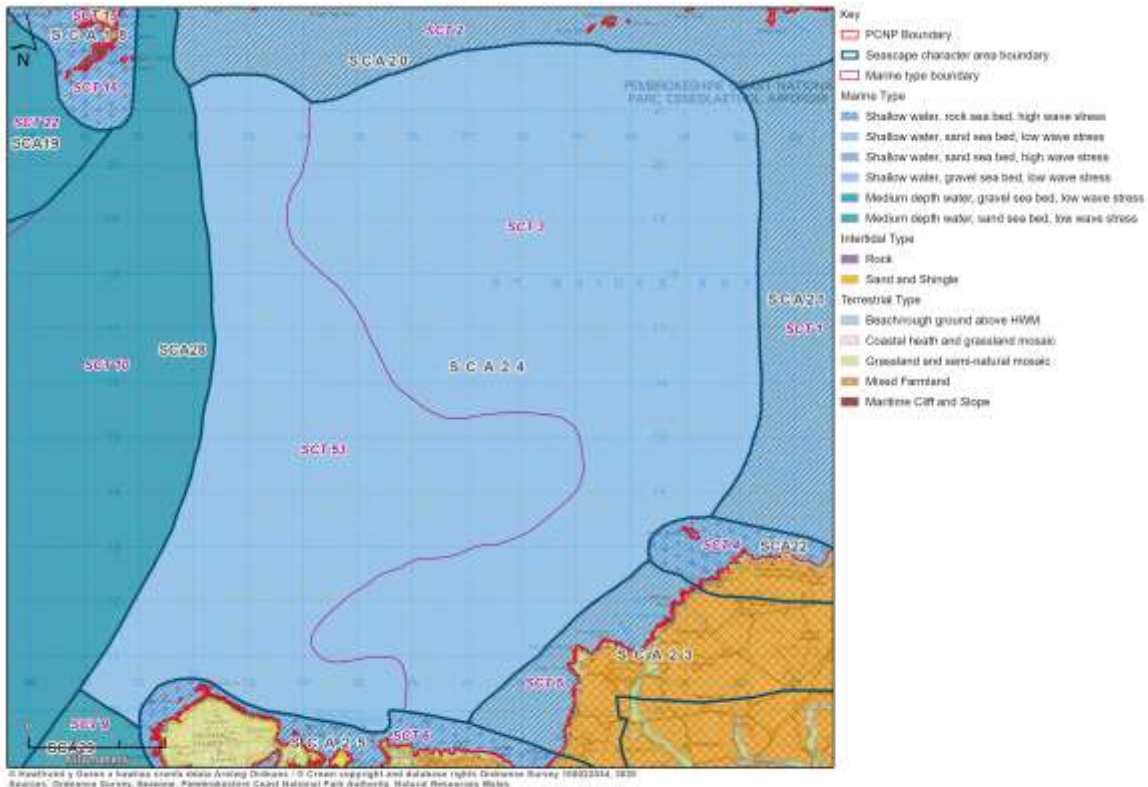


No: **24** Seascape Character Area Name: **St Brides Bay**



**SCA24:St Brides Bay**



*St Brides Bay from Newgale*



*St Brides Bay from Nah Head with Skomer to the left*



*View from sea north of Skomer*

Summary Description
The centre of St Bride's Bay away from the coast comprising muddy sand and low wave stress and limited tidal flow. The area is used as an anchorage for tankers near Milford Haven.
Key Characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea around 20m deep at the centre of St Bride's Bay with a seabed of muddy sand and low wave stress.</li> <li>• Part of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC.</li> <li>• There are numerous wrecks in the area including planes indicative of a military past use.</li> <li>• The area is used by commercial ships anchoring while waiting to access Milford Haven and for fishing.</li> <li>• The area is used for motorised day boats, motor and sailing cruisers and dinghy sailing.</li> <li>• Land is always apparent in good visibility with enclosure dependent on distance with Carn Llundain on Ramsey, Skomer and various settlements being key landmarks.</li> <li>• Open, very wide bay with virtually unspoilt, simple, consistent and unified marine character at a vast scale and a significant sense of openness, remoteness and exposure increasing to the west.</li> <li>• The area's qualities are determined significantly by the natural forces of water, through swell and waves, and wind. views</li> <li>• From land, the area forms an important part of the superb vistas from Ramsey and Skomer islands, and the Coast Path.</li> </ul>
Physical Influences
<p>A shallow (&lt;30 m), gently west sloping (&lt;1°) sea floor grading offshore from muddy sand (&lt;20m) into gravelly sand, exposed to low wave stress. Outside the bay tidal currents set north and south. There is little tidal flow in the bay, although a small tidal stream flows south along the coast at the height of the northerly flood. The sediments cover bedrock of sandstones and shales, mostly Upper-Carboniferous across the centre of the bay.</p> <p>The area is part of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC.</p>
Cultural influences
<p>The bay has historically been challenging for mariners. The ports associated with the shipwrecks confirm routes and linkages extending to the Baltic and to the Americas.</p> <p>Shipwrecked vessels include those sailing to or from, or registered at, ports in Canada, Ireland, Virginia, Philadelphia, New York, France and Russia. Some RAF aeroplane losses from the 1960s are also recorded here, reflecting the use of the area for practice flights.</p> <p>The wreck of the Increase in 1791 and the consequent explosion was described by the incumbent of Nolton Parish, the Rev Moses Grant. Otherwise, the cultural associations are the dangers this area posed to mariners as part of Wales' story of maritime trade.</p> <p>Sea angling from boats is popular all across the Bay as is dinghy sailing, motorised day boats, motor and sailing cruisers. The Bay is often populated by up to 10 commercial vessels waiting to enter Milford Docks. These can be seen both against the skyline and closer inshore dependant on the weather conditions.</p> <p>Fishing in the area comprises of set nets, whelk, lobster and crab potting and potential for light otter trawling.</p> <p>The area is used for the mooring of tankers and has a <a href="#">previously been granted a Round 24 licence for oil and gas. Future applications may be made.</a></p>
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential qualities

The southern waters of this area have been visited. These are influenced by Skomer and Marloes Peninsula to the south with the northern and eastern coast feeling distant. The bay feels very large in scale and open and exposed. The coast is apparent in good visibility with the amount of detail dependent on the direction of the sun. Carn Llundain on Ramsey Island is the main landmark to the north whilst settlements such as Broad Haven and upper Solva are apparent on coastal slopes. At a distance the landform appears as a single dimensional line on the horizon with simple colours. Closer in, detail and separation of the land masses will be apparent.

The bay has a simple, consistent and unified character at a vast scale and a sense of openness, isolation and exposure. The qualities are significantly determined by the natural forces of water, through swell and waves, and wind, and visibility determines the effect of the land. The area is exposed to the south westerlies and in poor weather conditions the sea is likely to feel threatening. There is a strong likelihood of tranquillity and sense of wildness and remoteness in this area. Wildlife enhances the richness of experience of the seascape.

There will be views of commercial vessels at most times of the year and leisure craft in season. This will reduce the sense of remoteness and tranquillity within the area.

From land, the area forms an important part of the superb vistas from Ramsey and Skomer islands, and the Coast Path.

#### **Cultural benefits and services**

The area contributes towards leisure and recreational services in the form of marine recreation, to natural heritage in the form of a relatively unspoilt marine area of sea and seabed, and to spiritual services in respect of a sense of wildness and connectedness with nature.

Forces for change								
Summary	Key forces for change							
<p>Limited forces for change in relatively sheltered large bay.</p> <p><u>Future licences for oil and gas would change the character of the area if exploited.</u></p> <p>The use by tankers has potentially adverse effects which could increase with increased traffic eg LNG.</p>	<b>Special Qualities</b>	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							
	<b>Key</b>		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality					
Key sensitivities								
Factors that contribute to sensitivity				Factors that detract from sensitivity				
<p>Simple, open, wild and remote character with views of the western coast and islands.</p> <p>Forms part of the open setting for of the western coast and islands overlooked by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park contributing to the sense of remoteness and wildness in these areas.</p> <p>Marine nature conservation value.</p> <p>Pembrokeshire and Wales Coast Path as a sensitive receptor overlooking the area at a distance.</p>				<p>Presence of ships at anchor.</p>				