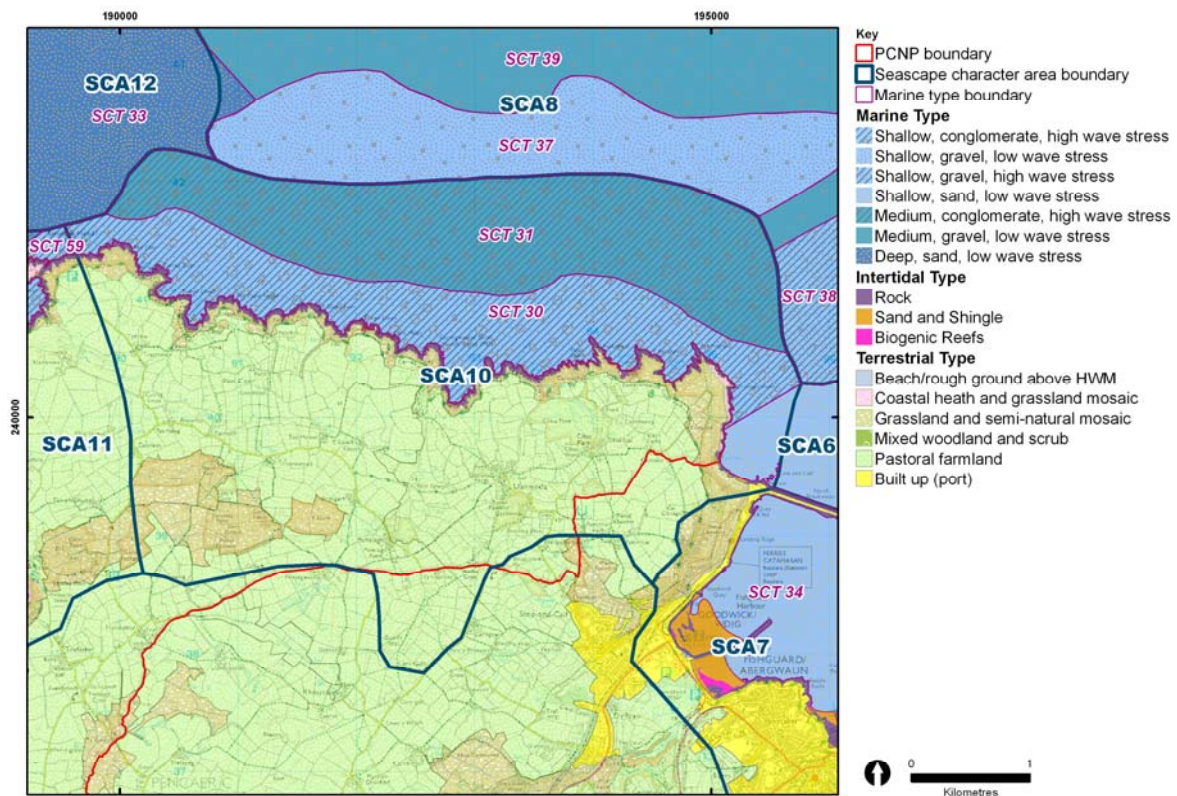


No: 10

Seascape Character
Area Name:**Crincoed Point and Strumble Head****SCA 10: Crincoed Point and Strumble Head***Strumble Head lighthouse in high winds**Irish ferry offshore approaching Fishguard near Strumble Head**Strumble Head lighthouse showing cliffs in calm weather**Looking from near Llanwnda to Crincoed Point*

Summary Description

Located between Strumble Head and Crincoed Point, west of Fishguard, this is a rugged, exposed north facing coast with associated exposed waters. The cliffs are around 50m high and vertical backed by coastal heathland, pasture and a series of small coastal volcanic outcrops. There is little settlement and the area feels remote. The shore is virtually inaccessible so Strumble Head with its lighthouse to the west is the main destination, partly for dolphin watching. The sea is used for potting and the Fishguard ferry passes nearby.

Key Characteristics

- An indented north facing coastline with rugged cliffs and headlands, interspersed with sharp indentations and inlets. Tongues of rocks build out from the coast to the east. From the cliff tops the land rises gently to abrupt rocky volcanic outcrops.
- The sea character is one of high exposure, especially in north or north westerly winds, with overfalls around the headland, but shelter east of Carregwastad Point.
- Landcover comprises coastal heathland and bracken with pasture enclosed with hedgebanks and stone wall field boundaries and very few trees. Sea wildlife includes dolphins and seals.
- The area boasts many prehistoric remains including burial chambers, standing stones and field systems and the last (abortive) invasion of Britain occurred at Carregwastad Point.
- Settlement is mainly widely dispersed farmsteads and holiday homes, with a larger hamlet at Llanwnda linked by narrow winding lanes.
- The area feels remote, natural and exposed and wide views are possible from the coast and panoramic views from the outcrops.
- The inaccessibility of the shores mean that Strumble Head and its light house to the west are the main attraction for visitors.
- The Coast Path extends around the cliff tops but steps back inland at Crincoed Point.
- The sea is used for potting and the Fishguard ferry passes nearby.

Physical Influences

The prominent high rocky headland is bordered by sheer rugged cliffs that drop down to exposed rocky shores and tongues of rocks out from the coast to the east. The orientation is largely towards the north, from a high point at Garn Gilfach at 195mAOD, one of a series of small coastal volcanic outcrops, falling towards the cliff tops at around 50m AOD. Small coves are indented along the coast. At Aber Felin, a bay lies sheltered in westerly winds by Carregwastad Point, with small but inaccessible stony beach. Another small stony beach lies at Anglas Bay to the east and close to Strumble Head at Porthsychan to the west. The bedrock is dominated by resistant, east-west to north east-south west striking Ordovician gabbros among black shales (Fishguard Volcanic Group). South of Crincoed Point lies the east-facing bay of Pwll Hir. The coast is exposed to wind and wave erosion through abrasion and hydraulic action.

The shallow (<30m) sea floor slopes moderately to steeply offshore (1- >10°) from the cliffs, the slope decreasing into moderate depths (30-60m; <1-10°). The sea floor bedrock of volcanics is covered by conglomerate that fans out from the coast. Seas are exposed to high wind and wave stress. Tidal currents set north east and south west along Cardigan Bay turn to east and west and form an eddy off Strumble Head. Tidal rips form off Pen Anglas, and rough waters fringe the headland and the shallows of Strumble Bank. Tidal flow is <2.5 knots. The tidal range for Fishguard is <4.8m.

The western part of the coast is covered by the St David's SAC, designated as the Strumble Head to Llechdafad SSSI and also noted as an important bird area- the Pembrokeshire Cliffs. Habitats include maritime cliffs, grassland, heathland and rocky shores. Rocky islets support breeding seabirds. Important species include grey seal, peregrine falcon and chough.

The cliff edges and tops are covered in heath and bracken, in places extending over 100m inland. The hinterland landcover has a well defined field pattern varying from medium scale to some much smaller fields associated with mature hedgebanks or stone wall field boundaries, whilst on the rocky hilltops there is a mosaic of rough grassland and moorland. There is very little tree cover, mostly confined to small valleys or associated with the sparse rural settlements.

Cultural influences

The area as a whole is rich in Prehistoric remains including burial chambers, standing stones and field systems which reflect its coastal location and the intervisibility of shore, hillslope and sea. There is little suggestion of coastal trade in this rocky headland. The aviation beacon indicates connectivity with other forms of transport.

The Garn Gilfach burial chamber (SAM - PE32) may have been one of many more; Fenton in 1810 noted 'many Cromlechs, some overturned, and some in their original position' in this locality.' Carreg Samson is another burial chamber to the east (SAM - PE031).

Scheduled monuments include:

- PE031 (Carreg Samson chambered tomb): community: Pencaer
- PE032 (Garn Gilfach chambered tomb): community: Pencaer
- PE033 (chambered tomb): community: Fishguard
- PE258 (cross-marked stone): community: Pencaer
- PE350 (enclosure): community: Pencaer
- PE518 (standing stone): community: Pencaer

This area lies within the Pen Caer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head Landscape of Special Historic Interest.

The Strumble Head area is forever associated with the abortive French invasion of 1797 at Carregwastad (the last mainland invasion of Britain) when the invading troops were allegedly frightened by what they thought were redcoats but were Welshwomen wearing the common red dress of the time. The memorial stone overlooking the cove was erected in 1897. A wreck lies on the coast just to the east. A further submerged wreck, the Atlas Rose, lies just offshore. John Piper, the artist is associated with this area, having lived in a cottage to the west by Garn Fawr. He painted the coast and sea.

Settlement is sparse, limited to the hamlet at Llanwnda and a few small clusters and isolated farmsteads and dwellings linked by narrow winding roads.

Fishing in the area comprises of set nets, prawn, lobster and crab potting occurring in the waters at the foot of the cliffs and there is potential for light otter trawling.

Sea angling from rocks takes place at Crincoed Point, Carreg Gybi and off Strumble Head. There is a coastal sail cruising route linking Fishguard to Milford and points south and also across to Ireland. Motorboat cruising also takes place just offshore along the coast.

Strumble Head to the west is a leading location for watching dolphins and other cetaceans with regular 'Dolphin Watches'. Seals are also visible along the coast. Cliff-top walking is possible along the Coast Path although overall the coast is thinly populated and difficult to access with no beaches. There is a lighthouse at Strumble Head to the west which is the main destination on the coast with adjacent car park. The area has a Round 24 Oil and Gas licence.

Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential qualities

This north facing rugged coast is focused on large scale sea views with an open character and strong sense of place. The cliff edges have a rough, weathered and angular appearance, with a vertical or steeply sloping pattern and a repeated series of indented bays and headlands. The coastal edge is broadly consistent in character, whereas inland the landscape is slightly more diverse with a balance of the coastal heathland and rocky hilltops, set against the enclosed pastoral landscape. The associated waters can be rough, with waves pounding the exposed shores.

Whilst feeling remote and tranquil, strong winds can make this a wild, exposed and threatening

coastline especially in northerly winds. The few trees are wind sculpted emphasising the exposure of the coast even on rare, still days. There is a general lack of light pollution.

The main landmarks in views from the sea are the coastal hills such as Garn Gilfach and Strumble Head lighthouse to the west. The Coast path route allows wide sea views and watching for seals, and other wildlife. Those climbing the hilltops have panoramic views to the south as well as north.

Cultural benefits and services

The area contributes towards leisure and recreational services in the form of remote places to walk and appreciate nature, to natural heritage in the form of the rugged unspoilt coastline, and to cultural and spiritual services in respect of the historical richness of the area.

Forces for change								
Summary		Key forces for change						
<p>Slow erosion of hard coastal cliffs. The shoreline management plan states ‘do nothing’.</p> <p>Erosion is affecting Iron Age promontory forts.</p> <p>Strumble Head as a visitor attraction leads to congestion and wear of small lanes running through the area at times.</p> <p>Conversion of dwellings to holiday cottages affects the rural character of settlement.</p> <p>Reducing agricultural management/grazing leading to loss of pasture, increasing scrub/bracken, and reduced management of hedgebanks, leading to a change in character.</p> <p>Round 24 Oil and Gas licence area may result in exploration and subsequent extraction with associated effects.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure	Land management changes	MOD use
	Coastal Splendour							
	Islands							
	Diversity of Landscape							
	Remoteness, Tranquillity and Wilderness							
	Diverse Geology							
	Richness of Habitats and Biodiversity							
	Rich Archaeology							
	Distinctive Settlement Character							
	Cultural Heritage							
	Accessing the Park							
	Space to Breathe							
	Key		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality					
Key sensitivities								
Factors contributing to sensitivity		Factors detracting from sensitivity						
<p>Rugged, remote and natural character of the coastline, with sparse settlement.</p> <p>Rural pastoral character of the hinterland, with rocky outcrops.</p> <p>Wide views from coast and hilltops.</p> <p>Narrow winding lanes.</p>		<p>Passing ferries.</p>						

<p>Pembrokeshire Coast Path as a sensitive receptor.</p> <p>General lack of light pollution except ferries and lighthouse.</p>	
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