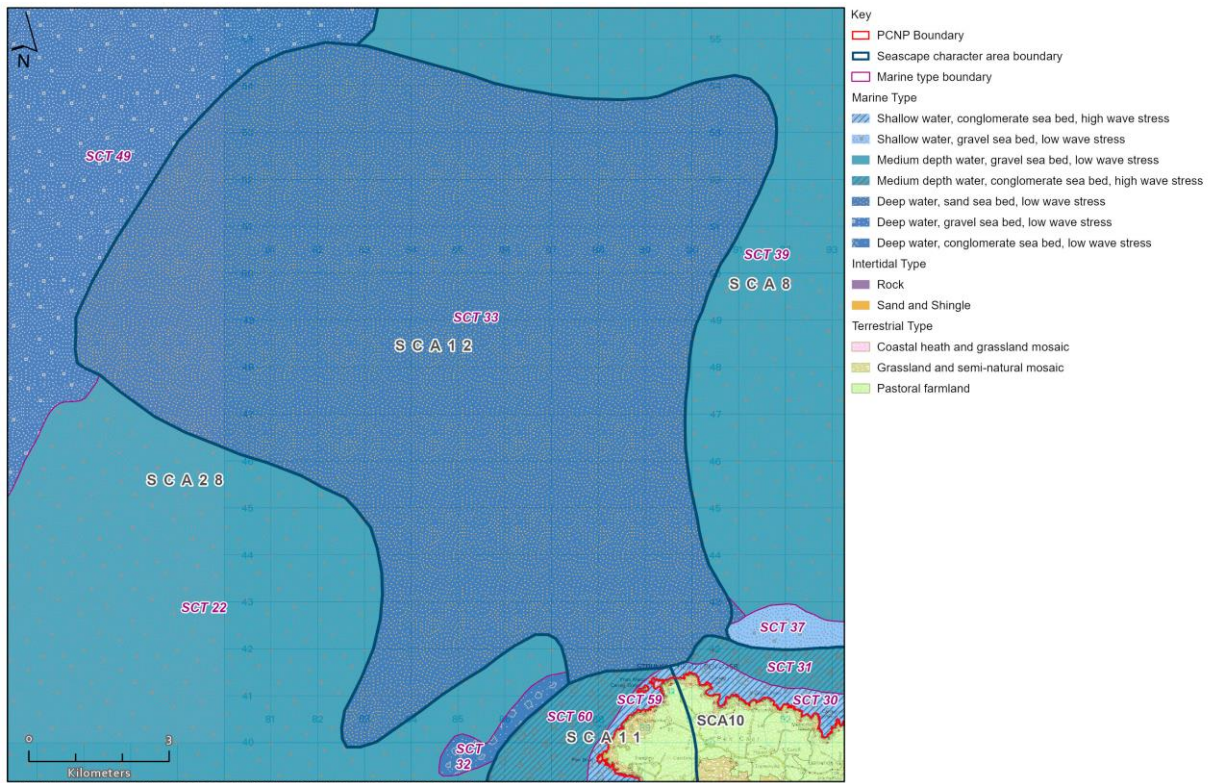


No: **12** Seascape Character Area Name: **Strumble Head deep water**



SCA12:Strumble Head deep water



Sea beyond the Strumble Head lighthouse [taken from SCA 11]



Sea with ferry leaving area for waters closer to Fishguard [taken from SCA 10]

Summary Description

The area of deep water is located around 400m off Strumble Head at its closest point to the coast and runs out to sea to the north east. It has low wave stress and a gravelly sand seafloor. It is crossed by the Fishguard-Rosslare ferry and by sailing and motor cruisers passing between South Wales and North Wales or Ireland.

Key Characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple area of deep water with low wave stress and gently sloping gravelly sand seafloor close to Strumble Head to the south east. • One wreck only in the area. • Traversed by ferry, commercial and leisure cruising boats. • Forms part of the unspoilt and unbroken sea vista from Strumble Head, Garn Fawr and Coast Path contributing to the setting of the coast. • Tranquillity, wildness and remoteness of open water.
Physical Influences
<p>Deep water (60-100m), gently sloping (<math><1^\circ</math>) gravelly sand sea floor in area of slack seas exposed to low wave stress. Sea floor sediments overlies bedrock of east-north east - west-south west striking Lower Palaeozoic mudstones and sandstones, Permian mudstones and sandstones, and Jurassic sandstones and limestones.</p> <p>The area forms part of the West Wales Marine SAC.</p>
Cultural influences
<p>The historic routes/linkages associated with this area include both the coastal trade and the history of maritime relations along the western seaways. In World War 1 a steel hulled steamship, the Thornfield, on passage from London to Peel was sunk in the environs by German submarine UB38 in 1915- one of 10 vessels sunk that day by the same submarine. In peacetime, as a relatively hazard free deepwater area there is just one wreck recorded- the Moyallon, a British World War 1 type coaster, sunk in 1924.</p> <p>The area is crossed by the Fishguard-Rosslare ferry and possibly by some commercial shipping. There is a motor and sailing cruising route linking points south to North Wales across Cardigan Bay. Fishing in the area comprises of set nets inshore, whelk, lobster and crab potting and there is potential for light otter trawling. The area has previously been granted a Round 24 licence for oil and gas and future applications may be made.</p>
Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential qualities
<p>The area has not been visited, although it has been viewed from Strumble Head. It would be expected that the experience of the area would change significantly in relation to the coast ranging from the coast being dominant around 400m distance to the coast being a distant single dimensional line on the horizon with simple colours line at the outer edges of the area. Pen Caer and Strumble Head lighthouse would be the main landmarks. The latter would not be apparent at the outer edges except at night as the main light source. Closer in, detail of the lighthouse and landscape will be apparent.</p> <p>The area has a simple, consistent and unified character at a vast scale and a sense of openness, isolation and exposure. The qualities are determined entirely by the natural forces of water, through swell and waves, and wind. 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 although this would be reduced by the ferries and other commercial and recreational traffic.</p> <p>From the mainland, the area forms an important part of the superb vistas from Strumble Head, Garn Fawr and the Coast Path as part of the wild, unspoilt west coast of Wales.</p>
Cultural benefits and services
<p>The area contributes significantly towards leisure and recreational services in the form of marine recreation, to natural heritage in the form of the unspoilt views from the coast, and to cultural and spiritual services in respect of the sense of remoteness and tranquillity and connectedness with nature</p>

Forces for change								
Summary	Key forces for change							
<p>Limited forces for change in deep water marine areas.</p> <p>Possible increase in use from commercial or leisure shipping.</p> <p>Granting of oil and gas licences may lead to pressure for development in the future.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy	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 factors to be taken into account when assessing sensitivity to change								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forms part of the unspoilt and unbroken sea vista from Strumble Head, Garn Fawr and Coast Path contributing to the setting of the coast. • Tranquillity, wildness and remoteness of open water. • Traversed by ferry and leisure cruising boats. • Coast Path as a receptor. • Nature conservation value as an SAC. • Traversed by ferry and commercial shipping • Lighthouse nearby with light at night. 								