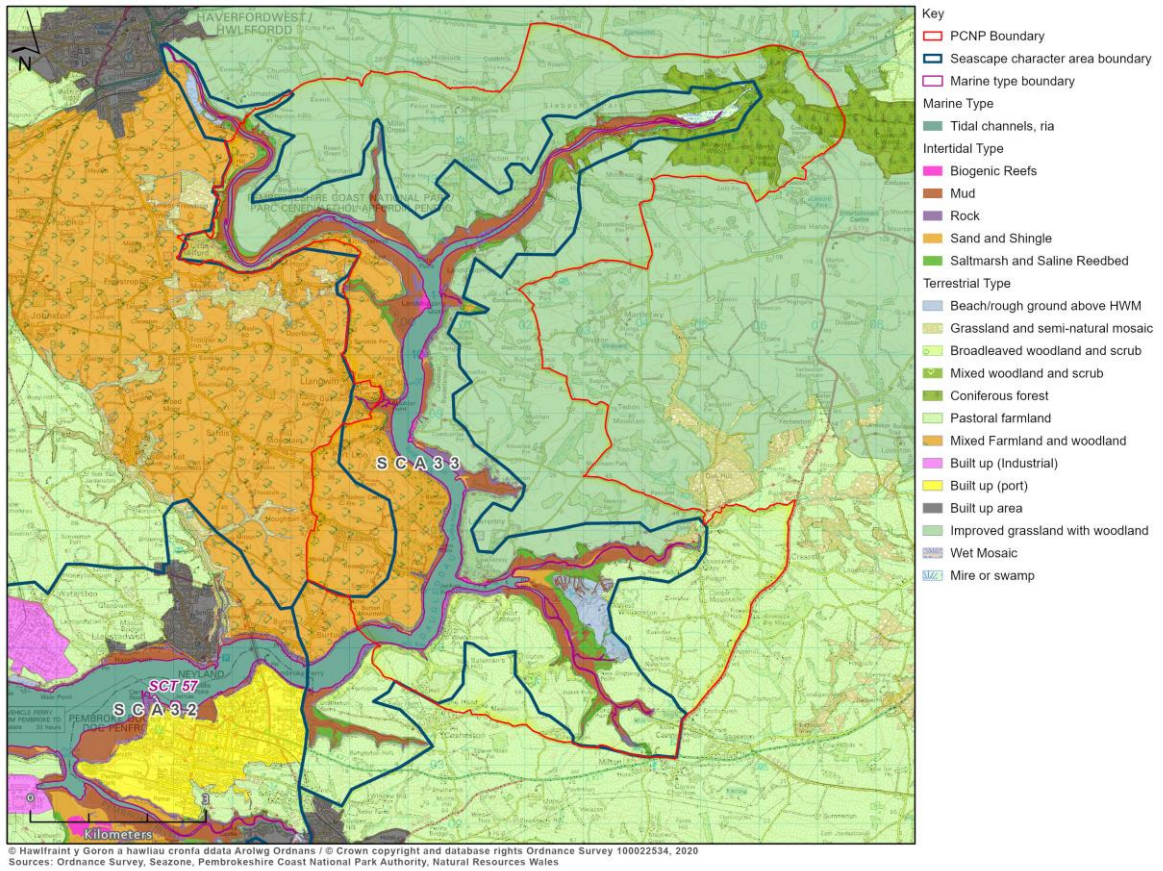


No: **33** Seascape Character Area Name: **Daugleddau**



SCA33:Daugleddau



Near Picton Point on Daugleddau



Ancient oaks at water's edge



Looking east from Cleddau Bridge

Summary Description
<p>The reaches of the Daugleddau and Western and Eastern Cleddau east of Pembroke Dock comprise a unique area of upper tidal river estuary, with branched side channels, often with mud exposed and remnant quays with associated small scale commercial enterprises. The surrounding land is rolling rural lowland which is sometimes steeper at water's edge, with parkland, mixed woodland to the water's edge and mixed agriculture. This is a peaceful, enclosed and intimate landscape with channelled vistas. The County Town of Haverfordwest touches the northern tip of this SCA.</p>
Key Characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheltered inland branched and sinuous tidal estuary with mudflats and marshes and no bridges.</li> <li>• Rolling and occasionally steep sided hills with distinctive woodland down to the water's edge.</li> <li>• Historic quays which contribute to the historic character and sense of place.</li> <li>• Historic interest including Carew Castle and tidal Mill, a promontory fort at Picton Point and Parks and Gardens.</li> <li>• Very dispersed and single dwellings and some small villages.</li> <li>• Low key recreation including small boat moorings.</li> <li>• Contained and channelled views and vistas.</li> <li>• High level of tranquillity.</li> </ul>
Physical Influences
<p>The area comprises the tidal river of the Cleddau [the Daugleddau] with branches to Creswell and Carew Rivers, and splitting into the Western and Eastern Cleddau, with other minor pills and small inlets. The north-south stretch of the Cleddau valley is incised through east-west striking bedrock of Devonian-Carboniferous age (Old Red Sandstone (Cosheston Group), Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit, Lower Coal Measures). Land either side of the river valley rises to 95m aod on western side and around 50m aod on the eastern side. The channel is joined by valleys from both sides (e.g. Cresswell and Carew rivers). Of intertidal areas, mudflats form across subsidiary valleys (59%), while river banks comprise saltmarsh (18%) and areas of sand and rock (22%). The tidal estuary is a depositional sediment sink, with sediment transported through traction, suspension and saltation.</p> <p>The inner, north-south part of the tidal estuary north of Pembroke Ferry is cut into east-west striking sandstones and limestones. The sandy river floor slopes moderately (1-10°) into the channel (&lt;15m), bounded by areas of sand, gravel and rocks, saltmarsh and by mudflats in tributary valleys. The waters are tidal but sheltered from wave stress. The tidal range in the estuary is 6.1m.</p> <p>The waters are covered by the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC and the estuary edges by the Milford Haven Waterway SSSI. Estuarine habitats include saltmarsh, extensive inter-tidal mudflats and reed beds. The wide mudflats off Sprinkle Pill/Fowborough Point are cockle grounds. Woodland is an important feature with both coniferous and semi-natural oak woodlands, together with small areas of wet woodland especially in the upper reaches associated with the reed beds. The hinterland is both pasture, associated with smaller fields and larger hedgerows, and arable with often a more rectilinear field pattern.</p>
Cultural influences
<p>The Daugleddau forms part of the great river-system that dominates this part of Pembrokeshire, with its links to the town of Haverfordwest, the gentry landscape of the immediate area, and the industrial and military complex of the lower river.</p> <p>This seascape has evolved around riparian high-status castles and houses. Carew Castle is a ruined palatial stronghold that was the centre of a great medieval lordship on the site of earlier</p>

settlements still, one of the main power centres in west Wales. It remained a military function into the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Lawrenny Castle is a large towered and turreted 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion, now demolished. Benton Castle is a 13<sup>th</sup> century castle in re-use as a house. The grounds of Picton Castle (itself outside the SCA) come down to the eastern Cleddau.

Industrial uses of the Daugleddau are evident at the Carew tidal mill, a particularly noble 19<sup>th</sup> century corn mill set on a causeway or dam across a tidal creek below Carew Castle. It formed part of the contrived garden landscape about the castle. Cresswell Quay is the site of former coal wharfs and other structures relating to its maritime and industrial past. Former quarries are strongly evident at West Williamston.

Scheduled monuments include:

- PE009 (cross): community: Carew
- PE263 (manor): community: Hundleton (partly in SCA32)
- PE275 (church): community: Slebech
- PE278 (promontory fort): community: Slebech
- PE280 (Socket's rath promontory fort): community: Slebech
- PE302 (building , unclassified): community: Martletwy
- PE333 (fort): community: Angle
- PE396 (house, domestic): community: Martletwy
- PE408 (promontory fort): community: St Ishmael's
- PE455 (garden): community: Martletwy
- PE529 (quay): community: Llangwm
- PE531 (hard): community: Burton
- PE546 (enclosure, defended): community: Cosheston
- 30236 Sisters' (Systeme) House (building complex/hospice): community: Martletwy

This area lies within the Milford Haven Waterway Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.

Cultural associations vary from the great tournament and entertainments at Carew Castle to the work of the Lawrenny-born novelist Dick Francis.

Kayaking, day boats, water skiing and jet ski and stand up paddleboarding activity takes place upriver from the Cleddau Bridge. Dinghy sailing can be found all along this stretch especially out of Cosheston Pill. There are several areas of swinging moorings along the whole of this stretch especially around Lawrenny and Black Tar. There is a yacht station at Lawrenny with boatyard and pontoon. A boatyard with pontoon and swinging moorings is located on the north bank at Burton. There are slipways on both banks just upriver of the bridge and at Llangwm.

Windsurfing is carried out in limited stretches. Angling from both the shore and boats is popular although some restrictions exist. Wildlife watching from both boats and the shore is popular.

There is a large outdoor pursuit centre up the Cosheston Pill. Coastal and inland walking is popular including on the Landsker Borderlands Trail to the east. A caravan park at Lawrenny is hidden within woodland.

Fishing in the area comprises of set nets and hand gathered cockles and mussels.

#### **Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential qualities**

The sense of scale varies from medium at locations with long framed views, through to other areas where the river is narrow and highly enclosed by wooded valley sides and the sense of containment is very high. It is a highly unified and harmonious landscape, with sinuous curves of the estuary river and its mud flats and strong horizontals in the water environment, contained and with a feeling of safety from the surrounding wooded hills.

There is a prevailing sense of a sheltered, well cared-for wooded farmland and parkland landscape of long-established private estates and secluded houses, contrasting with the more open shoreline villages and hamlets. This rural landscape is interspersed with wharves and other early industrial features which contribute to a strong sense of place.

Other senses are strongly stimulated, with seaweed and salty smells, the calls of wading birds, and reflections of sunlight on the still water.



There is a strong sense of naturalness and tranquillity, only tempered by the recreational activity in good weather.

**Cultural benefits and services**

The area contributes significantly towards leisure and recreational services in the form of river - based recreation and walking or interaction with the natural estuarine environment, to natural heritage in the form of the unspoilt wooded estuary, and to cultural and spiritual services in respect of the richness of historical parks and gardens and associations with nautical history and connectedness with nature.

**Forces for change**

Summary		Key forces for change						
<p>The river valley and estuary are dynamic sediment environments that will evolve with time.</p> <p>This area is considered underdeveloped for recreational activity and is targeted for increased promotion subject to conservation goals and preserving tranquillity/remoteness</p> <p>Demand for holiday accommodation and other visitor facilities.</p> <p>Potential conflicts between recreational activity, especially power boats, and nature conservation objectives and tranquillity.</p> <p>Pollution and other effects such as water temperature change from downstream energy facilities.</p> <p>Sensitivity of estuary and adjacent property to flooding.</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							
	<b>Key</b>		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality					

**Key factors to be taken into account when assessing sensitivity to change**

Remote, unspoilt and tranquil nature of the tidal river system and landscape mosaic.

Long channelled rural views.

Historic features and character of castles, mills, wharves, forts and parks, gardens, and cultural associations.

Nature conservation value of estuary and shoreline.

Extensive and distinctive woodland cover.

Designation of Milford Haven Waterway Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.

Footpaths such as Landsker Borderlands Trail as receptors.

Biodiversity, historic and landscape designations.

Marine recreational use.