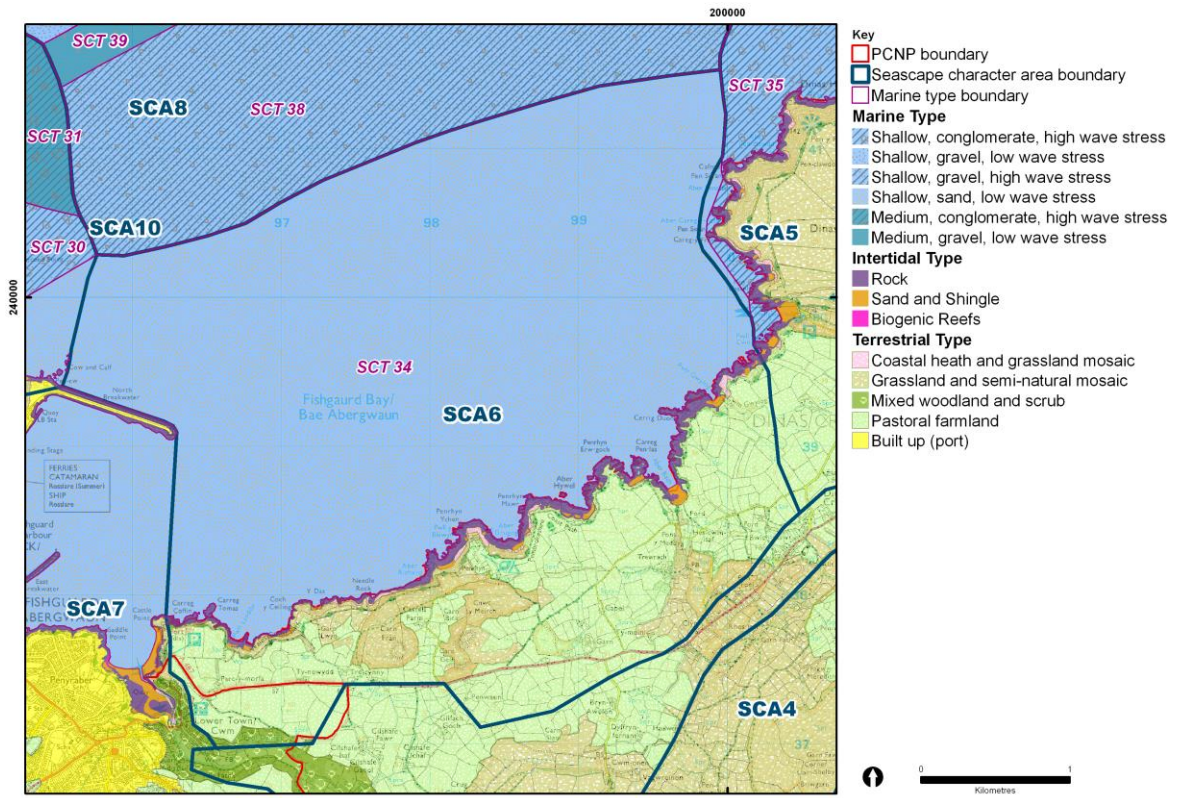


No: **6** Seascape Character Area Name: **Fishguard Bay East**



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SCA 6: Fishguard Bay east



Looking from Dinas Head south-west towards Fishguard © PCNPA



Looking east to Dinas Head from caravan park at Penrhyn

Summary Description
<p>Fishguard Bay lies on the north Pembrokeshire coast east of Fishguard bounded by the cliffs around Crincoed Point and Dinas Head. It is a stretch of rocky shoreline with steep rock cliffs and slopes, and rocks and rocky islets just offshore, and two accessible sandy coves [by foot] including Aber Bach, with coastal heathland on the cliff edges and small coastal hills and pastoral farmland in the hinterland. There are wide views from coast path and one prominent caravan park.</p>
Key Characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North facing, shallow bay defined to the east by Dinas Head and west by Crincoed Point • Indented jagged cliffs and steep slopes and rocky shores with a small sandy beach at Aber Bach and small virtually inaccessible coves such as Pwll Landdu. • Relatively sheltered sea area but exposed cliffs. • Hinterland of rock outcrops set in rolling pastoral local high points with coastal heathland and bracken. • Settlement set back from the coast except for one prominent caravan park with permanent structures on the cliff tops. • The sea is well used with rowing boats (Celtic Longboats), sailing boats, motor cruisers and jet skis come out from Fishguard into these waters and kayakers ply close to the coast. • Coastal path gives access along cliff top and very little vehicular access. • Wide coastal views to sea, along Fishguard Bay and east to Dinas Head.
Physical Influences
<p>The south to east side of north-facing Fishguard Bay is enclosed by the prominent headland of Dinas Head (107m aod). The cliffs around the bay, which are generally 30-65m high, are composed of an east-west to northeast-southwest striking Ordovician succession of mudstones and sandstones, with more resistant volcanic lavas, tuffs and intrusions (Fishguard Volcanic Group). The rocky coastline is indented by small coves. Rock boulders are strewn on beaches and across the shallow sea floor around the coast. Variably exposed rocky shores (88%) dominate the intertidal areas, flanked by narrow shingle beaches (12%) in N-facing inlets. There are some small rocky islets (e.g. Pwll y Blewyn). In the shelter of the bay coastal erosion is limited. Sediment transport is swash aligned with little net longshore drift, and sediment is kept within the bay.</p> <p>The sea floor of muddy sand overlying Ordovician sedimentary and volcanic rocks slopes gently (<1°) into the shallow (<20m) bay. The seas in the shelter of the bay are exposed to low wave stress. Tidal currents outside the bay set north east and south west, with indrafts into the bay.</p> <p>The bay forms part of the West Wales Marine SAC. The inaccessible rocky shores encourage use by seals.</p> <p>To the south east, the immediate hinterland is rolling with local high points with distinctive rock outcrops such as at Carn Fran.</p> <p>Semi-natural vegetation of heathland and bracken covers the higher cliff slopes. Pastoral improved and unimproved grassland enclosed in small- medium sized fields with low hedgebanks abuts this reaching the cliff edge in many places. A narrow wooded valley runs inland from Aber Bach.</p>
Cultural influences
<p>The area generally has a very strong visual linkage to Irish sea-route and Fishguard/Goodwick harbour with its breakwaters, quays as part of the broader seascape.</p>

The Gramsbergen, a steel hulled vessel en route between Silloth and Swansea sought shelter in the bay but was blown onto a rock and sunk in 1954.

On the coast, there are the remains of an eroded promontory fort at Penrhyn Erw-goch. World War 2 remains such as the Fishguard artillery battery and searchlight at Penrhyn Ychen.

Scheduled monuments include:

- PE200 (standing stone): community: Dinas Cross
- PE485 (cross): community: Dinas Cross

The coastal edge is very sparsely settled with most settlements and dwellings associated with the A487 coast road further inland. There is one prominent caravan site with permanent structures at Penrhyn.

Sailing, including racing, takes place out of Lower Town Fishguard into these waters as do cruisers in transit. Cruise sailing route linking Fishguard to points north on Cardigan Bay. Rowing boats (Celtic Longboats), dinghies, motor cruisers and jet skis also come out from Fishguard into these waters. Sea angling is also active in this area from both the shore and boats. Kayakers and stand up paddleboarders approach the area from the east.

Fishing in the area comprises of set nets, lobster and crab potting and light otter trawling.

Ferries operate out of Fishguard with a vehicle ferry and catamaran to Rosslare and can be seen regularly from the cliffs and boats in this area.

There is a small inlet at Aber Bach which is popular for sea angling and wildlife watching (seals). Walking the Pembrokeshire Coast path continues to be popular and Pwll Landdu is also just accessible from the path. Climbing takes place at Needle Rock and coasteering is found to the west around Carreg Coffin.

Aesthetic, perceptual and experiential qualities

A large scale jagged and rough textured coastline, in a simple pattern of indented headlands and small generally inaccessible [from land] coves. The small coastal hills with their coastal heathland reinforce the semi-natural character and screen the coast road set back from the coast. A sense of danger lies at the cliff edge with precipitous slopes and the coast feels exposed to the sea and northerly winds.

The coast generally feels remote area with little settlement and virtually no vehicle access, but the caravan park is a prominent detractor to the feeling of remoteness and naturalness. There are long views along the coast with Dinas Head dominating to the east and Fishguard with its settlement climbing the coastal hills high noticeable to the west.

The sea would feel relatively calm and sheltered from the south westerlies in the bay which is perhaps why it is used for rowing. There would be animation and movement from ferries to the west, motorboats, sailing and other craft. The coast would dominate views on three sides with open unspoilt sea views to the horizon to the north.

Cultural benefits and services

The area contributes towards leisure and recreational services in the form of marine recreation, coast path and remote accessible beach at Aber Bach, to natural heritage in the form of the largely unspoilt cliffs and sea views, and to cultural and spiritual services in respect of the sense of wildness and degree of remoteness.

Forces for change								
Summary	Key forces for change							
<p>Slow coastal erosion of rocky cliffs. Shoreline management plan states do nothing.</p> <p>There will be a new 450-berth marina to be built at Fishguard, starting late 2013 with 250 apartments which will significantly affect motor and sailing boat activity as well as general number of visitors/walkers, in this area.</p> <p>Possible pressure for expansion of holiday accommodation or caravan site.</p> <p>Land management changes may change character of coastal farmland.</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>Remote, unspoilt rugged cliffs and coastal hills.</p> <p>Coastal heathland on cliffs and hills.</p> <p>Wide and open unspoilt views along the coast and out to sea.</p> <p>Coast Path as a receptor.</p> <p>Biodiversity, historic and landscape designations.</p> <p>Caravan park.</p> <p>The marine activity of Fishguard Bay.</p>								