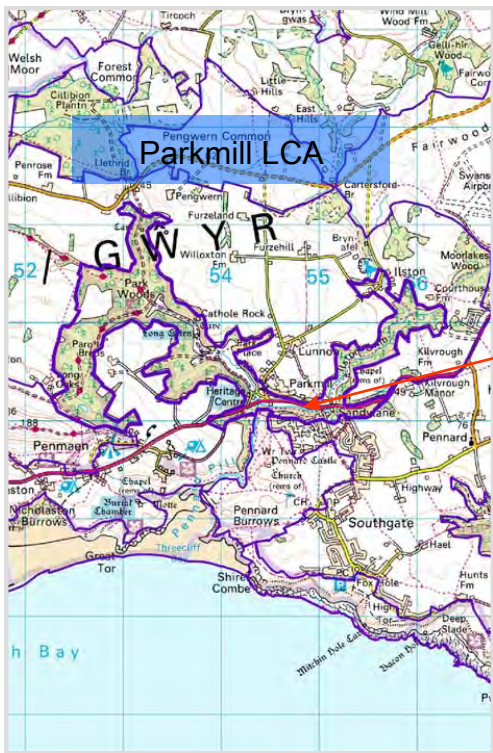
Eastern section of Parkmill LCA, with Lunnon village in the left of the view and the edge of Southgate and Pennard Burrows to the right of the view

### Management Guidelines:

- Continue appropriate woodland and parkland tree management, in the light of current developments in relation to the spread of pathogenic tree infections, especially ash die-back disease
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks and stone boundary walls
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Consider promoting the placement underground of the low level overhead electricity telephone lines and avoid future intensification of overhead lines
- Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter



Car parking at the Gower Heritage Centre, above, and within the Parkmill valley woodlands below. Small scale car parks and planting reduce the intrusive visual effects



### Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Sheltered wooded valleys with a strong sense of place, substantially unspoilt and isolated from traffic intrusion once off the main road axis
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, with obvious and legible historic features
- Highly accessible from the public road and rights of way network,

including The Gower Way, and increased visitor awareness from the Gower Heritage Centre at Parkmill village

- Cultural Landscape value is predominantly outstanding
- Geological Landscape Value is outstanding

## Parkmill LCA 25

### Strengths:

A very distinctive woodland area within steep-sided limestone valleys set below the surrounding farmland.  
A strong sense of place, coupled with a feeling of enclosure and tranquillity, and with significant historical interest.  
Few detracting elements and these are largely confined to Parkmill village itself - traffic congestion, noise and density of low-level overhead lines.

### Weaknesses:

Traffic congestion and noise emanating from the main A4118 road which runs through Parkmill village.  
Valley car park is visible from much of the local section of the open valley floor.  
Ash woodlands vulnerable to degradation if ash die-back disease becomes established.

### Opportunities:

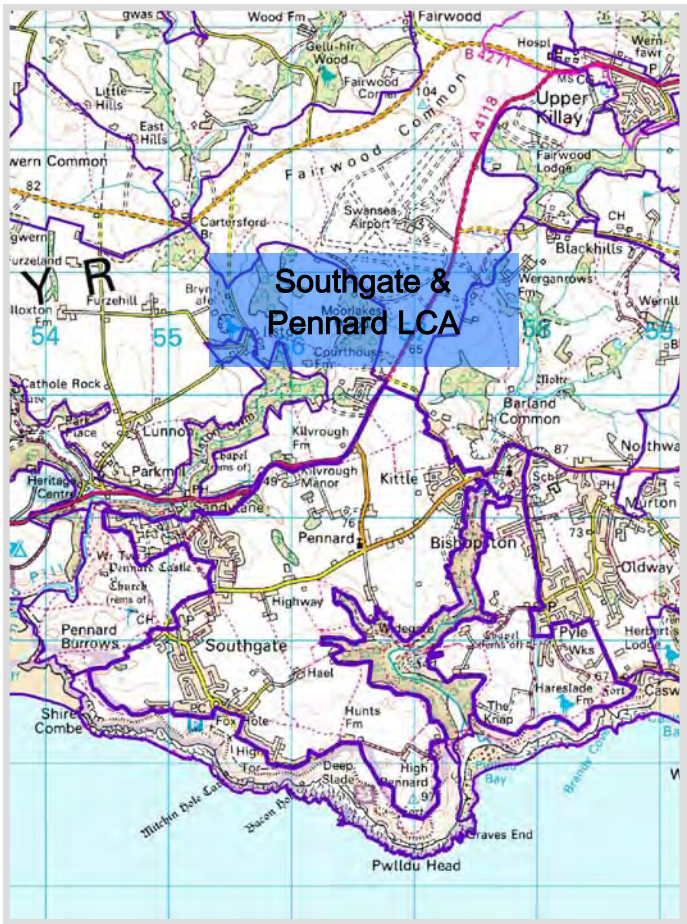
Placement of overhead lines underground at this popular visitor destination.  
Screen planting to the valley car park within the woodland to assimilate this facility more effectively into its woodland setting.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features.

### Threats:

**Building developments** which may adversely affect the traditional village core, including the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs  
**Alteration of woodland and parkland character by the destructive effects of pathogenic tree disorders** (such as ash die-back *Chalara fraxinea* and *Phytophthora*) and sanitation clearance measures. The high proportion of ash trees in the woodlands is a significant concern.



Southgate & Pennard LCA 26



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
26	Southgate & Pennard	881 - High	020 - Outstanding	848 - Low	562 - Outstanding 726 - Outstanding	014 - High 041 - Outstanding 058 - Low



View south-eastwards from above Penmaen towards Southgate and Pwlldu Head beyond. The hard urban edge is very conspicuous



View north-eastwards towards the southern part of Pyle, showing the strong influence of the urban edge along this section of the LCA

Description:

The Southgate and Pennard LCA is characterised by gently rolling settled farmland with discernible rural elements, but strongly urban-influenced along its western and eastern margins - at Southgate in the west and the edges of Kittle, Bishopston and Pyle in the east, along the boundary of the AONB. The Bishopston Valley LCA woodlands separate the main area of this LCA from the eastern, smaller outlying section. Views of the coast or cliffs are obtained from some viewpoints to the south and west, and the coastal proximity at such locations greatly adds to the sense of place, which is not strongly apparent in many inland parts. The prevailing character of the more open rural parts, centred on the attractive Pennard church with its distinctive form and col-

our, is that of comfortable settled countryside with a slight maritime flavour. Historically, this area is part of a complex fieldscape, evolved from open-field system, but with elements derived from encroachment and reclamation, areas of woodland and small-scale agricultural activity. In addition to outstanding integrity, survival and condition, and rarity, this Aspect Area is considered to have wide-ranging scope for future historic landscape study and potential amenity value. Along the northern extent lies the well-preserved late 18th and 19th century park and garden (formal and informal), centred on Kilvrough Manor (Grade II Listed), with fine trees, a folly tower and kitchen garden. Here there is a Grade II Park and Garden included in the Register of Historic Parks & Gardens in Wales.

The settlement pattern is predominantly nucleated, centred on Bishopston, Pyle, Kittle and Southgate villages.



A glimpsed view of Pennard church tower on the skyline, seen from the upper eastern edge of Bishopston Valley





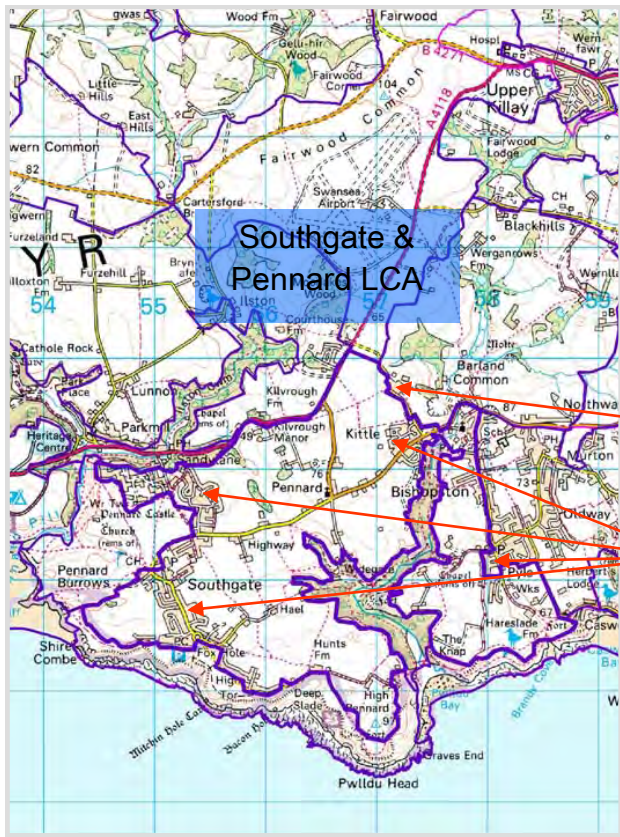
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Management Guidelines:

- Optimise agri-environment schemes to target the most visually-sensitive areas where intrusive elements are conspicuous, and to retain and conserve the field boundary hedgebank network
- Consider carefully the wider potential landscape and visual impacts of farm diversification schemes and use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedgerow planting schemes, to assimilate new large-scale farm buildings
- Ensure that settlement expansion and settlement edges are developed in a manner which takes account of the high degree of visibility across this landscape
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Consider promoting the placement underground of overhead electricity and telephone lines and avoid future intensification of overhead lines in visually sensitive locations



The more open rural area to the west of Bishopston Valley and east of Southgate has fewer urban edge influences



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, and Kilvrough Manor has a Grade II Registered Historic Park and Garden
- Highly accessible from the local public road and rights of way network
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding

Southgate & Pennard LCA 26

Strengths:

Some relatively unspoilt rural parts closer to the cliffs on the coast to the south of Pyle and the south-east of Southgate.  
Highly accessible from local public roads and rights of way network.  
Grade II Registered Historic Park and Garden at Kilvrough Manor.

Weaknesses:

Rural character compromised by intrusive effects of hard urban edges.  
Locally intrusive overhead electricity and telephone overhead lines, lighting and communications infrastructure west of Bishopston and Pyle.  
Intrusive visual effects of very large poultry production sheds at Kittle Farm adversely affect the north-eastern section of this LCA

Opportunities:

Effective conservation management of existing field boundary hedgebanks, earthen banks and stone boundary walls to conserve these remaining local characterising features.  
Placement underground of overhead lines in the more visually-sensitive locations.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features.

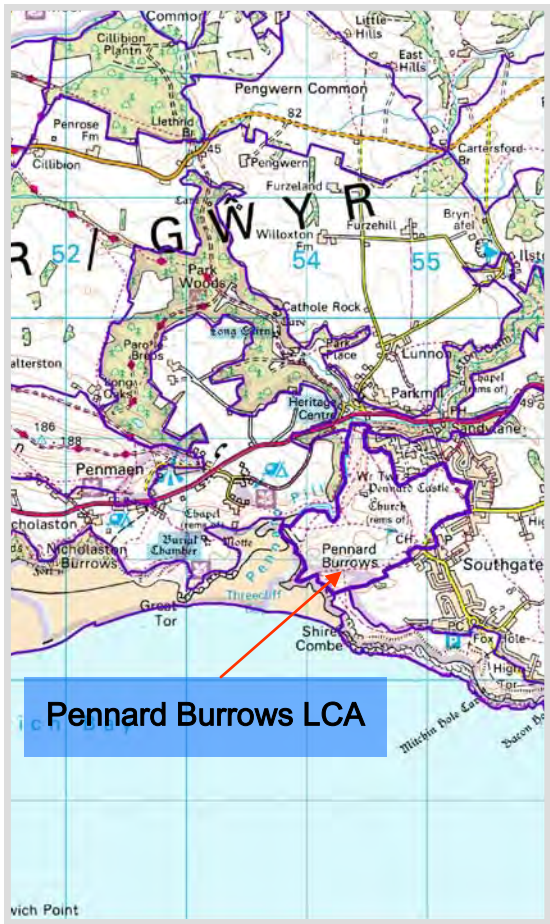
Threats:

**Modern large agricultural buildings** can appear incongruous in relation to the surrounding small fields and the traditional small farmsteads, with their clusters of vernacular stone and brick buildings  
**Building developments** which may adversely affect the edges of the villages, including the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs



Pennard Burrows LCA 27

LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
27	Pennard Burrows	552 - Outstanding	021 - High	123 - High	612 - Outstanding 726 - Outstanding	034- Outstanding 035 - Outstanding 040 - High 058 - Low



View eastwards from near Penmaen towards Pennard Castle and the golf course, with the edge of Southgate village beyond



View westwards over the golf course towards Penmaen and Cefn Bryn on the central skyline



View south-westwards over the golf course towards the sea, with part of Oxwich Bay seen in the far distance

Description:

Pennard Burrows LCA is one of the most distinctive and well-defined in Gower, with a very strong sense of place. It is comprised of an area of sand dunes extending inland from the sandy beach at Three Cliffs Bay, which is largely enclosed to the north and east by the village of Southgate, and so some extent by Northhill Wood to the west. Much of the dunes area is exposed but well vegetated and forms Pennard Burrows Golf Links. It has outstanding scenic quality, with attractive views both into it and out along the coast, and an overall outstanding Visual & Sensory Aspect value, in spite of the major detracting visual effects of the adjacent discordant hard urban edges at Southgate along its north-eastern and south-eastern boundaries.

The dune grassland is an internationally important habitat and the dune system is protected as part of the Oxwich Bay SSSI. Historically, an area of well-preserved and relatively rare be-sanded landscape containing numerous and varied relict and buried features, several of which are of national significance, recognised through designation as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (including Pennard castle and church), retaining outstanding integrity to both relict and buried remains. This important be-sanded landscape has outstanding levels of integrity, survival, condition, rarity and potential. Apart from the construction of a golf course at Pennard Burrows, the area is unchanged since the survey of the first edition Ordnance Survey map, and essentially little altered since the episode of sand deposition at the end of the medieval period.

Pennard Burrows is designated as Open Access Land which links directly with the Coast Path. The Cultural Landscape has outstanding values arising from the AONB and Heritage Coast designations, with moderate and low local Aspect Area values - the latter arising from the effects of development around the edges at Southgate.





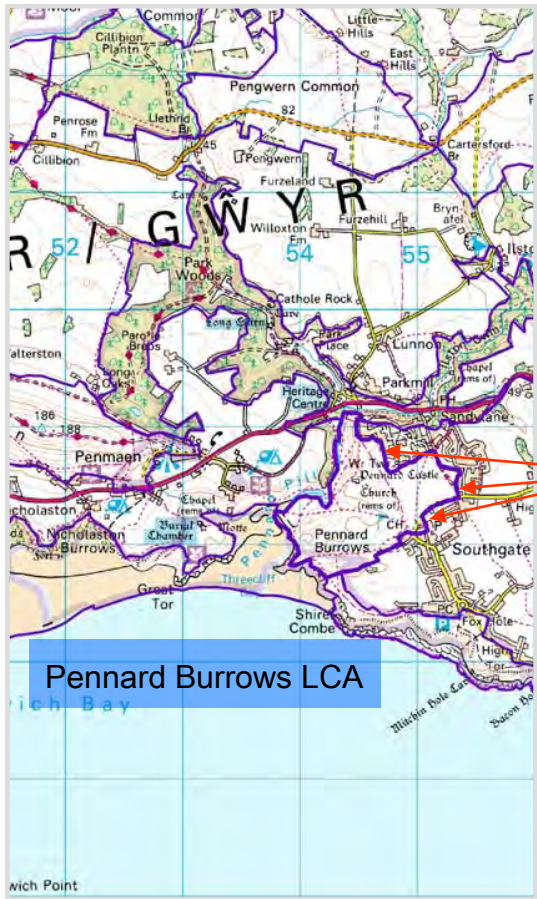
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Management Guidelines:

- Maintain the distinctive character of the sand dunes, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the open setting
- Promote cost-effective visitor management aimed at preventing damage to vulnerable sand dune habitats in designated sites
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites



The inland section of Pennard Burrows, showing the extended urban edge of the northern part of Southgate beyond the golf course and Pennard Castle on the right



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has outstanding Visual and Sensory value, with attractive coastal views
- Unusual sand dune scenery and rare priority habitats
- Cliffs and sandy beaches adjacent
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding with Pennard Castle being a notable historic landmark

Pennard Burrows LCA 27

Strengths:

A small but highly distinctive area of sand dunes and golf course running down to the back of the beach at Three Cliffs Bay  
A strong coastal sense of place with highly accessible views from the Open Access Land  
Largely unspoilt beyond the golf course infrastructure.

Weaknesses:

Hard urban edge of Southgate village is incongruous and intrusive, especially along the north-eastern boundary  
Sand dunes prone to erosion if excessive visitor use is not managed effectively and consistently  
The dunes are a priority habitat which is becoming fragmented by areas of amenity grassland ( golf course fairways/greens )

Opportunities:

Work in conjunction with the Golf club to maximise the value of the area, both for recreation and wildlife.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features.

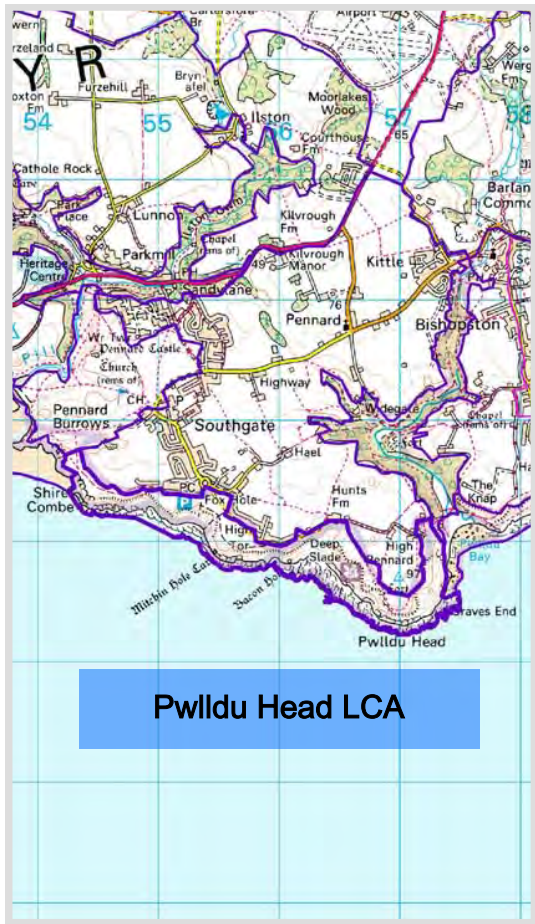
Threats:

**Building developments** which may adversely affect the sensitive edge of the sand dunes, including large scale leisure and recreational buildings, and the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs.  
Habitat fragmentation and degradation through excessive recreational use.

- Cultural Landscape value is predominantly outstanding through AONB and Heritage Coast designations
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding
- Highly accessible from local main roads and the Coast Path



Pwlldu Head LCA 28



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
28	Pwlldu Head	125 - Outstanding 987 - Outstanding	020 - Outstanding 022 - Outstanding	321 - High 475 - High	400 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding 035 - Outstanding 040 - High 041 - Outstanding



The view west from east of Pwlldu Bay towards Pwlldu Head. The scrub-covered coastal slopes and the cliffs below are characteristic features



Grazed rough grassland and scrub on the cliff tops near High Tor, to the east of the East Cliff area of Southgate village.

Description:

Pwlldu Head LCA is an area of exposed indented coastal cliffs, partially covered by scrub, with rock outcrops and a rocky foreshore, running along the coast from Shire Combe in the west to Pwll Du Head in the east. This is an area of outstanding scenic quality, with unspoilt, distinctive landform, including a wave-cut platform and associated rocky shore. It is designated as Open Access Land and has accessible attractive coastal views - panoramic out to sea from Pwll Du Head - and there no detracting elements within these views.

High value Landscape Habitats are protected as part of the designated areas at Pwll Du Head SSSI and the Limestone Coast of South West Wales SAC.

The historic landscape value of the South Gower Cliffs - an area of largely unenclosed cliff top with nationally significant caves and the later prehistoric cliff-top enclosures - is outstanding. The area is of outstanding integrity and retains most of its original character and form intact with its original pattern and detail (coastal/coastal edge features such as prehistoric promontory forts, earthworks and enclosures, cave sites ) which remain highly visible and easily understood.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell, reinforced by the Heritage Coast designation. Local Aspect Area values are also outstanding and high.

There are no settlements and no visually detracting elements.



View west along the cliffs and coastal slopes from Fox Hole near Southgate towards Oxwich Point in the far distance





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Management Guidelines:

- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the distinctive field boundary hedgebanks
- Promote the maintenance of the distinctive character of the cliff top landscape, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the open setting
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Ensure that settlement expansion and settlement edges are developed in a manner which takes account of the high degree of visibility across this landscape



The National Trust car park at Fox Hole near Southgate village - houses very close to the cliff top intrude into the open character of the cliff top grazing land and scrub



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape outstanding Visual and Sensory value, with picturesque sea views over cliffs and sandy beaches
- Important experience of wide and panoramic seascape views to the south and west
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding
- Landscape Geological value is outstanding

Pwlldu Head LCA 28

Strengths:

A narrow band of open coastal land on the tops of low cliffs and scrub-covered coastal slopes.  
A strong coastal sense of place, coupled with some impressive views out to the south and west, especially to the Oxwich Point.  
Largely unspoilt and protected through National Trust ownership.  
Highly accessible from local public roads and the Coast Path.

Weaknesses:

Some locally intrusive buildings close to the cliff top in the southern edge of Southgate village.  
Open character is vulnerable to visually intrusive development at its edges.  
Accessibility could be reduced if scrub encroachment is not checked by grazing and periodic physical removal.

Opportunities:

Promote effective conservation management of existing field boundary hedgebanks, especially where they form the boundaries to residential areas.  
Work in collaboration with The National Trust to create larger areas of open rough grassland for grazing by targeted areas of scrub removal.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features.

Threats:

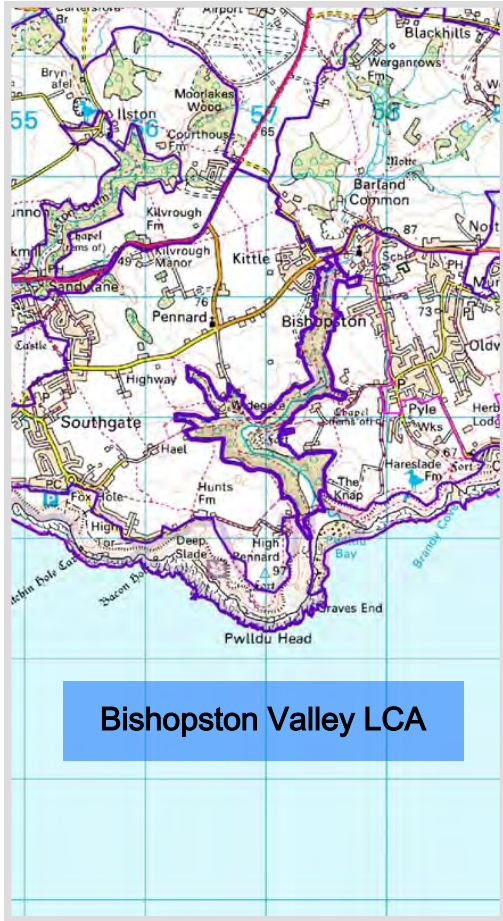
**Building developments** which may adversely affect the edges of the open cliff top land, including the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs

- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding



Bishopston Valley LCA 29

LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
29	Bishopston Valley	922 - High	020 - Outstanding	127 - High	726 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding 035 - Outstanding



The view southwards to the sea from Hanging Cliff on the eastern upper valley side. Attractive steep topography and dense broadleaved woodland clothing the slopes



The central section of the Bishopston Valley - the view north-west towards Widegate and Lockway Wood



The view northwards up the Bishopston Valley towards Kittle village. Continuous woodland provides a strong contrast to the surrounding gently rolling open farmland

Description:

The Bishopston Valley LCA is defined by a distinctive narrow, steep-sided and heavily-wooded stream valley running up from the sea at Pwll Du Bay inland as far as the village of Kittle. It is surrounded by open rolling lowland farmland for the most part, and largely unaffected by urban influences, in spite of the close proximity of several villages, especially Bishopston and Kittle. This is due to the steep-sided, enclosed nature of the valley and its continuous woodland cover, giving a sense of seclusion and tranquillity, largely visually separated from urban influences. There are attractive views within the unspoilt woodland along the stream at the valley floor and across the valley from higher level footpaths along the upper valley sides.

The woodland is primarily semi-natural broadleaved and is protected by its designation as a SSSI ( part of Pwll Du Head and Bishopston Valley ), being favourably managed by The National Trust.

This LCA has outstanding Historical Landscape value. It is part of a complex fieldscape, evolved from open-field system, but with elements derived from encroachment and reclamation, areas of woodland and small-scale agricultural activity.

It also has outstanding Cultural Landscape value. It is highly accessible from the nearby villages through an established network of local public rights of way, which link down the valley to the Coast Path at the edge of Pwll Du Bay

There are no settlements within the woodland itself.



The confluence of a tributary stream with the main river at the valley floor. Stream-side paths are evidently well-used, but there is a very tranquil atmosphere deep within the valley





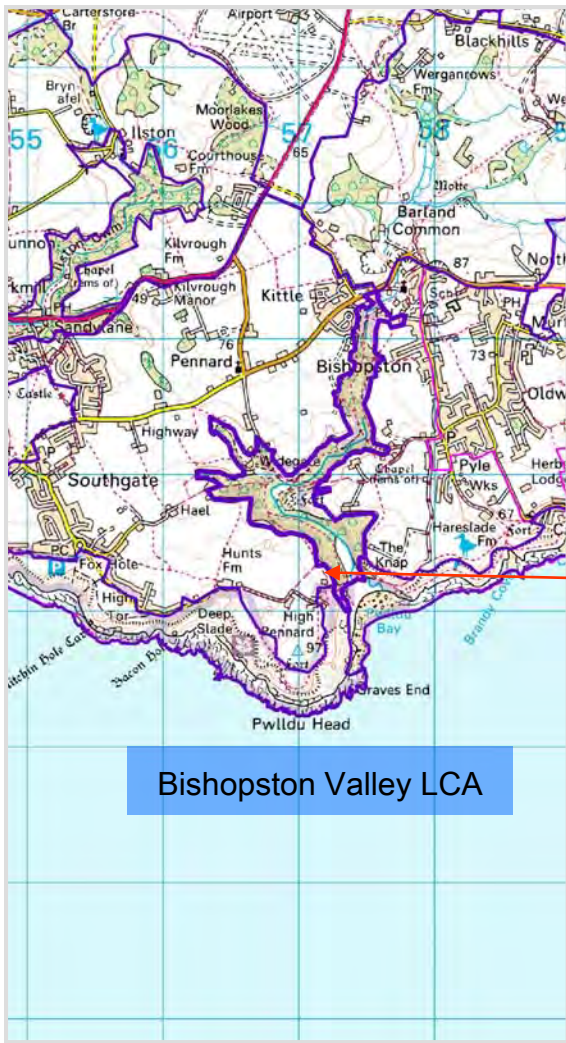
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Management Guidelines:

- Promote the placement underground of overhead electricity and telephone lines in the particularly visually sensitive areas on the skyline above the west side of the lower valley
- Continue appropriate woodland and tree management, in the light of current developments in relation to the spread of pathogenic tree infections, especially ash die-back
- Ensure that settlement expansion and settlement edges are developed in a manner which does not erode the edges of the woodland or visually intrude upon it
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter



Intrusive overhead lines - on the skyline on the west side of the lower valley



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Very strong sense of place and sheltered, tranquil atmosphere, removed from the intrusive effects of vehicle traffic
- Landscape has high Visual and Sensory value, with attractive views within and across the densely wooded valley
- Highly accessible views, with an unusual wooded valley running right down to the Coast Path at Pwlldu Bay

Bishopston Valley LCA 29

Strengths:

A very distinctive broadleaved woodland landscape, set in a deep winding valley with an attractive stream.  
A very strong sense of place, coupled with local attractive views along and across the valley.  
Substantially unspoilt, with a very sheltered and tranquil atmosphere.  
Easily accessible due to local footpath links into it and down to the Coast Path at Pwlldu Bay

Weaknesses:

Local views are sensitive to intrusive development and overhead lines.  
Ash woodlands vulnerable to degradation by ash die-back disease.

Opportunities:

Placement underground of a small section of overhead lines in the visually sensitive location on the skyline above the lower west side near Pwlldu Bay.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

Threats:

*Low level overhead electricity and telephone lines are incongruous and intrusive elements in an otherwise substantially unspoilt landscape* on the lower valley west side  
*Alteration of woodland character by the destructive effects of pathogenic tree disorders* (such as ash die-back *Chalara fraxinea* and *Phytophthora*) and sanitation clearance measures. The high proportion of ash trees in the woodlands is a significant concern

- Historic Landscape value is outstanding
- Landscape Cultural value is outstanding
- Landscape Geological value is outstanding



Pwlldu & Caswell Bays LCA 30



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
30	Pwlldu & Caswell Bays	368 - Outstanding 882 - Outstanding 987 - Outstanding	020 - Outstanding 022 - Outstanding	215 - Moderate 235 - High 392 - High	400 - Outstanding 957 - Outstanding 993 - <i>Unassessed</i>	030 - Outstanding 0.34 - Outstanding 035 - Outstanding 038 - High



*Pwlldu Head viewed westwards across Pwlldu Bay, showing the high shingle bank formed at the head of the beach which demarcates this area from the entrance to the adjoining LCA, Bishopston Valley*



*View eastwards from above Brandy Cove towards Caswell Bay, showing the impressive rock formations on the beach, contrasting with the sandy inlet of the bay beyond, and Newton Cliff in the far distance*

Description:

Pwlldu & Caswell Bays LCA is locally distinctive area of coastal cliffs partially covered by scrub, with sand and shingle beaches enclosed by rocky foreshore. It is defined in the west by Graves End near Pwll Du Point, and by Whiteshell Point in the east, just beyond Caswell Bay. There are outstanding panoramic coastal views, within and along the coast from the exposed cliffs, which contribute to the strong sense of place and the outstanding overall Visual & Sensory Aspect values. There are no detracting views other than those of some tourist-related buildings. Coastal views are easily accessible along the Coast Path and from the Open Access Land around Pwll Du Point in the western part of the LCA.

There is protection of important habitats through a SSSI designation at Caswell Bay and the seaward part of the Pwll Du and Bishopston SSSI.

Historically, this intertidal landscape around Gower and Swansea Bay ( between mean high water and low water spring marks ) is historically significant because of preservation of prehistoric land-surfaces. The landscape has outstanding integrity as an intertidal landscape and could be claimed to be important because of its rarity and potential.

There are no settlements and few visually detracting elements beyond the centre of Caswell Bay village. It is readily accessible from the local public roads and rights of way, as well as the Coast Path and cliff top Open Access Land.

Caswell Bay is a mini-resort backed by the Bishop's Wood nature reserve. It has an extensive and popular sandy beach, shops, a large car park and toilets. The miniature nature of the resort is supported by, on the higher ground overlooking the Bay, the Victorian villa of Caswell Bay House, and two large apartment blocks.



*The impressive shingle bank at the head of the beach at the secluded cove of Pwlldu Bay - starkly contrasting with the broad, open sandy beach and associated tourist facilities at Caswell Bay*





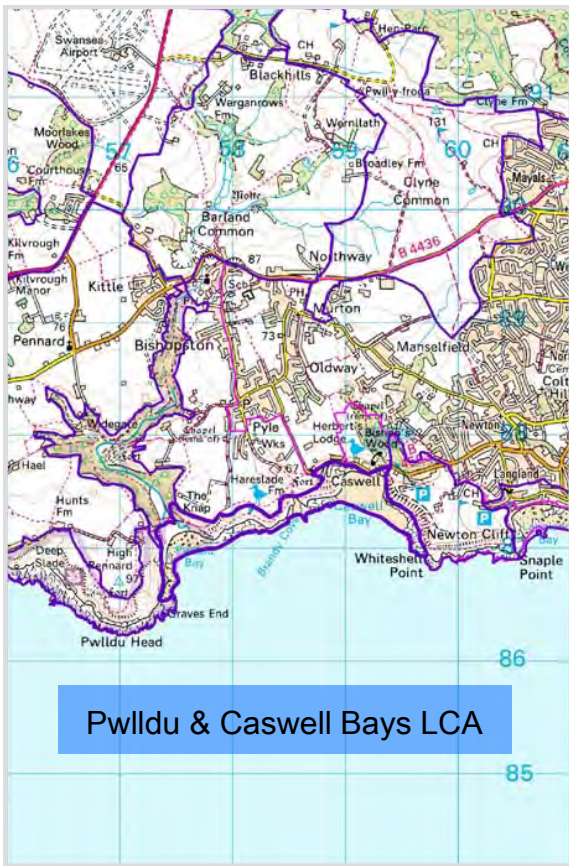
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Management Guidelines:

- Maintain the open and highly accessible character of the cliff top land, through favourable grazing and vegetation management
- Promote the physical control of bracken scrub, to maintain open character and protect and diversify grassland and heathland habitats; and to reduce seasonal fire risk
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Ensure the area remains free from pollution and litter



Vegetation encroachment - scrub and bracken - is controlled by livestock grazing, but there is a need for periodic physical removal, so that the cliff-top landscape remains substantially open and accessible



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Visual and Sensory Landscape has outstanding value
- Cliffs and sandy beaches in the seascape views
- Common land on the cliff tops
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Highly accessible as cliff top Open Access Land and directly

Pwlldu & Caswell Bays LCA 30

Strengths:

One of the most characteristic sections of the south Gower coast in the more settled eastern area of the peninsula  
A very strong sense of place, coupled with wide panoramic views out to the south and west  
Easily accessible from the local public roads and rights of way, and through Open Access Land designation and the Coast Path.

Weaknesses:

Open nature and habitat value has the potential to be adversely affected through changes in grazing management and bramble and gorse scrub and bracken invasion.

Opportunities:

Promote favourable grazing and implement physical scrub and bracken control, to safeguard existing cliff top grassland and heathland habitats.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features.

Threats:

*Colonisation by bramble, gorse and bracken* which could cause habitat degradation and restrict access.  
Seasonal threats from fire risk.

from the local public roads and rights of way as well as the Coast Path



Newton Cliff LCA 31



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
31	Newton Cliff	541- High 881- High	020 - Outstanding 022 - Outstanding	162 - Low 665 - High	400 - Outstanding 726 - Outstanding 957 - Outstanding	014 - High 034 - Outstanding 037 - Moderate 038 - High



View eastwards beyond Caswell Bay to the coastal slopes and cliffs of Newton Cliff, with its golf course and shelterbelts.



The view eastwards to Whiteshell Point. The rising smoke plume is from the distant steel works at Port Talbot on the eastern side of Swansea Bay

Description:

This coastal LCA is situated on Newton Cliff, between Whiteshell Point in the west and Snaple Point in the east. It is an area of common land and golf course, enclosed to the north by the urban edge and to the south by coastal cliffs and a rocky foreshore. It is mostly an exposed, unspoilt area with a strong sense of place and attractive coastal views, both out to sea and along the coast. There are no detracting elements on the coastal edge but the established chalet park alongside the main road at Summercliffe is incongruous. Bishop ’s Wood at the northern end of the LCA is a local nature reserve in a sheltered wooded valley running inland from the edge of Caswell village.

Historically evaluated as being outstanding, due to the significant pre-historic land surfaces to be found exposed within the intertidal zone along much of this section of the south Gower coast.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell. It is evaluated as being outstanding as a landscape bearing multiple environmental protection designations, and there are locally high value Aspect Areas. There is Open Access Land along the cliff top section. The area is also access direct from the Coast Path.

There is a single nucleated settlement at Caswell village.

The most significant detracting element is the Summercliffe Chalet Park which is an established holiday development alongside the main road on the landward side of Newton Cliff. Although the steep terrain and trees and scrub provide some screening and assimilation, this is a strong urbanising influence but in marked contrast in character to the adjacent urban areas at the nearby western edge of Langland.



View west, along the main road from Langland towards the edge of Bishop 's Wood at the inland edge of Caswell Bay





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The Summercliffe Chalet Park alongside the main road between Langland and Caswell Bay. Although not as visually intrusive as pale coloured caravans, these buildings are still incongruous in this locality

# Newton Cliff LCA 31

**Strengths:**  
Cliff top open common land and golf course.  
A strong coastal sense of place, heavily influenced by the panoramic views over the adjacent Caswell Bay and Brandy Cove as well as out to sea.  
Easily accessible from the public road network, partial designation as Open Access Land and the Coast Path.

**Weaknesses:**  
Visual quality impaired by an extensive chalet park on the landward side adjoining the main road to Caswell Bay from Langland.  
Seasonal fire risk in dense scrub areas.

**Opportunities:**  
Promote changes to colours of chalets which cannot be effectively screened or assimilated into the view by landform or appropriate planting schemes.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features.

**Threats:**  
*A chalet development* is an established feature at Summercliffe Chalet Park, situated to the north west on the landward side of the golf course. The site is a discordant element in an otherwise scrub-covered naturalistic coastal landscape, although it is not visible from the golf course or the Coast Path

- Management Guidelines:**
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks and stone boundary walls
  - Maintain the open nature of the habitats on the cliff tops and slopes through active intervention management of scrub to prevent encroachment
  - Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
  - Control chalet, caravan and camping site extensions, so that intrusive visual effects are prevented
  - Consider incentive schemes to alter the colour of caravans where they cannot be effectively screened or assimilated into the landscape by landform or vegetation



## Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Impressive seascape experience from long views out to sea and along the coast
- Cliffs and sandy beaches in the seascape views
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding
- Landscape Geological value is outstanding
- Highly accessible from Open Access Land and the Coast Path



Langland LCA 32



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
32	Langland	660 - Outstanding	022 - Outstanding	235 - High 265 - Low	307 - <i>Unassessed</i> 400 - Outstanding 726 - Outstanding 993 - <i>Unassessed</i>	036 - High 037 - Moderate



Langland Bay - the eastwards from the Coast Path towards Rother's Torr, with houses and apartments set into the wooded steep coastal slopes backing the cliffs



Langland Bay - the view westwards from just above the beach towards Snaple Point. This undeveloped headland contrasts strongly with the developed land at the opposite end of the bay and beach

Description:

This very distinctive small coastal LCA is founded upon Langland Bay, with its strong definite sense of place as an established seaside settlement, backed by well-wooded cliffs and slopes. Snaple Point forms its western extremity and the eastern end is close to Rother's Torr. At its core is the sandy beach with shingle and rocky areas, partially enclosed by cliffs. There are fine picturesque views within the bay and out to sea, but some detracting views of the urban edge. The continuous curved line of bathing huts backing the beach is an unusual and distinctive element in views into the bay. The overall Visual & Sensory Aspect value is outstanding.

Historically evaluated as being outstanding, due to the significant pre-historic land surfaces to be found exposed within the intertidal zone along much of this section of the south Gower coast.

Culturally, Langland and Rother'slade display many signs of considerable affluence, with large houses beside leafy, steeply sloping roads and on broad avenues on the cliff tops, hotels, apartment blocks, tennis courts and golf course. There is an apparent demand for greater sophistication in leisure activity than simply messing about on the beach, in contrast to Caswell Bay. This is confirmed or magnified by the obvious size and value of the houses on the cliff top beyond Rother'slade to Thistleboon. Whereas originally the area epitomised a Victorian and Edwardian seaside resort, it is now a desirable suburban residential area.

The way-marked Coast Path provides additional accessibility.



Snaple Point and the graceful curve of Langland Bay seen in the view westwards from the public road above Rother's Torr





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Management Guidelines:

- Ensure that settlement expansion and settlement edges are developed in a sympathetic manner which takes account of the high degree of visibility across this landscape and the outstanding visual and sensory value
- Maintain the integrity of the dense wooded backdrop of the coastal slopes, which contribute strongly to the sense of place
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter



The distinctive row of bathing huts and the imposing Llangland Bay Manor are notable references to Llangland's 19th century seaside resort origins



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Important experience of seascape views, which are highly accessible from public roads and the Coast Path, and which contribute to the outstanding Visual and Sensory Landscape value
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding

Llangland LCA 32

**Strengths:**  
Very distinctive small area of settled coast with a very strong sense of place. Largely unspoilt, with an established and settled character. Fine views out to sea and across the bay. Highly accessible from the public road and car parks, as well as the Coast Path.

**Weaknesses:**  
Vulnerable to maritime polluting spills and water-borne litter on the beach strandline. Unsympathetic design and siting of modern buildings could erode the village character, especially if the dense wooded slopes are weakened and become fragmented by development

**Opportunities:**  
Conserve and retain the established seaside village character. Ensure the protection of the densely wooded coastal slopes through the implementation of appropriate planning policies and mechanisms. Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

**Threats:**  
*Maritime pollution incidents and litter*, which could cause extensive habitat degradation of the beach and cliffs



Limeslade LCA 33



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
33	Limeslade	105 - High 541 - High	023 - Outstanding	265 - Low 749 - High 235 - High	400- Outstanding 726 -Outstanding	034 - Outstanding 036 - High 037 - Moderate



View from the car park near the coastguard station eastwards towards Mumbles Hill and Mumbles Head, over the edge of Bracelet Bay



The view westwards from the car park towards Bracelet Bay and the headland with its coastguard station. Overhead lines are an unnecessary and unwelcome feature of this open coastal edge landscape which is very popular with visitors

Description:

Limeslade LCA is an area of exposed common land, enclosed to the north by the urban edge and to the south by the indented coastal cliffs, with small sand and shingle beaches enclosed by a rocky foreshore. The prominent and distinctive rocky landform of Mumbles Head marks the south-eastern extremity, whilst the western end is marked by Rother's Torr at the edge of the Langland LCA. Limeslade Bay and Bracelet Bay are separated by a headland which is the site for the coastguard station. Open Access Land is continuous along the cliff top areas and stretching up to the top of Mumbles Hill. There are attractive panoramic coastal views both into and out of the area, with a few detracting elements, such as car parks, unsympathetic built form of both residential and leisure facilities and communications masts.

Coastal grassland and heath habitats on Mumbles Hill are protected by the Local Nature Reserve designation at Mumbles Hill, and there are SSSIs at Langland Bay and Bracelet Bay.

This intertidal landscape around Gower and Swansea Bay (between mean high water and low water spring marks ) is historically significant because of preservation of prehistoric land-surfaces (recorded data mainly palaeo-environmental. The landscape has outstanding integrity as an intertidal landscape and could be claimed to be important because of its rarity and potential.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline. There are

important maritime associations with Mumbles Head, the lighthouse and the coastguard station.

Much of the cliff top common land area is designated as Open Access Land. The Coast Path provides links to east and west.



The very distinctive land-form of Mumbles Head, the easternmost point of Gower AONB and a prominent local landmark at the edge of Swansea Bay





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Management Guidelines:

- Maintain the distinctive character of the open cliff top common land, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the setting
- Promote physical bracken and scrub control to restrict encroachment into open habitats and implement fire management precautions during susceptible weather and ground conditions
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter



Hard edge of urban development and unsympathetic built forms breaking the skyline contrast with the open common land to each side of Limeslade at the head of this small bay. Overhead lines are locally intrusive elements in this open coastal landscape



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has high Visual & Sensory value, and outstanding scenic quality, and is highly accessible from the public roads, car parks and the Coast Path, as well as Open Access Land on the common land
- Open Access Land on common land with a high degree of public accessibility adjoining the urban area of West Swansea

- Historical Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding

Limeslade LCA 33

Strengths:

A highly distinctive area, characterised by common land above low cliffs overlooking small indented bays, culminating in the notable Mumbles Head landforms reaching out to sea at the edge of Swansea Bay. A very strong sense of place, with an emphasis on leisure facilities mixed with coastguard infrastructure and residential developments. Highly accessible to the public. Exposed and windswept with a tangible maritime atmosphere.

Weaknesses:

Vulnerability to incongruous building developments, if sited and designed in an unsympathetic manner, because of the open coastal landscape and views across the common land. Vulnerable to bracken and scrub encroachment into open habitats

Opportunities:

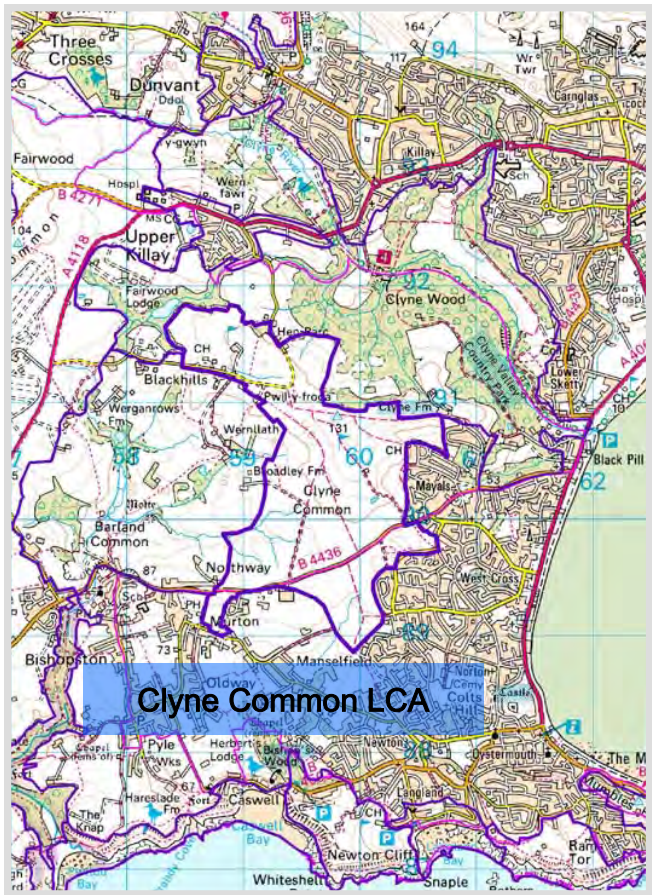
Maintain characteristic open landscape and habitats by appropriate management, including the periodic physical removal of scrub and bracken. Manage public use of open space to minimise erosion and damage to habitats. Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features.

Threats:

**Unsympathetic building developments**, which could detract from the scenic quality, if sited in particularly sensitive locations and erode the edges of common land  
**Colonisation by gorse and bracken** which could cause habitat degradation and restrict access  
Seasonal fire damage.



Clyne Common LCA 34



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
34	Clyne Common	253 - Moderate	024 - Outstanding	528 - High 944 - Moderate	383 - High 726 - Outstanding	014 - High 034 - Outstanding



View south-westwards from the Common towards the contrasting enclosed wooded farmland of the adjacent Barland LCA



View northwards over Clyne Common from the B4436 public road crossing the southern section of the Common. A very exposed broad sweep of sloping rough grazing land bounded by woodland and hedgerows to the north and west and urban edges to the south and east

Description:

Clyne Common LCA is the easternmost of the extensive Gower commons. It is primarily defined by its large tract of open rough grazing grassland and the Blackhills and Clyne golf courses, but demarcated by the wooded farmland of the outer areas of the Clyne Valley in the north; by the hard urban edges of Mayals to the east, and Newton and Murton to the south; and by enclosed wooded farmland to the west in the adjacent Barland LCA. There is a strong sense of place, and accessible views are easily obtained from the public rights way and public road, and the area is designated as Open Access Land.

There are extensive areas of lowland wet heath, marshy grassland and bracken.

Geologically, this LCA is part of a large broad, gently sloping plateau of mudstones with sandstones and coals, dissected by meandering

river valleys which has outstanding value.

Historically, this area is one of the group of five lowland Gower commons, along with Welsh Moor, Forest Common, Pengwern Common, and the nearby Fairwood Common. They comprise a belt of land lying across the south-western edge of the Coalfield deposits, which was left unenclosed when the field system was laid out. Unlike the upland commons, there is very little evidence for utilisation in the prehistoric period. An interesting and relatively rare survivor of formerly more extensive lowland common, closely associated with - though now divorced from - the outstanding Gower upland commons to the south. The area retains outstanding integrity with its original character and form largely intact. The area includes features that are historically rare in a regional context.

Culturally, this LCA lies largely within the large Aspect Area derived from the AONB designation, with the exception of the southernmost

section to the south of the B4436 road.

The Clyne Golf Course which occupies the northern section of Clyne Common is a long-established feature, and one of several in the settled south-eastern area of the peninsula, which has been assimilated into the common landscape without significant adverse effects.



Hard urban edge of the Manselfield and West Cross districts of Swansea, seen on the skyline at the southern edge of the Common - all the land in this view is outside the AONB boundary



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Southern section of Clyne Common, with the B4436 road seen in the lower part of this view

Management Guidelines:

- Ensure that settlement expansion and settlement edges are developed in a manner which takes account of the high degree of visibility across this landscape
- Maintain the open character of the Common, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Safeguard commons and other visually significant boundary hedgebanks as a specific policy topic (consider Article 4 Direction to revoke permitted development rights )
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Ensure that any expansion of existing caravan sites is carefully controlled, so as to minimise adverse effects upon the character of the Common ’ s landscape and views from the Common



View north west from B4436 - bramble, gorse and bracken growth is controlled by grazing but has the potential to encroach onto open grassland areas



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Landscape has a high visual and sensory value, with open views out to the south coast from the higher ground in the north of the area
- High level of public accessibility, through close proximity to urban edge of Swansea and Murton, Open Access Land designation

Clyne Common LCA 34

Strengths:

A large-scale, open tract of sloping common land with open views to the south.  
A strong sense of place, not adversely affected by the presence of the Clyne Golf Course.  
Highly accessible from the adjacent edges of the Swansea urban area, the Open Access Land designation and public roads.

Weaknesses:

The open nature of this landscape means that intrusive and incongruous features can be seen from medium to long range, such as unsympathetic development at the urban edges and caravan sites to the north west.  
Vulnerable to vegetation change by scrub and bracken encroachment if grazing regime is not appropriate.  
Seasonal fire risk.

Opportunities:

Integrate settlement edges into the rural scene, through new hedgerow and woodland planting and management of existing vegetation.  
Consider the revocation of permitted development to protect boundary hedgebanks to the common and other visually significant hedgebanks from depletion or removal.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features.

Threats:

**Caravan Parks** are an established feature at the north western edge in the Blackhills locality. They are well screened by existing vegetation but have the potential to be discordant elements in an otherwise largely unspoilt landscape  
**Building developments** which may adversely affect the edges of the Common, including forming breaches in - and the removal of - the characteristic boundary hedgebanks to the Common

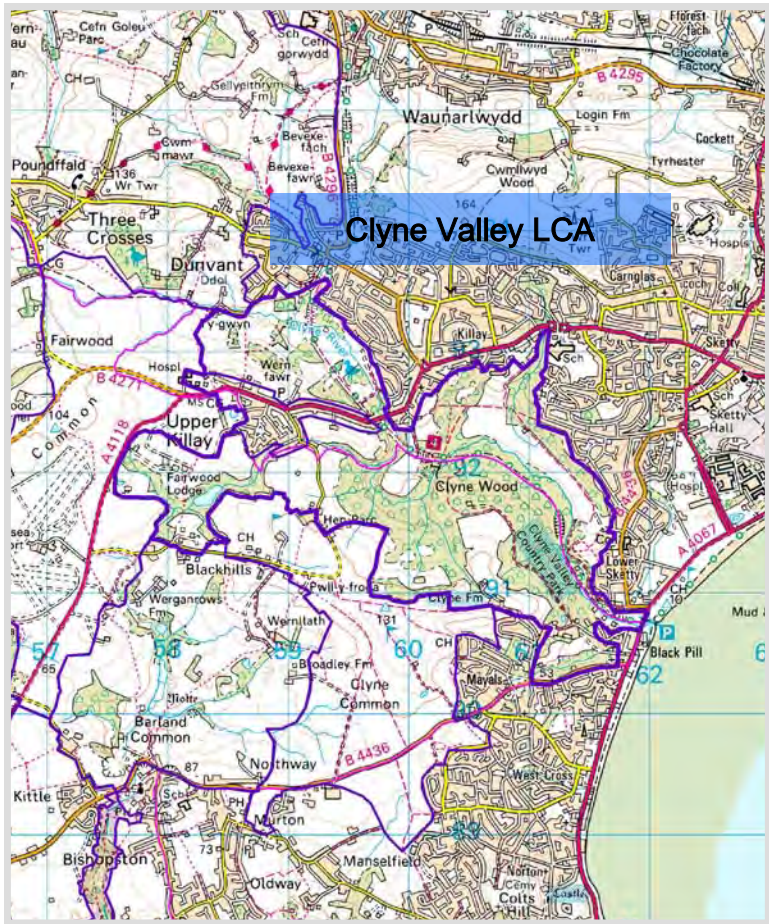
and the local public road and rights of way network

- Gower Commons
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding



Clyne Valley LCA 35

LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
35	Clyne Valley	080 - Moderate 141 - Moderate	024 - Outstanding 029 - Moderate	654 - High 644 - Low 944 - Moderate 116 - High	383 - High 419 - Outstanding 726 - Outstanding	031 - High 034 - Outstanding 036 - High 060 - Low



View northwards towards Killay from the eastern side of the valley. The adjacent urban edge appears on the skyline along sections of the upper eastern and north-western valley sides.



View westwards from the eastern side of the river showing the dense and continuous tract of mature broadleaved woodland in the valley within the AONB



View south-westwards from a similar location. The mature broadleaved woodland is a continuous feature of the western valley sides within the AONB

Description:

The Clyne Valley LCA is a distinctive, steep-sided wooded valley formed by the Clyne River, adjoining the western edge of the urban area of Swansea, with the course of a dismantled railway line on the western side of the river and the southern edge of Upper Killay forming the AONB boundary. Its northern and eastern boundaries are defined by the urban edges of Dunvant, Killay and Lower Sketty. In the west, the boundary is demarcated by the urban area of Upper Killay and the edges of the northern section of Fairwood Common. The incised valley with continuous broadleaved woodland cover is strongly enclosed, preventing attractive views out, and the urban edge is a strong local influence. The upper valley and outer slopes are a wooded farmland mosaic landscape which is also very enclosed, with only short range views, which is also subject to significant urban influence. It is very accessible, being managed as a Country Park.

Geologically, this LCA is part of a large broad, gently sloping plateau

of mudstones with sandstones and coals, dissected by meandering river valleys which has outstanding value.

The significance of the mainly 19th century Clyne Castle, is as an outstanding designed parkland landscape which has been recognised as a Grade I public park on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales. The valley is part of the park's essential setting, which includes the significant relict industrial landscape of the Clyne Valley, including coal mining. The estate, formerly associated with the prominent Vivian family, retains a layout and features of exceptional interest within the national context of Wales, and represents an exceptionally rich landscape. This nationally important parkland and industrial landscape contains 4 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and 11 listed buildings.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that the Clyne Valley marks the border between Swansea and the Gower Peninsula, the buffer between conservation and the City. Though it is historically both a river valley and

the route of the former LNWR line to West Wales, as well as housing industrial activity, it has been transformed both on the ground and in the minds of visitors and residents to a major recreational asset with footpaths, cycleways and a country park. The change in use from intensive industrial area to country park is its most significant cultural influence and community value. The site is a well cared for recreational and Conservation Area.







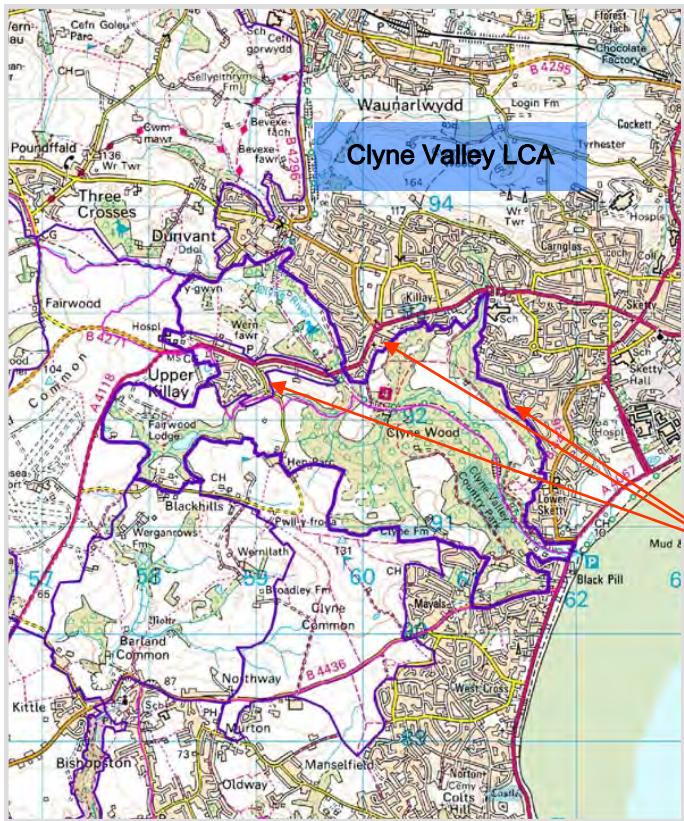
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Management Guidelines:

- Ensure that settlement expansion and settlement edges are developed in a manner which takes account of the high degree of visibility across this valley landscape
- Consider carefully the wider potential landscape and visual impacts of adjacent building development and use sympathetic landform design, as well as planting schemes, to assimilate new buildings
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets; produce management plans for important archaeological sites
- Continue appropriate woodland and tree management, in the light of current developments in relation to the spread of pathogenic tree infections, especially ash die-back disease



Dense mature woodland flanking the main footpath/cycle route up the western side of the valley along the former railway line - woodland management needs to take into account perceptions of public safety by improving visibility at some locations along this route



Clyne Valley LCA 35

**Strengths:**  
A large-scale, attractive, wooded river valley landscape, with no settlements. A strong sense of place, recovering from an industrial past and influenced by the presence of the urban edge of Swansea along the eastern skyline. Highly accessible through its management as a Country Park and close proximity to urban areas. Acts as a buffer zone to the AONB against urban influences from the west-ward development of this area of Swansea.

**Weaknesses:**  
Vulnerable to degradation from pathogenic tree diseases such as ash die-back *Chalara fraxinea* and *Phytophthora*. The large proportion of ash trees in the woodland is a cause for concern. Seasonal fire risk in young woodland areas with more herbaceous vegetation

**Opportunities:**  
Prevent visual intrusion at settlement edges, through new woodland planting and appropriate management of existing vegetation. Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features.

**Threats:**  
*Building developments* which may adversely affect the edges of the woodland and increase the intrusive visual effects of adjacent urban areas. *Ash die-back Chalara fraxinea* could have significant effects on ash woodland regeneration in the valley

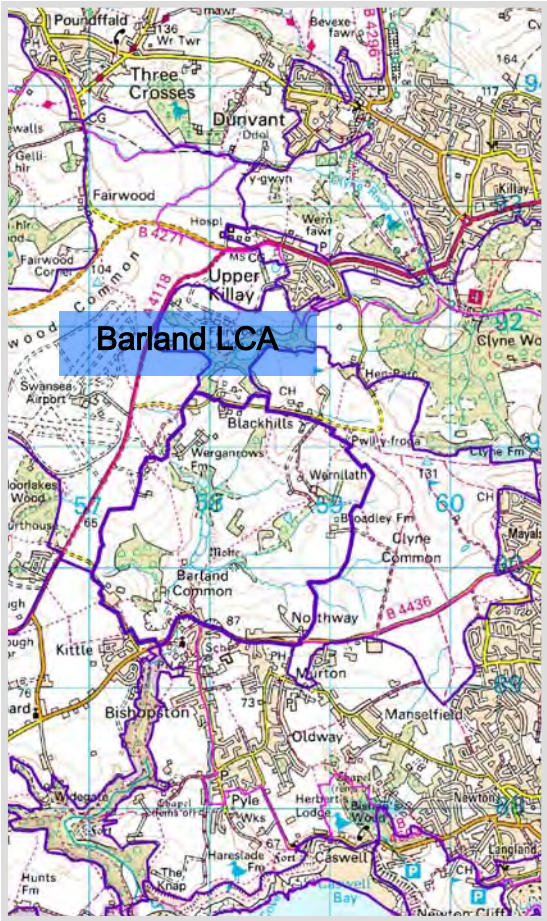
Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Historic Landscape value is outstanding, with many national conservation designations, including the Grade I Registered Historic Parkland at Clyne Castle
- High level of tranquillity, due to sparse settlement pattern and the screening effects of surrounding high ground to the north, north-west and north-east
- High level of public accessibility arising from its close juxtaposition to western Swansea, and from the local public road and rights of way network and its Country Park designation
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding



Barland LCA 36

LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
36	Barland	881 - High	024 - Outstanding	162 - Low 944 - Moderate 116 - High	383 - High 726 - Outstanding 957 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding



Barland wooded farmland landscape seen in the view westwards from the southern end of Clyne Common. The prominent buildings in the middle distance are at Swansea Airport just to the west of this LCA



View northwards from Barland Common over unspoilt rolling wooded farmland in this isolated area of enclosed land lying between Clyne and Fairwood Commons



View westwards from Barland Common towards the old quarry workings and the very large sheds at Kittle Farm. The scars of the old quarry faces are being assimilated into this landscape by natural regeneration processes, but the stark unscreened farm sheds are intrusive and dominate the view

Description:

The Barland LCA is largely defined by the characteristics of all of the adjoining areas. It is not accessible by public roads and is quite enclosed by woodland and mature field boundary hedgerows with trees which prevent long range views into or out of it. The Barland Common area at its southern end, designated as Open Access Land, appears to have been colonised by scrub woodland as a result of changes in grazing regimes or the lack of clearance work, but has some very interesting low-growing specimen oak trees with gnarled forms. Barland Quarry at its south-western corner is active but is virtually unseen, even from the adjacent B4436 public road. This enclosed area of rolling wooded farmland has a sense of being a tranquil rural backwater, which contributes to its high Visual & Sensory Landscape value.

Historically this predominantly outstanding value area has a complex fieldscape, evolved from open-field system, but with elements derived from encroachment and reclamation, areas of woodland, and small-scale agricultural activity.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell.

The very large modern sheds at Kittle Farm on the skyline at its western edge are visually intrusive and major detracting features, contrasting strongly with the character of the traditional farmsteads of Gower.

By contrast the quarry is not visually intrusive. There are also visually-intrusive local concentrations of overhead power lines crossing Barland Common.





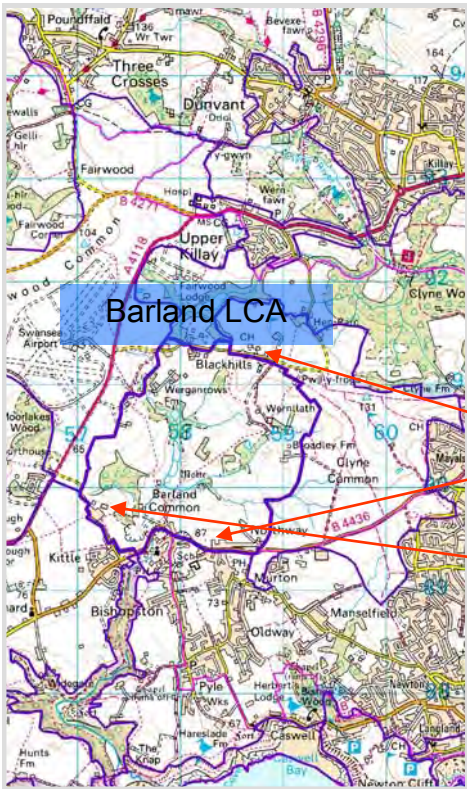
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Management Guidelines:

- Consider carefully the wider potential landscape and visual impacts of farm diversification schemes and use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedgerow planting schemes, to assimilate new large-scale farm buildings
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks and stone boundary walls
- Maintain the open character of Barland Common, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Safeguard commons and other visually significant boundary hedgebanks as a specific policy topic (consider revocation of permitted development rights )
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets



View westwards from Barland Common. This is a rather tranquil place with an enclosed and intimate feel, marred by the dominant modern farm sheds on the skyline and a local intensity of overhead electricity and telephone lines crossing the valley



Barland LCA 36

Strengths:

A largely unspoilt tract of tranquil enclosed wooded farmland with no settlements  
Very accessible through Open Access Land designation at Barland Common and a good network of public rights of way in the north around the Blackhills locality; and from nearby Kittle, Bishopston and Murton.

Weaknesses:

Open land at Barland Common being colonised by dense scrub and tree growth through lack of grazing and clearance work.  
Vulnerable to expansion of caravan site west of Fairwood Park Golf Course, if the existing planting screen is not retained and conserved.  
Noise intrusion from nearby Swansea Airport.

Opportunities:

Retain the rather isolated and tranquil rural atmosphere.  
Promote placement underground of the overhead lines crossing Barland Common.  
Promote reinstatement of appropriate grazing by livestock and scrub clearance at Barland Common.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features.

Threats:

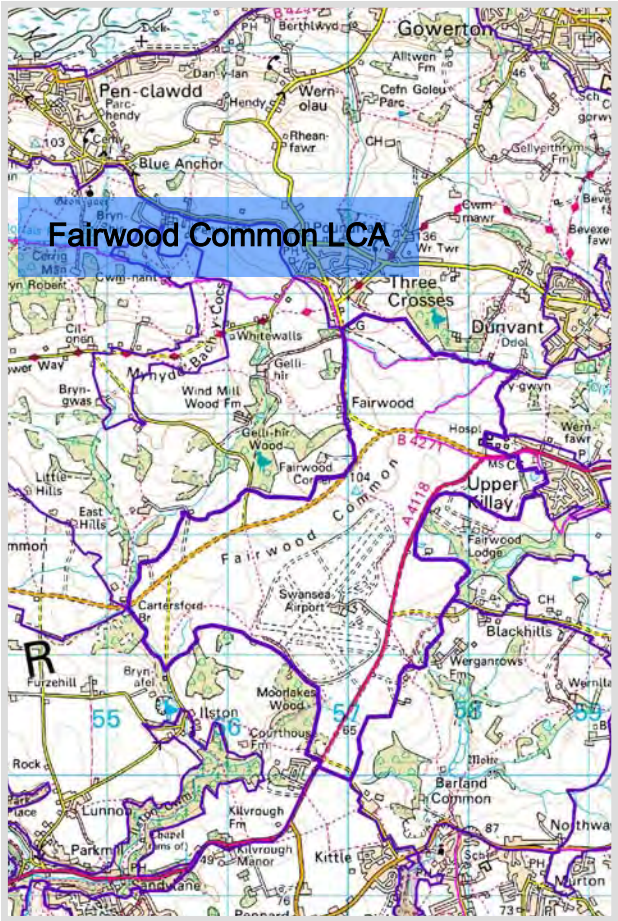
**Building developments** which may adversely affect the edges of the area - especially Barland Common - including the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs  
**Modern large agricultural buildings** can appear incongruous in relation to small fields and the traditional small farmsteads and villages, with their vernacular stone and brick buildings  
**Scrub and bracken invasion of open land on Barland Common**

Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- High level of tranquillity - due to the sparse settlement pattern and few public roads and rights of way - introspective, enclosed and rather isolated
- Historical Landscape value is outstanding
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding
- Accessible through partial designation as Open Access Land at Barland Common, and from the good rights of way network around Blackhills and its close proximity to the settlements of Bishopston, Kittle and Murton
- Gower Commons



Fairwood Common LCA 37



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
37	Fairwood Common	436 - Moderate 876 - High	024 - Outstanding	813 - High 430 - Moderate	383 - High	004 - Moderate 034 - Outstanding 060 - Low



View north-eastwards from the public road crossing the common to the south of Three Crosses, with urban areas around Dunvant and north Swansea in the distance



View eastwards across the central area of Fairwood Common. Unauthorised vehicle access can cause local damage to vulnerable habitats if use becomes intensive



View eastwards from the A4118 near Swansea Airport towards the wooded farmland of Barland LCA. Subtle colours of heathland and rough grazing grassland in the winter aspect and a low angle of sunlight

Description:

Fairwood Common LCA is an extensive area of gently rolling, rough grazing common land that rises to 104m AOD. It includes Swansea Airport in the south eastern corner. It is substantially open, affording some pleasant long views from the public road (B4271) along the long axis of the common from the west, but locally detractive views up to Three Crosses in the north and beyond to the urban edge of Swansea (A4118 and part of B4271 and the minor road to Three Crosses). Although the airport site is largely obscured in the long views from the west, it has a locally detracting effect in views from the south from the A4118. There are important lowland heathland habitats of international importance and these have protection as part of a wider SSSI (including the adjacent Pengwern Common) and under the Gower Commons SAC.

Historically, Fairwood Common is one of five lowland Gower commons

with Welsh Moor, Forest Common, Pengwern Common and Clyne Common. They comprise a belt of land lying across the south-western edge of the Coalfield deposits, which was left unenclosed when the field system was laid out. Unlike the upland commons, there is very little evidence for utilisation in the prehistoric period.

An interesting and relatively rare survivor of lowland common (formerly more extensive) closely associated with (though now divorced from) the outstanding Gower Upland Commons to the south. The area retains outstanding integrity with its original character and form largely intact. Whilst some loss has occurred with the construction of a WWII airfield and its associated features, this addition has increased the range of landscape features in the area. The area includes features that are historically rare in a regional context.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell

Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell. The airport has its own Aspect Area.

Fairwood Common is designated as Open Access Land. Two sections of the common in the north east lie beyond the AONB boundary.



Swansea Airport, close to the centre of Fairwood Common, seen from the edge of the main A4118 road from Upper Killay to Parkmill





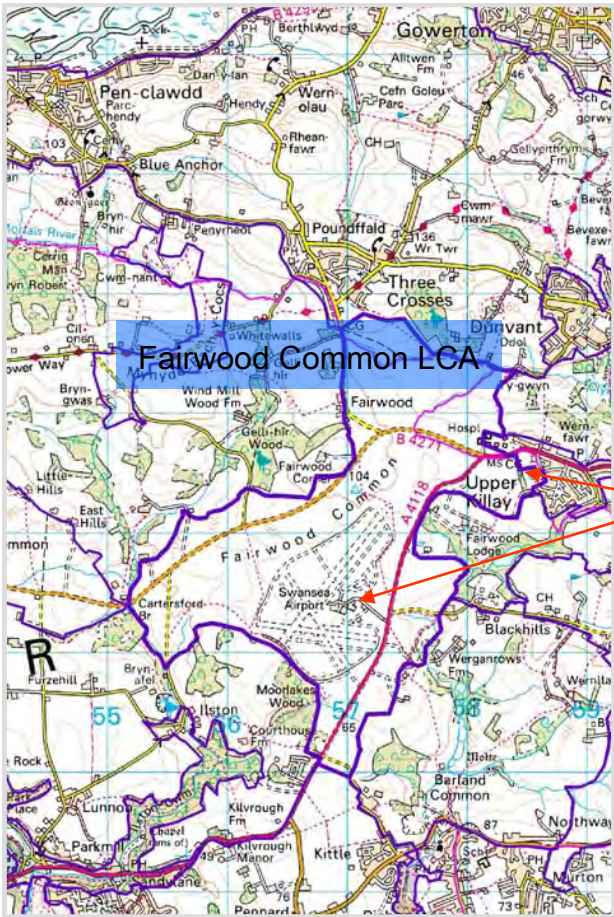
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Management Guidelines:

- Maintain the open character of the common, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks and stone boundary walls
- Safeguard commons and other visually significant boundary hedgebanks as a specific policy topic (consider revocation of permitted development rights )
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter



Grazing sheep maintaining the open habitats on Fairwood Common south of Swansea Airport



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Large area of open lowland common with a strong sense of place
- Highly Accessible from road and public rights of way network and from the adjacent areas of Upper Killay, Dunvant and Three Crosses
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding

Fairwood Common LCA 37

Strengths:

A large, distinctive area of gently rolling open lowland common land.  
A strong sense of place, coupled with a feeling of exposure and wildness in areas away from the airport to the west.  
Highly accessible from the main public road network and Open Access land designation

Weaknesses:

Noise intrusion from low-flying aircraft and large scale intrusive buildings at Swansea Airport, including night time light pollution.  
Open landscape, vulnerable to intrusive visual effects in medium and long distance views, such as houses at Three Crosses on the skyline to the north.  
Open habitats vulnerable to degradation by scrub and bracken encroachment and damage by unauthorised vehicle access.

Opportunities:

Promote screening of intrusive development at edges of common around Upper Killay by local vegetation management to encourage the development small areas of dense scrub.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

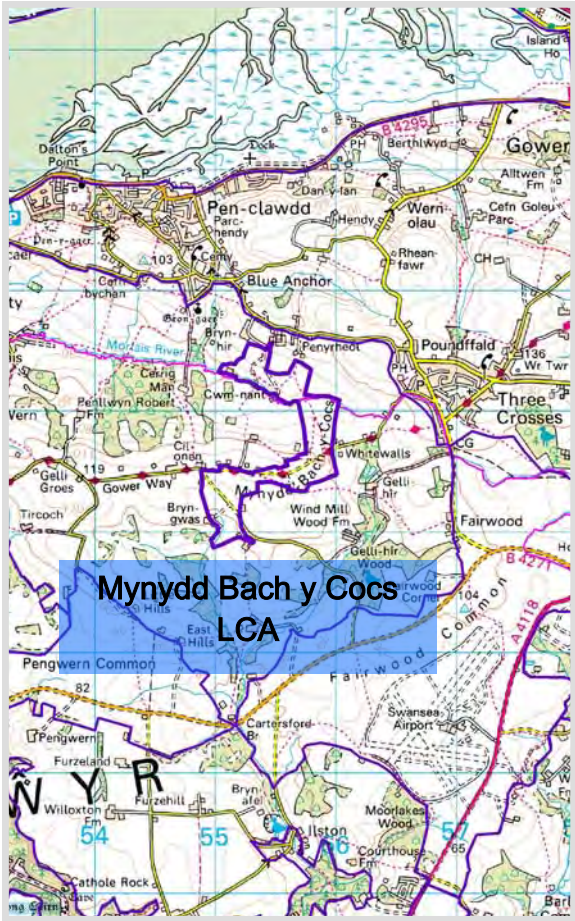
Threats:

**Building developments** which may adversely affect the edges of the common - and at Swansea Airport - including the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs

- Geological Landscape value is outstanding
- Gower Commons



Mynydd Bach y Cocs LCA 38



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
38	Mynydd Bach y Cocs	473 - Moderate	024 - Outstanding	944 - Moderate	726 - Outstanding	034 - Outstanding



View eastwards from the minor public road crossing Mynydd Bach y Cocs Common towards the edge of Three Crosses village. Low-level overhead telephone lines intrude on an otherwise largely unspoilt landscape



View northwards towards Penyrheol, showing the effects of scrub colonisation where grazing has not been consistent. Overhead lines again intrude on this view

Description:

The small but distinctive Mynydd Bach y Cocs LCA is based upon another area of rough grazing common land, but it is small scale and different in form and appearance from most of those in Gower. It has a narrow linear and sinuous form, based largely upon the land cover resulting from its management as common land. This cover varies from being open to substantially enclosed by colonising scrub and woodland, in response to the effects of variable grazing and clearance management works. There are consequently generally only close to medium range views within and out of this LCA. The Gower Way promoted long-distance route passes through the central section of this LCA, along the minor public road running between the villages of

Three Crosses and Llanrhidian. The northernmost section of the LCA, north of the Morlais River, lies beyond the AONB boundary.

Historically, this area is part of a complex fieldscape, evolved from open-field system, but with elements derived from encroachment and reclamation, areas of woodland and small-scale agricultural activity. In addition to outstanding integrity, survival and condition, and rarity, this Aspect Area, is considered to have wide-ranging scope for future historic landscape study and potential amenity value.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and

a line from Crofty to Caswell. Mynydd Bach y Cocs common is designated as Open Access Land. There are no settlements.



View south from the road showing the open grassland and heathland habitats as a consequence of appropriate grazing regimes. Overhead lines are again intrusive here





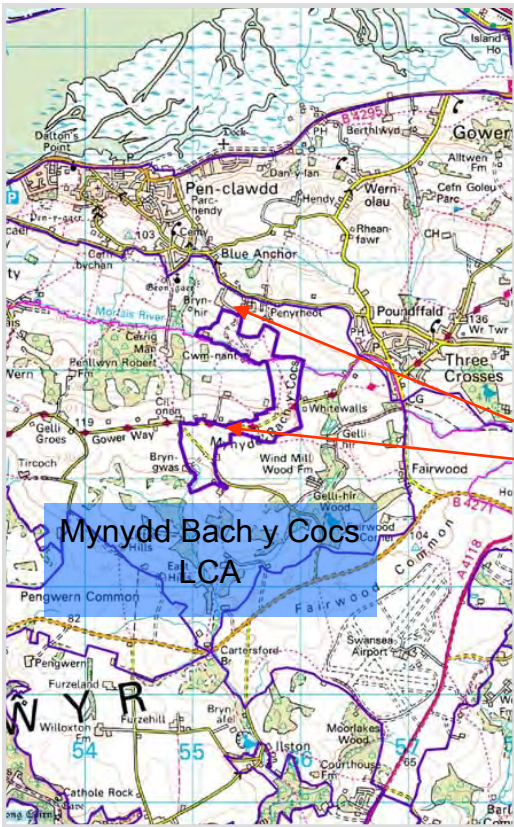
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Management Guidelines:

- Optimise agri-environment schemes to target the most visually-sensitive areas where intrusive elements are conspicuous, and to retain and conserve the field boundary hedgebank network
- Consider carefully the wider potential landscape and visual impacts of farm diversification schemes and use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedgerow planting schemes, to assimilate new large-scale farm buildings
- Maintain the open character of the common, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Consider promoting the placement underground of overhead electricity and telephone lines and avoid future intensification of overhead lines in this visually sensitive location bisected by the route of The Gower Way



Open grassland and heathland south of the road crossing the common maintained by appropriate grazing



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Strong sense of place and very different in character from the other Gower lowland commons because of its narrow and sinuous form
- Highly accessible from the public road and local public rights of way network, as well as The Gower Way which passes through its centre

Mynydd Bach y Cocs LCA 38

Strengths:

Small scale irregular-shaped tract of common land surrounded by enclosed farmland.  
Strong sense of place.  
Accessible from Open Access Land designation and The Gower Way which runs along the public road crossing the middle of the common.

Weaknesses:

Locally intrusive overhead electricity and telephone overhead lines cross the common and intrude on an otherwise largely unspoilt landscape  
Vulnerable to encroaching scrub and bracken, if the traditional grazing regime is not implemented consistently.

Opportunities:

Promote reinstatement of traditional grazing regimes where appropriate  
Effective conservation management of existing field boundary hedgebanks and stone boundary walls to conserve these remaining local characterising features  
Promote placement underground of overhead lines in this visually-sensitive location on the route of The Gower Way.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

Threats:

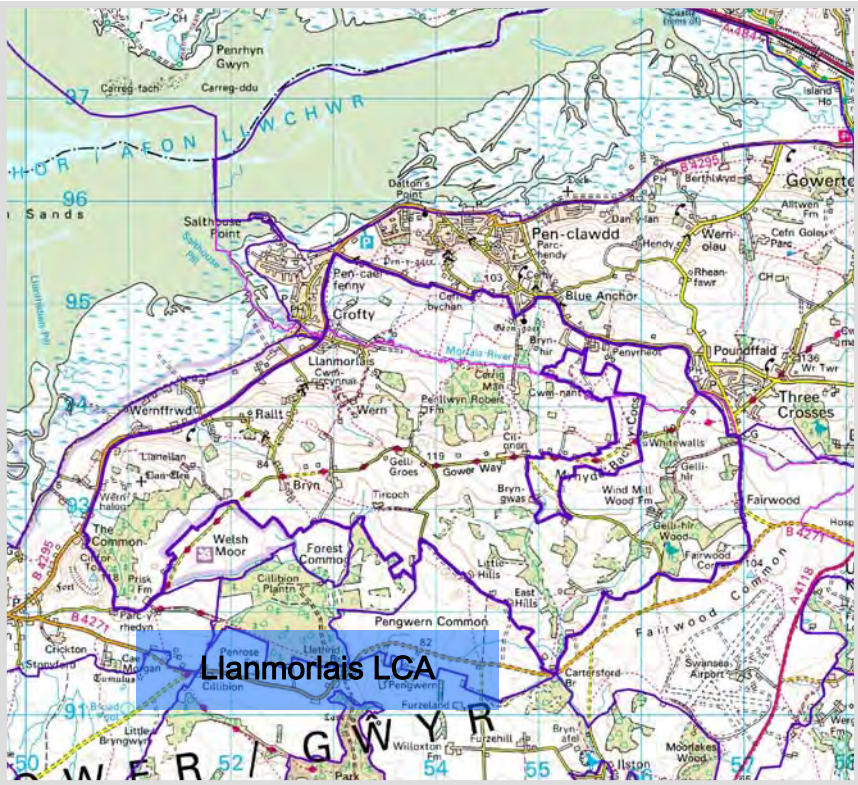
**Building developments** which may adversely affect the edges of the common, including the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs  
**Modern large agricultural buildings** can appear incongruous in relation to this small scale landscape and the traditional small farmsteads with their clusters of vernacular stone and brick buildings

- Historic Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding



Llanmorlais LCA 39

LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
39	Llanmorlais	473 - Moderate	024- Outstanding 026 - Moderate	944 - Moderate 666 - High 451 - Moderate	726 - Outstanding	034- Outstanding 055 - High 059 - High 060 - Low



View south-westwards from east of Blue Anchor over the ridge at the centre of Llanmorlais LCA, showing the characteristic enclosed wooded farmland landscape. The Cefn Bryn ridge forms the horizon



View westwards showing how the low ridge falls to the coast between Llanmorlais and Llanrhidian, with Llanmadoc Hill, Hardings Down and Rhossili Down in the far distance. The edge of Llanrhidian Marsh is visible in the right hand centre of this view



View westwards along the minor road crossing the small common at Bryn, part of the route of The Gower Way. Llanmadoc Hill and Hardings Down form the horizon. Low-level overhead electricity lines intrude on this otherwise largely unspoilt view

Description:

Llanmorlais LCA is an extensive tract of rolling lowland farmland lying between 20m and 120m AOD, with a mosaic pattern of hedges and a noticeably wooded character, derived from the scattered copses, broadleaved woodlands and conifer plantations occurring throughout the area. Access is largely from minor public roads, and the field boundary hedgerows and woodlands limit the views within and out from this LCA. The Gower Way promoted long-distance route passes through the centre of the LCA, running between Welsh Moor and Three Crosses. The land on the valley slopes on the northern side of the Morlais River, between the eastern edge of Crofty and the western edge of Three Crosses, lies beyond the AONB boundary.

Historically of outstanding landscape value, based upon a complex which more open long distance views are obtainable than from within fieldscape, evolved from the open-field system, but with elements derived from encroachment and reclamation. The settlement pattern is predominantly nucleated, with areas of woodland and small-scale agricultural activity.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within a large area of the AONB that includes most of the peninsula's coastline from Caswell Bay in the south via Worms Head to Crofty on the northern coast, and a line from Crofty to Caswell.

The Gower Way promoted long distance route passes through the middle of the LCA entirely along the minor public road which links Prysgrug to the east of Llanrhidian village, with Three Crosses. This road runs roughly east-west along the higher ground of a low broad ridge, from



View south-westwards from the common at Bryn, showing the wooded farmland character resulting from belts of woodland, small copses and field boundary hedgebanks with mature trees





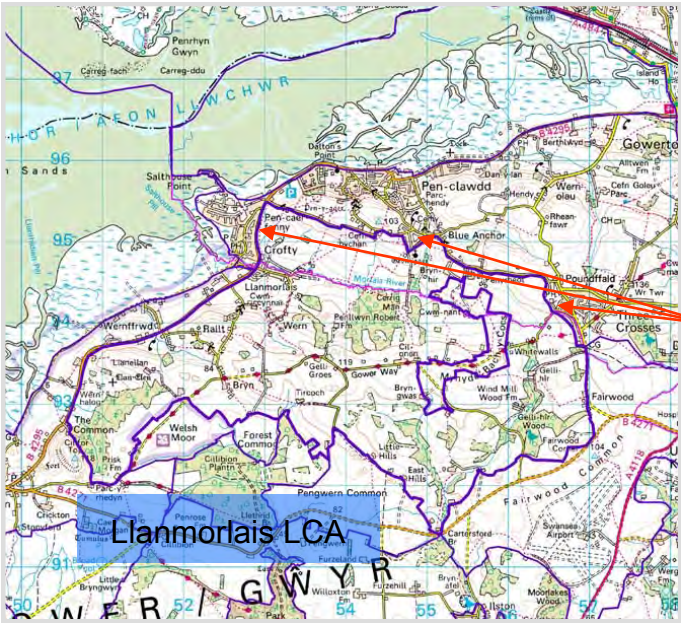
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*The distinctive hedgebanks forming the boundary of the small common at Bryn and the traditional relationship of farm holdings to the edge of the common grazing land. Unsympathetic developments or building alterations which erode these traditional boundary features should be strictly controlled through specific planning policy measures*

**Management Guidelines:**

- Maintain the open character of commons, through favourable vegetation management, and ensure that any new development respects the traditional relationship of adjacent buildings to the edges and the setting of common land
- Safeguard commons and other visually significant boundary hedgebanks as a specific policy topic (consider revocation of permitted development rights )
- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the field boundary hedgebanks and stone walls
- Consider carefully the wider potential landscape and visual impacts of farm diversification schemes and use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedgerow planting schemes, to assimilate new large-scale farm buildings
- Control caravan and camping site developments or extensions here and in the nearby section of the Crofty to Three Crosses LCA, so that intrusive visual effects are prevented
- Consider incentive schemes to alter the colour of caravans where they cannot be effectively screened or assimilated into the landscape by landform or vegetation
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets



**Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:**

- Landscape has a strong sense of place and a settled feel
- Long attractive views out to the south and west, in particular from the higher open ground
- Small areas of lowland common land with the traditional farmstead settlement pattern around them
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding

- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Highly accessible from the public road network and The Gower Way

**Llanmorlais LCA 39**

**Strengths:**

A large tract of enclosed farmland with a strong sense of place and a settled feel.  
Accessible views from common land and the route of The Gower Way which passes through the centre of the LCA.  
Largely unspoilt beyond the village edges and the caravan sites.

**Weaknesses:**

Hard urban edge of Three Crosses village is incongruous and intrusive at the north-eastern boundary. Village edges at Blue Anchor and Crofty have the potential to erode the enclosed farmland character.  
Vulnerable to expansion of caravan sites and new caravan developments, if not sympathetically designed to be assimilated into the wooded farmland landscape.  
Locally intrusive low-level overhead electricity and telephone lines.

**Opportunities:**

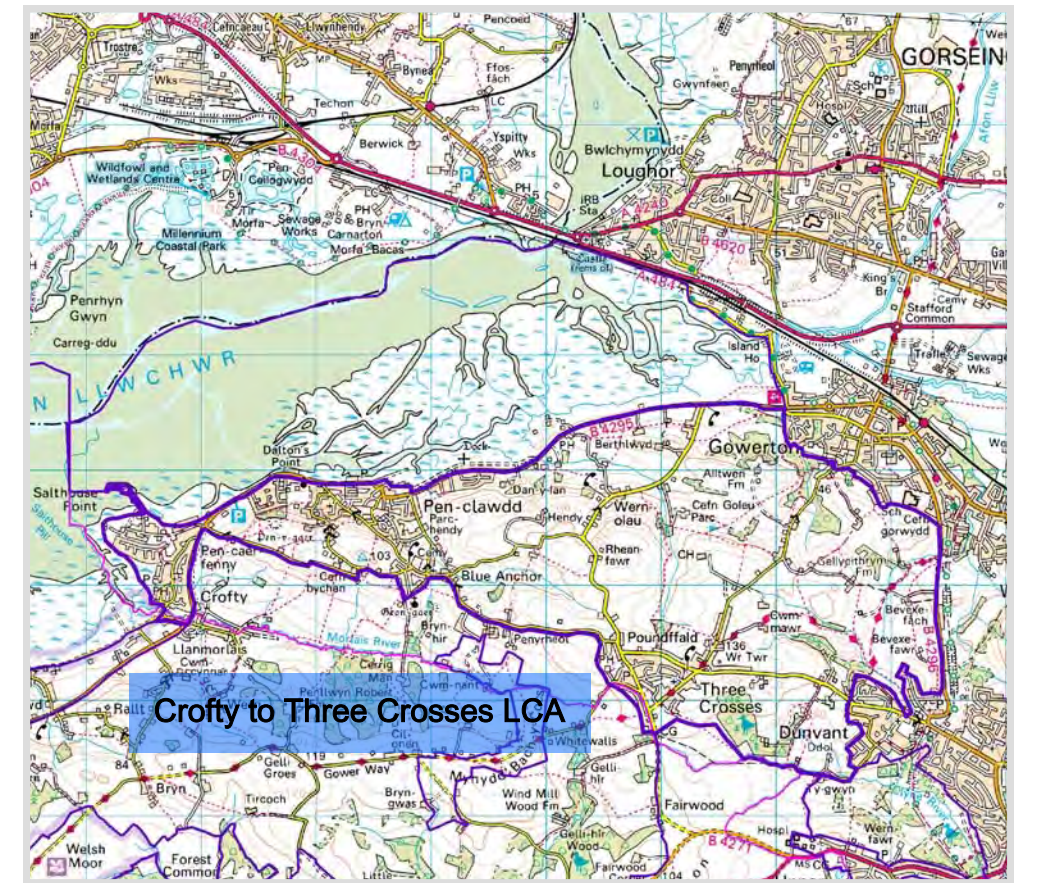
Promote placement underground of overhead lines along the route of The Gower Way, especially on the common at Bryn.  
Promote traditional management of field boundary hedgebanks and walls.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

**Threats:**

**Building developments** which may adversely affect the sensitive edges of the area, and the commons in particular, including the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs  
**Traditional field boundary hedgebank degradation** through erosion or lack of traditional management



Crofty to Three Crosses LCA 40



LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
40	Crofty to Three Crosses	141 - Moderate 473 - Moderate	029 - Moderate 030 - Moderate	944 - Moderate	368 - Unassessed 515 - High 726 - Outstanding	014- High 020 - Moderate 033 - Outstanding 040 - High 055 - High 056 - Low 060 - Low



The view east towards the upper parts of Blue Anchor from the eastern edge of the village. Post-industrial villages in this LCA are set amongst enclosed wooded farmland and the legible signs of the past coal-mining activities are muted



The enclosed wooded farmland landscape to the east of Penclawdd, seen from the public road along the edge of the Loughor Estuary salt marshes to the north west of Gowerton

Description:

This large LCA is an area of rolling lowland farmland, with an urban influence in the eastern area, where the urban edge encircles the rural area, and man-made engineered elements such as telecom towers and pylons are highly visible detractors. The western area includes the coastal settlements of Crofty and Penclawdd but remains less influenced by urban pressures and has views out to the Loughor Estuary. Throughout the area are remnants of its coal mining history [disused mine adits and spoil heaps]. This area lies almost wholly outside the AONB boundary, with the exception of a narrow sliver of land along the south-eastern edge of Three Crosses.

The Historic Landscape value of the area is primarily outstanding, based upon a complex fieldscape, evolved from the open-field system, but with elements derived from encroachment and reclamation. The settlement pattern is predominantly nucleated. There are areas of woodland and small-scale agricultural and maritime activity. In addition

to outstanding integrity, survival and condition, and rarity, this area is considered to have wide-ranging scope for future historic landscape study and potential amenity value. Penclawdd and Crofty are industrial settlements of some significance; the area is primarily characterised by ribbon development which grew up along the North Gower coast at a point at which coal was mined and exported on small coastal vessels from the late 16th century onwards. It was also a minor centre for the copper smelting and tinsplate industries, but is now entirely residential.

The Cultural Aspect data notes that this LCA lies within an area of the peninsula classified as Greater Swansea. It lies entirely outside the northern boundary of the AONB. The Gower Way promoted long-distance route passes through the far eastern area of the LCA, linking Three Crosses, Duvant and Gowerton.

There are a few visually detracting elements, mostly in the form of overhead lines and communications infrastructure, with some

stretches of hard urban edge at Penclawdd, Crofty, Three Crosses and Gowerton.



View south-eastwards from the north-western edge of Poundffald towards Three Crosses and The Gower Golf Club



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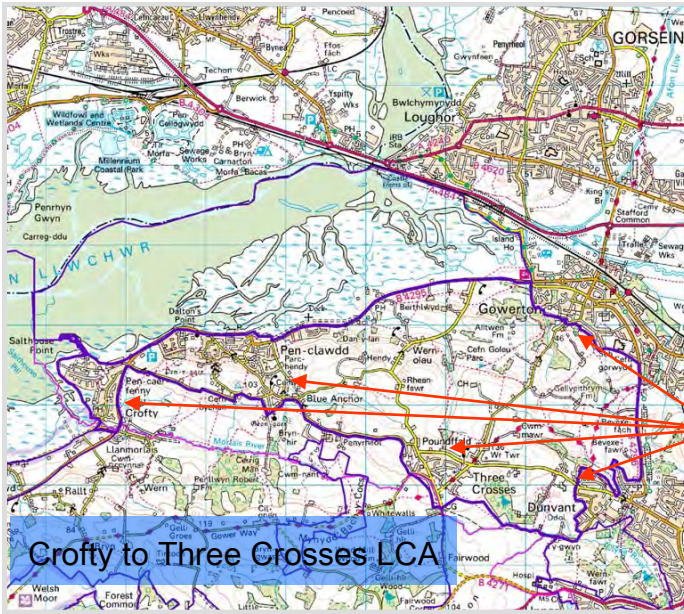
View southwards from above the edge of the Loughor Estuary towards Three Crosses, with the B4295 crossing the foreground

Management Guidelines:

- Maintain and conserve through the use of traditional management techniques the distinctive field boundary hedgerbanks
- Consider carefully the wider potential landscape and visual impacts of farm diversification schemes and use sympathetic landform design, as well as woodland, tree and hedgerow planting schemes, to assimilate new large-scale farm buildings
- Optimise agri-environment schemes to target the most visually-sensitive areas where intrusive elements are conspicuous, and to retain and conserve the field boundary hedgerbank network
- Ensure that settlement expansion and settlement edges are developed in a manner which takes account of the high degree of visibility across the upper parts of this landscape
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets



Locally intrusive overhead lines to the east of the upper part of Blue Anchor



Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Enclosed wooded farmland with a strong industrial heritage
- Important experience of wide views to the north and west over the inner Loughor Estuary
- Historic Landscape value is outstanding

Crofty to Three Crosses LCA 40

Strengths:

Attractive views out over the Loughor Estuary at its upper western end. Sheltered coastal edge influences at Penclawdd and Crofty. Accessible from the local public roads and rights of way network and The Gower Way in the east.

Weaknesses:

Some locally intrusive buildings on the edge of Three Crosses village, which are prominent in views from the AONB to the south and south west. Boundary hedgerbanks are vulnerable to removal or erosion through building developments or alterations and farm diversification schemes.

Opportunities:

Promote effective conservation management of existing field boundary hedgerbanks, especially where they form the boundaries to residential areas. Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features.

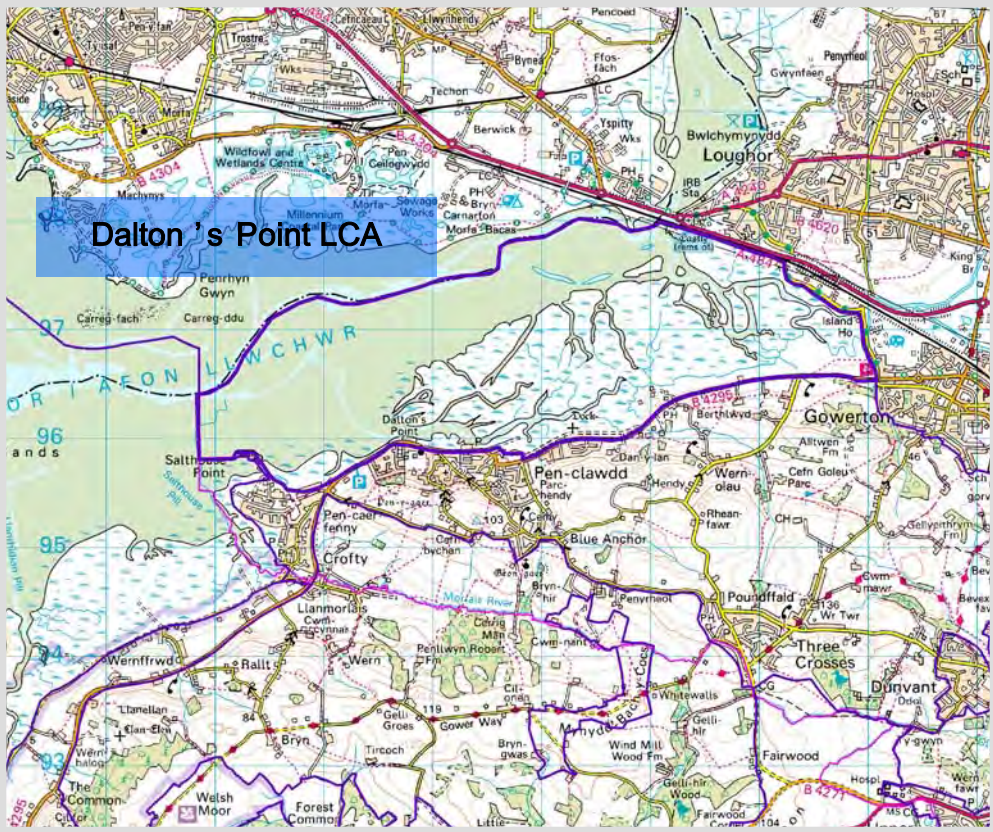
Threats:

**Building developments at settlement edges** which may adversely affect the enclosed farmland character, including the potential for intrusive effects to arise from reflective surfaces on photovoltaic installations on building roofs  
**Removal of traditional field boundary hedgerbanks and replacement with post and wire fences**, which changes the pattern and scale and texture of the landscape if it occurs over significant areas of land



Dalton's Point LCA 41

LCA Nr	Gower Landscape Character Area	Swansea Visual & Sensory Aspect Areas	Swansea Geological Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas	Swansea Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Swansea Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
41	Dalton's Point	337 - High 683 - High	028 - Outstanding	191 - Outstanding 957 - Outstanding	368 - <i>Unassessed</i>	022 - Outstanding 041 - Outstanding



The view westwards down the Loughor Estuary towards Pen-clawdd from the marsh edge road north-west of Gowerton, with Llanmadoc Hill and the distinctive coniferous woodland shelterbelts at Whiteford Point forming the horizon



The view eastwards up the Loughor Estuary from east of Pen-clawdd towards Gowerton. The naturalistic character of the open saltmarsh ends abruptly at the concrete sea wall and the urbanised road landscape lies beyond it

Description:

This LCA is formed upon the large expanse of flat estuarine marsh, with some areas of rough grazing, and mud/silt flats along the southern side of the inland reach of the Loughor Estuary. There is an urbanised character from the street-lit main road (B4295) running from Pen-clawdd to Gowerton, electricity line towers, a main line railway, and views to adjacent urban areas of Llanelli, Loughor and Gowerton, the western edge of which forms the boundary to this LCA. Views out to sea along the estuary are very distant and not readily discernible, so the inner reach of the estuary has a less remote, much more settled character. This LCA lies wholly beyond the AONB boundary.

The estuary and flood plain are of exceptional ecological importance. There are very large area of Estuarine Mud/sand flats, very important for waders and wildfowl. There is a continuity of good quality priority habitat protected by various national and international designations

and monitored and managed. The Landscape Habitats value is consequently outstanding.

The unenclosed salt marshes on the north Gower coast provided supplementary grazing and were associated with limited industrial and communications use in 18th and 19th centuries. Penclawdd and Crofty are industrial settlements of some significance.

It also has outstanding Cultural Landscape value. It is highly accessible from the nearby villages and the public road as well as the Coast Path. This ever-moving, ever-changing landscape is one of astounding beauty, peace and sense of place. Sunsets of a bewildering variety of effect are a great benefit to the sense of well-being of those fortunate to witness them.



The view westwards over Salthouse Point towards Whiteford Point, seen on the far horizon, with its distinctive line of coniferous woodland shelterbelts



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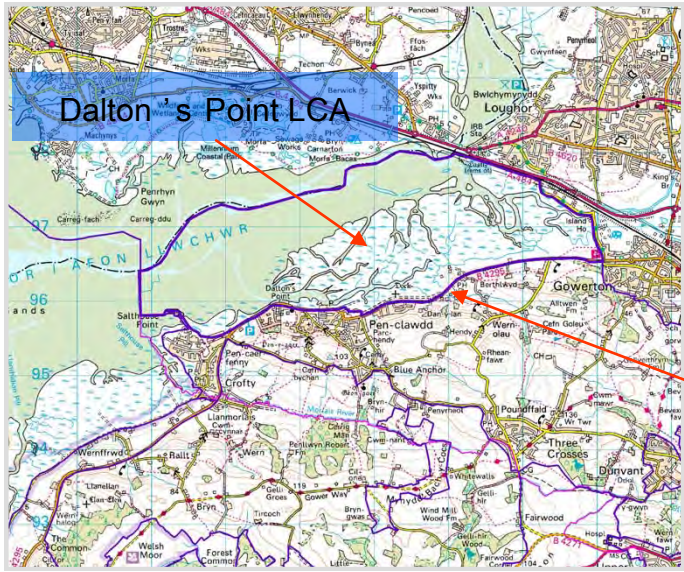
Dalton 's Point viewed southwards from above the village of Loughor in the foreground

Management Guidelines:

- Promote the placement underground of overhead electricity and telephone lines in particularly visually sensitive areas on the edge of the estuary and the main B4295 road
- Ensure that settlement expansion and settlement edges are developed in a manner which does not further erode the character of the edge of the estuary
- Maintain the open character of the saltmarsh, through favourable vegetation management, and grazing
- Protect and where possible enhance historic environment assets
- Ensure that the area remains free from pollution and litter



Intrusive overhead lines and street lamps, hard engineering road features and railings contribute to the hard urban edge to the naturalistic estuary landscape in the western area of Pen-clawdd



Dalton's Point LCA 41

**Strengths:**  
A very distinctive inner estuary landscape, characterised by very wide expanses of intertidal saltmarsh and mudflats.  
A very strong of place, coupled with local attractive views along the estuary. Urbanised edge with a more sheltered and settled atmosphere than the outer estuary.  
Easily accessible due to local public road the Coast Path

**Weaknesses:**  
Local views are sensitive to intrusive development and overhead lines. The stretch of coast road between Penclawdd and Gowerton is highly urbanised in spite of the sparse settlement in that area.

**Opportunities:**  
Placement underground of sections of overhead lines along the waterfront would improve the visual quality.  
The installation of full cut-off street lamps would reduce night-time light pollution effects.  
Increase sense of place through education regarding local historic environment features

**Threats:**  
*High levels of street lighting* on the sparsely settled upper estuary coast road increase significantly the level of night-time light pollution

Special Qualities & Key Characteristics:

- Very strong sense of place and sheltered, settled inner estuary atmosphere
- Landscape has high Visual and Sensory value, with attractive views down the estuary, especially to the west for seascape sunsets
- Highly accessible views, especially from the Coast Path

- Landscape Habitats value is outstanding
- Cultural Landscape value is outstanding
- Geological Landscape value is outstanding



Appendix 8.1

Gower Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Area (LCA) Boundary Justification

*These LCA Boundary Justifications must be read in conjunction with the accompanying map of Gower which shows the disposition all of the LCAs identified and demarcated.*

The LCAs identified cover an area which extends to the north of the AONB boundary, as required by the brief and subsequent clarifications by the Gower Landscape Partnership officers.

This boundary information has been fully digitised onto a 1:50000 Ordnance Survey map base.

The following abbreviations have been used:

- VS LANDMAP Visual & Sensory Aspect Area
- GL LANDMAP Geological Aspect Area
- LH LANDMAP Landscape Habitats Aspect Area
- HL LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Area
- CL LANDMAP Cultural Aspect Area.

**Note that where an Aspect Area reference number occurs in brackets, that Aspect Area occurs either only partly within the Draft LCA identified, or is of minor influence in determining the extent and boundaries of that LCA.**

LCA 1 Rhossili Bay

*Justification:*

Based upon several VS Aspect Areas, but mostly founded upon the sandy beach (790), it is strongly supported by the sand and sand dune systems of the underlying Geological Aspect Area (014).

This LCA contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 790, 496, 622, 408, 842
- GL 014, 011, 015
- LH 730, 611, 420
- HL 993, 759, 400 [very small 726 SW corner into LCA 2]
- CL 034, 052

The boundary is defined by VS790 and 842 and GL014, and supported by Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas 730 and 420.

LCA 2 Rhossili & Middleton

*Justification:*

Based upon several Geological and Historic Landscape Aspect Areas, and centred on the two settlements of Rhossili and Middleton and including the unique field pattern of the landscape of The Vile. The break of slope at the top of the cliffs defines the seaward boundary. Its higher density of settlement also helps to distinguish it from the adjoining rolling farmland of the Llanddewi & Reynoldston LCA to the east.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 876
- GL 010, 012
- LH 894
- HL 726, 792
- CL 034, 051, 052

The boundary is defined by Geological Aspect Areas (010 & 012), and sup-

ported by the Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape Aspects.

LCA 3 Rhossili Down

*Justification:*

Based upon the single V & S Aspect Area 622, which is defined substantially by the break of slope and land cover with the associated management effects: open rough grazing, as opposed to enclosed land farmland. This is strongly supported by the Old Red Sandstone geology, differing from the surrounding limestone and classified as a single underlying Geological Aspect Area (012).

This LCA contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 622
- GL 012
- LH 469, 951, 344
- HL 190
- CL 053

The boundary is defined by VS622 and GL012, and supported by LH469 and 951.

LCA 4 Hardings Down

*Justification:*

Based upon the single V & S Aspect Area 623, which is defined substantially by break of slope and land cover and the associated management effects: open rough grazing, as opposed to enclosed land farmland. This is strongly supported by the Old Red Sandstone geology, differing from the surrounding limestone and classified as a single underlying Geological Aspect Area (017).

This LCA contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 623
- GL 017
- LH 894
- HL 190
- CL 053, 034

The boundary is defined by V & S Aspect Area 623, and supported by Geological Aspect Area 017 and Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 894.

LCA 5 Llangennith Moors

*Justification:*

Based upon the single V & S Aspect Area 880, which is defined substantially by the distinctive, low-lying drained farmland abutting Rhossili beach, north of Hil-lend. This is strongly supported by the underlying geology, classified as a single Geological Aspect Area (013); and by the Landscape Habitats Aspect Area (117).

This LCA contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 880
- GL 013
- LH 117, [and part of 894]
- HL 244
- CL 034

The boundary is defined by V & S Aspect Area 880 and Geological Aspect Area 013, and is supported by Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 117.

LCA 6 Whiteford

*Justification:*

Based upon several V & S Aspect Areas, but founded upon the sandy beach (572), it is strongly supported by the sand and sand dune systems of the underlying Geological Aspect Area (014) and Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas (687, 964).

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 572, 842, 756,
- GL 014
- LH 687, 964
- HL 759 Outs, 993 unassessed
- CL 054, 022 both outs

The boundary is defined by Geological Aspect Area 014, and is supported by the V & S Aspect Areas and the Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

LCA 7 Llanmadoc Hill

*Justification:*

Based upon the single V & S Aspect Area 547, Llanmadoc Hill is open common land, 'Old Red Sandstone' ?distinctive and readily defined by the break of slope and land cover with the associated management effects: open rough grazing, as opposed to enclosed land farmland. It is one of a series of high ground features in west Gower which have similar physical and land cover characteristics, determined by the underlying sandstone geology and the vegetation response to land management practices.

This LCA contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 547
- GL 017
- LH 146, 520
- HL 190
- CL 053

The boundary is defined by V & S Aspect Area 547 and supported by the Geological and Landscape Habitats Aspects.

LCA 8 Llangennith and Llanmadoc

*Justification:*

Based upon the rolling farmland of the main underlying V & S Aspect Area (879), and supported by the underlying limestone and boulder clay of the Geological Aspect Areas (016 and 019). The upward inland boundary is defined mainly by the break of slope at the base of Llanmadoc Hill, Hardings Down and Rhossili Down, and the lower landward boundary in the west is defined by the edge of the contrasting low-lying Llangennith Moors LCA.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 879 [842]
- GL 016, [017], 019
- LH 894
- HL 726
- CL 034

The boundary is defined by V & S Aspect Area 879 and Geological Aspect Area 016 and 019, and is supported by the Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 894.

LCA 9 Ryer's Down

*Justification:*

Based upon part of a single V & S Aspect Area (547) which is shared with the larger Llanmadoc Hill to the west, the common land boundary is the prime determinant here, and land cover with the associated management effects: open rough grazing, as opposed to enclosed land farmland. This is strongly supported by the underlying geology, with the Geological Aspect Area 017 providing the northern and southern boundaries of the LCA. The Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 474 also reinforces this common land as being a separate entity.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 547
- GL 017
- LH 474
- HL 190



CL 034  
The boundary is defined by the extent of the common land, supported by the Geological and Landscape Habitats Aspects.

LCA 10 Burry Pill

*Justification:*  
The landform of the river valley is the key determining factor. Although it lies within the large apparently homogenous expanse of V & S Aspect Area 876, it is sufficiently distinctive, even in its upper reaches, to warrant its own LCA demarcation. This landform becomes more pronounced lower down the river course and the woodland cover increases substantially, becoming a supporting factor. This LCA is not based upon any specific underlying LANDMAP Aspect because of its small scale and linear configuration.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:  
VS 876, [878,879]  
GL 019 [017]  
LH 894  
HL 726, 154  
CL 034  
The boundary is defined by the valley landform, supported by the V & S Aspect Area, the Geological Aspect Area and the Landscape Habitats Aspect Area.

LCA 11 Llanddewi and Reynoldston

*Justification:*  
This LCA is largely based upon the single large V & S Aspect Area 876, supported by the underlying predominantly limestone geology, mostly comprised of Geological Aspect Area 008. There is also support from the single underlying Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 894. Break of slope is an important determining factor at the foot of the commons on the encompassing higher ground to the north, north-east and west, at Rhossili Down, Hardings Down, Llanmadoc Hill, Ryer's Down and Cefn Bryn. It is also a significant factor at the boundary overlooking Oxwich Bay in the extreme south-east.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:  
VS 876  
GL 008 High, [002, 003]  
LH 894  
HL 726  
CL 034, 047  
The boundary is defined by V & S Aspect Area 876 and Geological Aspect Area 008, and is supported by the Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 894.

LCA 12 Tears Point to Overton Mere

*Justification:*  
Based upon the cliffs and cliff tops of the V & S Aspect Area (581), supported by the underlying limestone rock cliff and shore of the main underlying Geological Aspect Area (009).

This contains the following Aspect Areas:  
VS 351 Outs 581  
GL 009 [007]  
LH 792, [894], 114  
HL 400  
CL 034  
The boundary is defined by VS351 and 581, and GL009, supported by Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

LCA 13 Port Eynon Bay

*Justification:*  
Based upon several V & S Aspect Areas, but strongly predicated upon the sandy beach (633), it is supported by the sand and sand dune systems of the underlying Geological Aspect Areas and Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:  
VS [351], 633, 694, [876], 974  
GL 003, 005, 007  
LH 105, 114, 212, [894]  
HL 400, 726, 993  
CL 034, 047, 048  
The boundary is defined by V & S Aspect Areas 633 and 974, supported by the Geological Aspect and Landscape Habitats Aspects.

LCA 14 Penrice

*Justification:*  
This is an area of very easily discernible, attractive parkland and woodland landscape, forming a distinctive unit. Although the V & S Aspect Area is not sufficiently well described to provide justification on its own, the strong underlying Historic and Cultural Aspect Areas provide cogent reasons for defining the extent of and demarcating this LCA as a separate entity.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:  
VS 785  
GL 002  
LH 890 [894]  
HL 726  
CL045  
The boundary is defined by Cultural Aspect Area 045 and V & S Aspect Area 785. It is supported by Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 890.

LCA 15 Oxwich Bay

*Justification:*  
Based upon several V & S Aspect Areas, but strongly predicated upon the sandy beach (522), it is supported by the sand and sand dune systems of the underlying Geological Aspect Areas and Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:  
VS 151, 522, 630, [694], [876], [877], 974  
GL 001, 002, 021  
LH 124, 399, 478, 479  
HL 612, 981, 993  
CL 041, 046, 047  
The boundary is defined by V & S Aspect Area 522 and Geological Aspect Area 001, and is supported by the underlying Landscape Habitats Aspects.

LCA 16 Nicholaston and Penmaen

*Justification:*  
Based upon the rolling farmland of the V & S Aspect Area (877), supported by the underlying limestone and boulder clay of the Geological Aspect Areas (002, 020).

This contains the following Aspect Areas:  
VS 877, [876]  
GL 002, 020  
LH 306, [894]  
HL 612, 726  
CL 034, 042  
The boundary is defined by V & S Aspect Area 877, and is supported by the

underlying Geological and Landscape Habitats Aspects.

LCA 17 Cefn Bryn

*Justification:*  
This is a readily discernible prominent feature in the Gower landscape and highly accessible from public roads and footpaths and the Gower Way. It is a notable presence in both local and distant views and has a strong historical and cultural identity.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:  
VS 196  
GL 018, [019], 020  
LH 860, [876]  
HL 190  
CL 043  
The boundary is defined primarily by the single underlying V & S Aspect Area 196 - apart from the northern boundary with Cefn Bryn Common, which is defined by the break of slope at the base of the higher ground - and is supported by the Geological and Landscape Habitats Aspects.

LCA 18 Cefn Bryn Common

*Justification:*  
It is a very distinctive low-lying continuation of common grazing land running out from the base of the slope of the adjacent Cefn Bryn ridge. Its extent is readily discernible from public roads crossing this common, and is facilitated by the Open Access Land designation.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:  
VS 196  
GL 019  
LH 876  
HL 190  
CL 043  
The boundary is defined by VS196 [apart from southern boundary with Cefn Bryn, defined by the break of slope along the base of the higher ground of Cefn Bryn] and supported by Geological Aspect Area (019) and Landscape Habitats Aspect Area (876).

LCA 19 Llanrhidian

*Justification:*  
Based upon the rolling farmland of the main V & S Aspect Area (878), supported by the coastal slope of underlying limestone and boulder clay of the main constituent Geological Aspect Area (027).

This contains the following Aspect Areas:  
VS 878, [876]  
GL 027, [019]  
LH 894  
HL 368, 726  
CL 034, 053  
The boundary is defined by V & S Aspect Area 878, and supported by the Geological and Landscape Habitats Aspects.



LCA 20 Loughor Estuary

*Justification:*  
Based upon the marsh and mud flats of the large V & S Aspect Areas (337, 683), and supported by the salt marsh of the Geological Aspect Area (028) and intertidal Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 337, 683
- GL 028
- LH 957, 191
- HL 368, 767
- CL 022

The boundary is defined by V & S Aspect Areas 337 and 683, and the Geological Aspect Area, and is supported by the Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

LCA 21 Welsh Moor and Forest Common

*Justification:*  
The LCA is defined partly by the V & S Aspect Area, and influenced strongly by the land cover and the associated management effects: open common rough grazing land, as opposed to enclosed farmland.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 436
- GL 024
- LH 989
- HL 383
- CL 034

The boundary is defined by VS436 [apart from the eastern boundary] and well supported by the Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 989.

LCA 22 Cillibion Plantation

*Justification:*  
Although not having a strong sense of place in itself, except when perceived from deep within the forest areas, Cillibion Plantation plays an important role in defining and enclosing the edges of the adjacent commons at Welsh Moor, Forest Common and Pengwern Common.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 876
- GL 024
- LH 856
- HL 383, 726
- CL 034

The boundary is defined by Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 856, and supported by the V & S Aspect Area and the Geological Aspect Area.

LCA 23 Pengwern Common

*Justification:*  
Although within a wider V & S Aspect Area which is only partly helpful in defining this LCA, the Landscape Habitats Aspect is strongly defined.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 436
- GL 024
- LH 398
- HL 383
- CL 034

The boundary is defined partly by V & S Aspect Area 436 but mainly by Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 398, and supported by Geological Aspect Area 024.

LCA 24 Lunnon

*Justification:*  
It is an in-lie of rolling mosaic farmland, strongly defined for the most part by the adjoining surrounding areas of mature woodlands and grazed open commons.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 876
- GL 020
- LH 169, [848], 938
- HL 726
- CL 034, 042

The boundary is defined by the surrounding areas of common land to the north [VS436], west and south west [VS196], and the wooded valley [VS113] to the south and east, and is supported by the Geological Aspect Area and Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

LCA 25 Parkmill

*Justification:*  
The enclosed narrow valley landform is a strong determining factor, together with the continuous mature woodland cover, in marked contrast to the rolling mosaic lowland farmland which largely surrounds it.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 113
- GL 020
- LH 729, [169]
- HL 726
- CL 034, 041, 042, 058

The boundary is defined by the V & S Aspect Area 113 and Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 729, and is supported by the Geological Aspect Area.

LCA 26 Southgate and Pennard

*Justification:*  
The boundaries are well defined by the V & S Aspect Area and Geological Aspect Area boundaries. The narrow area to the east of the Bishopston Valley continues eastwards beyond the AONB boundary into the porous and dissected urban edge around Pyle and Oldway, but it has the same inherent settled farmland character as the wider area to the west of the Bishopston Valley.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 881
- GL 020
- LH 848
- HL 562, 726
- CL 014, 041, 058

The boundary is defined by the V & S Aspect Area 881 and Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 848, and is supported by the Geological Aspect Area.

LCA 27 Pennard Burrows

*Justification:*  
This is well defined by the adjacent urban edges of Southgate, Pennard Pill valley and Northill Wood, and the open beach to the south. The golf course use also helps to define this LCA.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 552
- GL 021
- LH 123
- HL 612, 726

CL 034, 040, 058

The boundary is defined by the V & S Aspect Area 552 and Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 123, and is supported by the Geological Aspect Area 021.

LCA 28 Pwlldu Head

*Justification:*  
Based upon the cliffs and cliff tops of the V & S Aspect Area 987, and supported by the underlying limestone rock cliff and shore of the Geological Aspect Area 022 and the Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 125, 987
- GL 022 [020]
- LH 321, 472
- HL 400
- CL 34, 040, 041

The inland boundary is defined by the V & S Aspect Area 987 and Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 321, and is supported by the Geological Aspect Area 022.

LCA 29 Bishopston Valley

*Justification:*  
It is strongly defined by the V & S Aspect Area and its valley landform and continuous mature woodland cover.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 922
- GL 020
- LH 127
- HL 726
- CL 034

The boundary is defined by the V & S Aspect Area 922 and Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 127, and is supported by the Geological Aspect Area 020.

LCA 30 Pwlldu and Caswell Bays

*Justification:*  
Based upon the cliffs and beaches of the V & S Aspect Areas, and supported by the limestone rock cliff and shore of the Geological Aspect Areas and the Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 368, 882, [922], 987
- GL 020, 022
- LH 215, 235, 392
- HL 400, 957, 993
- CL 030, 034, 038

The inland boundary is defined by the V & S Aspect Area 987 and Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 392, supported by the Geological Aspect Areas.

LCA 31 Newton Cliff

*Justification:*  
Based upon the cliffs of the VS Aspect Area 541, supported by the underlying limestone rock cliff and shore of the Geological Aspect Areas and the Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 665.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 541, [881]
- GL 020, 022
- LH 162, 665
- HL 400, 726, 957
- CL 014, 034, 037, 038

The inland boundary is defined by the urban edge, supported by the Geological



Aspect Areas and Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

LCA 32 Langland

Justification:

The small bay is enclosed and apparently self-contained, with a discernible atmosphere, and with no views along the coast from within the low-lying areas of the bay and beach.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 660
- GL022
- LH235, 265
- HL 307, 400, 726, 993
- CL 036, 037

V & S Aspect Area 660 is the sandy beach which helps to define the LCA, but the inland boundary is defined by the top break of the wooded cliff slope. It is supported by the Geological Aspect Area.

LCA 33 Limeslade [Seascape]

Justification:

Based upon the cliffs of the V & S Aspect Area 541, it is supported by the evident limestone rock cliff and shore of the Geological Aspect Area and the Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 105, 541
- GL 023
- LH 265, 749, 235
- HL 400, 726
- CL 034, 036, 037

The inland boundary is defined by the urban edge, supported by the V & S Aspect Areas and the Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

LCA 34 Clyne Common

Justification:

The common land is the main determining factor and this common land extends south-eastwards beyond the AONB boundary, which follows the main public road running between Murton and Mayals, to meet the urban edge.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 253
- GL 024
- LH 528, 944
- HL 383, 726
- CL 014, 034

The boundary is defined by the V & S Aspect Area 253 and Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 528, and is supported by the Geological Aspect Area.

LCA 35 Clyne Valley

Justification:

Based upon the wooded lowland valley of the V & S Aspect Area 080, and supported by the Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 080, 141
- GL 024, 029
- LH 654, 644, 944, 116
- HL 383, 419, 726
- CL 031, 034, 036, 060

The boundary is defined by the V & S Aspect Areas 080 and 14, and is supported by the Geological Aspect Areas and Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

LCA 36 Barland

Justification:

This Candidate LCA is unique in that it has been identified almost by default - that is, it is defined by the boundary all those areas which cannot be readily included in the surrounding easily-discernible LCAs. The degree of enclosure by vegetation - woodland and field boundary hedgerows with trees - is a major determining factor.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 881
- GL 024
- LH 162, 944, 116
- HL 383, 726, 957
- CL 034

The boundary is defined by the adjacent common land and V & S Aspect Area 881, and is supported by the Geological Aspect Area and Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

LCA 37 Fairwood Common

Justification:

Based primarily upon the common land of the V & S Aspect Area 436, and is supported by the lowland wet heath Landscape Habitats Aspect (813) and the Geological Aspect Area.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 436, 876
- GL 024
- LH 813, 430
- HL 383
- CL 004, 034, 060

The boundary is defined by the V & S Aspect Area 436 [and 876 in the south east] and Landscape Habitats Aspect Area 813, and is supported by the Geological Aspect Area.

LCA 38 Mynydd Bach y Cocs

Justification:

This is based primarily on the common land boundary and the marked change of character at the boundary with the more enclosed rolling lowland farmland mosaic landscape of the encompassing Llanmorlais LCA.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 473
- GL 024
- LH 944
- HL 726
- CL 034

The boundary is defined by the extent of common land and the boundary of the Geological Aspect Areas 024 (and 026 to the north west), and is supported by the Landscape Habitats Aspect Area.

LCA 39 Llanmorlais

Justification:

Based upon the rolling farmland mosaic V & S Aspect Area 473, and is supported by the improved grassland (944) and broadleaved woodland (666) Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 473
- GL 024, 026 [central and east]
- LH 944, 666, 451
- HL 726

CL 034, 055, 059, 060

The boundary is defined by the V & S Aspect Area 473, and is supported by the Geological Aspect Areas and the Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

LCA 40 Crofty to Three Crosses

Justification:

Based upon the rolling farmland mosaic V & S Aspect Area (141), and is supported by the improved grassland (944) Landscape Habitats Aspect Area and Geological Aspect Areas.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 141, [473], plus settlement of Pen-clawdd [200] and Three Crosses [201]
- GL 029, 030[north]
- LH 944
- HL 368, 515, 726
- CL 014, 020, 033, 040, 055, 056, 060

The boundary is defined by the V & S Aspect Area 141, from Blue Anchor to Three Crosses, and by Geological Aspect Area 029 from Blue Anchor to Crofty, supported by the Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas. The north-western boundary within the estuary is the administrative boundary between Carmarthenshire and the City and County of Swansea. The north-eastern boundary is formed by the main railway line embankment and the line of the minor public road running along the marsh edge between the south-eastern edge of Loughor village and the western edge of Gowerton, via Island Bridge.

LCA 41 Dalton’s Point

Justification:

Based upon the marsh and mud flats of the V & S Aspect Areas (337, 683), and is supported by the saltmarsh of the Geological Aspect Area and intertidal Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas.

This contains the following Aspect Areas:

- VS 683, 337
- GL 028
- LH 957, 191
- HL 368
- CL 022, 041

The boundary is defined primarily by the V & S Aspect Area 683 and the Geological Aspect Area southwards to Salthouse Point, and supported by the Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas. The north-western boundary within the estuary is the administrative boundary between Carmarthenshire and the City and County of Swansea.



Appendix 8.2

Relationship of the Landscape Character Assessment to the Gower AONB Design Guide

This Landscape Character Assessment was undertaken subsequent to the preparation of the Gower AONB Design Guide. In ideal circumstances, the Landscape Character Assessment should have *preceded* the preparation of the Design Guide, so that the Design Guide could be properly set within the overall landscape context of identified and demarcated discrete Landscape Character Areas within the Gower landscape. It could then be cross-referenced so that the two documents would become mutually informative and supporting.

The Design Guide is set out on a modular basis and includes a specific Module dealing with Landscape - Module G. This concentrates on the small scale of landscape detail. There is also mention of ‘Landscape Types’ within which context appropriate landscape detailed design should be undertaken. The technical term ‘Landscape Types’ is used in Landscape Character Assessment to analyse and describe the landscape under scrutiny, utilising such generic terms as ‘Rolling Lowland Farmland’. Such Types can occur in one or more locations within a given tract of landscape, provided that the landscape in question meets the criteria for such a description. The process of Landscape Characterisation goes beyond this stage of analysis to identify and describe *areas of common character*, which may be comprised of a single or many different constituent ‘Landscape Types’. By referring only to ‘Landscape Character Types’, the Design Guide is dealing with more general - and recurrent - landscape descriptions, and so does not deal with locally identified areas of common character. The Landscape Character Assessment study has identified areas of common landscape character, each of which has been given a unique local label to identify it, and which has been through a review and approval process involving the Gower Landscape Partnership Steering Group.

Section 2 of the AONB Design Guide deals with Landscape Character and explains the process by which ‘Landscape Character Types’ were identified, using the five Aspect Area data sets from published

LANDMAP information. Through this process 7 Landscape Character Types were identified:

- salt marsh
- sand dune
- coastal slope
- rock, cliff, shore
- undulating lowland hill terrain
- lowland escarpment
- lowland plateau.

This contrasts with the Landscape Character Assessment, also based upon analysis of the five current LANDMAP Aspect data sets, which has identified 41 discrete Landscape Character Areas in the Study Area, including two large areas to the north of the AONB boundary. The Landscape Character Assessment study can therefore be seen to be a finer-grained, in-depth analysis and synthesis of the attributes of the landscape of the Gower peninsula.

It is recommended that the Gower Design Guide be re-visited with a view to providing appropriate cross references to the Gower Landscape Character Assessment, and to ensure that these documents are mutually supportive in assisting the formulation and implementation of related planning policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance.

In particular, there should be greater detail provided on defining the special qualities of Gower AONB, which make it such a distinctive place and which should be fully understood when providing landscape and built form design guidance. It also needs to address the specific issues around the urban fringes of Swansea and the post-industrial settlements of Crofty, Pen-clawdd and Gowerton,