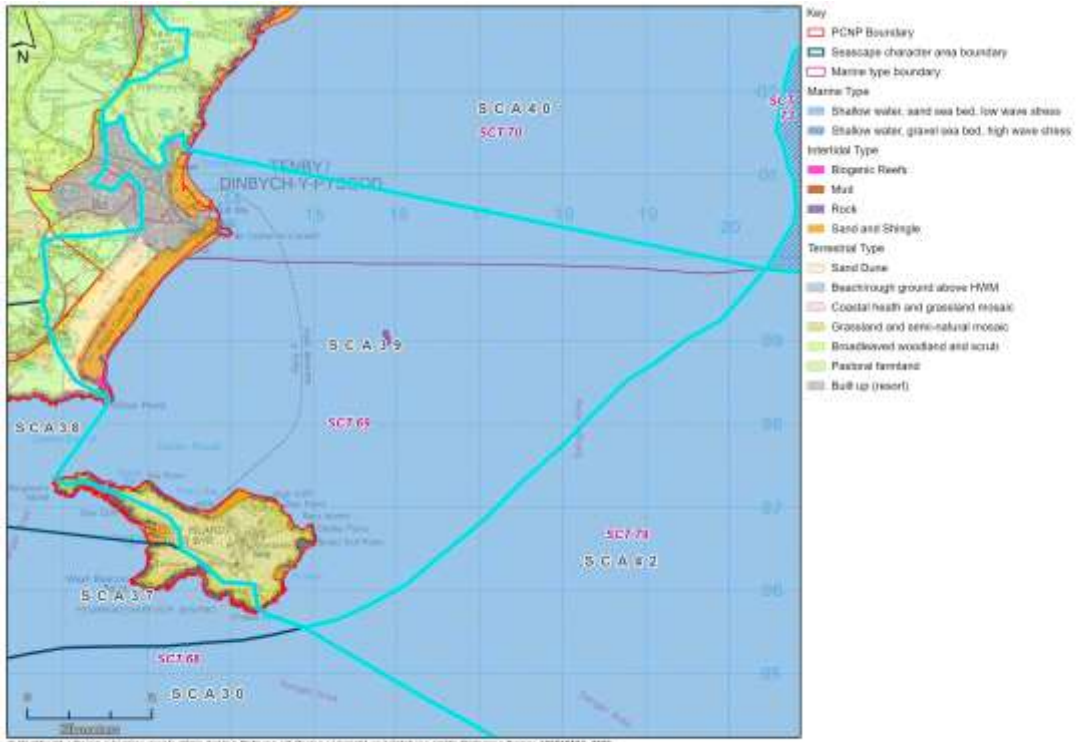


No: **39** Seascape Character Area Name: **Tenby and Caldey Island**



SCA39: Tenby and Caldey Island



Tenby with view from the south



Tenby North Beach with harbour



Tenby- sailing dinghy activity off North Beach



View across to Caldey island from South Beach

Summary Description
<p>The area is located on the western edge of Carmarthen Bay bounded by Tenby with its two large beaches on the mainland coast and by Caldey Island to the south. Tenby is a popular resort with a harbour and busy beaches and the sea is used for sailing and pleasure boating in fairly safe, sheltered waters, including trips to Caldey Island. The monastery on the island restricts visitors and the island has a tranquillity that is less apparent on the mainland. Tenby with its spire, Georgian houses and Conservation Area is an important landmark and feature on the coast.</p>
Key Characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A relatively sheltered area of sea on the western side of Carmarthen Bay enclosed to the south by Caldey Island and Giltar Point. • South east facing coastline with the resort town of Tenby flanked by two popular beaches. • Town with Conservation Area, church spire and Georgian Houses on cliffs dominates the coastline with St Catherine’s Island particularly prominent. • The South beach is backed by dunes and links. • Caldey Island with its monastery and lighthouse is tranquil with carefully managed visitors. • There is a harbour for fishing vessels and lifeboat station and the sea is used for sailing, sail training and pleasure boating in fairly safe, sheltered waters, including trips to Caldey Island. • Long views out to sea (including to Lundy Island from Caldey) but also across to the Gower to the east.
Physical Influences
<p>The headland behind Tenby South Beach to Goskar Rock is composed of east-west striking Carboniferous Limestone 50-90m aod, bordered by cliffs at the points up to 30m. Tenby South Beach is a long east-facing bay between Giltar Point and Sker Rock/St Catherine’s Island. Caldey Island lies 1km offshore to the south east, made of Limestone except in the south [in SCA37]. On Caldey Island (57m aod) the cliffs are 30-40m in height around a generally rocky coast indented with bays. Intertidal areas are dominated by the sandy bay of South Beach and coves on Caldey (64%), while rocky coasts surround Caldey Island and headland points (34%). Coastal erosion of the limestone through wind and wave action takes place through corrasion, solution and attrition. The long sandy stretch of Tenby South Beach, backed by dunes in the south (the Burrows), is subject to longshore sediment drift, with sediment transport through traction, suspension and saltation. Cliffs and headlands of the upper carboniferous sandstone and shales bound the sandy north beach at Tenby.</p> <p>The shallow (<30m) sea floor has sandy sediments overlying the limestone, and slopes from gently (<1°) in the bays to moderately (<10°) off the rocky coasts. The seas are fairly sheltered from wind and wave stress, particularly along the east facing coast. Caldey Island is more exposed. Tidal streams set to east and west, but flow north east and south west though Caldey Sound. Tidal streams through the sound can reach <2.5 knots. Tidal range is 7.7m.</p> <p>Carmarthen Bay just offshore is an SPA and an Important Bird Area holding 33,000 wintering water birds on a regular basis such as scoter. Tenby Cliffs and St Catherine’s Island and Lydstep Head and Tenby Burrows are SSSIs so the area has significant nature conservation interest. Species include otter and bats.</p>
Cultural influences
<p>Tenby’s promontory position makes it an ideal location to control maritime trade in the Severn; it has long-standing links with Ireland and continental Europe. Caldey Island illustrates the importance of the island community to the monastic ideal; monks first came there in the 6th century. In 1906 the Anglican Benedictines purchased Caldey. Since 1929 the Island has been owned by the Cistercian order. The present Italianate style abbey on Caldey evokes the international reach of the monastic order.</p>

Tenby's walls indicate its importance and the need to defend it. Tenby has been a prosperous port since the Middle Ages; the Welsh name *Dinbych y pysgod* indicates the importance of the fishing trade. It may have attracted the Vikings but was developed as a castle-borough by the Normans. It became a popular resort in the 19th century when the need for better landing facilities led to the straightening and widening of the pier. The harbour is a castellated stone structure of 1848. The town Conservation Area includes all of North Beach and its hinterland, the town walls, Castle Hill, St Catherine's Island and the built seafront facing South Beach. Its key qualities including the above and its Georgian architecture are explained in the Conservation Area statement. The land based area lies in LCA2: Tenby.

Scheduled monuments include:

- PE007 (town wall): community: Tenby
- PE163 (castle): community: Tenby
- PE424 (Nanna's Cave (Prehistoric/multi-period): community: Tenby
- PE425 (cave): community: Tenby
- PE426 (Daylight Rock Mesolithic Site - cave): community: Tenby
- PE436 (kiln): community: Penally
- PE439 (beacon): community: Penally
- PE450 (St Catherine's Fort): community: Tenby

'Etmic Dinbych' ('In Praise of Tenby') from the 9th century *Book of Taliesin* is amongst the oldest of Welsh poems. Robert Recorde (c. 1512-1558) the mathematician was brought up in Tenby. Nelson and Lady Hamilton visited it. Artists such as John Knapp Fisher have painted scenes in Tenby.

There are just two wrecks in the area- one just of Tenby and the other off Caldey.

The mainland coast is dominated by the picturesque resort and fishing town of Tenby set on rising ground and extending out to Castle Hill, a minor headland, which divides the North and South Beaches and which protects the harbour from prevailing winds. To the south there is pasture, sand dunes, dune grassland and golf links. Semi-natural grassland on sand lies on the cliffs running to Giltar Point to the south. The land based area lies in LCA2: Tenby.

Caldey Island's monastery is surrounded by mixed farmland with some deciduous woodland and coniferous plantations on land sloping from the higher southern cliffs to the lower northern shore with its sweeping sandy beach. The coastal strip consists of a semi-natural mosaic. The island is described in the landscape assessment as LCA3: Caldey Island.

There are four visitor mooring buoys near the harbour wall at Tenby. Dinghy and cruiser sailing, including racing, is popular as is the use of motor cruisers, day boats and jet skis. Wildlife and angling boat trips go regularly out of Tenby Harbour as well as the boat to Caldey Island. Kayaking takes place around the coastline of both the mainland and island. Surfing is popular, especially towards the north end of North Beach and windsurfing can be found across the whole bay. Some diving and snorkelling takes place round Catherine's Island which is immediately adjacent to Tenby. Sea angling from boats and the shore is popular and local fishing vessels have placed pots around both the mainland and island waters. Sea rowing also takes place out of Tenby.

Tenby's small harbour provides shelter for a small fleet of coastal fishing vessels and recreational craft with a slipway next to the beach. It is a popular town for tourists. There is a yacht club on the beach in the centre of Tenby. Beach activities are popular at both North and South Beaches.

The Pembrokeshire Coast Path runs behind North Beach and around the coastal edge of the town before splitting along the back of the beach or the Burrows and then running south around the cliff edge to Giltar Point.

Fishing in the area comprises of hand gathered cockles and razor clams, beach seining and beach nets, set nets, whelk, lobster and crab potting. The area is used extensively both for general sailing, sail training and for sail racing. There is a heavily used cruising route from here around the coast west to Milford Haven and Fishguard, across the Bristol Channel and to points east across Carmarthen Bay. There are also numerous routes across to Ireland.

A new lifeboat station is located at Tenby. The new structure sits alongside the older station.

The lighthouse at Chapel Point on Caldey Island is an important navigational aid and landmark.

Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential qualities

The seascape has a feeling of some containment provided partly by Caldey Island but also by the headlands of Castle Hill and Giltar Point. The sense of scale is moderate with the town of Tenby giving a human reference and scale. There is diversity in coastal form and balance between the manmade and natural forms although south of Tenby there are discordant features including the school and MOD features such as the structure on Giltar Point. The mainland beaches and coastal waters are areas of activity with trips out to and around Caldey Island, especially in summer. This contrasts with the imposed and managed tranquillity of Caldey Island itself.

Key views are to and from Tenby, Caldey Island and Giltar Point and along the coast. The spire of the St Mary's church in Tenby is a strong landmark.

Cultural benefits and services

The area contributes significantly towards leisure and recreational services in the form of marine recreation and beaches, to natural heritage in the form of the coastal SSSIs, and to cultural and spiritual services in respect of the natural beauty of the coastline with Caldey island, the monastery, and Tenby Conservation Area with its medieval walls and Georgian architecture.

Forces for change								
Summary	Key forces for change							
<p>Slow coastal erosion of rocky cliffs on Caldey.</p> <p>Shoreline management plan on Caldey in this area is Do Nothing.</p> <p>On Tenby South Beach longshore sediment movement is restrained by Castle Hill and St Catherines Island.</p> <p>Shoreline management plan recommendations are from managed realignment in the dune area to hold the line elsewhere.</p> <p>Development pressure on Tenby.</p> <p>Intense recreational use leading to erosion of coastal path and habitats such as the dunes and around Giltar Point, plus effects on marine/littoral habitats.</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 that contribute to sensitivity				Factors that detract from sensitivity				
<p>Undeveloped, tranquil character of Caldey Island.</p> <p>Views from Tenby, the beaches and Giltar Point to Caldey Island.</p> <p>Historic character of Tenby and associated features such as the church spire and St Catherine’s Island and their prominence along the coast.</p> <p>Historic character and religious use of Caldey Island.</p> <p>Pembrokeshire Coast Path is a sensitive receptor.</p>				<p>Presence of unsympathetic 20c housing and development in Tenby.</p> <p>The bustle of the town.</p> <p>The movement and use of the beaches and sea area reducing tranquillity.</p> <p>Presence of the Links golf course.</p>				