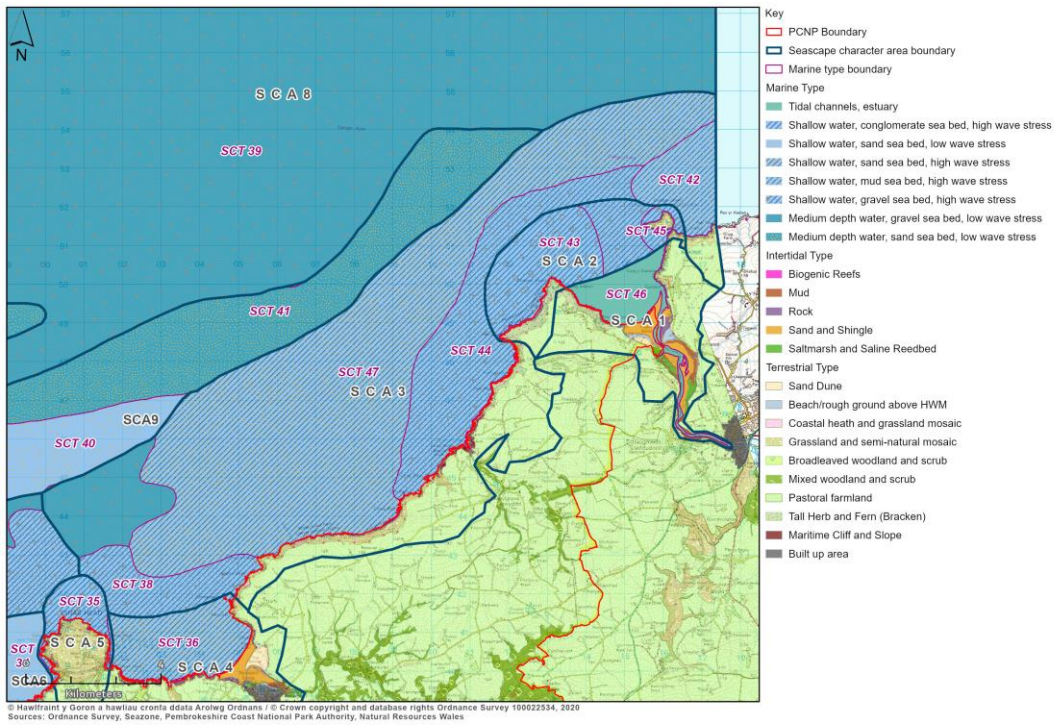


No: 3 Seascape Character Area Name: **Pen y Afr to Pen y Bal**



SCA3: Pen y Afr to Pen y Bal



Looking towards Newport Bay (© PCNPA)



Ceibwr Bay



Looking north east from Careg Wylan

Summary Description
<p>This area extends from north of the mouth of the Teifi, along the coast, with a sea component westwards to the north of Dinas Head. This is a relatively remote and wild north west facing stretch of coast, with spectacular high cliffs rising to 150m with islets and arches, jagged rocky shores and very few small shingle beaches. The coast is only accessible from land at Ceibwr Bay.</p>
Key Characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectacular high cliffs rising to over 150m AOD are in part vertical and craggy, and in part steeply sloping and vegetated key features. • A predominantly jagged rocky foreshore with cliff arches with very few rocky/shingle beaches. Islets lie just offshore linked at low tide. • At the top of the cliffs are semi-natural grassland and gorse, with permanent pasture with low hedges on the plateau above. • Settlement is very sparse, rural and scattered and set back from the exposed coast. • General lack of light pollution. • The coast is only accessible from land at Ceibwr Bay which is a small but popular beach. • Burial chambers and two promontory forts lie along the coast. • The exposed coast with limited shelter limits sailing to longer distance cruising and off Newport Bay. Potting and kayaking are other sea uses. • The coast path on the cliff top linking Newport with St Dogmaels feels remote.
Physical Influences
<p>The north east-south west headland (Foel Goch 184m aod, Foel fach 130m aod), composed of north east-south west striking Ordovician mudstones and sandstones, is incised by a north west draining narrow river valley through to Ceibwr Bay. Steep, very high rocky cliffs fringe the coast below Foel Goch, and jagged rocky cliffs fringe bays. At the south west point of Pen y bal, the rocky islet Carregedrywy (2m aod) is joined by a rocky ledge tidally to the coast. Beaches along the coast are boulder strewn, and many submerged rocks are tidally exposed. The intertidal tidal comprises high energy rocky shores (91%), with narrow shingle and sand beaches (9%) in coves. Ribs of rock extend out from west-facing cliffs. Coastal erosion takes place through hydraulic action, abrasion and attrition.</p> <p>The shallow water (<30m) sea floor of gravelly sand to sandy gravel, covering Ordovician mudstones and sandstones, is moderately sloping (1-10°), and passes offshore into sand. The seas are exposed to high wind and wave stress. Tidal currents set north east and south west along the coast. Tidal flow is generally low (<1 knot).</p> <p>The eastern part of the area is within the Cardigan Bay SAC and the west is within the West Wales Marine SAC. Correspondingly, the eastern part of the coast is an SSSI- at Aberarth- Carreg Wylan and to the west there is a more limited comprising of the Newport Cliffs SSSI. Above the cliffs is a narrow stretch of coastal grassland and semi-natural mosaic above which the coastal plateau is predominantly pastoral. A steep-sided sheltered narrow wooded valley runs inland from Ceibwr Bay.</p>
Cultural influences
<p>The Aberystwyth wooden sloop <i>Union</i> was lost in a gale in 1820 on its way from Neath with a cargo of culm. The loss of the <i>Morning Star</i> of Aberystwyth in Ceibwr Bay, in the famous storm of 1859, is further evidence of local patterns of trading and of shipwreck. Herring was traditionally fished from small open wooden boats in a wide area off Dinas. These also caught mackerel and lobster.</p> <p>Prehistoric routes are implied by the burial chambers within this character area. Burial chambers are evident at Trelyffaint and Llech y Drybedd. Castelltreruffydd is a tear-drop</p>

shaped enclosure, on steep coastal slopes on the north-west. The enclosure circuit serves to isolate a promontory below the coastal slope, as well as Careg Yspar, immediately offshore. It has been suggested that a pot sherd recovered from the enclosure is Roman. A forge established in 1820 at Moylgrove may have contributed to coastal trade.

Scheduled monuments include:

PE211 (enclosure): community: Nevern

PE212 (promontory fort): community: Nevern

PE214 (promontory fort): community: Nevern

The Welsh name for Moylgrove, Trewyddel, suggests Irish influence.

There are several rocky inlets popular with kayakers and cruising craft. Sailing occurs out from Newport Bay, but elsewhere the distance from safe protected waters restricts casual boating except for a cruise sailing route linking Fishguard to points north on Cardigan Bay. The one accessible beach at Ceibwr is a popular site for tourists and is used for sea angling. There is walking along the remote Coast Path that runs along the top of the cliff edge. The hinterland is simple open pastoral farmland. Fishing in the area comprises of set nets, prawn, lobster and crab potting and there is potential for light otter trawling. The area has previously had a Round 24 licence for oil and gas in its northern outer waters and future applications may be made. The area is part of the Aberporth firing range and military practice area.

The area has very sparse settlement and no light pollution.

Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential qualities

A spectacular rugged natural coastline with a rhythmic, indented pattern of headlands and indentations with a rough, angular texture. This is a very large scale, exposed seascape with open views out to sea. Colours are muted.

This is a remote, unspoilt and wild sea coast, in which the sense and awareness of the sea dominates. There is a sense of danger and exhilaration on the cliff edge, especially in strong winds when one is highly exposed, and in high winds the seas crash on to the rocks. It is highly tranquil on calm days. There is a general lack of light pollution.

There are panoramic views over the sea and along the coast from the coastal path, and wide views over Newport Bay as one approaches the western end of this area. Ceibwr Bay has framed views out to sea.

On the water, there is exposure to the south westerlies, tidal currents and increasingly open sea further from the shore although Dinas Head offers some shelter and a strong landmark to the west.

Cultural benefits and services

The area contributes towards leisure and recreational services in the form of coastal path access to a remote coastline, to natural heritage in the form of the unspoilt coast and habitats for breeding birds and seals, and to cultural and spiritual services in respect connection to nature and remoteness or space to breathe.

Forces for change								
Summary	Key forces for change							
<p>Slow wave erosion on exposed rocky coast.</p> <p>The Shoreline management plan indicates some risk at Ceibwr Bay with a policy to do nothing or hold the line. Elsewhere the recommendation is to do nothing.</p> <p>Granting of oil and gas licences may lead to pressure for development in the future.</p> <p>More intense use of the Coast Path may lead to erosion, although this is a more remote stretch of the Coast Path.</p> <p>Agricultural activities such as small-scale livestock raising may become unprofitable, which could lead to a loss of pasture and hedgerow management.</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								
<p>Indented, natural rocky coast.</p> <p>Remote, unspoilt stretch of coastline.</p> <p>Long unspoilt views along the coast and out to sea with associated openness.</p> <p>Lack of settlement or road access.</p> <p>Lack of light pollution- a dark area.</p> <p>Coast Path as a receptor.</p> <p>Biodiversity, historic and landscape designations.</p> <p>Use of the area for MOD training.</p>								