

Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment

- 1.1** This Seascape Character Assessment was commissioned in January 2013 by Isle of Anglesey Council with assistance from the Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales). It was prepared by Fiona Fyfe Associates, with Countryside and Bangor University (SEACAMS), in 2013.
- 1.2** Seascape character assessment is a development of the well-established process of landscape character assessment. It divides the study area into Seascape Character Types (SCTs) (areas of recognisable character which occur across the study area) and Seascape Character Areas (SCAs) (geographically-distinct areas with a unique sense of place, and comprised of different combinations of SCTs).
- 1.3** The study area for the project includes coastal land, the intertidal zone, and extends out to the territorial limit (12 nautical miles offshore). Where land outside the study area boundary contributes to seascapes this has been recorded. Within the study area there is a great diversity of terrestrial, intertidal and marine environments. These stem from the varied geology, geomorphology and coastal processes within the area, and also from thousands of years of human activity on land and sea. Combinations of natural and cultural processes continue to shape the evolution of the area's seascapes.
- 1.4** The project brief set out a number of purposes for the report, summarised as follows:
- Contributing to marine spatial planning, and playing an integrating role in the spatialisation of coastal landscape and seascape issues.
 - Informing reviews of the Management Plans for Snowdonia National Park and Anglesey Coast AONB.
 - Extending the coverage of landscape/ seascape assessment beyond the National Park and AONB boundaries (which follow the high water mark) in order to help ascertain the potential impacts of coastal and offshore developments on these protected landscapes.
 - Informing planning policy with regard to offshore development, including energy generation.
 - Capturing the perceptual and experiential qualities of the coast, and relating them to different physical environments and geographic areas.

The methodology (comprising desk studies, fieldwork on land and by boat, and writing-up) follows the current best practice guidelines for landscape and seascape character assessment. It reflects the holistic approach to landscape (and by extension seascape) of the European Landscape Convention, considering natural, cultural and perceptual qualities of seascape. The project was undertaken by a multi-disciplinary team with expertise in terrestrial, intertidal and marine environments.

1.5 A profile is provided for each SCT which includes a brief description and a map showing the locations where it occurs. Profiles are also provided for each of the SCAs (which are named by their geographical position) describing their location and context; summary description; constituent SCTs; key characteristics; cultural benefits and services; natural influences and sites; cultural influences and sites; perceptual qualities; forces for change and inherent sensitivity.

1.6 SCTs are grouped into **Seascape Character Areas (SCAs)**. These can be defined as

*Single unique areas which are **discrete geographical areas...Each has its own individual character and identity**, even though it shares the same generic characteristics with other seascape character types¹.*

For ease of reference, SCAs are given a number as well as a name. So an example of an SCA within the Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment is 'SCA 4: Menai Strait'. The majority of SCAs contain a combination of Marine, Intertidal and Terrestrial SCTs. Other SCAs are located entirely offshore and therefore contain only combinations of Marine SCTs.

1.7 Terrestrial parts of the study area are covered by the existing Landscape Character Assessment:

- Anglesey Landscape Character Assessment: *Anglesey Landscape Strategy, Update (2011)*

The Landscape Character Assessment documents have informed the Seascape Character Assessment, and The SCA profiles each contain a list of their component LCAs.

¹ Natural England Commissioned Report NECR 105 *An Approach to Seascape Character Assessment* (Oct. 2012) p. 20

1.8 LANDMAP data has been used throughout the process of preparing the Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment. LANDMAP's Visual and Sensory layer has become the usual starting point for defining boundaries in landscape character assessments in Wales, and for consistency it has been used (where possible) as the starting point to inform the boundaries for the terrestrial parts of this Seascape Character Assessment.

2.0 FORCES FOR CHANGE

2.1 The seascapes of Anglesey continue to change as a result of both natural and man-made processes. This section describes these forces for change in detail, and is intended to provide fuller information than that summarised in the 'Forces for Change' tables within the SCA Profiles, and should be read in conjunction with them. Presenting it in this way also ensures consistency of terminology throughout the document, and avoids excessive length and repetition within the SCA Profiles. The forces for change described in the SCA Profiles have been identified using the following sources:

- Shoreline Management Plans (SMP 2: Consultation Versions, 2011)
- Landscape Assessments for Anglesey
- Local knowledge of marine issues from members of the SEACAMS team
- Input from the Anglesey AONB
- Observations made during fieldwork and desk studies

2.3 For clarity and ease of use, the forces for change have been divided into a series of themes. These themes match the column headings in the 'Forces for Change' tables found in each SCA profile.

2.4 Natural Processes/ Climate Change

- **Coastal erosion** altering the character of the coastline e.g. removal of sand from beaches. It may also lead to potential loss of archaeological resource e.g. coastal prehistoric forts, and/ or blocking or diverting coastal path or access to open access land or other recreational areas. Coastal erosion may lead to direct loss or fragmentation of habitats e.g. cliff top semi-natural heathland; sand dunes; estuarine ecosystems.
- **Coastal sedimentation** affecting coastal habitats (e.g. dunes and estuaries), and causing change of use of harbours, anchorages and settlements.
- **Increased frequency of extreme weather** e.g. storms exacerbating flooding and erosion e.g. on dunes and shingle beaches. Increased flooding affecting low-lying habitats, grazing marshes and settlements. Extreme weather events and flooding may also cause stress to buildings and other man-made features (e.g. harbours), and the inundation of historic coastal landscapes. Flooding/ weather-related changes may also block/

divert coastal paths and access to recreational areas, and impact on patterns of tourism and recreational activity.

- **Sea defences and flood protection measures** affecting natural character of coastline in low lying areas e.g. dunes, shingle beaches, impacting on coastal habitats (e.g. salt marshes) and affecting the vernacular character of traditional settlements, e.g. harbours.
- **Sea level rise**, resulting from natural and man-made climatic fluctuation will exacerbate all of these processes and events.

2.5 Visitor Pressure

- Seasonal **concentration of visitors** at coastal 'honeypot' sites resulting in increased levels of traffic, litter, erosion of habitats (e.g. sand dunes) etc. and a loss of tranquillity.
- Increased **recreational boating** (including motor watersports) impacting on coastal character, tranquillity, and sensitive marine habitats (e.g. breeding grounds and estuarine habitats).
- Increased **recreational activity** including **coastal sports** (e.g. rock climbing) leading to damage/ fragmentation of habitats (e.g. coastal heath), and erosion of footpaths.
- **Conflicts of interest** between different recreational users (e.g. anglers and powerboats/ canoes).
- Impacts on **heritage features and their settings** through damage, erosion, parking, litter etc.
- Seasonal increases in levels of **traffic**, resulting in congestion (particularly along narrow lanes), informal parking etc.
- Demands for **new developments/ extensions** to existing developments of caravan parks, campsites etc., potentially impacting on the visual quality and character of the coast.

2.6 Marine Use- Commercial and fishing

- **Commercial shipping movements** (including Dublin/ Dun Laoghaire ferries) and anchorages (including anchorage of commercial vessels awaiting Liverpool Pilot) impacting on the character and tranquillity of coastal waters.
- **Dredging** of channels/ harbours and their associated impacts on the seabed environment and natural coastal processes.
- Potential impacts of **marine rubbish**, oil spills etc. from commercial vessels on wildlife, habitats and the appearance of the coastal environment.
- Environmental effects of intensification of **static fishing** (e.g. baited pots and fixed lines).
- Effects of **boat fishing** (e.g. trawls and dredging) on the seabed and associated habitats, and also wider issues of increased pressure on fish populations.
- Impacts of **mussel farming** on water quality and marine environments.
- **Loss of traditional small boat fisheries** and associated processing and distribution infrastructure.

2.7 Offshore energy or minerals

- **Offshore wind, tidal and/ or wave energy installations** affecting marine environments and habitats, the character of the seascape, and with associated impacts on tranquillity and visual amenity.
- Associated **onshore impacts** from offshore energy infrastructure such as sub stations and power lines.

2.8 Development pressure/ transport routes

- Further development associated with Holyhead **ferry port and associated infrastructure**.
- **Coastal tourism-related infrastructure**, including marina development, parking, visitor facilities, paths, slipways, moorings etc.
- **Onshore-energy** related development, including Wylfa Power Station, wind turbines (impacting on the inland settings of Seascape Character Areas), solar-photovoltaic cells (domestic and commercial scale) and high-voltage transmission lines.
- **New housing or other development** potentially suburbanising the coast and not responding to or respecting the landscape or traditional settlement character. Construction of holiday/ retirement homes for non-local families can also impact on local culture and use of the Welsh language.
- **Light pollution** from commercial, residential and transport-related development.
- Increased development leading to **pollution** of water or air, and with implications on **traffic, waste management, loss of habitats and reduced coastal access**.
- **Farm diversification/** development for tourism uses (e.g. increasing numbers of caravan/ campsites; conversion of farm buildings/ cottages for use as holiday homes) impacting on local communities and settlement patterns.
- Potential future re-development of **large-scale industrial sites**.
- Demand for **road/ rail improvements** with consequential impacts on tranquillity, and air, noise and light pollution.

2.9 Land Management Changes

- **Loss of/ reduction in traditional agricultural management** due to non-viability of traditional farm businesses.
- Changes in **grazing patterns** resulting in invasion of bracken into semi-natural coastal habitats such as coastal heathland, and loss of species-rich pasture.
- **Poor management of heritage features**, e.g. coastal archaeological sites resulting in damage by bracken and scrub.

- Increased **intensification of agriculture** resulting in loss of traditional landscape features (e.g. hedgerows, hedgebanks etc.) with consequential impacts on the appearance of the landscape and reduced biodiversity levels.
- Changes in **forestry management** policies (both on the coast and further inland)- particularly with regard to demand for wood fuel - impacting on landscape character.
- Pollution of water courses and marine ecosystems from **nutrient run-off/enrichment**.
- Potential future changes in **estate management**, resulting in reduced management of parks, gardens, parkland trees and estate farms and woodlands.

2.10 MOD use

- MOD uses including **RAF Valley Airfield**, and the associated noise and visual impacts.

SEASCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT RESULTS

3.1 List of Seascape Character Types (SCTs)

SCTs were grouped into three groups: Terrestrial (tSCTs); Intertidal (iSCTs) and Marine (mSCTs). The full list of SCTs is as follows:

Terrestrial SCTs:

Name	SCT Code	Summary description
Beach [above high water mark]	t1	A shoreline landform composed of loose sand, shingle or pebble particles deposited by wave or current action.
Dunes or Dune slack [above high water mark]	t2	A landform where constructive waves have encouraged the accumulation of sand, and where prevailing onshore winds have over time blown this sand inland.
Reedbed	t3	Coastal reed beds: natural habitats found in floodplains, waterlogged depressions and estuaries.
Cliffs and cliff tops	t4	Coastal erosion landforms which occur where the continuous wave action erodes rocks to create cliffs of varying heights.
Coastal Heath/ Grassland	t5	An important and rare mosaic of heathland communities, much of which is dominated by mixtures of western gorse, heathers and grasses.
Rocky Islets	t6	Small rocky islets which are the surviving remnants of former headlands, cut off from the mainland through processes of coastal erosion.
Farmland (predominantly reclaimed grazing marsh)	t7a	Generally associated with 19 th century land reclamation, resulting in landscape change from tidal estuaries and marshes to enclosed flat areas with

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		embankments and networks of drainage ditches controlling water levels.
Farmland (predominantly irregular enclosures/ rhos pasture)	t7b	A patchwork of small and irregularly shaped fields, mainly used for sheep pasture. Generally unimproved, often rocky farmland, with thin, damp soils supporting tussocky deciduous grasses.
Farmland (predominantly regular enclosures)	t7c	Larger and more regular-shaped fields, mainly given over to pasture (improved and semi-improved grassland) with occasional arable/cereal production.
Woodland (deciduous)	t8a	Mature broadleaved natural or semi-natural deciduous woodland.
Woodland (coniferous)	t8b	Stands of coniferous plantation, usually planted in monocultures.
Historic parkland/ gardens	t9	Historic designed landscapes, usually associated with a large estate.
Golf course/ amenity land	t10	Golf courses (predominantly links courses) and other areas of formal recreation/sports grounds.
Tourist Infrastructure (caravan park/ campsite)	t11a	Formal (permanent) static caravan parks and seasonal campsites, with associated infrastructure.
Tourist Infrastructure (other)	t11b	Promenades and their associated tourist infrastructure.
Airfield/ race track	t12	Airfields and the Anglesey motor racing circuit, and their associated infrastructure.
Settlement	t13	Settlements, ranging from the large towns of Bangor and Holyhead, to smaller towns and villages.
Settlement (Conservation Area)	(t13b)	Parts of settlements designated for their historic or architectural importance.
Industrial/ business park	t14	Industrial sites, power stations (Wylfa), business parks and industrial parks.
Quarry/ former quarry	t15	Existing and former quarries/ mineral workings.
Coastal Lagoon	t16	Waterbodies separated from the shoreline by drained/reclaimed land or sand dunes, or (at Cemlyn Bay Lagoon) by a natural shingle ridge.
Raised bog	t17	Peatland ecosystems which develop where drainage is impeded, creating anaerobic, waterlogged conditions which slow down the decomposition of plant material and lead to an accumulation of peat.

Seascape Features:

Castle/ fort/ defensive works	O symbol
Lighthouse	Star symbol
Harbour	H symbol

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Intertidal SCTs:

Name	SCT Code	
Intertidal Shingle	i1	Relatively exposed shores characterised by pebble, cobble, shingle, gravel and coarse sand beaches.
Intertidal Sand	i2	Beaches comprising clean coarse, medium or fine-grained sands or muddy sands, with shells and stones occasionally found on the surface.
Intertidal Mud	i3	The sheltered location allows fine silt or clay to settle, typically forming mudflats.
Intertidal Rock	i4	A habitat of bedrock, boulders and cobbles which can experience enormous variation in exposure, salinity and temperature.
Reefs and Mussel Beds	i5	A habitat of rock, cobbles and pebbles on underlying sand or muddy sediments. Two reef habitats dominate: mussels and honeycomb worm.
Saltmarsh	i6	This habitat can develop on a variety of sandy or muddy sediment types and is periodically covered by spring high tides. Vegetation is dominated by salt-tolerant species.
Seagrass Beds	i7	Seagrass beds on muddy fine sand or sandy mud dominated by an abundance of narrow-leafed eel grass, where the muddy sediment on the shores retains water and stops the roots drying out.

Marine SCTs:

Name	SCT code	
Carboniferous tidal strait	m1a	A narrow channel experiencing strong tidal currents and little wave action. Deposited sediment is a carried away, leaving a bare carboniferous rock substrate.
Precambrian tidal strait	m1b	A narrow tidal channel with rocky islets and inlets, creating a rugged and complex coastline with a rich diversity of habitats.
Tidal delta	m1c	Found at the entrances to the Menai Strait, where tidal processes cause deposition of sand.
Shelf sea rock – shallow water, high energy	m2a	Well lit, shallow habitats less than 20m deep where high levels of wave and tidal current energy prevent significant deposition of finer grained sediment.
Shelf sea rock – shallow water, moderate energy	m2b	Bedrock and stable boulders in shallow, well lit waters with moderate levels of exposure to current and wave energy, limiting the amount of fine sediment deposition.
Shelf sea rock – deep water, high energy	m2c	Seabed comprising hard substrate, high energy and poor light levels. Patches of coarse and mixed sediment may be present sporadically but the high energy environment prevents fine sediment being deposited.

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Shelf sea rock – deep water, moderate energy	m2d	Areas of bedrock and boulders in deep water with poor light levels and moderate exposure to wave and current energy. Patches of coarse sediment are likely to be present but the high energy environment prevents fine sediment being deposited.
Shelf sea coarse sediment – shallow water, high energy	m3a	Coarse sand, gravel, shingle and shell in well-lit shallow water with exposure to high current and wave energy.
Shelf sea coarse sediment – shallow water, moderate energy	m3b	Coarse sand, gravel, shingle and shell in well-lit shallow water with exposure to moderate current and wave energy.
Shelf sea coarse sediment – deep water, high energy	m3c	Tide-swept coarse sand, gravel, shingle and shell in poorly lit water, generally deeper than 20m. Wave energy at the seabed may exceed 1.2 Nm^{-2} and peak spring current speeds may reach 1.5 ms^{-1} .
Shelf sea coarse sediment – deep water, moderate energy	m3d	Tide-swept coarse sand, gravel, shingle and shell in poorly lit water, generally deeper than 20m. Wave energy at the seabed does not generally exceed 1.2 Nm^{-2} and peak spring current speeds are less than 1.5 ms^{-1} .
Shelf sea sand – shallow water	m4a	Well-lit sand that may be clean or contain up to approximately 20% silt or clay, generally in water less than 20m deep. This seascape character type is often found in areas of net sediment deposition.
Shelf sea sand – deep water	m4b	Relatively stable clean or muddy sand with up to 20% silt or clay content. Water depth is generally more than 20-30m and light attenuation is poor.
Shelf sea mud	m5	Fine, cohesive sediment containing at least 20% silt or clay. This habitat is characteristic of a low energy environment.
Shelf sea mixed sediment	m6	Sediment of heterogeneous grain size that may include mud, sand, gravel, cobble and shell. The sediment may be well mixed or poorly sorted.
Sarnau	m7	Shallow (and in some places intertidal) rocky reefs which extend westwards out to sea from the Welsh mainland. They are composed of boulders, cobbles and coarse sediment, and are thought to be glacial in origin.
Biogenic reef	m8	Hard marine structures formed by dense beds of animals.
Macrophyte bed	m9	Dense kelp park on silted rock or sediment, or seagrass meadow on sheltered sediment.
Estuarine channels	m10	A sinuous network of channels that shift due to erosion and deposition of sediment. A mixture of shallow, wide channel with slow moving water and high rates of sedimentation and deeper channels with strong tidal currents.

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Harbour (NOTE: also symbolised as point features)	m11	Naturally sheltered areas such as estuaries providing boat access, with added protection from man-made structures. The marine habitat of a harbour is generally characteristic of a very sheltered muddy environment.
Inland Sea	m12	A body of water formed between the main island of Anglesey and Holy Island by the building of road embankments. Tidal flow of water between the Inland Sea and the open sea is restricted by the bridges at each end.

Full profiles (including distribution maps) for each SCT are provided at the end of this Section. Fig. 6.1 contains the key to fig. 6.2 which shows SCTs within the study area, and it also forms the key to the larger-scale maps contained within the SCA profiles.

A list of the SCAs in which each SCT is located is provided in Appendix H, and a list of each of the component SCTs found within each SCA is provided in Appendix I. The SCTs are also available to view on the GIS layers which accompany this report.



Fig. 6.1 Key for Seascape Character Types maps included in SCA profiles

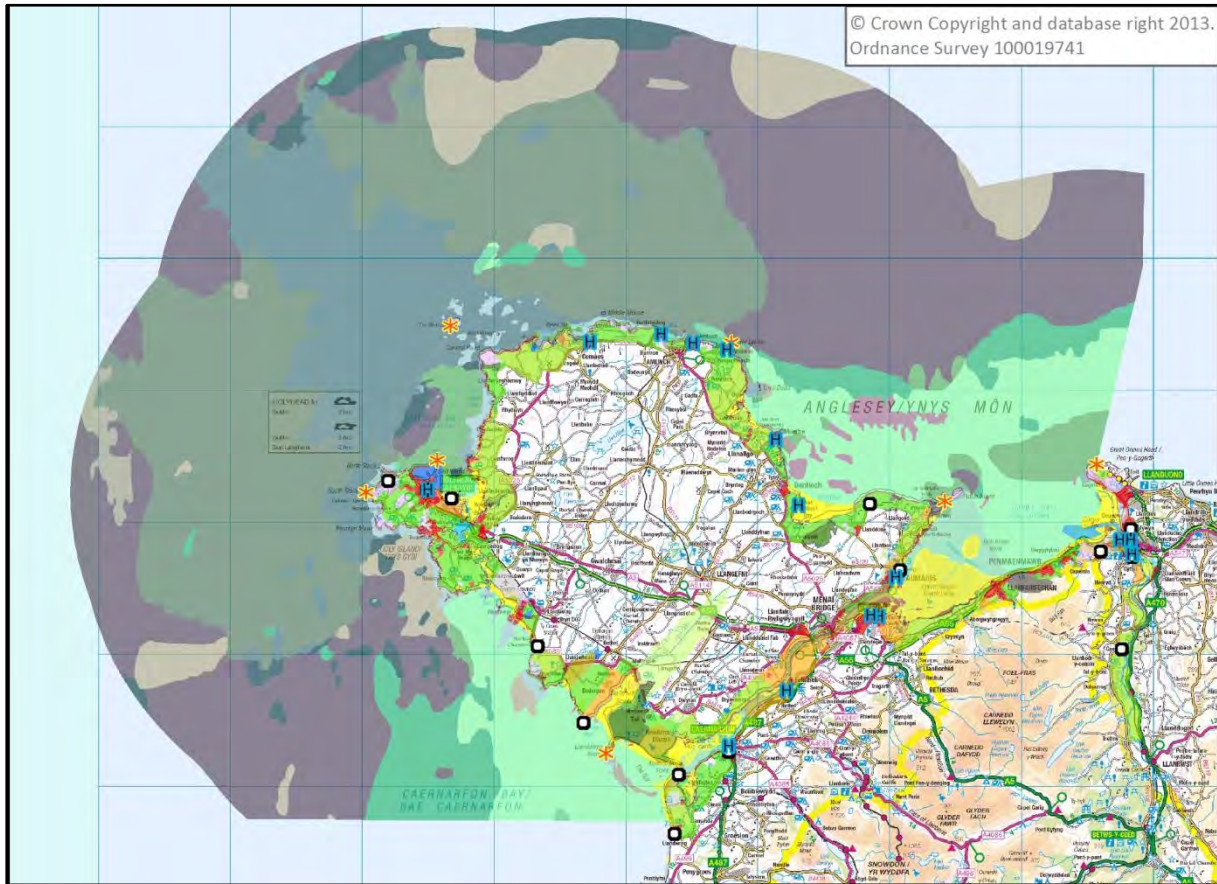


Fig. 6.2 Seascape Character Types

3.2 List of Seascape Character Areas (SCAs)

Thirty-six SCAs were identified, nine of which are entirely offshore. The SCAs are as follows, and shown in fig. 6.2.

SCAs composed of groupings of Marine, Intertidal and Terrestrial SCTs:

- 1 Conwy Estuary
- 2 Conwy Bay
- 3 Traeth Lafan
- 4 Menai Strait
- 5 Penmon
- 6 Red Wharf Bay to Moelfre
- 7 Dulas Bay
- 8 Amlwch and Cemaes
- 9 Cemlyn Bay
- 10 Carmel Head to Penrhyn
- 11 Holyhead
- 12 Inland Sea
- 13 Holyhead Mountain
- 14 Rhoscolyn
- 15 Rhosneigr

- 16 Malltraeth
- 17 Caernarfon
- 18 Abermenai

SCAs composed of groupings of Marine Types only:

- 28 North-east of Anglesey
- 29 North of Anglesey
- 30 North-west of Anglesey
- 31 West of Anglesey
- 32 Caernafon Bay



Fig. 6.3: Seascape Character Areas

3.3 Summary of Seascape Character Areas

SCA no.	SCA Name and Summary Description
1	<p>Conwy Estuary</p> <p>The Conwy valley runs inland from the coast, surrounded on both sides by high wooded hills, which frame views along the valley and act as a dramatic backdrop to the valley floor landscape. The valley has a long history of use as a communications route, and road and rail links still follow the valley. The railway line from Llandudno to Betws-y-coed follows the sinuous course of the river, which winds serenely through reed beds, mud flats and sand banks, continuously changing with the tide and surrounded by lowland pastures and woodlands. Further south the river is lined with pastoral grazing marshes and wetland trees, and surrounded by steep, wooded valley sides. Conwy and Llandudno are visible looking north from the northern part of the SCA, giving it a much busier feel. Thomas Telford’s Conwy Suspension Bridge and the adjacent tubular railway bridge are key landmarks across the river between Llandudno Junction and Conwy. In views upstream from the bridges, the river appears to flow from the mountains of Snowdonia.</p>
2	<p>Conwy Bay</p> <p>This is a busy and varied area with a long history of settlement and tourism, and magnificent views both inland and over Conwy Bay with its wide sands and intertidal habitats. The high land surrounding the SCA (including Great Orme headland and Conwy mountain) creates a dramatic and distinctive backdrop and a strong sense of place. Views of the seascape are framed by Great Orme to the east and (more distantly) Puffin Island to the west. A variety of</p>

	<p>settlements are set against the high ground of the Great Orme and Conwy Mountain. These include the medieval walled town of Conwy with its castle and bridge, the industrial village of Penmaenmawr with its terraces of houses, and modern marina development at Deganwy. This is a popular tourist area, and contains fine examples of Victorian seaside tourism development, including the resort of Llandudno West Shore with its esplanade, and the development of the Great Orme with various attractions including a tramway to the summit cafe. More recent tourism developments have included golf courses, caravan parks and recreational boating facilities; the latter give a busy feel to the lower part of the Conwy Estuary.</p>
3	<p>Traeth Lafan</p> <p>Spectacular landscapes and seascapes create magnificent views within this SCA. Foreground views are dominated by the expanse of Traeth Lafan, with its constantly changing patterns and colours depending on tides and light conditions. The Snowdonia mountains form a grand backdrop to views across the Bay when seen from Anglesey. Views seawards are framed by Puffin Island to the west, and (more distantly) the headland of Great Orme to the east. Coastal settlements including Beaumaris and Llanfairfechan reflect the area's long importance for defence, religion, settlement and transport. Prior to the construction of Telford's suspension bridge across the Menai Strait in 1826, one means of reaching Anglesey was via a tidal causeway across Lafan sands to the Beaumaris ferry.</p>
4	<p>Menai Strait</p> <p>The SCA is centred on the narrow, tidal channel which forms the central part of the Menai Strait. It is visually dominated by the two 19th Century Menai Bridges: Telford's Suspension Bridge, and Stephenson's Britannia Bridge. Both are impressive and elegant structures built high enough to accommodate sailing ships, and thereby emphasising the depth of the landform. Water flows very fast and unpredictably through the channel, constantly changing with the state of the tides with strong currents in both directions. Around the rocky islands known as the Swellies (between the two bridges) conditions are particularly hazardous and include whirlpools. Woodland and parkland associated with country estates line the banks of the Strait, creating an enclosed, verdant and designed feel, with the house of Plas Newydd visible from the water. The high hills of Snowdonia are visible from elevated viewpoints at the western edges of the SCA. The town of Bangor, with its University buildings, cathedral and pier, gives a more developed feel to the northern part of the SCA.</p>
5	<p>Penmon</p> <p>This SCA is characterised by its rocky, north-facing coastline and relatively unsettled, rough landform. The coast comprises small rocky bays and narrow shingle beaches, with the low, rounded form of Puffin Island (formerly known as Priestholm) dominating the seascape in views east. The eastern end of the SCA is influenced by extensive former limestone quarries, and the remains of jetties can still be seen. This area's remote and wild quality is emphasised by the presence of Trwyn Du lighthouse and the isolated keepers' cottages. The rocky outcrops, coastal heath, grassland and rhos pasture give the area a strong texture and seasonally-changing colours.</p>
6	<p>Red Wharf Bay to Moelfre</p> <p>This area is dominated by Red Wharf Bay, an extensive sandy beach with a large intertidal area. It is separated from smaller beaches at Benllech and Traeth Bychan by sloping headlands orientated north-east. Steep pine woodland (with red squirrels) and farmland provide the landward setting beyond the sand dunes which line the beaches. The area is popular for holidaymakers, and there are numerous caravan parks and campsites in the SCA.</p>

	<p>Slipways enable access to the sea for recreational and fishing boats, and in the summer the area has a busy, colourful character. Views out to sea are framed by the headlands at the ends of the SCA, and often large vessels can be seen out to sea, waiting for the Liverpool Pilot. The historic fishing village of Moelfre is located on a headland at the northern end of the SCA.</p>
7	<p>Dulas Bay This SCA is bounded by headlands at north and south of a rocky coast, with beaches at Dulas Bay and Lligwy Bay. The island of Ynys Dulas, with its tower, is midway between them and provides a focal point. The southern part of the SCA contains a variety of historic landscape features from prehistoric times onwards, and is also the location of several caravan parks. In the centre of the SCA is the Traeth Dulas estuary, which is tranquil and contains a variety of habitats, constantly changing according to the tide. The northern part of the SCA is strongly influenced by the Dulas estate: The landform has a relatively smooth profile, and has regular fields of improved, green pasture divided by well-maintained stone walls. The distinctive circular spire of Dulas Church is a landmark visible from land and sea.</p>
8	<p>Amlwch and Cemaes Much of this area has an industrial feel due to its long association with copper mining and associated industries and export. There are several historic harbours and settlements, including Amlwch, Cemaes and Llanelian, but there is less tourist development than on many parts of the Anglesey Coast. Coastal views are dominated by the rocky shoreline, white water and rocks, with the Islands of East Mouse and Middle Mouse lying off the coast. Beyond are expansive views northwards towards the Isle of Man. At the eastern end of the SCA is Point Lynas lighthouse on its long, flat headland. The immediate coastal area - especially in the east - has many textures and shades of colour on seaward slopes arising from heather, bracken, brambles and underlying rocks, which contrast with the shingly bays. Views inland are dominated by the distinctive profiles of Parys Mountain and Mynydd Eilian.</p>
9	<p>Cemlyn Bay This SCA contains a considerable variety of coastal habitats, varying from the rock pools of the east to the unusual coastal features of Cemlyn Bay itself. Cemlyn Bay is divided by a crescent-shaped shingle bar formed by longshore drift, but the inner area has, not been tidal since the 1930s. It provides ideal breeding grounds for varieties of terns and is a nature reserve of international importance, becoming very noisy in the summer! The inland landscape is also distinctive with rolling drumlin fields; their gentle slopes contrasting with the straight lines of the stone walls which cross them. This is relatively low-lying coast, and the drumlin fields appear as egg-shaped mounds on the horizon when viewed from the sea. Off the coast are rocky islands including Harry Furlough's Rocks and West Mouse, reflecting the rocky character of the seabed. Expansive views northwards have the Isle of Man on the horizon. The rich variety of the local geology is illustrated at Trwyn Cemlyn to the west of Cemlyn Bay with its extensive range of multi-coloured pebbles overlying metamorphic rocks. To the east the landscape is dominated by the square shapes of the Wylfa power station in the adjacent SCA.</p>
10	<p>Carmel Head to Penrhyn Carmel Head has spectacular coastal scenery with islets, cliffs, caves, beaches and wave-cut platforms. A strong tidal race runs between Carmel Head and The Skerries and this is a dangerous coast, with numerous wrecks offshore. The White Ladies markers which line up with the marker on West Mouse lead the eye to the Coal Rocks, a hazard to shipping especially in the days of sail. In the north of the SCA, the steep hill and ridge of Mynydd y Garn provides the landward setting. Further south, an extensive drumlin field creates a</p>

	<p>rolling topography. Within the SCA there is a variety of habitats including rocky shores, coastal heath and forestry, with farming inland. The port of Holyhead has an influence on views, particularly in the south of the SCA, and ships entering and leaving the port can be seen from the coast. Holyhead Mountain forms a backdrop to views of the port. The small sandy beaches are popular with tourists, but there is little permanent tourist infrastructure.</p>
11	<p>Holyhead</p> <p>This SCA is characterised by its relatively high level of development (in the Holyhead and Valley areas) and the influence of Holyhead Port. It has many centuries of maritime history, the earliest evidence of which is a Roman fort. Today, views of the port are dominated by the long breakwaters, large ships (including the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ferries), cranes, walkways, and many colours and sizes of smaller craft. It is a settled and busy environment, and at night its coloured lights become apparent. Holyhead mountain rises above the town, forming a backdrop and setting. Its rocky profile and wild, heather-covered appearance contrasts with the built structures of the town and port below. The chimney of the aluminium smelter is a prominent local landmark.</p>
12	<p>Inland Sea</p> <p>The Inland Sea is a unique environment, created by the impounding of a tidal channel. The Stanley embankment across the channel (which marks the northern edge of the SCA) was originally constructed by Thomas Telford in 1825, and has since been widened to accommodate a dual carriageway and railway line. The resulting ‘inland sea’ contains a rare variety of intertidal habitats and has a unique sense of place. The sheltered, calm water makes it a popular location for watersports.</p> <p>The character of the area distinctly changes at Four Mile Bridge. The northern part has a very shallow tidal range, and remains flooded at low tide as it has been impounded by the Four Mile Bridge wall at the southern end and the Stanley Embankment at the northern end. In contrast, the southern part drains at low tide to a few meandering channels, with extensive sand banks, a number of rocky islets, and various sheltered muddy creeks and saltmarshes. The surrounding landscape is low-lying, and away from roads and settlements the Inland Sea has a strong sense of seclusion.</p>
13	<p>Holyhead Mountain</p> <p>The high, rugged profile of Holyhead Mountain rises sharply from the sea at the north-west tip of Anglesey. It is a prominent and distinctive landmark from land and from approaching shipping, and over the years has been used as a hillfort, watchtower and signal station. The high cliffs and white water create a dramatic and dangerous coastline, and the lighthouse at South Stack is still in use. The mountain forms an important setting to the town and port of Holyhead below. Holyhead Mountain comprises the largest single expanse of coastal heath on Anglesey, and contains a mosaic of heather, bracken, gorse and grassland, as well as the unique <i>spatulate fleawort</i>. The colours of vegetation change throughout the year, with purple heather and yellow gorse being a particularly dramatic combination. The SCA supports many different species of sea birds, and has a tranquil, wild and remote quality, despite its proximity to Holyhead. It is popular with visitors who come to admire the panoramic views and the wildlife.</p>
14	<p>Rhoscolyn</p> <p>This is a relatively flat, low-lying area with horizontal horizons and long views out to sea. It has a rough, textured quality due to the mosaic of rhos pasture, coastal heath and exposed surface rocks. This variety of vegetation creates patches of seasonal colour in the landscape. The coast is deeply crenellated, with low rocky cliffs and small bays. It is an exposed, wild</p>

	<p>coastline, particularly in prevailing south-westerly conditions. Holyhead Mountain rises to the north-west, and provides a prominent landmark and backdrop. Settlements follow the B4545 (the old Holyhead road), but elsewhere settlement is largely limited to scattered farms, giving much of the SCA an undeveloped feel.</p>
15	<p>Rhosneigr This SCA is characterised by expansive sandy beaches and smooth-profiled headlands. Atlantic breakers roll up the beaches, making this a popular recreation area for watersports. Inland of the beaches are extensive areas of sand dunes and marram grass. The land above the rocky headlands is exceptionally smooth in its profile with large, open fields and very little surface vegetation. Amongst this expansive landscape are the more developed areas of Valley Airfield, Rhosneigr village and the motor racing circuit at Llangwyfan. The rocky headlands end in distinctive fingers of rock extending into the sea. Some have islands offshore, including Cribinau with its tiny church.</p>
16	<p>Malltraeth This SCA comprises large blocks of habitats, many of which have been modified through natural processes or human intervention. High levels of sediment have resulted in extensive sand dunes systems. Those at Aberffraw (on the site of a former estuary) have an almost lunar quality when viewed from the roads which run through them. Newborough forest was planted in the Mid-20th Century to stabilise the Newborough dunes and prevent sand damaging the village inland. The forest appears a large block of dark green, and contrasts with the adjacent estuarine habitats. Further inland, the reclaimed landscape of Malltraeth Marsh has a distinctive, linear quality, reminiscent of the fens of East Anglia. The sheltered parkland of the Bodorgan estate introduces a gentler form and softer character to the land cover. At the coast, rocky finger-like headlands divide wide sandy beaches, with Ynys Llanddwyn (in SCA 18) a distinctive feature to the south.</p>
17	<p>Caernarfon The walled town of Caernarfon and its splendid Medieval castle dominate views from the Menai Strait, with the high, pointed peaks of Snowdonia and the Lleyn peninsula creating a dramatic backdrop. The Menai Strait is broader here than further east, and contains extensive sandbanks, visible at low tide. It is framed on both sides by pastoral farmland. The estuary of Foryd Bay contains a variety of intertidal wetland habitats, with views across the Menai Strait to the dark mass of Newborough Forest (SCA 16) on the horizon.</p>
18	<p>Abermenai This SCA is dominated by patterns of shifting sand at the western end of the Menai Strait, including the extensive dune system of Newborough Warren and the spit of Abermenai point. Views south across Caernarfon Bay are dominated by the pointed peaks of the Lleyn Peninsula, which create a dramatic backdrop. The backdrop continues eastwards to encompass the high hills of Snowdonia, giving the SCA a very strong sense of place, especially when viewed from the sea. Ynys Llanddwyn dominates the horizon to the west, and the hillfort of Dinas Dinlle is a landmark at the southern edge of the SCA. The entrance of the Menai Strait has long been of strategic importance, and the SCA contains defensive structures from prehistoric, Roman, post-Medieval and modern periods.</p>
28	<p>North-east of Anglesey This SCA is characterised by sedimentary seabed deposits of sand, gravel and mixed sediment. The water depth is generally 15 – 50m, and the seabed slopes gently offshore. The SCA is used for commercial fishing including scallop dredging and trawling, and also as a</p>

	<p>waiting area for large vessels waiting for pilot boats into Liverpool ports. These large vessels are a characteristic feature of this SCA. There are also many wrecks, including wartime losses.</p> <p>Moving northwards, the coastline of Anglesey becomes difficult to see, but the mountains of Snowdonia remain visible on the southern horizon. The Isle of Man is visible northwards in clear conditions, and the Cumbrian Fells may also be seen to the north-east.</p>
29	<p>North of Anglesey</p> <p>This is a relatively deep sea environment, scoured by the tidal currents which flow parallel to the coast. The majority of the SCA comprises a deep water, high energy environment, with coarse sediments on the sea bed. In the north of the SCA, away from the strongest currents, the energy of the marine environment is reduced.</p> <p>The seabed in the northern part of this SCA contains a preserved glacial drumlin field similar to that seen on the north-west coast of Anglesey, suggesting that at the time of glaciation the two areas were under similar environmental conditions. It is likely that drumlins in the southern part of this SCA have been scoured away by tidal currents.</p> <p>The SCA is used for commercial and recreational fishing, and for commercial shipping lanes offshore. There are many wrecks reflecting its important use as a shipping route. From close to shore, the northern coast of Anglesey is visible as a series of headlands and bays. However, the coast is relatively low-lying and recedes from view fairly quickly. Some higher peaks (e.g. Snowdonia) remain visible on the horizon. The Isle of Man and Cumbrian Fells are visible to the north and the north-east in clear conditions.</p>
30	<p>North-west of Anglesey</p> <p>A deep water environment with an undulating and rocky sea floor, and high energy levels due to the tidal currents which flow parallel to the coast.</p> <p>The southern part of the SCA is used as the route for Holyhead- Dublin ferries, and by ships entering the port of Holyhead. There are many wrecks within the SCA, representing a rich maritime heritage. Fishing in the areas is generally limited to longlining and whelk potting. The skerries and their lighthouse are prominent features to the east of the SCA, and the Isle of Man is visible on the northern horizon in clear conditions. The lights and breakwaters of Holyhead Harbour are visible to the south-east. Holyhead Mountain is a prominent landmark and remains visible from a considerable distance out to sea.</p>
31	<p>West of Anglesey</p> <p>In the eastern part of the SCA the seabed is a rocky, moderate energy environment. Further offshore the seabed becomes deeper, and more dominated by sediment, although patches of rock remain. The coastline inland of this SCA is treacherous, containing many offshore rocks, and the patterns of wrecks reflect this. The South Stack lighthouse is located just to the east of the SCA boundary.</p> <p>Holyhead Mountain is a prominent landmark onshore, and gives a strong sense of place and orientation. There is a long and continuing tradition of maritime communications, particularly with Ireland, and the SCA is used by commercial shipping, passenger ferries, and by a variety of fishing vessels.</p>

32	<p>Caernarfon Bay</p> <p>The seafloor of this SCA is dominated by shallow sand, deepening further offshore. There are also pockets of coarse sediment, and (close to the coast off Aberffraw) an area of rocky seabed. The SCA is exposed to south-westerly waves, although the Llyn Peninsula provides some shelter to the south.</p> <p>This area of sea is used for trawling, scallop dredging and potting. It is a bay with a relatively enclosed feel, and land visible on three sides: Anglesey to the north, Snowdonia to the east, and the Llyn Peninsula to the south.</p> <p>Caernarfon Bay has seen military activity from WW1 onwards, including the loss of the H5 submarine in 1918, a site which has recently been given war grave status. The SCA contains numerous other wrecks, including the Caernarvon Bay Lightship.</p>
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4.0 Seascape Character Areas

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 1:

CONWY ESTUARY

Component LCAs: Not Available

Location and Context

The Conwy Estuary SCA lies in the extreme east of the study area, and to the east of Snowdonia National Park. It extends along the floor of the Vale of Conwy to just north of Llanwrst in the south (the tidal limit of the river Conwy) and north as far as Conwy rail bridge. SCA 2: Conwy Bay lies to the north and north-west, but there is no sea coast to this SCA.



The Conwy Estuary as seen from near Caer Rhun. Note the sinuous river channel, extensive reed beds, and the steep, wooded surrounding hills which form the setting to the SCA. In the foreground are the earthworks of Canovium Roman Fort. Image © Fiona Fyfe

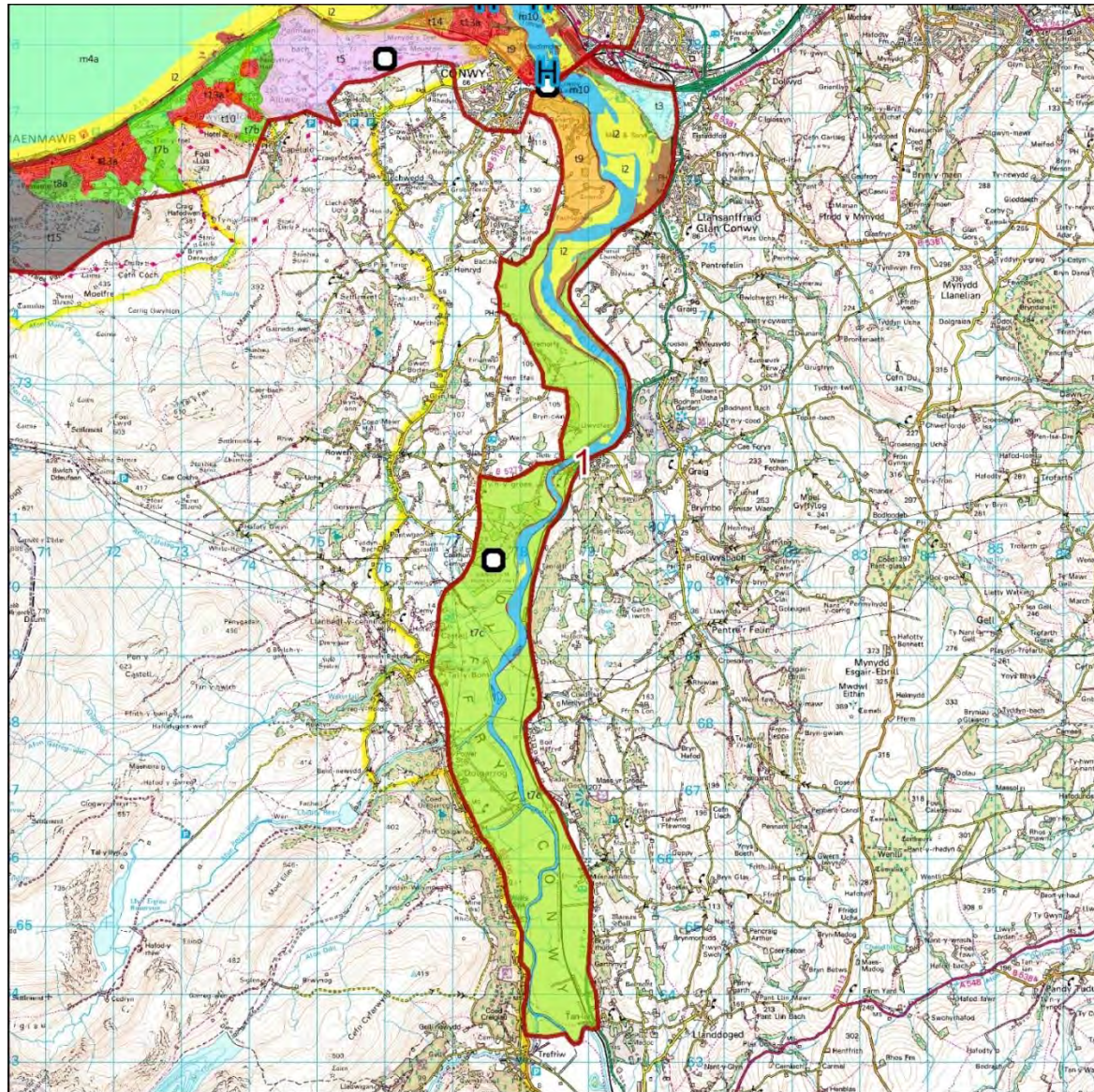
Summary Description

The Conwy valley runs inland from the coast, surrounded on both sides by high wooded hills, which frame views along the valley and act as a dramatic backdrop to the valley floor landscape. The valley has a long history of use as a communications route, and road and rail links still follow the valley. The railway line from Llandudno to Betws-y-coed follows the sinuous course of the river, which winds serenely through reed beds, mud flats and sand banks, continuously changing with the tide and surrounded by lowland pastures and woodlands. Further south the river is lined with pastoral grazing marshes and wetland trees, and surrounded by steep, wooded valley sides. Conwy and

Llandudno are visible looking north from the northern part of the SCA, giving it a much busier feel. Thomas Telford's Conwy Suspension Bridge and the adjacent tubular railway bridge are key landmarks across the river between Llandudno Junction and Conwy. In views upstream from the bridges, the river appears to flow from the mountains of Snowdonia.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

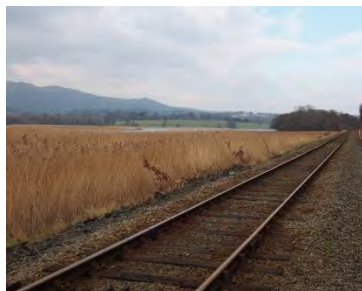
Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Conwy Valley SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Underlain by relatively soft and easily eroded Silurian grits.
- A wide, flat-bottomed valley which gradually broadens towards its mouth and follows the winding course of the river. Surrounding hills become steeper inland and contain a series of tumbling rivers and streams.
- Channel of tidal Conwy River flows in a series of meanders which increase in size towards the mouth of the river. It is swiftly-flowing, with notable tidal currents up and down river.
- Land uses dominated by valley floor grazing land and reed beds, with fields divided by reens (ditches). Also used as a transport corridor (road and rail) but with little boat traffic on the river itself. Some parkland and woodland on valley sides.
- Extensive wetland habitats, including reed beds, wet grassland, wet woodland and riparian trees.
- Contrast between flat upper part of valley surrounded by steep, wooded rocky slopes, and lower (northern) part of the SCA where the widening river estuary meanders between rolling wooded and pasture-covered hills.
- Onshore historic and cultural features include Canovium Roman fort and Roman roads, 14th Century St Mary's Church, Maenan Abbey, and buildings and structures associated with the railway.
- Historic and cultural features directly related to the river include a former dock near Caer Rhun Hall, and disused wells and baths to the north of Trefriw.
- Very little settlement within the valley floor, but occasional valley-side villages (near crossing points) and scattered farms. Settlement to the north creates a busier feel.
- Varied textures and colours on valley floor, especially in tidal channels and areas of extensive reedbeds.
- Surrounding hills (including those of Snowdonia National Park to the west) create a distinctive and dramatic landscape setting. They frame views along the river valley and also create a strong sense of enclosure, particularly in the southern part of the SCA.



Northern part of the Conwy Estuary, looking north towards Conwy and Deganwy.

Image ©Fiona Fyfe

Railway line running alongside extensive reed beds with parkland beyond.

Image ©Fiona Fyfe

View from Cadair Ifan woods showing Conwy river running between flat pastures, and steep valley sides. Image ©John Briggs

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Exploring	Relaxation	Cultural	Informal	Religious
Ecotourism	Exercise	Natural	Formal	Spiritual

Natural Influences and sites

- Strong influence of geology and past glacial processes in shaping the landform.
- Continuing fluvial processes and dynamic river environment with swift-flowing tidal currents (both up and down stream) and high volumes of suspended sediment.
- Extensive wetlands and intertidal habitats, particularly in the north of the SCA. Dyffryn Conwy, Afon Conwy and Benarth Wood designated SSSI.
- Local Nature Reserve to the south of Llandudno Junction.

Cultural Influences and sites

- Past embanking of river (in southern parts of SCA) and drainage of valley floor for use as farmland.
- Canovium Roman Fort constructed at junction of east-west and north-south routes. Part of fort later used as site of St Mary's church and graveyard.
- Maenan Abbey a powerful ecclesiastical site pre-dissolution. Monks were moved here by Edward I, so he could construct Conwy castle on the site of their original abbey.
- Railway stations, crossings etc. retaining their original appearance.
- Historic riverside sites including disused docks, wells and baths.
- Head of water from top of valley side used for hydro-electricity generation and the former aluminium works at Dolgarrog.
- Late 19th and early 20th Century steamer cruises up the estuary from Deganwy required regular dredging of the river channel.

Perceptual Qualities

- Views framed and channelled by surrounding hills, creating a relatively enclosed feel despite the width of the valley.
- A calm and serene landscape, with the river a constant presence within a balanced landscape composition. Cars on main roads (at edges of SCA) and occasional trains add movement.

Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment

- Diverse patterns, textures and colours formed by reeds, mudflats, grazing marsh, water and trees.
- A settled landscape with human influences throughout (roads, railway line, pylons etc.). However, it is generally a peaceful and calm landscape, although the main road does have a strong localised impact on the sense of tranquillity.
- Surrounding hills create a dramatic setting, and influence the character of the SCA. To the west, the forested valley sides and seasonally snowy summits have an Alpine quality. Parkland (Bodnant estate) to the east of the SCA has a more designed and verdant feel. The SCA is also an important feature in views from surrounding hills.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change						
Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use
Small-scale settlement expansion and possible future road upgrades.							
Redevelopment of former aluminium works at Dolgarrog.							
Changes in agricultural and land management affecting the character of the valley and its associated habitats.							
Seasonal increases in traffic volumes.							
Development outside the SCA affecting its setting.							
Natural estuarine and fluvial processes, including seasonal and tidal flooding, channel formation and sediment deposition. Flood risk would be increased by sea level rise, with the limit of normal tidal flooding extending further upstream.							
Welsh Language							
Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views							
Rural agricultural communities and their associated features							
Richness of habitats and biodiversity							
Cultural heritage							
Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness							
Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment							
Geology and geomorphological features							
Islands							
Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens							
Soil, air and water quality							
Key		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality					

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	Low-lying landform with sensitive coastal wetland habitats.	Estuary floor has little intervisibility with the sea due to intervening landform.
Existing development	Existing development limited to northern edge of SCA; elsewhere, SCA has an undeveloped quality. Historic character of adjacent Conwy town, including bridges and castle.	Presence of Conwy, Deganwy and other settlements in views from northern part of SCA.
The visual experience	SCA seen against scenic backdrop of high, dramatic hills. Users of Wales Coast Path crossing Conwy Bridge are sensitive receptors. Landscape appreciated from river, roads, railway and publicly accessible conservation sites. Highly visible in views from surrounding hills, and from Bodnant gardens.	
Tranquillity	A peaceful and calm feel to the valley floor, particularly away from main roads.	Impacts of existing development (in northern part of SCA), main roads at periphery and occasional trains.

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 2:

CONWY BAY

Component LCAs (Snowdonia): Northern Uplands

Location and Context

This SCA lies in the north-east of the study area, to the north of Snowdonia National Park. It includes the eastern part of Conwy Bay (including an extensive intertidal area), the mouth of the Conwy estuary and the surrounding coast. The town of Llandudno is in the east of the SCA, Conwy is in the south and Penmaenmawr is in the west. The Great Orme headland frames the SCA to the east and north-east. To the west is SCA3 Traeth Lafan, Western Conwy Bay, to the south SCA 1 Conwy Estuary and to the north SCA 28 North-east of Anglesey.



Conwy Bay, Llandudno and Great Orme as seen from Conwy Mountain. Image ©Fiona Fyfe

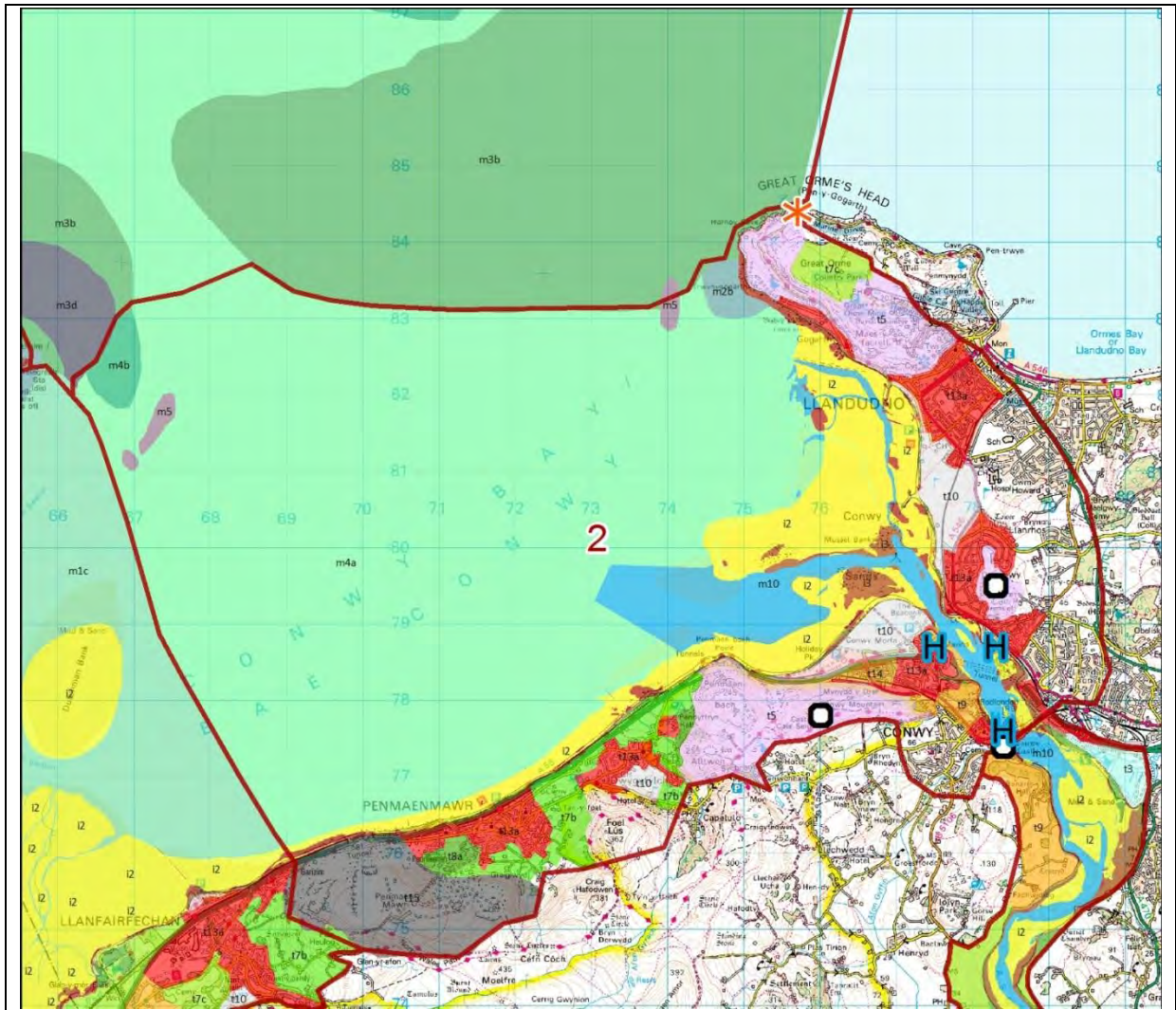
Summary Description

This is a busy and varied area with a long history of settlement and tourism, and magnificent views both inland and over Conwy Bay with its wide sands and intertidal habitats. The high land surrounding the SCA (including Great Orme headland and Conwy mountain) creates a dramatic and distinctive backdrop and a strong sense of place. Views of the seascape are framed by Great Orme to the east and (more distantly) Puffin Island to the west. A variety of settlements are set against the high ground of the Great Orme and Conwy Mountain. These include the medieval walled town

of Conwy with its castle and bridge, the industrial village of Penmaenmawr with its terraces of houses, and modern marina development at Deganwy. This is a popular tourist area, and contains fine examples of Victorian seaside tourism development, including the resort of Llandudno West Shore with its esplanade, and the development of the Great Orme with various attractions including a tramway to the summit cafe. More recent tourism developments have included golf courses, caravan parks and recreational boating facilities; the latter give a busy feel to the lower part of the Conwy Estuary.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Eastern Conwy Bay SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Varied underlying geology, including Carboniferous limestone (Great Orme), Ordovician igneous rocks (Conwy Mountain) and softer Ordovician sedimentary rocks forming lower-lying areas.
- Shallow bay ringed by high hills, including Conwy Mountain to the south, and limestone headland of Great Orme to the east. Lower land around Llandudno emphasises height and profile of Great Orme.
- Where the high mountainous topography of Snowdonia meets the sea, tumbling dramatically down to sea level and requiring tunnels through the headlands for coastal transport routes.
- Extensive intertidal area around estuary mouth, with dynamic sediment processes. Great Orme headland exposed to full force of sea, especially in northerly wind conditions.
- Land/ sea uses include transport (road, rail and boat), tourism, settlement, coastal heath/ grassland, farmland, quarrying, and recreational boating.
- Very extensive intertidal and shallow marine habitats. Also elevated coastal heath (Conwy Mountain) and coastal grassland (Great Orme).
- Many onshore historic and cultural features reflecting the area's long history of settlement, defence (including Conwy Castle) and 19th Century tourism.
- Offshore historic and cultural features include historic harbours/ quaysides (e.g. Conwy) and more modern marinas (e.g. Deganwy) and channel beacons.
- A very long history of settlement, including Iron Age and Roman occupation, the Medieval fortified town of Conwy, Victorian seaside development at Llandudno West Shore, and more recent development.
- Visually varied, with contrasting textures and colours of water, intertidal areas, coastal heath/ grassland and towns. Area has a busy feel, especially in summer.
- Distinctive hills forming landscape setting provide dramatic backdrop and strong sense of place, as well as sense of enclosure.
- Seascape setting framed by Great Orme to east and Puffin Island in distance to west.



Great Orme and Esplanade at Llandudno West Shore.

Image © Fiona Fyfe



View across the lower part of Conwy Estuary from Conwy to Deganwy. Image ©Fiona Fyfe



Conwy Castle and bridges.

Image ©Fiona Fyfe

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Watersports	Relaxation	Cultural	Informal	Spiritual
Exploring	Exercise	Natural	Formal	Religious
Active				
Ecotourism				
Beach				

Natural Influences and sites

- Meeting point between Snowdonia Mountains and the Irish sea. Carneddau range tumbles dramatically into the sea making coastal land travel very difficult but spectacular, with road and rail tunnels and bridges.
- Varied geology enabling diverse habitats within a relatively small area. E.g. Great Orme Coastal Grassland (SSSI and SAC grazed by herd of distinctive Kashmir goats) and Conwy Mountain coastal heathland with land cover of heather and bilberry. Sychnant Pass, Bwlch Mine, Chwareli a Glaswellt Deganwy and Cadnant designated SSSI.
- Limestone cliffs of the Great Orme host a variety of birds including Guillemot, Razorbill, Kittiwake, Fulmar and Peregrine. Grey Seals haul out on the rocky beaches. Great Orme is the largest headland on the North Wales mainland coast. RIGS sites at Great Orme and Great Orme head.
- Extensive intertidal habitats at mouth of Conwy Estuary designated SSSI (Aber Afon Conwy). Conwy river channel also designated SAC; wider Conwy Bay designated SAC and SPA. Flat sands run up to bases of steep headlands.
- Sheltered bay with low energy from waves. Residual currents flow into the bay from the north west, and turn both west into the Menai Strait via the Penmaen Swatch between the Lavan Sands and Dutchman Bank, and east towards the Great Orme before leaving the bay to the north east.
- Shallow mobile sand habitat covers most of the seabed and features active bedforms such as sand waves and megaripples. Muddier sediment is found in the eastern reaches of the SCA. Subtidal limestone reef along the west of the Great Orme colonised by anemones, hydroids and sponges.

- Estuary mouth features shifting sand banks and has a freshwater influence from the river Conwy. . Accretion of sand at Conwy Morfa, and at Llandudno west shore (where intervention actively encourages the build-up of sediment). Protection of soft coast by rock groynes/ armour e.g. Penmaenmawr.
- Migratory salmon and trout pass through these waters on their way to and from the river Conwy.

Cultural Influences and sites

- Defensive Sites include Caer Seion Iron-Age Hillfort at the summit of Conwy Mountain, Deganwy Castle, and the magnificent castle and town walls at Conwy (both Scheduled Monuments and UNESCO World Heritage Sites) built by Edward I. The SCA (together with SCA 1) provides the setting for these World Heritage Sites).
- Conwy contains many historic buildings, including Plas Mawr Elizabethan house (Scheduled Monument) and its historic harbour and quay at the mouth of the River Conwy. The town centre is a Conservation Area, as is Penmaenmawr. Gogarth Grange on south side of Great Orme was 13th century Bishop's Palace.
- Popular beaches, and an outstanding example of Victorian seaside development at Llandudno West Shore including hotels, guesthouses, esplanade and paddling pool (within Conservation Area). Immediately to the north of Llandudno, Great Orme was developed for recreation, including a tramway to the summit cafe, and construction of the 'Marine Drive' around the headland. Great Orme Headland designated Heritage Coast.
- Historic charts show three approaches to Conwy Harbour, with a traditional anchorage off the South Deep where vessels waited for the right tidal conditions to move into the river.
- Remains of Bronze-Age and post-Medieval copper mining on Great Orme. More recent quarry works at Penmaenmawr (still operational) visible as levels and inclines on mountainside.
- Historic intertidal fishing industry, with a Medieval stone fishtrap associated with Gogarth Abbey on the eastern side of the bay, a mussel fishery on the south side near Conwy Marsh, and traces of wooden stake fishtraps in the intertidal zone.
- Important transport-related sites, including Stephenson's crenellated tubular railway bridge and Telford's suspension bridge over the River Conwy, A55 road tunnels, and harbours/ marinas.
- Documentary records of shipwrecks, with losses either foundering in the bay or running aground. Wreck of the *Flying Foam* visible in the intertidal area on the eastern side of the bay.
- Partially within Snowdonia National Park

Perceptual Qualities

- From elevated viewpoints, area appears as expansive and large scale with panoramic views. From within towns and the bay itself, landform creates a more enclosed feel
- Varied and uses, and a busy feel in much of the area, but this is balanced by the strong landscape and seascape setting.
- Curved sweep of bay contrasts with more angular form of surrounding hills. Varied textures and patterns from water, sand, towns, heathland, grassland, caravan parks, etc. Seasonal colour from coastal heath and summer tourist development.
- A generally busy and developed area, and a popular holiday destination. However, most places have views to natural features such as the sea and surrounding mountains, which influence perceptions of the area.
- Rugged higher land has a sense of relative wildness, remoteness and detachment from the urban areas below, but this is reduced by traffic noise, movement and lighting.

- High land close to the coast (within and outside the Study Area) is very important to the setting of the SCA and adds to its strong sense of place.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change														
<p>Development pressure around main settlements and transport routes. Noise and lighting from A55 detracts from many sections as it runs close to the sea. Together with the railway, it cuts off Penmaenmawr and Dywyfylchi from the sea front, except for limited crossing points.</p> <p>Visitor pressure around popular tourist sites, including Llandudno west shore, Great Orme, Conwy, and waterside development at Deganwy. Variety of recreation demands including golf courses and facilities for water-based recreation.</p> <p>Development outside the SCA affecting its setting and views.</p> <p>Potential changes in land management (particularly grazing regimes) affecting coastal heath and grassland habitats.</p> <p>Operational offshore wind farm in Colwyn Bay visible from high land.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use							
	Welsh Language														
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views.														
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features														
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity														
	Cultural heritage														
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness														
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment														
	Geology and geomorphological features														
	Islands														
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens														
	Soil, air and water quality														
	Key	Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality													
<p>Natural coastal processes, including sediment drift towards the mouth of the Conwy estuary, and build-up of sediment at Conwy Morfa and Llandudno west shore.</p>															
<p>Risk of flooding of low-lying land at Conwy Morfa, Llandudno and Llandudno Junction exacerbated by sea level rise.</p>															

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>Views out to sea framed by headlands (Great Orme and Puffin Island).</p> <p>High land close to the coast forms a distinctive coastal backdrop and skyline.</p> <p>Steeply sloping cliffs form natural rocky shoreline and associated habitats around Great Orme.</p> <p>Sensitive coastal habitats in extensive inter-tidal areas.</p>	
Existing development	Historic character of existing settlements (Medieval, Victorian and industrial).	Presence of existing development within the SCA, including towns and caravan parks.
The visual experience	<p>High land to south and headland/ cliffs to east are very prominent in coastal views, contributing to the character and visual qualities of the SCA.</p> <p>Users of Wales Coast Path are sensitive receptors.</p> <p>Highly visible in views from surrounding hills.</p>	<p>Seafront development, golf courses etc. create recreational character in some parts of SCA.</p> <p>Built development and night lighting (including lighting associated with transport routes) along coast.</p>
Tranquillity	Relatively high levels of tranquillity on elevated land in south of SCA.	<p>Busy holiday destination, with seasonal reductions in tranquillity due to numbers of visitors.</p> <p>Impacts of existing development, main roads (including A55) and occasional trains.</p>

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 3:

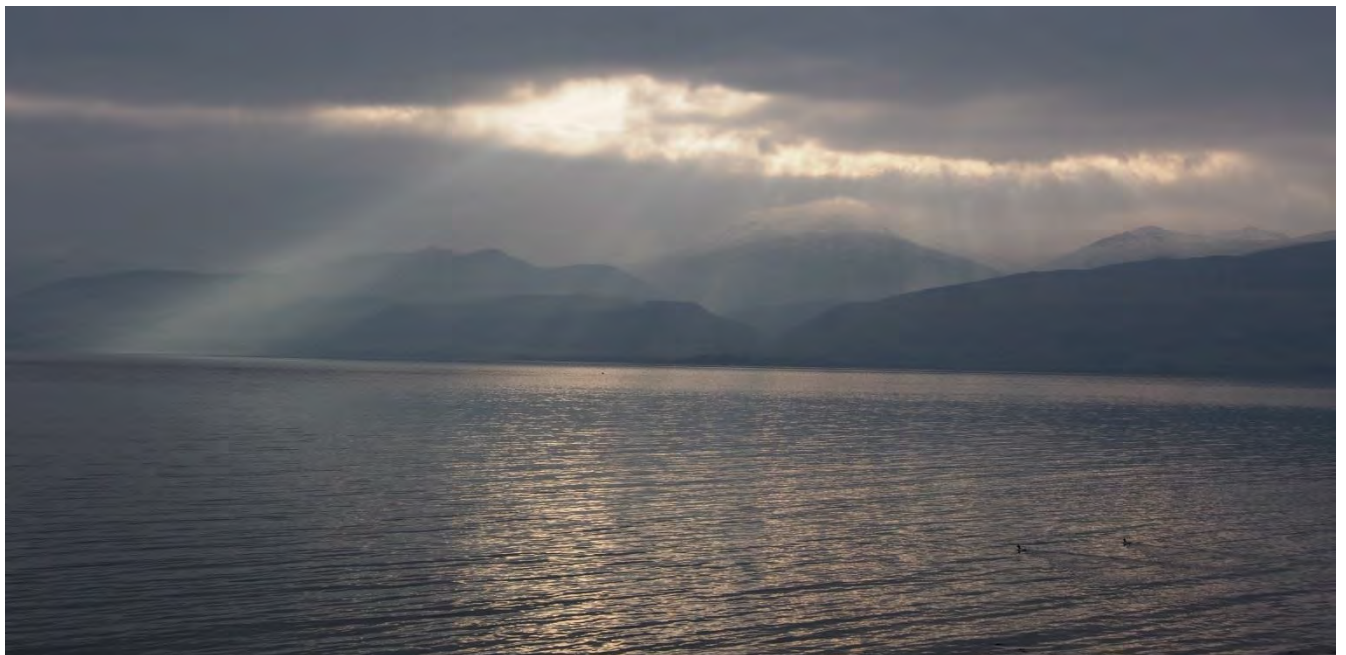
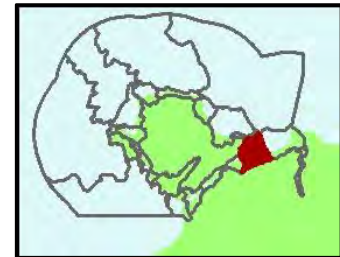
TRAETH LAFAN

Component LCAs (Gwynedd): Bangor Coastal Plain

Component LCAs (Anglesey): Eastern Menai Strait; Penmon and Puffin Island

Location and Context

This SCA encompasses the western part of Conwy Bay, including the area where the Menai Strait opens into Conwy Bay, parts of the eastern coast of Anglesey (including the town of Beaumaris) the northern coast of the Mainland between Llanfairfechan and Penrhyn, and the extensive intertidal sand and mud flats of Traeth Lafan. SCA 2: Conwy Bay lies to the east, and SCA 4: Menai Strait lies to the south-west. To the north-west is SCA 5: Penmon (which includes Puffin Island). SCA 28: North-east of Anglesey lies to seaward.



The Mountains of Snowdonia as seen across Traeth Lafan from Beaumaris.

Image © Fiona Fyfe

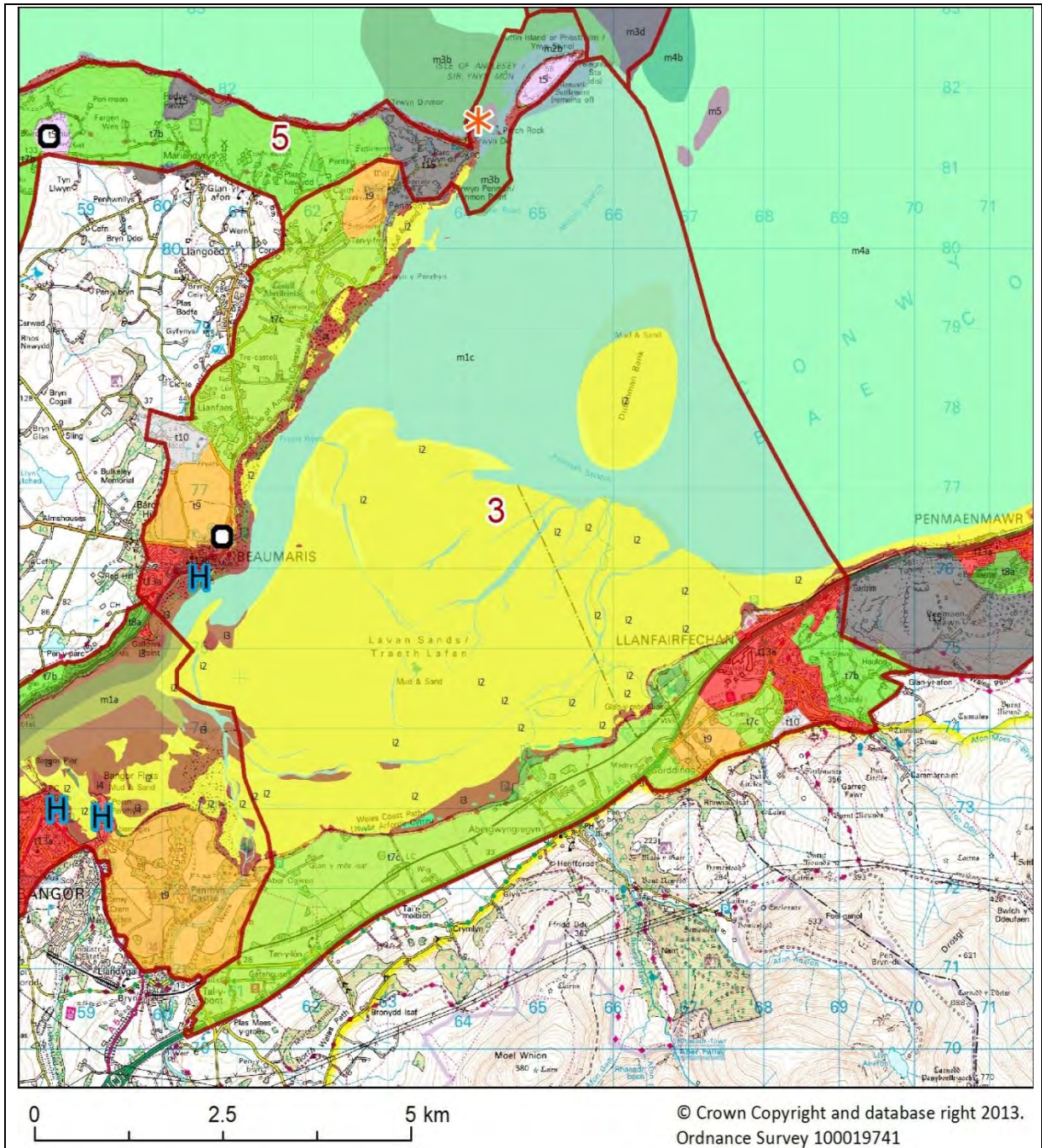
Summary Description

Spectacular landscapes and seascapes create magnificent views within this SCA. Foreground views are dominated by the expanse of Traeth Lafan, with its constantly changing patterns and colours depending on tides and light conditions. The Snowdonia mountains form a grand backdrop to views across the Bay when seen from Anglesey. Views seawards are framed by Puffin Island to the west, and (more distantly) the headland of Great Orme to the east. Coastal settlements including Beaumaris and Llanfairfechan reflect the area's long importance for defence, religion, settlement and transport. Prior to the construction of Telford's suspension bridge across the Menai Strait in

1826, one means of reaching Anglesey was via a tidal causeway across Lafan sands to the Beaumaris ferry.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Traeth Lafan SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Geology primarily of Ordovician mudstone and siltstone, with an outcrop of harder igneous rock at the eastern edge of the SCA.
- Relatively low-lying coastal landform (except in the extreme east of the SCA). Shallow bathymetry within Bay, with extensive tidal mud and sand flats (Traeth Lafan).
- Land uses very varied, including several settlements, harbours, farmland, woodland and parkland. Sea uses include recreation and commercial mussel fishing.
- Extensive intertidal sand and mudflats, with a shoreline of cobbles, boulders and muddy gravels. Woodland and parkland habitats onshore.
- Numerous onshore historic and cultural features reflecting the SCA's long history of settlement, defence, transport and religion, including Beaumaris Castle and Penmon Priory.
- Offshore historic and cultural features the harbour and pier at Beaumaris and the site of the former causeway across Traeth Lafan.
- A settled area, including towns of Beaumaris, and Llanfairfechan, as well as scattered farms and hamlets.
- Views dominated by the open expanse of Conwy Bay, its colours and textures continually changing in response to weather and tidal conditions, and numerous boats.
- Land rises very steeply behind the Study Area in the eastern part of the SCA. Mountains of Snowdonia form a magnificent landscape setting, particularly when seen across Conwy Bay. Precipitous hill at Penmaenmawr drops steeply into the sea and visually separates this SCA from SCA 2 to the east.
- Puffin island a key feature of the seascape setting in views north, with Great Orme a more distant feature to the east.



Intertidal sand at Traeth Lafan as seen from the coastal railway line. Image © Fiona Fyfe



Beaumaris town and pier. Image © John Briggs



Traeth Lafan from Crymlyn, northern Snowdonia. Image © John Briggs

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Active	Relaxation	Cultural	Informal	Spiritual
Exploring	Exercise	Natural	Formal	Religious
Watersports				
Beach				

Natural Influences and sites

- Extensive intertidal habitats in Conwy Bay. Traeth Lafan (designated Nature Reserve) is a wide expanse of sediment, muddy at the back of the shore and becoming increasingly sandy towards the low-tide mark.
- Importance of habitats shown in level of designations: Extensive SSSI (Glannau Penmon-Biwmares) and SAC on Anglesey coast; Traeth Lafan designated SSSI, SPA and SAC. Outer Conwy Bay designated SPA. SSSI at Baron Hill Park.
- Nature Reserve at Morfa Madryn on salt marshes to the west of Llanfairfechan. Provides habitats for cormorants, shags and the little egret.
- RIGS sites at Beaumaris cliff and drumlin, Beaumaris (Salop), Trwyn Penrhyn and Aberlleiniog.
- Marine environment comprises a tidal strait and associated ebb tidal delta. The navigable tidal channel flows close to the Anglesey coastline. Sand banks of Traeth Lafan and Dutchman Bank represent a navigational hazard.
- The south western reaches of the SCA experience the strongest tidal currents where the channel is narrowest. Towards the northeast more gravel and sand can be found, with the finer sediment occurring to the south away from the main channel.
- Current direction in eastern reaches of SCA generally rotates clockwise through the tidal cycle.
- A variety of important habitats, including sheltered muddy gravel habitat in Glannau Penmon-Biwmaris SSSI supporting a variety of bivalves, carpet shells, cockles and worms. Lower shore cobbles and boulders support sponges, anemones and sea squirts due to the tidal currents.
- Mobile bedforms include ripples and sand waves, visible on the lower shore edge of Traeth Lafan.

Cultural Influences and sites

- Beaumaris Castle (Scheduled Monument and UNESCO World Heritage Site) Built by Edward I and an outstanding example of medieval Welsh castle building, surrounded by an attractive planned town (designated Conservation Area). Its name comes from the French for “beautiful marshes”. Also the earthworks of a motte and bailey castle at Castell Aberlleiniog.
- Religious sites include Penmon Priory and Cross (Scheduled Monument). Also the site of a former Franciscan friary in Llanfaes north of Beaumaris (recorded in placename of Fryars)parts of which were still recorded as in existence in 1855.
- Included in Register of Welsh Historic Landscapes (Area 33: Penmon; Area 30: North Arllechwedd).
- Estates of Henllys and Baron Hill north of Beaumaris, and their associated extensive parkland.
- 19th Century coastal tourist development at Llanfairfechan seafront (Conservation Area).
- Tradition of Shipbuilding at Gallows Point, Beaumaris. Beaumaris is also the registration port of

all vessels from North-west Wales, and the home of the Royal Anglesey Yacht Club.

- Former causeway crossing of Traeth Lafan between Abergwyngregyn and the Beaumaris ferry. Llanfaes was a royal township (maerdref) which controlled the northernmost ferry landing. In 1254 Llanfaes church was the richest in Anglesey. Flying boats built and repaired on site of old friary by Saunders-Roe during WW11.
- Evidence of historical fishing activity in the form of fish traps (goradau) at Trecastell Bay.
- Traditional anchorages off Beaumaris, the Outer Road off Penmon, and the entrance to the Penmaen Swatch Channel (south of Dutchman Bank). Beaumaris Pier was the landing stage for steamer services, and the old customs house stands prominently on the Green.
- Wrecks include the *Rothsay Castle* on the Dutchman Bank, and ships carrying 550 troops to Ireland in 1625.
- The UK's biggest mussel fishery is located within this SCA, producing 7-10,000 tonnes of mussels per year (up to 75% of the UK's production).
- Periodic periwinkle collection along the coast from Beaumaris, and cockle harvesting on Traeth Lafan.
- Partially within Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- Visually dominated by Conwy Bay, with open views across the bay contrasting with the sense of dramatic enclosure created by surrounding mountains.
- Textures, patterns and colours affected by tides, weather conditions and intertidal environments.
- Quiet, open and extensive flats at Traeth Lafan Bird Reserve have sense of tranquillity. Patterns of sand and mud banks have a wild quality.
- Sense of movement (people, boats and traffic) throughout much of the area). Settlements and main roads influence parts of the SCA, and the associated noise, movement and lighting locally reduces the perception of remoteness and tranquillity. However the large-scale mountain backdrop balances this and introduces a wilder element into views.
- The profiles and seaward slopes of the mountains of Snowdonia to the south of Conwy Bay (outside the Study Area) are an integral part of the setting of this SCA, contributing to its sense of scale and grandeur, and to its sense of place.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change								
<p>Development pressure in coastal settlements, and ongoing improvements to transport routes.</p> <p>Visitor pressure in popular tourist locations including Beaumaris castle and Llanfairfechan seafront.</p> <p>Potential changes to land and agricultural management affecting coastal landscape character and habitats.</p> <p>Increased commercial and recreational use of water (e.g. mussel fishing).</p> <p>Potential development outside the SCA (particularly ridgeline developments) affecting the skyline and setting of the SCA.</p> <p>Natural coastal processes, including a tidally-dominated north-eastern wave pattern, and movement of sediment by waves and tides towards the Menai Strait.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use	
	Welsh Language								
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views								
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features								
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity								
	Cultural heritage								
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness								
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment								
	Geology and geomorphological features								
	Islands								
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens								
	Soil, air and water quality								
	Key	Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality							
	Flood risk to low-lying coastal settlements (e.g. Beaumaris and Llanfairfechan) and transport corridors (A55 and railway line) exacerbated by sea level rise.								

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>Views out to sea framed by headlands (Puffin Island and Great Orme)</p> <p>High hills inland form a magnificent backdrop and skyline to views.</p> <p>Sensitive coastal habitats in extensive inter-tidal areas.</p>	
Existing development	<p>Historic character of settlements, including Beaumaris with its associated Medieval castle.</p>	<p>Presence of existing settlements and roads, including the A55 to the south of Lafan sands.</p>
The visual experience	<p>Setting and associated hills and skylines contribute to character and high scenic quality of SCA.</p> <p>Highly visible in views from surrounding hills.</p> <p>Users of Wales Coast Path and Traeth Lafan Nature Reserve are sensitive receptors.</p> <p>A soft coastal fringe for much of the SCA, comprising farmland, parkland, woodland etc.</p>	<p>Recreational uses on land and water influence the character of parts of the SCA.</p>
Tranquillity	<p>Quiet, open and extensive sand flats at Traeth Lavan. Bird reserve at eastern end.</p>	<p>Busy holiday destination, with seasonal reductions in tranquillity due to numbers of visitors.</p> <p>Impacts of existing development, roads (including A55) and occasional trains.</p>

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 4:

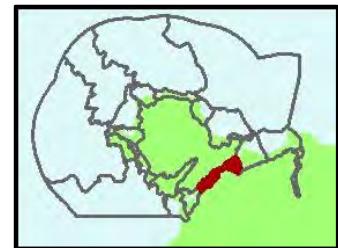
MENAI STRAIT

Component LCAs (Gwynedd): Bangor Coastal Plain; Menai Coast

Component LCAs (Anglesey): Eastern Menai Strait; Western Menai Strait

Location and Context

This SCA is composed of the channel of the Menai Strait (which separates the Island of Anglesey from the mainland of North Wales), and the land on either side. It includes the University town of Bangor, and smaller settlements including Menai Bridge and Y Felinheli. The Menai rail and road bridges are significant man-made features within the LCA. To the north and north-east (beyond Gallows point and the eastern edge of Penrhyn castle) is SCA 3: Traeth Lafan, and to the south west is SCA 17 Caernarfon.



Aerial photograph of the Menai Strait looking north, showing both bridges (Britannia bridge in foreground), the rocky islands of the Swellies, and estate parkland and woodland surrounding the Strait. Image © Rohan Holt

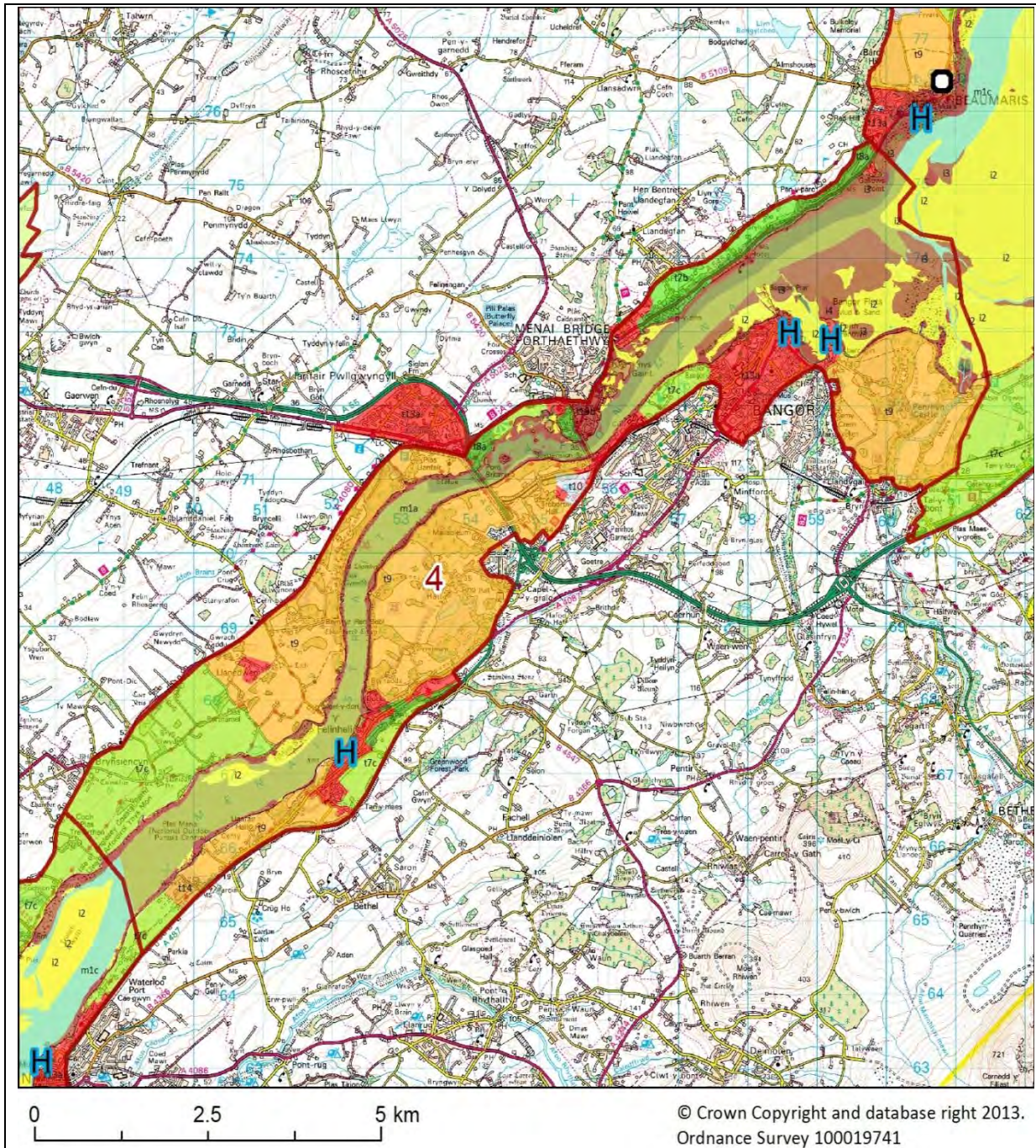
Summary Description

The SCA is centred on the narrow, tidal channel which forms the central part of the Menai Strait. It is visually dominated by the two 19th Century Menai Bridges: Telford's Suspension Bridge, and Stephenson's Britannia Bridge. Both are impressive and elegant structures built high enough to accommodate sailing ships, and thereby emphasising the depth of the landform. Water flows very

fast and unpredictably through the channel, constantly changing with the state of the tides with strong currents in both directions. Around the rocky islands known as the Swellies (between the two bridges) conditions are particularly hazardous and include whirlpools. Woodland and parkland associated with country estates line the banks of the Strait, creating an enclosed, verdant and designed feel, with the house of Plas Newydd visible from the water. The high hills of Snowdonia are visible from elevated viewpoints at the western edges of the SCA. The town of Bangor, with its University buildings, cathedral and pier, gives a more developed feel to the northern part of the SCA.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Menai Strait SCA.

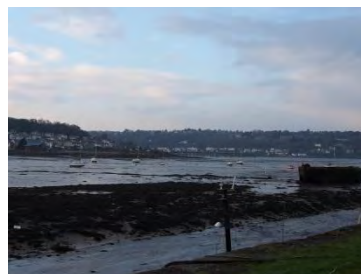
Key Characteristics

- Complex geology along boundaries of Carboniferous limestone, Pre-Cambrian and igneous rocks.
- Menai Strait occupies a glacially-eroded bedrock trough which has subsequently flooded. Surrounding landform slopes up to ridges on either side of the Strait.
- Very complex tidal patterns within the Menai Strait. Changing conditions in channel due to geological variation and sediment processes.
- Channel contains numerous small rocky islands (including the Swellies) associated with treacherous currents, eddies and whirlpools and the scene of many shipwrecks, including the Pwll Fanog.
- A wealth and complexity of habitats: one of Wales' jewels in terms of marine biodiversity. Habitats include mudflats, intertidal rocky shores, rocky islands (nationally rare) and woodland.
- Onshore historic and cultural features include prehistoric burial chambers; Vaynol Plas Newydd and Penrhyn estates (houses, gardens, parkland, estate buildings, farmland); Nelson's statue, and Bangor cathedral, town and university.
- Offshore historic and cultural features include the Menai bridges, disused fish weirs, Church Island chapel, Bangor pier, historic harbours at Port Dinorwic and Porth Penrhyn.
- Settlement and development dominated by the university town of Bangor and the town of Menai Bridge as well as country houses and associated estates. Linear village of Y Felinheli on eastern bank contains a marina and the historic Port Dinorwic harbour.
- Channel used for commercial and recreational shipping. Surrounding land used for estate parkland, farmland and settlement.
- An enclosed feel to the central section of the SCA, which is visually dominated by Menai Suspension Bridge and Britannia Bridge.
- From water level, landscape setting restricted to woodlands on valley sides. However, from higher edges of SCA, Snowdonia can be seen.
- Wider seascape setting not generally apparent from the southern part of the SCA, but view of Conwy Bay can be seen from north of Telford Bridge.



View northwards from Island near Menai Bridge.

Image © Fiona Fyfe



Bangor from Port Penrhyn.

Image © Fiona Fyfe



Intertidal habitats between islands near Menai Bridge.

Image © Fiona Fyfe

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Watersports	Relaxation	Cultural	Informal	Spiritual
Active	Exercise	Natural	Formal	Religious
Ecotourism				
Exploring				

Natural Influences and sites

- Menai Strait formed by glacial erosion of bedrock, subsequently flooded due to sea level rise.
- Menai Strait designated SAC for the variety and importance of its marine habitats. Traeth Lafan, Glannau Porthaethwy and Coedydd Afon Menai designated SSSI.
- Strong geological influences on channel patterns and processes, creating a dynamic marine environment with complex tides and currents, changing channels and active sediment processes. Intertidal muddy area around Bangor Pier.
- RIGS sites at Plas Newydd and Gallows Deep.
- Seabed is mostly tidally swept bedrock, boulders and coarse sediment hosting a rich diversity of algae and epifauna, including sponges anemones and sea squirts. Rich communities are found under boulders. Bivalves, worms and sponges bore into the limestone bedrock and the bridges.
- Net transport of water and sediment towards the south west.
- Current velocity reaches a maximum of approximately 2.5ms^{-1} near Plas Newydd and ebb velocities (towards the SW) are 10-15% stronger than flood velocities.
- Surviving buried sediments and palaeosols below modern deposits at the northern end of the Menai Strait.

Cultural Influences and sites

- Menai Bridges are iconic landmarks and essential components of road and rail networks. Northern suspension bridge (Telford Bridge) built to design by Thomas Telford in 1826. Southern tubular bridge (Britannia Bridge) built to design by Robert Stephenson in 1850. Road deck added in 1970s.
- Important estate landscapes and buildings at Vaynol Estate (east bank), Plas Newydd (west bank-owned by National Trust) and Penrhyn Castle (also National Trust) with parkland and harbour.
- Religious site of Bangor Cathedral and the associated university town, academic buildings, seafront and harbour (partially designated Conservation Area).
- Historic harbour at Port Dinorwic constructed for export of slate from Dinorwic quarries in late 18th century. (Included on Register of Welsh Historic Landscapes no. 24: Dinorwic). Porth Penrhyn also a privately owned harbour associated with slate quarries. Today, a bank of ballast is visible, which was discharged by vessels loading slate at Porth Penrhyn.
- Long history of ferry crossings before bridges were constructed. Islands were used as resting points for animals being swum across the Strait before bridges were constructed.
- Numerous Islands (some inhabited). Church Island contains 15th century church of St Tysilio. Northern islands contain former summer houses and boat houses.
- Statue of Nelson on west bank, erected after Nelson's comments to the effect that 'anyone who

can navigate the Menai Strait can join my navy’.

- Evidence of historical fishtrap on the island of Gored Goch. According to local tradition, the island supplied fresh and smoked herring to local monasteries from the Thirteenth Century. A large complex of historic salmon weirs can be seen near Porth Penrhyn.
- Water sports including sailing, kayaking and diving.
- Pwll Fanog protected wreck site. SCA is also associated with the wreck of HMS Conway, a wooden Man of War originally launched in 1839. It ran aground under tow in 1953 and was destroyed by fire in 1956. The huge mooring chains are still in situ.
- Partially within Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- From water level, an enclosed feel with wooded slopes on both sides. Upper slopes have panoramic views across Strait and landscapes beyond.
- Generally a simple and balanced landscape, with the bridges adding to the composition of views and emphasising the depth of the valley.
- Serenity of valley side estate landscapes contrast with roughness of water including the visibly quick currents and tidal rapids in the Menai Strait. Textures dominated by woodland, water and (especially at low tide) by rocky shorelines and islands.
- Wooded landform and presence of water create some sense of tranquillity, but this is reduced by traffic noise and movement, and by night lighting. Estate landscapes give a designed and pastoral quality to the views.
- The mountains of Snowdonia are important elements in the setting of the SCA, specifically in views across the Menai Strait from elevated viewpoints on the west bank.
- Seascape of Conwy Bay appreciated in views north from the Telford Bridge.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change							
<p>Development pressures associated with expansion of Bangor and other settlements. Recent development includes large-scale ridgetop buildings.</p> <p>Continued upgrades to transport systems (including lighting) and possible ‘third crossing’ of Menai Strait.</p> <p>Proposed National Grid electricity cable connection from Wylfa to Pentir crossing the Menai Strait.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy/ or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use
	Welsh Language							
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views							
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features							
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity							
	Cultural heritage							

Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment

<p>Potential changes in land and estate management (including loss of trees and woodland), impacting on the character of the banks of the SCA.</p> <p>Potential development outside the SCA (particularly ridgeline developments) affecting the skyline and setting of the SCA.</p> <p>Changes to recreational and commercial use of water (e.g. mussel fishing). Shoreline development may affect historic harbours and other cultural sites.</p> <p>Natural processes associated with tidal straits, including complex tidal forces, sediment movement and deposition, and channel abrasion.</p> <p>Risk of flooding to low-lying land and islands exacerbated by sea level rise.</p>							
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness						
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment						
	Geology and geomorphological features						
	Islands						
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens						
	Soil, air and water quality						
	Key	Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality					

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>Narrowness of landform channels the eye along it, before opening out into Conwy Bay.</p> <p>Sensitive habitats, particularly in intertidal areas along the banks of the Strait.</p> <p>A very high energy and dynamic environment, with tidal water channelled through a narrow strait.</p> <p>Steepness of valley sides means that ridge tops form sensitive skylines in views across and within the Strait.</p>	
Existing development	Historic Menai bridges are impressive landmarks, and contribute to the settings of Bangor and Menai Bridge	Existing village and shoreline development at Y Felinhenli

Anglesey Seascape Character Assessment

<p>The visual experience</p>	<p>Views from water are dominated by parkland and woodland, creating a soft, designed and undeveloped feel for much of the SCA, although it is more developed at the eastern end.</p> <p>Users of Wales Coast Path are sensitive receptors.</p> <p>Views from elevated land and bridges encompass water, parkland and high hills beyond.</p>	
<p>Tranquillity</p>	<p>Parkland surroundings of shoreline and water-based views.</p>	<p>Impacts of main roads, traffic and lighting.</p>

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 5:

PENMON

Component LCAs (Anglesey): Penmon and Puffin Island

Location and Context

This SCA is situated in the east of Anglesey, on the north-facing coast between Puffin Island and Red Wharf Bay, and includes the village of Penmon and Puffin Island itself. It is bounded by SCA3: Traeth Lafan to the south, and adjoins SCA 6 Red Wharf to Moelfre to the west. SCA 28 North-east of Anglesey, is to the north east.



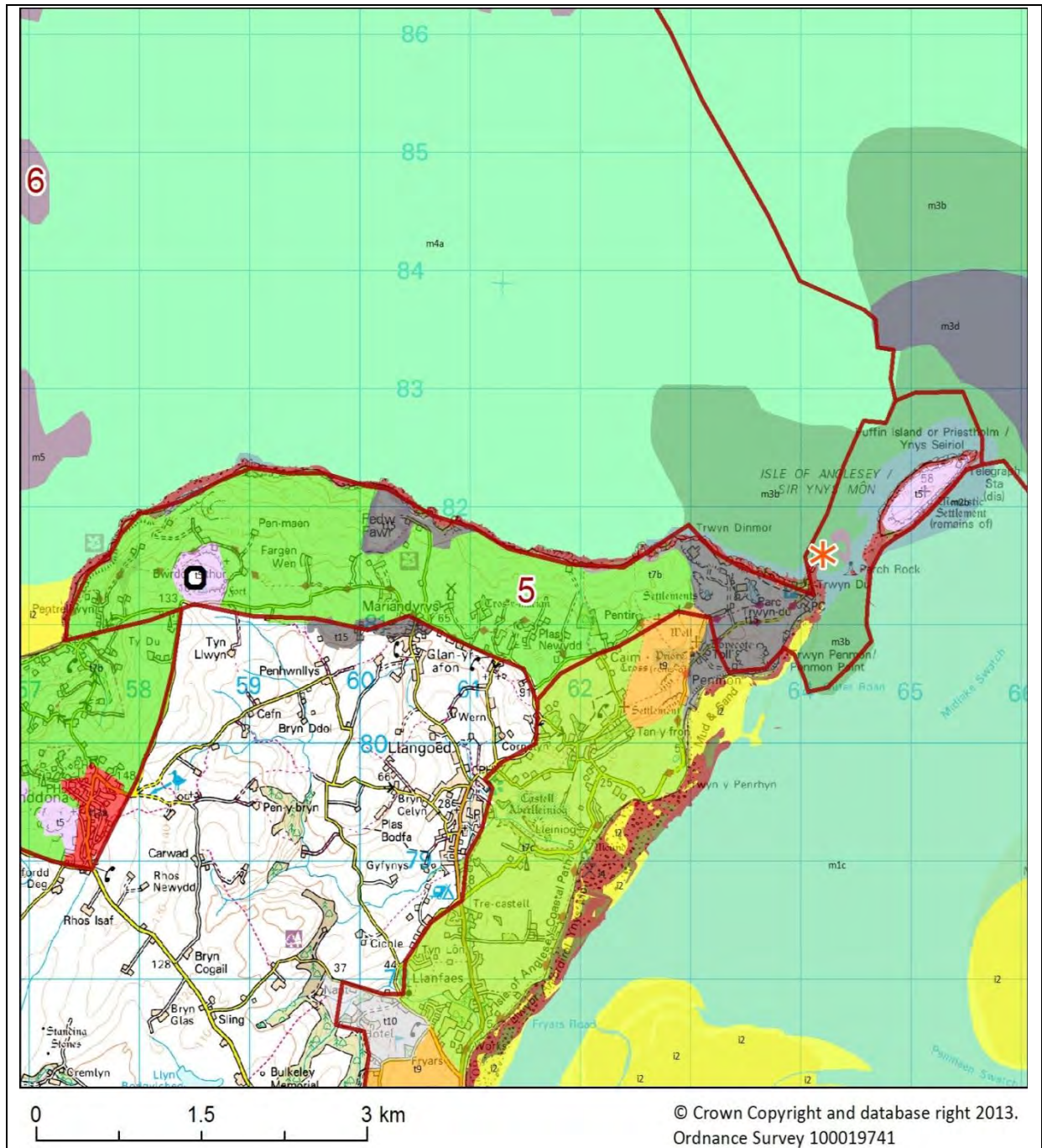
Puffin Island, Penmon Point and lighthouse, as seen from the Menai Strait. Image ©Bangor University

Summary Description

This SCA is characterised by its rocky, north-facing coastline and relatively unsettled, rough landform. The coast comprises small rocky bays and narrow shingle beaches, with the low, rounded form of Puffin Island (formerly known as Priestholm) dominating the seascape in views east. The eastern end of the SCA is influenced by extensive former limestone quarries, and the remains of jetties can still be seen. This area's remote and wild quality is emphasised by the presence of Trwyn Du lighthouse and the isolated keepers' cottages. The rocky outcrops, coastal heath, grassland and rhos pasture give the area a strong texture and seasonally-changing colours.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Penmon SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Underlain by Carboniferous limestone geology, creating a grey colour and rough texture to the landscape. The limestone has been extensively quarried.
- Onshore historic and cultural features include lighthouse cottages at Penmon Point, quarry buildings and Bwrdd Arthur Iron Age hillfort.
- Low cliffs at sea level, with landform sloping gently upwards inland. The relatively straight, sloping profile of the landform continues below sea level. In the west of the SCA there is more of a plateau landform.
- Offshore historic and cultural features include Penmon lighthouse, monastic remains on Puffin Island and former quarry quays.
- Predominantly north-facing coast, with a rocky shoreline and a succession of bays containing pebbly beaches.
- Settlement and development limited to scattered farms, lighthouse and coastguard cottages at Penmon Point and infrastructure associated with past limestone quarrying.
- Land uses include former limestone quarries, rough pasture and fish farming. Potting and recreational angling occur along the shoreline.
- A strongly-textured landscape, with sense of remoteness, tranquillity, wildness and inaccessibility, particularly along the coast.
- Terrestrial habitats include coastal heath (some managed by the National Trust) and rhos pasture. Rocky intertidal areas and cliffs provide habitats for sea birds, seaweeds and seals. Also valuable sub-tidal limestone habits.
- Landscape setting consists of inland farmland. Occasional glimpses of Snowdonia mountains, especially from higher land.
- Northward seascape setting dominated by Puffin Island, and vessels waiting for the Liverpool pilot. Views southwards over Conwy Bay towards Snowdonia, and eastwards to Great Orme.



North Coast of Penmon Point showing Puffin Island on the horizon, coastal heath and small bays. Image ©Robin Lines



Penmon Point, lighthouse and lighthouse keepers' cottages.

Image ©John Briggs



North coast of Penmon Point from the sea.

Image© John Briggs.

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Ecotourism	Relaxation	Cultural	Informal	Spiritual
Exploring	Exercise	Natural		Religious
Watersports				
Active				
Beach				

Natural Influences and Sites

- Carboniferous Limestone Geology. Designated RIGS sites at Flagstaff Quarry, Fedw Fawr, Tandinas quarry and cliffs, Llanddona and Brwdd Arthur.
- Coastal processes including pebble beach formation.
- Land management and farming practices creating coastal heathland and rhos pasture habitats. Extensive coastal SSSI (Arfordir Gogleddol Penmon) includes coastal heath and cliffs. Puffin Island and Brwydd Arthur also designated SSSI.
- Marine SAC and SPA.
- Important haul out site for grey seals on Puffin Island.
- At least 10 sea bird species have breeding populations on Puffin Island including the UK's largest colony of cormorants, although puffins are now quite rare on the island.
- Marine habitat around Puffin Island of limestone boulders and coarse sediment colonised by a rich variety of life including kelp, red seaweeds, sponges, anemones and ascidians.
- Subtidal stepped limestone bedrock covered in sponges, bryozoans and ascidians along the rocky coast.

Cultural Influences and Sites

- Early settlement, including Iron Age fort at Bwrdd Arthur and associated hut circles.
- Monastic remains on Puffin Island (which also had the Viking name Priestholm) visited by Gerald of Wales in the twelfth century. The causeway running south from the island was the traditional landing place for pilgrims.
- Limestone from quarries in this SCA is high-quality building stone. Exported from local quays and used in many engineering projects, including Caernarfon Castle, Manchester ship canal and Menai Bridges.
- Telegraph station on Puffin Island built in 1841. From at least 1835 there was a lighthouse on the island.
- Included on Register of Welsh Historic Landscapes (Area 33: Penmon).
- Fishing in this SCA is limited to potting and recreational angling.
- The shallow rocky seabed represents a navigational hazard, and there are a large number of shipwreck losses recorded between Puffin Island and Trwyn Du. Located wrecks include the *Pioneer*, a steamship lost in 1878 on the northern side of Puffin Island.
- Traditional anchorage off the southern end of Puffin Island, where vessels would wait for tides, pilots etc.
- Navigation features include the lighthouse and lighthouse keeper's cottages at Penmon Point, the perches and lights marking the main channel, and the perch marking the end of the causeway to the south of the island. There was formerly a lifeboat station at Penmon as a result of the large number of shipwrecks at the mouth of the Menai Strait.
- Penmon cobble beach popular in summer for swimming and angling.
- Within Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- Panoramic, open views over the sea contrast with the more enclosed feel of the land created by field boundaries, vegetation and landform.
- A relatively simple, balanced landscape with little movement or traffic. Form is predominantly angular, with a sloping line created by the profile of the landform. Puffin Island and Great Orme are key subjects in many land to sea views.
- Vegetation and surface rocks create a strongly textured landscape. Colours are dominated by the grey limestone, but coastal heath and farmland add splashes of seasonally-changing colour.
- Generally high levels of tranquillity, largely due to the lack of factors which detract from tranquillity. This is by far the most rural section of open north-facing coastline along the north Wales coastline when having come from the east.
- Lack of roads and settlement create a sense of inaccessibility and remoteness, which combines with the sense of openness and exposure, and the relative lack of human influence to create a strong sense of wildness. This is enhanced by the natural recolonisation of the abandoned quarries.
- Development within the setting (e.g. associated with SCAs 6 and 3) reduces the sense of remoteness and tranquillity. This is particularly true at night, when lighting is visible around Conwy Bay.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change								
<p>Past quarrying has left a clear impact on the landscape, but natural processes of re-colonisation are an ongoing force for change.</p> <p>Changes in farming practices (notably grazing regimes) potentially affect the vegetation and character of the area, including coastal heath. Changes in vegetation (notably increases in bracken and woody shrubs) also damage archaeology.</p> <p>Fishfarming is a relatively new land/ sea use which may have impacts on the character of the landscape/ seascape.</p> <p>Natural coastal processes including pebble beach formation.</p> <p>In summer, numbers of visitors and vehicles to Penmon Point reduce the tranquillity and relative wildness of the area.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use	
	Welsh Language								
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views								
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features								
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity								
	Cultural heritage								
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness								
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment								
	Geology and geomorphological features								
	Islands								
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens								
	Soil, air and water quality								
	Key		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	Sloping cliffs form natural rocky shoreline and associated habitats. Long views seawards to the north: development potentially visible from both land and sea.	
Existing development	Very little existing development, especially along coast.	Occasional scattered houses/ farms. Remains of former industrial uses.
The visual experience	Ridgeline inland and Bwrdd Arthur hillfort form skyline in views from land and sea.	Views seawards contain large ships waiting for Liverpool Pilot.
Tranquillity	Very few people at coast, particularly in north of SCA. Generally high levels of tranquillity, and a wild and remote feel.	Localised reductions in tranquillity at Penmon Point in summer, due to increased numbers of visitors.

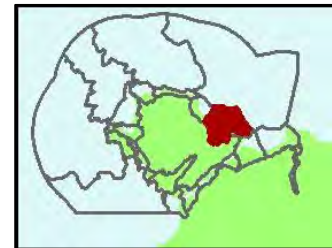
SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 6:

RED WHARF BAY TO MOELFRE

Component LCAs (Anglesey): Red Wharf Bay; Penmon and Puffin Island

Location and Context

This SCA is located on the east coast of Anglesey, and is orientated north-east. It is centred around Red Wharf Bay and its sandy beach. This SCA includes the villages of Benllech, Red Wharf Bay and Moelfre. The A5108 road to Moelfre forms its northern boundary with SCA 7 Dulas Bay. SCA 5 Penmon lies to the east, and SCA 28: North-east of Anglesey lies to seaward..



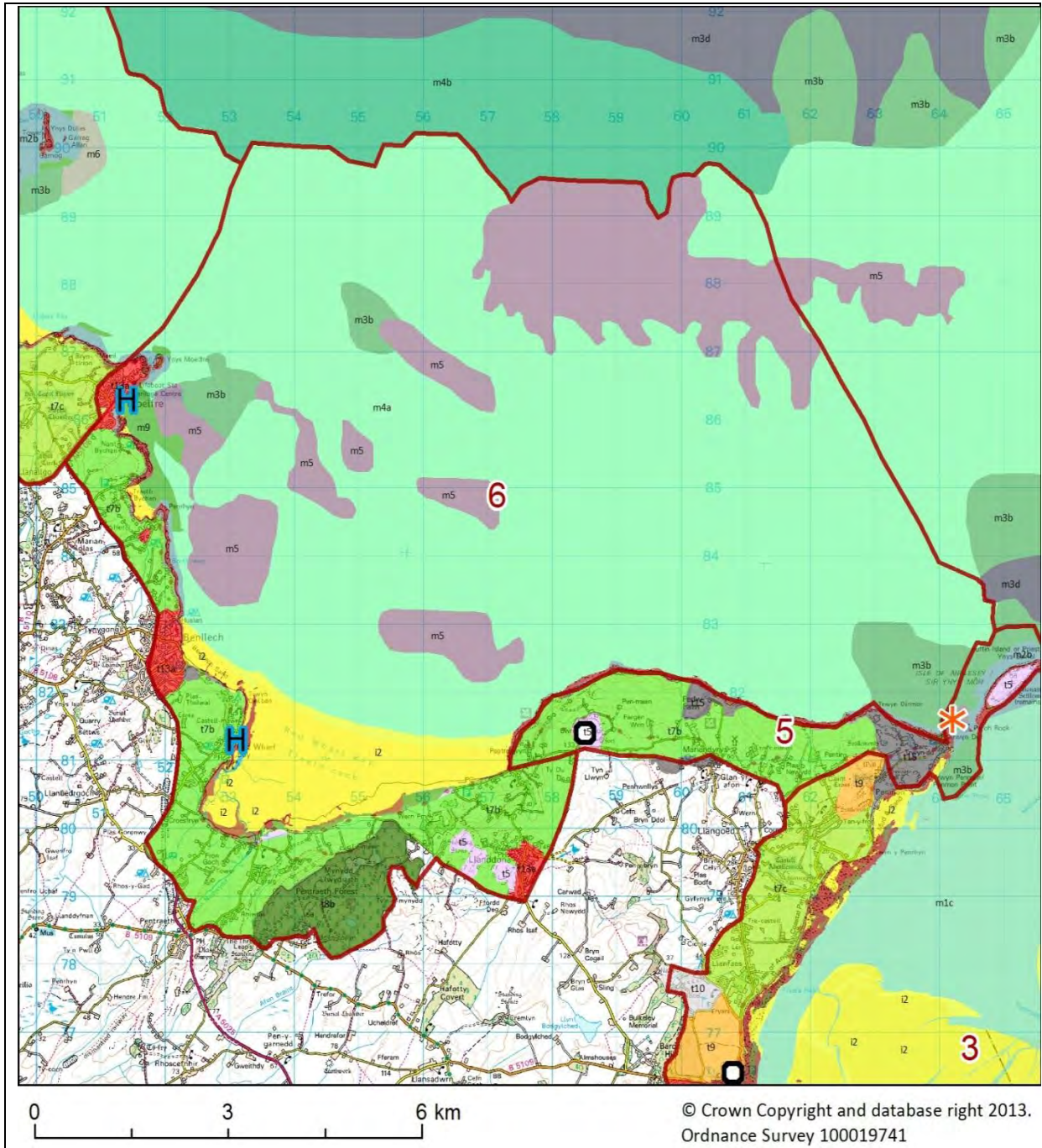
Red Wharf Bay looking east from Caravan Park near Benllech. Image © John Briggs

Summary Description

This area is dominated by Red Wharf Bay, an extensive sandy beach with a large intertidal area. It is separated from smaller beaches at Benllech and Traeth Bychan by sloping headlands orientated north-east. Steep pine woodland (with red squirrels) and farmland provide the landward setting beyond the sand dunes which line the beaches. The area is popular for holidaymakers, and there are numerous caravan parks and campsites in the SCA. Slipways enable access to the sea for recreational and fishing boats, and in the summer the area has a busy, colourful character. Views out to sea are framed by the headlands at the ends of the SCA, and often large vessels can be seen out to sea, waiting for the Liverpool Pilot. The historic fishing village of Moelfre is located on a headland at the northern end of the SCA.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Red Wharf Bay to Moelfre SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Largely underlain by Carboniferous limestone, but with some older Ordovician sandstones and mudstones at the eastern end. Sandstone pipes in the limestone are distinctive features on the foreshores.
- Landform of wide sandy bays, separated by sloping headlands, and backed by low cliffs and steep hills to landward. Shallow offshore bathymetry, with 'Four Fathom Bank' extending out to sea. Island of Ynys Moelfre separated by Y Swnt.
- River Nodwydd flows into sea at Red Wharf Bay. Sand deposition at Red Wharf Bay, Benllech Sand and Traeth Bychan, with limited dune formation behind Red Wharf Bay.
- Land uses include farming (predominantly ancient enclosures/ rhos pasture), forestry, settlement and tourism. Coastal and sea uses include bait digging, potting and trawling.
- Habitats include rhos pasture, woodland, sand dunes, intertidal sands and stretches of intertidal rocks.
- Onshore historic and cultural features include historic fishing settlements of Moelfre and Red Wharf Bay and Llandonna Standing Stone.
- Offshore historic and cultural features include the wreck of the *Mona*, historic harbours/ slipways, and the remains of WW2 anti-landing posts.
- A relatively well-settled SCA, including historic villages of Llandonna, Moelfre and Red Wharf Bay, the more modern village of Benllech, and numerous caravan parks, as well as scattered farms and hamlets.
- A diverse SCA with strong seasonal changes in its perceptual qualities. In summer it is a busy and colourful tourist area whilst in winter it is much quieter and more muted. The large beaches feel exposed and expansive, whereas the smaller ones feel more enclosed.
- Gently undulating farmland forms the inland landscape setting. Woodland, farmland and the steep hills up to SCA 5 frame views of the bay.
- Seascape setting formed by embayment, with views of large vessels waiting for Liverpool Pilot out at sea. North-east aspect is unusual for Wales, with Great Orme prominent in many land-to-sea views, and provides shelter from prevailing south-westerly winds.



Red Wharf Bay from Pentraeth Forest.

Image © John Briggs



Steep coastal fields behind Red Wharf Bay. Image © Fiona Fyfe



Historic cottages at Red Wharf Bay. Image © Fiona Fyfe

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Beach	Relaxation	Cultural	Informal	Spiritual
Watersports	Exercise	Natural	Formal	Religious
Ecotourism				
Exploring				
Active				

Natural Influences and Sites

- Relatively low-energy offshore environment associated with beach process and sediment deposition, including accretion of sandy sediments and saltmarsh.
- Banks/ shoals at Dinmoor Bank and Ten Feet Bank, both formerly marked by navigation buoys. During tidal ebb and north-west winds, the sea breaks heavily on these banks.
- Extensive intertidal area, with notoriously quick changes in tides in the western part of Red Wharf Bay.
- Glacial deposits form soft cliffs at the back of some of the little bays.
- Geological formations include sandstone pipes in the limestone visible on the foreshores. Notable geological sites (designated RIGS) are at: Trwyn Dwlban, Penrhyn Point to Huslan, Traeth Bychan, Penrhyn-y-gell, Meolfre to Traeth Bychan and Moelfre.
- Exposures of prehistoric peats and former land surfaces in the intertidal area.
- Marine SPA and SAC.
- Coastal SSSI at Trwyn Dwlban.
- Sand and gravel marine habitats. Wide limestone bedrock and boulder platforms between Benllech and Moelfre support boring bivalves.

Cultural Influences and Sites

- Neolithic archaeology- Llandona Standing Stone.
- Name of bay comes from the bloody battle between the Welsh and the Vikings in 1170.
- Historic harbours and slipways, including mud berths off the Ship Inn. Tracks down to the shore suggest that small boats were loaded on the beach.
- Traditional anchorages between Trwyn Du and eastern edge of Red Wharf Bay, used by vessels waiting to enter the Menai Strait, or waiting for suitable tides to load stone from coastal quarries. Anchorage off Trwyn Dwlban where vessels would have waited for the tide to enter the Afon Nodwydd.
- History of coastal quarrying, including one quarry which supplied the milestones for Telford's London to Holyhead Road.
- Remains of stone-built fish weir at Llanddona on the eastern side of Red Wharf Bay, and a further fish trap at Traeth Bychan.
- Route of one of the earliest submarine telegraph cables passed through this SCA: in 1859, a cable was laid from Great Ormes Head to Point Lynas connecting the stations of the Holyhead-Liverpool telegraph.
- C.20th tourist development- caravan parks, campsites, car parks etc.
- Two surviving WW2 anti-landing posts in Red Wharf Bay. Also losses associated with wartime military aviation activity.
- Used in WW2 for assembling ships prior to the D-Day landings on the Normandy Coast.
- Wrecks include that of the *Mona* which foundered in 1916. Over the years many vessels have been driven ashore from the offshore anchorages.
- Tradition of fishing boats launching from the beach at Moelfre. Today, Red Wharf Bay is used for bait digging.
- Within the Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- Small-scale fields contrast with expansive sandy beaches. Seaward views framed by headlands, increasing the sense of enclosure, particularly on smaller beaches. Offshore wind farms can be seen in views from high land.
- A diverse seascape with strong seasonal variation in movement and colour. Numerous caravan parks are prominent in views.
- Colours and regular patterns of caravan parks and car parks contrast with the more organic patterns and colours of farmland and woodland.
- A sense of calmness – even desolation- in winter, but not in summer. Settlement, roads and people significantly reduce senses of remoteness and tranquillity.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change								
<p>Development of tourist infrastructure - particularly caravan parks – since the mid 20th Century has impacted on the character of the SCA, and seasonal visitor pressure remains an issue in this popular holiday area.</p> <p>Changes in farmland and woodland management will affect the character and views of the area.</p> <p>Natural coastal processes include sediment deposition and saltmarsh formation. Low lying land (particularly river floodplains) is at risk from flooding, which will be exacerbated by sea level rise.</p> <p>Potential threat to inland setting and skylines from onshore wind turbines.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use	
	Welsh Language								
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views								
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features								
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity								
	Cultural heritage								
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness								
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment								
	Geology and geomorphological features								
	Islands								
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens								
	Soil, air and water quality								
	Key	Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality							

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>Views out to sea framed by headlands.</p> <p>Sensitive coastal habitats in sand dune systems and along rocky shorelines of headlands.</p>	
Existing development	Historic character of Moelfre village and harbour.	Existing development and caravan parks.
The visual experience	<p>Sweeping bay focuses views across it, making development highly noticeable.</p> <p>SCA seen against scenic backdrop of pastoral hills and woodland.</p> <p>Users of Wales Coast Path are sensitive receptors.</p> <p>Elevated views looking across and down on the SCA from surrounding high land.</p>	Concentrations of tourist sites create a recreational character in parts of SCA.
Tranquillity		Busy holiday destination, with seasonal increases in visitor numbers.

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 7:

DULAS BAY

Component LCAs (Anglesey): Dulas Bay Hinterland; Amlwch and Environs

Location and Context

SCA 7 Dulas Bay is located on the eastern coast of Anglesey. It is orientated approximately north-south, and comprises the area surrounding Dulas Bay as well as the bay itself. It extends from Freshwater Bay in the north to Moelfre in the south, and includes Dulas village and estate, as well as the Traeth Dulas estuary. SCA 6 Red Wharf Bay to Moelfre is to the south-east and SCA 8 Amlwch and Cemaes lies to the north and north-west. SCA 28 North-east of Anglesey lies to seaward.



Traeth Lligwy from the south in summer. Note the smooth profile of the landform behind.

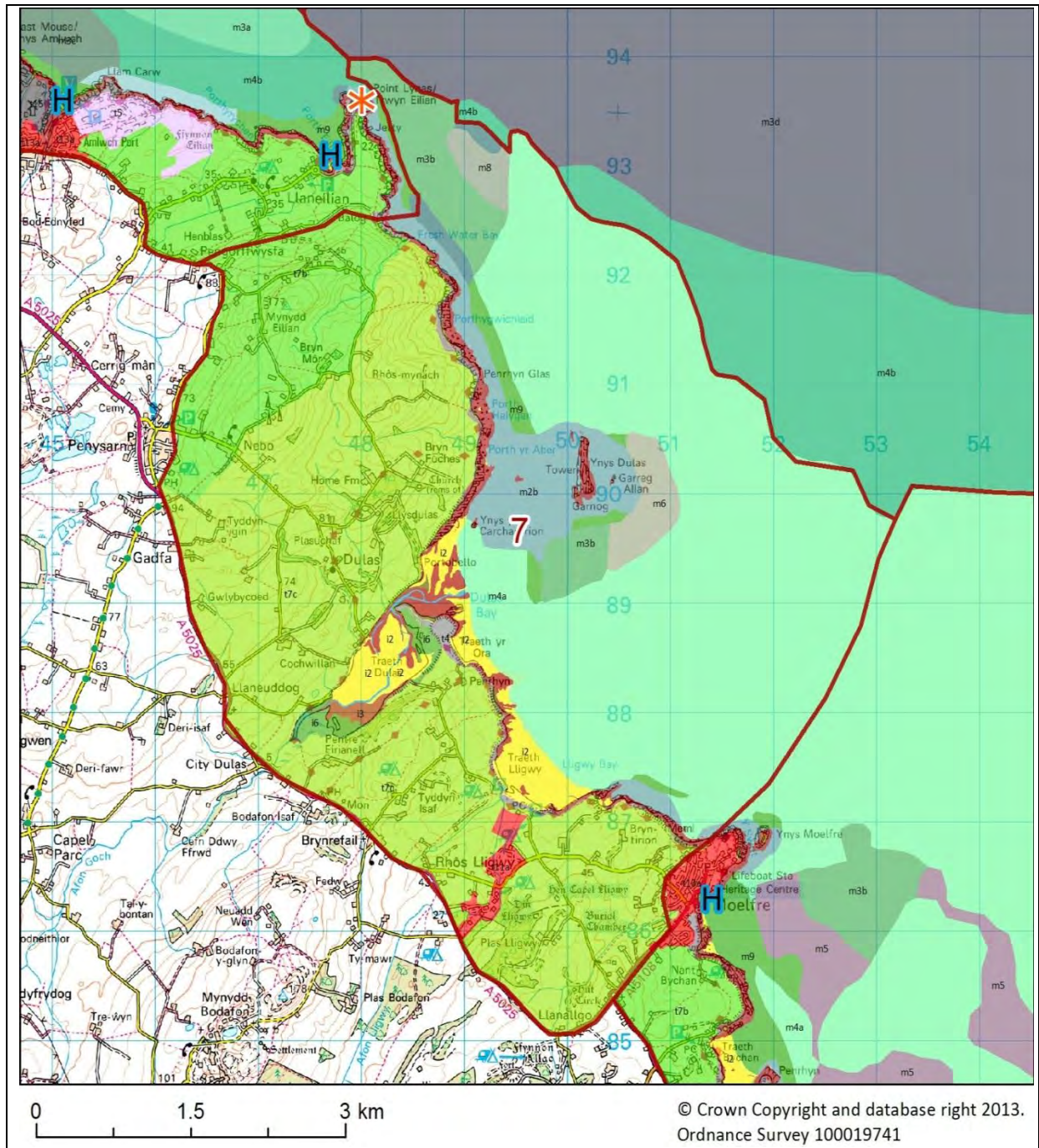
Image ©John Briggs.

Summary Description

This SCA is bounded by headlands at north and south of a rocky coast, with beaches at Dulas Bay and Lligwy Bay. The island of Ynys Dulas, with its tower, is midway between them and provides a focal point. The southern part of the SCA contains a variety of historic landscape features from prehistoric times onwards, and is also the location of several caravan parks. In the centre of the SCA is the Traeth Dulas estuary, which is tranquil and contains a variety of habitats, constantly changing according to the tide. The northern part of the SCA is strongly influenced by the Dulas estate: The landform has a relatively smooth profile, and has regular fields of improved, green pasture divided by well-maintained stone walls. The distinctive circular spire of Dulas Church is a landmark visible from land and sea.

Constituent Seascap Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascap Character Types.



Seascap Character Types in the Dulas Bay SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Varied underlying geology of Carboniferous limestone, Red Devonian sandstone, Ordovician sandstone/ mudstone & metamorphic rocks.
- Landform has relatively smooth profile, and comprises ridges separating deeper valleys (including the Traeth Dulas Estuary). Coastline includes rocky headlands (with wave-cut platforms) and small sandy beaches. Dulas Bay relatively shallow, with Ynys Dulas island lying offshore.
- River Goch flows into sea at Traeth Dulas, with associated estuarine processes. Sediment deposition and dune formation at Traeth Lligwy and Dulas Bay.
- Predominant land use is improved farmland, with strong estate influence in its management. Also woodland and caravan parks (in south of SCA). Sea uses include potting and trawling.
- Habitats include intertidal areas of reed beds, saltmarshes, mud and sand at Traeth Dulas. Also deciduous woodland and rocky shores.
- Onshore historic and cultural features from prehistoric and medieval periods. Landscape dominated by Dulas Estate, with its patchwork of improved fields, stone walls and estate buildings.
- Offshore historic and cultural features include the daymark tower on Ynys Dulas, which forms a focal point for this SCA.
- Settlement and development largely limited to Dulas village and estate, although the southern part of the SCA contains several caravan parks.
- A relatively open, smooth landscape with a rolling landform and designed quality, particularly in the north of the SCA.
- Northward landscape setting formed by the hills to the east of Penysarn. Inland, the farmland continues and forms a backdrop.
- Seascape setting dominated by Ynys Dulas, and by the large vessels waiting out at sea for the Liverpool Pilot.



Estuary at Traeth Dulas

Image ©Fiona Fyfe



*Estate landscape of improved grassland, woodland, walls and spire.
Image ©Fiona Fyfe*



Seascape feature of Ynys Dulas (with tower) and commercial ship waiting offshore. Image ©Fiona Fyfe

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Beach	Relaxation	Cultural	Informal	Spiritual
Watersports	Exercise	Natural	Formal	Religious
Ecotourism				
Exploring				
Active				

Natural Influences and Sites

- Glacial Influences, including meltwater channels orientated NE-SW.
- Estuarine processes at Treath Dulas.
- Relatively low energy marine environment in some areas, leading to beach and dune formation (Dune systems at Traeth Lligwy and Morfa Dulas designated SSSI).
- Coastal processes including cliff erosion of cliffs and creation of caves and wave-cut platform (notably to the north of Portobello).
- Woodland SSSI at Coed-y-gell, marine SPA, and small section of SAC in the south-east of the area.
- Designated RIGS sites at Lligwy Bay, Din Lligwy, Traeth Bach, Ogof Fawr, Ogof Fach, Rhosmynach and Mynydd Eilian.
- Mostly sand and gravel marine substrate with epifauna such as brittlestars and burrowing anemones. Subtidal limestone rock around Ynys Dulas supporting sponges and anemones. Mosaic of seabed types found in the north of the SCA with algae and fauna covered bedrock and boulders in amongst sand and mixed ground.
- Preserved submerged tree trunks at Lligwy, dating from approx. 5000 years BP.

Cultural Influences and Sites

- Lligwy Neolithic Burial Chamber (Scheduled Monument).
- Din Lligwy Romano British hut group (Scheduled Monument)
- Medieval Chapel of ease near Rhos Lligwy.
- Dulas estate, comprising buildings (including prominent church tower, Llysdulas House and Home Farm), -well-maintained stone walls, improved pastures, and well-managed woodland.
- Daymark tower on Ynys Dulas (built 1821) included a shelter for shipwrecked sailors and is a prominent landmark throughout the SCA.
- A number of ships have been wrecked along this coast including the tragic loss of the “Royal Charter” in 1859, and locally-owned slate-trade schooners.
- Traeth Dulas inlet used by small craft and shallow-draft vessels known as Mersey Flats. Storehouses stood on the north and south sides of the bay.
- Evidence of past industrial processes including kelp burning, brick making and lime burning. Copper mines were serviced by small craft, with an anchorage off Freshwater Bay.
- Porth Corwgl traditionally used by local fishermen for landing their boats.
- Name of Freshwater Bay comes from coastal spring used by sailors to replenish water casks.
- Popular for diving, with a number of recreational dive sites are along the coast.
- Within Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- A medium-scale landscape with a strong sense of openness due to the open farmland, long views and wide estuary landform.
- Views of a relatively simple landscape generally framed by bays. Caravan parks (in the south) are prominent against the green backdrop.
- A gentle, curved form to the landscape, with a smooth and rolling quality. Improved fields are a brighter green than elsewhere.
- Influences of estate management and tourist development reduce the sense of remoteness and wildness, although Traeth Dulas remains tranquil and remote.
- TV transmitter masts are prominent built features on the northern horizon
- Varied geology adds to colour and texture of views from the coastal path, particularly the reddish colour and bedded nature of Devonian rocks.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change							
	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use
Tourist development (particularly caravan and campsites) has affected the character of the southern part of the SCA. Seasonal visitor pressure, including traffic, remains a force for change.	Welsh Language							
Potential changes to land and estate management, particularly in the north of the SCA.	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views							
Natural coastal processes, including cliff erosion north of Portobello.	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features							
Flooding of low-lying coastal land containing river floodplains (e.g. Traeth Dulas) is also a force for change, potentially exacerbated by sea level rise.	Richness of habitats and biodiversity							
Potential threat to inland setting and skylines from onshore wind turbines.	Cultural heritage							
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness							
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment							
	Geology and geomorphological features							
	Islands							
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens							
	Soil, air and water quality							
	Key	Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>Headlands have a natural, rocky coastline with rocky intertidal areas and pebble beaches.</p> <p>Sensitive coastal habitats in dune systems and wetland areas.</p> <p>Views out to sea from bays framed by surrounding headlands.</p>	
Existing development	<p>Historic buildings of Dulas estate.</p> <p>Very little existing built development in northern part of SCA resulting in undeveloped character.</p>	Existing houses and caravan parks in south of SCA.
The visual experience	<p>Users of Wales Coast Path are sensitive receptors.</p> <p>Elevated views looking across and down on Dulas Bay coast from surrounding high land.</p> <p>A strongly rural character, with the Dulas estate having a designed, managed feel.</p>	Views seawards often contain large ships waiting for Liverpool Pilot.
Tranquillity	Higher levels of tranquillity in northern part of SCA .	Busy holiday destination, with seasonal increases in visitor numbers, especially in the southern part of the SCA.

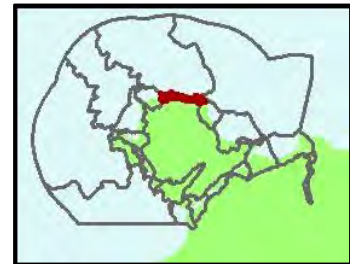
SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 8:

AMLWCH AND CEMAES

Component LCAs (Anglesey): Amlwch and Environs; North-west Coast; North-west Anglesey

Location and Context

SCA 8 Amlwch and Cemaes is located on the northern coast of Anglesey between Point Lynas in the east and Wylfa Head in the west. It includes the town of Amlwch and its associated harbour, and the villages of Cemaes and Llaneilian. It also contains a series of bays, including Bull Bay, Porth Wen and Cemaes Bay, along with the islands of East Mouse and Middle Mouse. SCA 7 Dulas Bay is to the south and SCA 9 Cemlyn Bay is to the west. SCA 29 North of Anglesey lies to seaward.



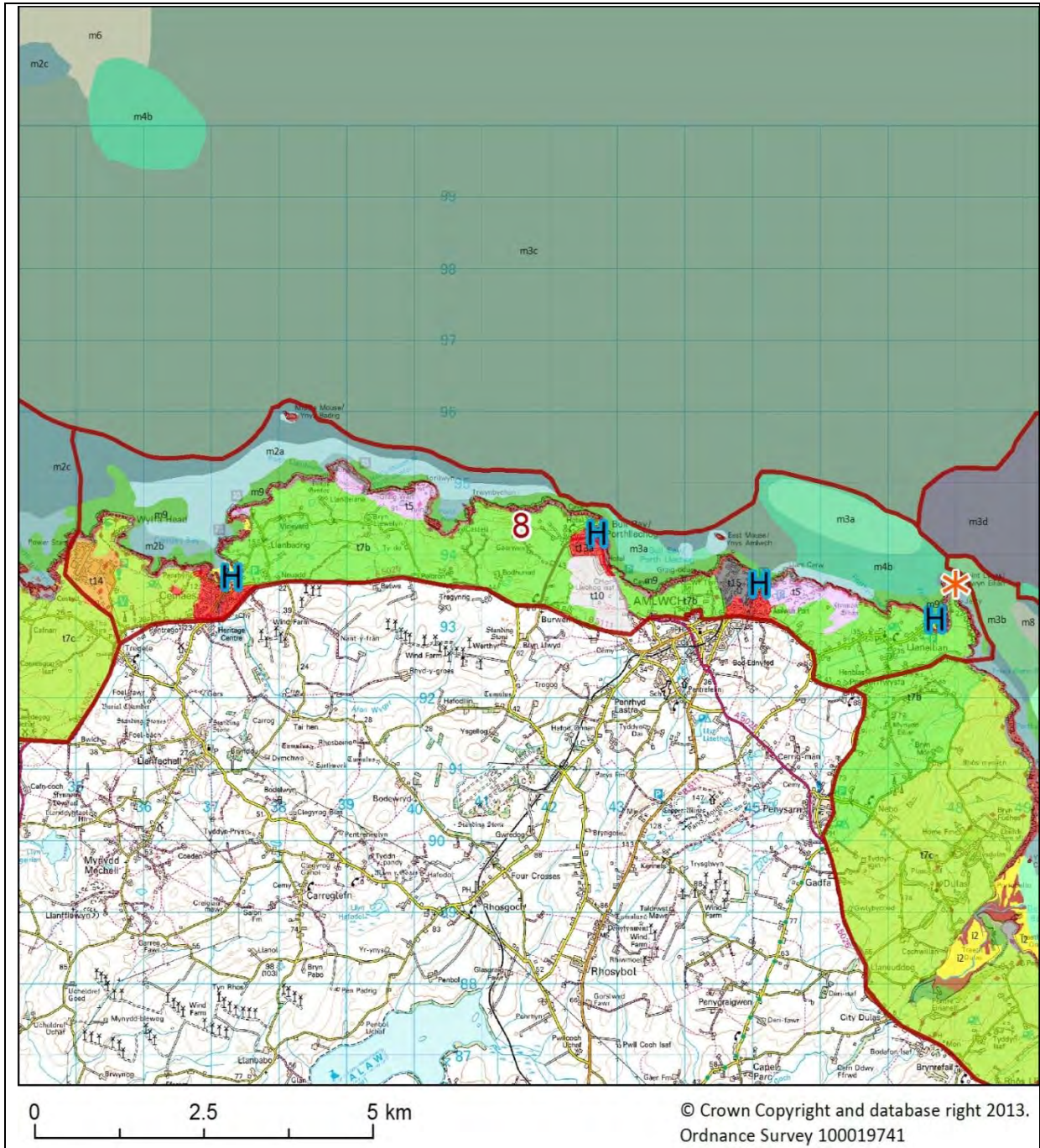
Coastal Plain and Point Lynas Headland. Image © Fiona Fyfe

Summary Description

Much of this area has an industrial feel due to its long association with copper mining and associated industries and export. There are several historic harbours and settlements, including Amlwch, Cemaes and Llaneilian, but there is less tourist development than on many parts of the Anglesey Coast. Coastal views are dominated by the rocky shoreline, white water and rocks, with the Islands of East Mouse and Middle Mouse lying off the coast. Beyond are expansive views northwards towards the Isle of Man. At the eastern end of the SCA is Point Lynas lighthouse on its long, flat headland. The immediate coastal area - especially in the east - has many textures and shades of colour on seaward slopes arising from heather, bracken, brambles and underlying rocks, which contrast with the shingly bays. Views inland are dominated by the distinctive profiles of Parys Mountain and Mynydd Eilian.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Amlwch and Cemaes SCA.

Key Characteristics

- A geologically-varied stretch of coast, including Ordovician, Precambrian and possibly Cambrian sedimentary rocks, with igneous tuffs and rhyolites west of Amlwch.
- A relatively low coastal plateau with occasional hills, particularly in the west of the SCA. Steeply sloping bathymetry, with deep water coming in close to the shore.
- North-facing coast comprising low, rocky headlands (including Point Lynas and Wylfa Head) and deeply incised pebbly bays.
- An exposed and high-energy north-facing coast with active erosive processes.
- An historic and continuing tradition of industrial land uses, including mining (specifically copper), mineral working and electricity production. Sea uses include potting and recreational fishing.
- A mosaic of habitats, including rhos pasture, coastal heath, cliffs and rocky intertidal areas.
- Many onshore historic and cultural features, including harbours (fishing and links to copper industry) industrial and religious sites.
- A relatively settled area, including the nucleated villages of Amlwch and Cemaes (both with historic harbours) the linear settlement of Llaneilian, and scattered farms.
- A rough-textured landscape with strong seasonal colour. Despite the long tradition of settlement in the area, parts still feel remote. This SCA has a working quality, with less tourist development than many other SCAs.
- Landward landscape setting of eastern part dominated by distinctive outline of Parys Mountain. Extensive windfarms occur inland of the western part of the SCA.
- Seascape setting includes the lighthouse on Point Lynas, the offshore islands of Middle Mouse and East Mouse and expansive views with the Isle of Man on the horizon.



Historic harbour at Amlwch.

Image © Fiona Fyfe



Coastal heath and industrial archaeology, Llanlleiana Head. Middle Mouse Island is visible offshore.

Image © Fiona Fyfe



Sunset over Wylfa Power Station. Image © Bangor University

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Exploring	Relaxation	Cultural	Informal	Spiritual
Ecotourism	Exercise	Natural	Formal	Religious
Watersports				
Active				
Beach				

Natural Influences and Sites

- Geological interest: complex geology containing some of oldest rocks in Britain, and interpretative displays by Geomon at Amlwch harbour. 12 designated RIGS sites representing the geological diversity and importance of the area.
- Glacial influences, including glacial mounds and meltwater channels (flowing NE-SW).
- Extensive areas of coastal heath and grassland, including sites managed by the National Trust. SSSIs at Llanbadrig and Tre'r Gof.
- Ongoing coastal processes along north-facing coast including cliff erosion at Llanbadrig. A high-energy environment with rocks, eddies and white water.
- High tidal current velocities can produce turbulent and turbid water.
- Subtidal substrate of bedrock and boulders with some coarse sediment and sand. Exposed rock colonised by animals including featherstars and sponges. To the east of Point Lynas the substrate follows the exposure gradient, with rocky reef found in the most tide swept northern area and muddy sediment found in sheltered areas.
- Point Lynas is a popular location for spotting cetaceans.

Cultural Influences and Sites

- Strong link between Amwlch and the copper mining industry (Parys Mountain) from Elizabethan times onwards. Mineral working continued at Amwlch until recent years. Harbour used for export of copper ore, as well as supporting industries such as shipbuilding. Copper was made into copper sheathing for Royal Navy ships venturing into tropical waters to prevent attack by torredo worm. This was essential to the establishment of the British Empire.
- Porth Amlwch developing into a hub for conservation and heritage activity with GeoMon Geopark base and Amlwch Industrial Heritage Group Visitor Centre.
- Remains of porcelain factory (including chimney) at Llanlleiana Head, and brickworks and chimney at Porth Wen. Also former industrial sites around Amlwch, including the prominent OCTEL works.
- Numerous historic harbours, often associated with fishing industry.
- Legendary association of St Patrick with Llanbadrig, who was reputedly shipwrecked off the coast here, and founded the church in thankfulness for his survival.
- Lighthouse at Point Lynas, from which mariners would take bearings for the Middle Mouse, and other lighthouses including Great Orme Head, the North West Lightvessel off the Mersey, and the Calf of Man.
- Telegraph station on Point Lynas opened in 1827 for shipping intelligence. Also used in 1859 for the Holyhead-Liverpool telegraph.
- Ancient religious sites including holy well at Ffynnon Eillan and fifth century church at Llanbadrig.

- Western part of SCC dominated by mass of Wylfa atomic power station).
- Conservation Areas at Amlwch, Amlwch Port and Cemaes.
- Partially included in Register of Welsh Historic Landscapes (Area 19 Amlwch and Parys Mountain)
- Designated Heritage Coast between Cemaes and Point Lynas.
- Losses on Point Lynas include slave trader the *Plumper*, lost carrying cotton in 1763.
- Fishing activity along the rocky coast is mainly potting for crabs and lobsters, and recreational angling. Recreational charter fishing boats also depart from Amlwch port.
- Popular dive sites and focus for diver tourism include *SS Dakota* near East Mouse and Paddlesteamer *HMS Pansy* near Amlwch.
- Largely within Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- A small-medium scale landscape, but flat topography gives it a relatively open feel and occasional panoramic views.
- A complex and diverse landscape, with a mosaic of different land uses and a long history of settlement.
- Generally rough in texture (due to coastal heath, rhos pasture and crenellated form of rocky coastline) with seasonal colour from bracken and gorse.
- Away from settlements, landscape feels remote and relatively wild, particularly in areas of coastal heath. Abandoned industrial sites have a sense of wildness and returning to nature.
- Rocky coast and seascape also has wild quality, particularly in Northerly conditions. Views towards the Isle of Man create a sense of distance and remoteness.
- Parys Mountain forms the landward setting to the eastern part of the SCA, and also has strong historic and cultural links with Amlwch.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change						
	Special Qualities						
	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use
Existing windfarms affecting inland setting, and proposed Rhiannon offshore windfarm potentially affecting the seascape setting.							
Proposed development of Wylfa B atomic power station.							
Expansion of existing settlements including Cemaes and Amlwch.							
Potential threat to inland setting and skylines from onshore wind turbines.							
Changes in agricultural management (particularly grazing regimes) affecting coastal character and vegetation (including valuable coastal heath habitats).							
Localised seasonal visitor pressure at popular tourist sites (e.g. Amlwch Port).							
Natural coastal processes, including cliff erosion at Llanbadrig, and flood risk (exacerbated by sea level rise) where river discharges into the sea at Amlwch.							
Welsh Language							
Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views							
Rural agricultural communities and their associated features							
Richness of habitats and biodiversity							
Cultural heritage							
Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness							
Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment							
Geology and geomorphological features							
Islands							
Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens							
Soil, air and water quality							
Key	Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>A crenulated coastal edge of cliffs and small pebbly bays separated by rocky headlands, with a wild and strongly natural quality and associated habitats.</p> <p>Open views seawards to the north, including the Isle of Man.</p>	
Existing development	Historic character of settlements and harbours.	Existing nucleated villages of Cemaes, Bull Bay and Amlwch, and linear settlement of Llanelian.
The visual experience	<p>Users of Wales Coast Path are sensitive receptors.</p> <p>Despite industrial features, much of coastline is natural, with a wild quality.</p> <p>SCA visible in views from surrounding hills including Parys Mountain and Mynydd Eilian.</p>	<p>Large-scale industrial structures including the former Octel Works at Amlwch harbour, and Wylfa nuclear power station on the coast near Cemaes.</p> <p>Existing wind farms inland affect the landward setting of the SCA.</p>
Tranquillity	Away from settlements, coastal access by vehicle is difficult, resulting in few people and a sense of remoteness and wildness.	Concentration of people/ visitors at developed coastal sites, e.g. Wylfa power station and Amlwch historic harbour.

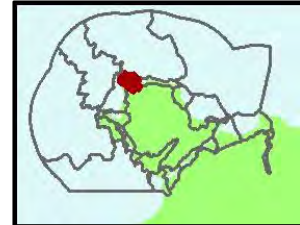
SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 9:

CEMLYN BAY

Component LCAs (Anglesey): North-west Coast; North-west Anglesey

Location and Context

SCA 9 Cemlyn Bay is located on the northern coast of Anglesey, and extends from Wylfa Head in the east to Carmel Head in the west. It includes Cemlyn Bay and its associated beach and lagoon, as well as the farmland which surrounds it. It also includes the island of West Mouse. SCA 29 North of Anglesey lies to seaward to the north-east, and SCA30 North-west of Anglesey lies to the north-west. SCA 8 Amlwch and Cemaes is to the east and SCA 10 Carmel Head to Penrhyn is to the south.



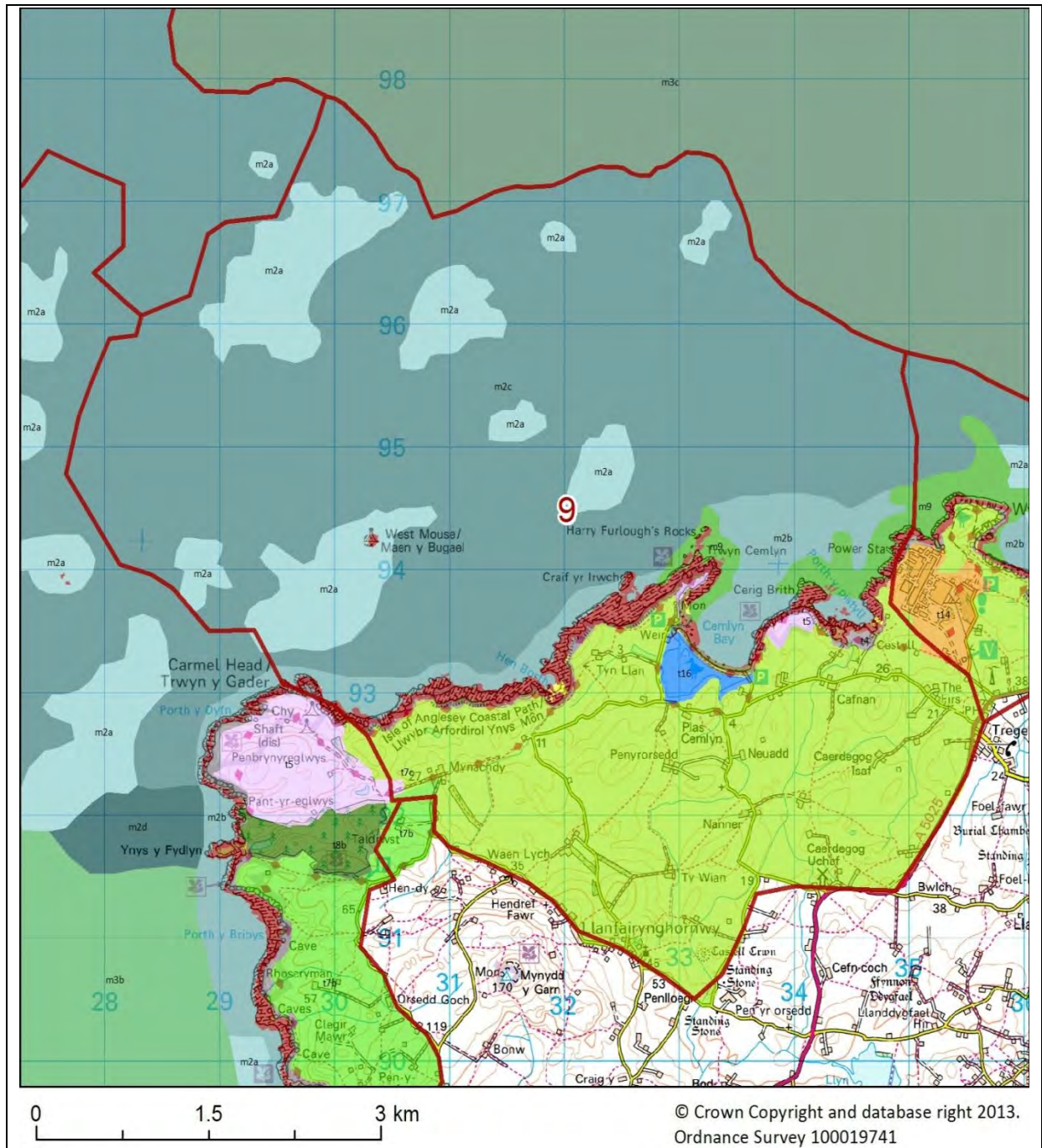
Cemlyn Bay, showing crescent-shaped shingle beach and lagoon behind. Image © John Briggs

Summary Description

This SCA contains a considerable variety of coastal habitats, varying from the rock pools of the east to the unusual coastal features of Cemlyn Bay itself. Cemlyn Bay is divided by a crescent-shaped shingle bar formed by longshore drift, but the inner area has, not been tidal since the 1930s. It provides ideal breeding grounds for varieties of terns and is a nature reserve of international importance, becoming very noisy in the summer! The inland landscape is also distinctive with rolling drumlin fields; their gentle slopes contrasting with the straight lines of the stone walls which cross them. This is relatively low-lying coast, and the drumlin fields appear as egg-shaped mounds on the horizon when viewed from the sea. Off the coast are rocky islands including Harry Furlough's Rocks and West Mouse, reflecting the rocky character of the seabed. Expansive views northwards have the Isle of Man on the horizon. The rich variety of the local geology is illustrated at Trwyn Cemlyn to the west of Cemlyn Bay with its extensive range of multi-coloured pebbles overlying metamorphic rocks. To the east the landscape is dominated by the square shapes of the Wylfa power station in the adjacent SCA.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

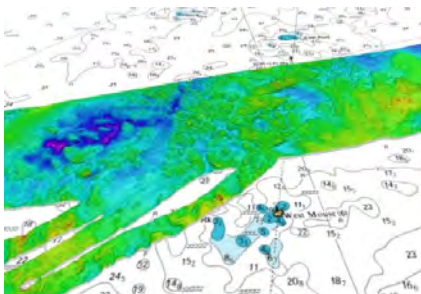
Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Cemlyn Bay SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Underlain by Ordovician mudstones, with a band of igneous tuffs and rhyolites to the south of Cemlyn Bay.
- Low-lying coast dominated inland by the egg-shaped hills of a glacial drumlin field, which can be seen clearly from the sea.
- A rocky, high energy coastline with extensive wave-cut platforms and deeply incised bays. Surface rocks include West Mouse and Harry Furlough's rocks.
- Rare coastal brackish lagoon at Cemlyn Bay, separated from the sea by a crescent-shaped shingle beach formed by longshore drift.
- Land use dominated by pastoral farming, often in regular-shaped fields. Sea uses include potting and recreational angling.
- Cemlyn Bay contains a variety of wetland habitats and is a bird reserve. Also extensive areas of rocky intertidal habitats.
- Onshore historic and cultural features include numerous historic farmsteads, and the lifeboat memorial.
- Settlement limited to scattered farms. Fields with straight, walled boundaries are superimposed on the rounded drumlin landforms. Tourist infrastructure limited to car parks at Cemlyn Bay.
- A peaceful, tranquil area with little visible development apart from the large power station to the east (SCA 8). Smooth, rolling landform contrasts with the rocky, incised coastline.
- Landscape setting of rounded drumlin fields extends for a considerable distance inland.
- Low-lying coast creates strong visual and physical connection between land and seascape. Seascape includes West Mouse island, views westwards towards the Skerries, and northwards towards the Isle of Man.



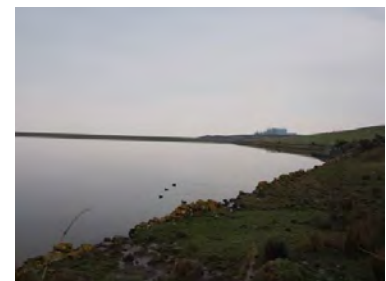
Seabed survey showing rocky, undulating seabed offshore.

Image © Bangor University



Sheep grazing on drumlins inland.

Image © Fiona Fyfe



Cemlyn lagoon and shingle ridge, with Wlyfa Power Station on horizon. Image © Fiona Fyfe

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Beach	Relaxation	Natural	Informal	Spiritual
Exploring	Exercise	Cultural	Formal	Religious
Active				
Ecotourism				

Natural Influences and sites

- Marine processes of longshore drift creating crescent-shaped shingle beach- a dynamic landform.
- High energy marine environment creating wave-cut platforms and other coastal erosion features. In Hen Borth Bay, coastal erosion has exposed a section through one of the drumlins.
- Tidal rapids and strong currents visible from land in certain conditions, notably west of West Mouse.
- A range of wetland habitats associated with the brackish water of the lagoon (designated SSSI, SPA and SAC for its importance for bird life – especially terns) and also a Nature Reserve. Other SSSIs at Henborth and Cae Gwyn.
- Designated RIGS sites at Tyn Llan and Mynachdy.
- Seaweed-dominated wide rocky platforms are indented with numerous rockpools, overhangs, gullies and pebble beaches. These support a variety of animals and seaweeds.

Cultural Influences and sites

- Lifeboat memorial erected to commemorate the establishment of the first lifeboat on Anglesey, launched from Cemlyn in 1828.
- Designated Heritage Coast.
- Nature Reserve popular with visitors.
- Evidence of coastal activities supporting farming communities, e.g. former lime kiln and corn mill at Porth-y-pistyll.
- Fishing activity limited to potting and recreational angling in this rocky, high energy SCA.
- Seven rocky pinnacles and reefs dominate the seascape as navigational hazards. Beacons and warning buoys on the reefs were linked to the beacons on Carmel Head to form a web of bearings and distances to define inner and outer routes. The passage outside the reefs was generally favoured.
- Despite navigational aids, many ships were lost on the rocks in this SCA, especially around the West Mouse. Wreckage including boilers, iron hull plates and fittings still lie on the seabed, as well as cargoes such as roofing slates.
- WW2 wreck of Supermarine Walrus aircraft which lost a float and sank during a training exercise from RAF Valley.
- Within this SCA is the proposed site for a tidal turbine array.
- Popular recreational dive sites include wrecks of *Abbotsford* near Wyfa power station, *Deo Gratis* on the Archdeacon Rock and *Edith Owen* and *Fawn* on Coal Rock.
- Within Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- A generally open landscape, with little vegetation or sense of enclosure. From some viewpoints, drumlins frame views of the sea. Expansive views northwards towards the Isle of Man have a sense of distance and remoteness.
- A simple landscape of rounded hills, fields and rocky shoreline. Cemlyn Bay beach and lagoon add diversity and interest.
- A variety of forms and textures, including straight walls, smooth rounded hills and jagged coastline. Colours dominated by the grey of the walls and green of the fields.
- Light settlement and few roads create some sense of remoteness, though this is reduced by the presence of Wylfa Power Station (SCA 8) in views. Few factors detract from the tranquillity of the area, although visitor numbers in summer can reduce sense of tranquillity.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change								
<p>Proposed Rhiannon wind farm potentially affecting the northern seascape setting.</p> <p>Infrastructure and landing sites for marine turbines proposed between Carmel Head and the Skerries may potentially affect this SCA.</p> <p>Proposed development of Wylfa B atomic power station (in adjacent SCA) will potentially impact on the character, views and tranquillity of this SCA.</p> <p>Potential threat to inland setting and skylines from onshore wind turbine development.</p> <p>Seasonal increases in visitor numbers at Cemlyn Bay.</p> <p>Changes in agricultural management (particularly loss of dry stone walls) potentially affecting the distinctive character of the area.</p> <p>Natural and dynamic coastal processes, including shingle beach formation at Cemlyn Bay.</p> <p>Flood risk of low-lying land, exacerbated by sea level rise.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy/ or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use	
	Welsh Language								
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views								
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features								
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity								
	Cultural heritage								
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness								
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment								
	Geology and geomorphological features								
	Islands								
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens								
	Soil, air and water quality								
	Key		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>Unique crescent-shaped shingle beach with lagoon behind and high conservation values.</p> <p>Open sea views northwards, with the Skerries visible to the north-west.</p> <p>A crenellated, rocky coastline with low headlands, rocky intertidal areas and pebble beaches.</p>	
Existing development	<p>Within the SCA, settlement limited to a few scattered farms, resulting in an undeveloped character.</p>	
The visual experience	<p>Drumlin fields continue inland and create inland backdrop.</p> <p>Users of Wales Coast Path and visitors to Cemlyn Bay Nature Reserve are sensitive receptors.</p>	<p>Large, square shape of Wylfa power station (SCA 8) visible in views eastwards.</p>
Tranquillity	<p>Few factors to detract from tranquillity.</p>	<p>Seasonal increases in visitor numbers, and in noise from birds.</p>

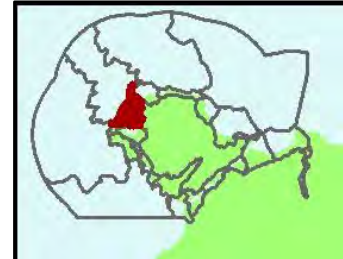
SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 10:

CARMEL HEAD TO PENRHYN

Component LCAs (Anglesey): North-west Coast; North-west Anglesey

Location and Context

SCA 10 Carmel Head to Penrhyn is located on the north-west Anglesey coast, and is orientated north-south, between the headlands of Carmel Head and Penrhyn. It includes a series of bays and headlands, and the associated coastal farmland and coastal heath. It also includes the islands of the Skerries offshore, with SCA 30 North-west of Anglesey lying to seaward. SCA 9 Cemlyn Bay is to the east; SCA 11 Holyhead is to the south and SCA 13 Holyhead Mountain to the south-west.



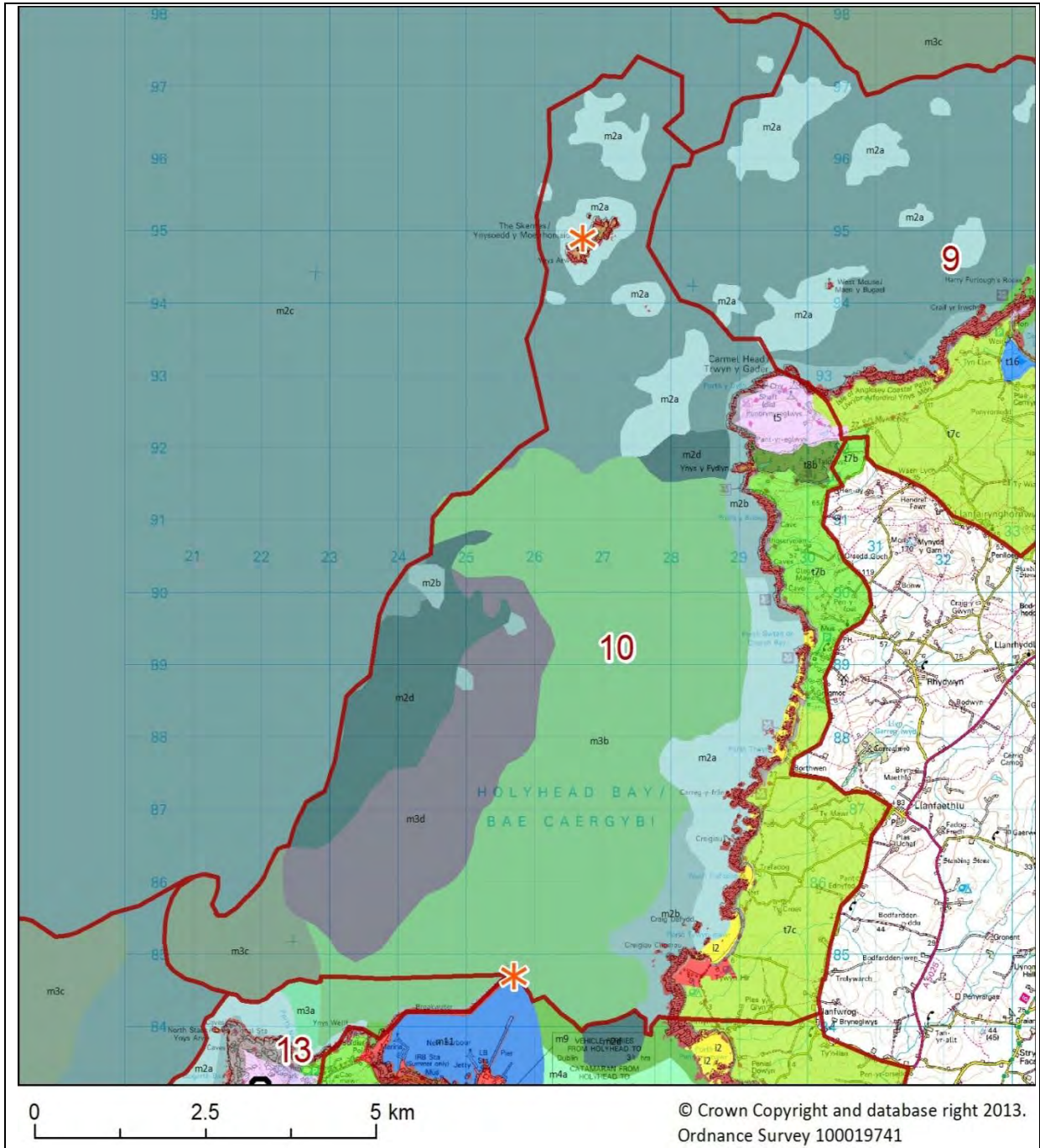
Coastal Heath on Carmel Head, with the Skerries visible offshore. Image © John Briggs

Summary Description

Carmel Head has spectacular coastal scenery with islets, cliffs, caves, beaches and wave-cut platforms. A strong tidal race runs between Carmel Head and The Skerries and this is a dangerous coast, with numerous wrecks offshore. The White Ladies markers which line up with the marker on West Mouse lead the eye to the Coal Rocks, a hazard to shipping especially in the days of sail. In the north of the SCA, the steep hill and ridge of Mynydd y Garn provides the landward setting. Further south, an extensive drumlin field creates a rolling topography. Within the SCA there is a variety of habitats including rocky shores, coastal heath and forestry, with farming inland. The port of Holyhead has an influence on views, particularly in the south of the SCA, and ships entering and leaving the port can be seen from the coast. Holyhead Mountain forms a backdrop to views of the port. The small sandy beaches are popular with tourists, but there is little permanent tourist infrastructure.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Carmel Head to Penrhyn SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Carmel Head underlain by Ordovician mudstones and sandstones with igneous intrusions and evidence of faulting. Geology of remainder of SCA comprises Ordovician mudstones, with occasional igneous tuffs and rhyolites.
- Low cliffs with occasional sandy bays and deep wave-cut platforms/ reefs. Bathymetry is relatively shallow, and marine energy high-moderate. Other coastal features include caves and natural arch.
- Inland, the land rises gradually away from the coast, with distinctive egg-shaped drumlins forming the horizon when viewed from the sea.
- Carmel Head and the Skerries are the turning point for the coast line of North-west Wales. The majority of the SCA is a West-facing coast, but sheltered from the south by Holy Island and Holyhead Bay.
- Land uses include agriculture; open grazing on coastal heath, forestry and tourism. Sea uses include trawling, netting and potting.
- Extensive rocky and sandy intertidal habitats. Also rocky cliffs, coastal heath and woodland.
- Onshore historic and cultural features include the chimney and beacons on Carmel Head, and the windmill above church bay which was a landmark for shipping.
- Offshore historic and cultural features include the Skerries lighthouse, and shipping markers.
- Settlement limited to hamlet at Swtan (Church Bay) and scattered farms. Some tourist development/ caravan site in south of SCA, and beaches popular with tourists.
- A relatively large scale and open landscape and seascape, although headlands provide some sense of containment to bays. Rough texture of rocky shoreline contrasts with the smooth profile of farmland.
- Rugged profile of Mynydd Y Garn dominates the landward setting in the north of the SCA. Elsewhere, farming continues inland. Views south dominated by Holyhead Mountain and harbour.
- Seascape setting dominated by the Skerries to the north, and by Holyhead Mountain and Bay to the south. Ferries (Holyhead- Dublin) are features to seaward. Isle of Man is visible on the horizon in views north from Carmel Head.



Aerial view of the Skerries.

Image © Rohan Holt



Wave-cut platform visible at low tide, Church Bay.

Image © Fiona Fyfe



Porth Swtan in summer.

Image © John Briggs

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Beach	Relaxation	Natural	Informal	Spiritual
Exploring	Exercise	Cultural	Formal	Religious
Active				
Watersports				
Ecotourism				

Natural Influences and sites

- Wide variety of coastal processes and geomorphology (wave cut platforms, arch, caves, beaches etc.). Coastal SSSI at Clegir Mawr. Erosion of west-facing cliffs at Porth Trefadog and Porth Tywyn-mawr, and notable weathered rocks at the back of Church Bay.
- Carmel Head notable for geological exposure of the Carmel Head thrust, where Precambrian/ Cambrian rocks have been thrust over younger Ordovician rocks. RIGS sites include Carmel Head, the Skerries, Porth Swtan, Creigiau Cliperau and Porth Trefadog.
- Extensive intertidal habitats forming a mosaic of bedrock platforms indented by sandy bays.
- Extensive coastal heath at Carmel Head (partially designated SSSI), with further long sections of cliff tops in National Trust ownership.
- Skerries Nature Reserve, designated SSSI and SPA for its populations of Arctic Terns. Also a seal haul site.
- Very strong tidal currents around the Skerries in the north, with a more sheltered region of water in the south.
- In the under-water environment, the substrate follows the energy gradient, with exposed rock in the north and areas of coarse sediment in the south.

Cultural Influences and sites

- Popular tourist beaches in season.
- Designated Heritage Coast between Church Bay and Carmel Head.
- Industrial archaeology of copper mining sites on Carmel Head.
- Immediately to the south of Carmel Head, the landscape is dominated by traces of ancient cultivation and farmsteads which are linked to landing places in the lee of Fydlyn Island and Porth Y Nant.
- Lighthouses and shipping markers, including the Skerries lighthouse.
- Reconstruction of traditional thatched Anglesey cottage at Swtan.
- Many wrecks in this treacherous area of strong currents and shallow rock. These include the protected wreck of the *Mary* and the dangerous wreck of the *Castillian*, which sank in 1943 with live ordnance on board. The *Meath* lies close to the ferry routes and is marked with a buoy.
- Historic charts show three areas of anchoring at the north end of Holyhead, collectively known as ‘Church Bay’. The southern point of the anchorage is marked by the Bolivar Rock buoy.
- Early submarine telegraphic cable installation at Porth Crugnor, which connected to Howth (Ireland).
- South of Porth Swtan, the coast features small landing places serving farming communities and lime kilns.
- Ferries regularly pass through this SCA travelling to and from Holyhead harbour.
- Within Anglesey Coast AONB.
- Popular recreational dive site is *Hudiskval* off Fydlyn Island/ Carmel Head.

Perceptual Qualities

- A generally open landscape with long views over land and sea, particularly from elevated viewpoints. Isle of Man and Mountains of Mourne are visible in clear conditions.
- Overall a simple landscape in terms of its composition, but on closer examination the coastal environment is diverse and complex.
- Western summer sunsets visible out to sea. Carmel Head is the most north-westerly point in Wales for land-based travellers, and for some this evokes a special sense of arrival.
- Straight field boundaries and rough, angular shoreline rocks contrast with the smooth rounded profile of the terrestrial drumlin landforms. Seasonal colour from tourist development and coastal heath.
- Seasonal variations in patterns of movement, becoming much busier in the summer months.
- A relatively high degree of tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness in the northern part of the SCA around Carmel Head (one of the most remote parts of Anglesey). These perceptual qualities are less pronounced in the southern part of the SCA which is more settled, and influenced by surrounding development (including the chimney of the old aluminium works at Holyhead).
- Holyhead Port impacts on the setting of the SCA, particularly in the south, and especially at night when the lights are prominent. Holyhead Mountain sits above the port and also contributes a more rugged and natural element to the setting of this SCA (along with Mynydd Y Garn).

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change						
	Special Qualities						
	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use
Proposed marine turbines (and associated infrastructure and landing sites) between the Skerries and Carmel Head.							
Changes in forestry management currently affecting the northern part of the SCA.							
Changes in land management and agricultural practices (particularly grazing regimes) potentially affecting valuable coastal heath habitats.							
Seasonal visitor pressure, particularly issues of traffic and parking on narrow coastal roads.							
Potential threat to inland setting and skylines from onshore wind turbine development.							
Natural coastal processes of cliff erosion, notably at Porth Trefadog and Porth Tywyn-mawr.							
Welsh Language							
Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views							
Rural agricultural communities and their associated features							
Richness of habitats and biodiversity							
Cultural heritage							
Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness							
Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment							
Geology and geomorphological features							
Islands							
Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens							
Soil, air and water quality							
Key	Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>Rich diversity of coastal features (caves, arch, wave-cut platforms, etc.) and associated habitats.</p> <p>Small sandy beaches popular with tourists.</p> <p>Open views seawards, with views north framed by Carmel Head and the Skerries, and views south by Holyhead Mountain.</p>	
Existing development	<p>Very little existing built development, within SCA, resulting in undeveloped character.</p> <p>Historic cottages at Swtan/ Church Bay.</p>	<p>Caravan park at Penrhyn at the southern boundary of the SCA.</p> <p>Scattered settlement throughout the southern part of the SCA.</p>
The visual experience	<p>Mynydd-y-Garn and drumlin fields create backdrop when viewed from the sea.</p> <p>Users of Wales Coast Path are sensitive receptors.</p> <p>SCA seen from sea by ferry passengers etc.</p>	<p>Views offshore often contain shipping going to/ from Holyhead.</p> <p>Tall chimney stack of the old aluminium works at Holyhead visible in views south from the southern part of the SCA.</p>
Tranquillity	<p>Coastline relatively inaccessible by vehicle, so some sections of coastline have few people and senses of remoteness, wildness and tranquillity.</p>	<p>Concentrations of people at popular beaches, especially in summer.</p> <p>Influence of Holyhead port, including visual impacts of development, large structures and lighting.</p>

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 11:

HOLYHEAD

Component LCAs (Anglesey): Holy Island; Inland Sea; North-west Anglesey

Location and Context

SCA 11 Holyhead is located on the western coast of Anglesey and is centred on the town and port of Holyhead. . It is bordered to the west by SCA 13 Holyhead Mountain, to the south by SCA 12 Inland Sea and SCA 14 Rhoscolyn, and to the north by SCA 10 Carmel Head to Penrhyn.



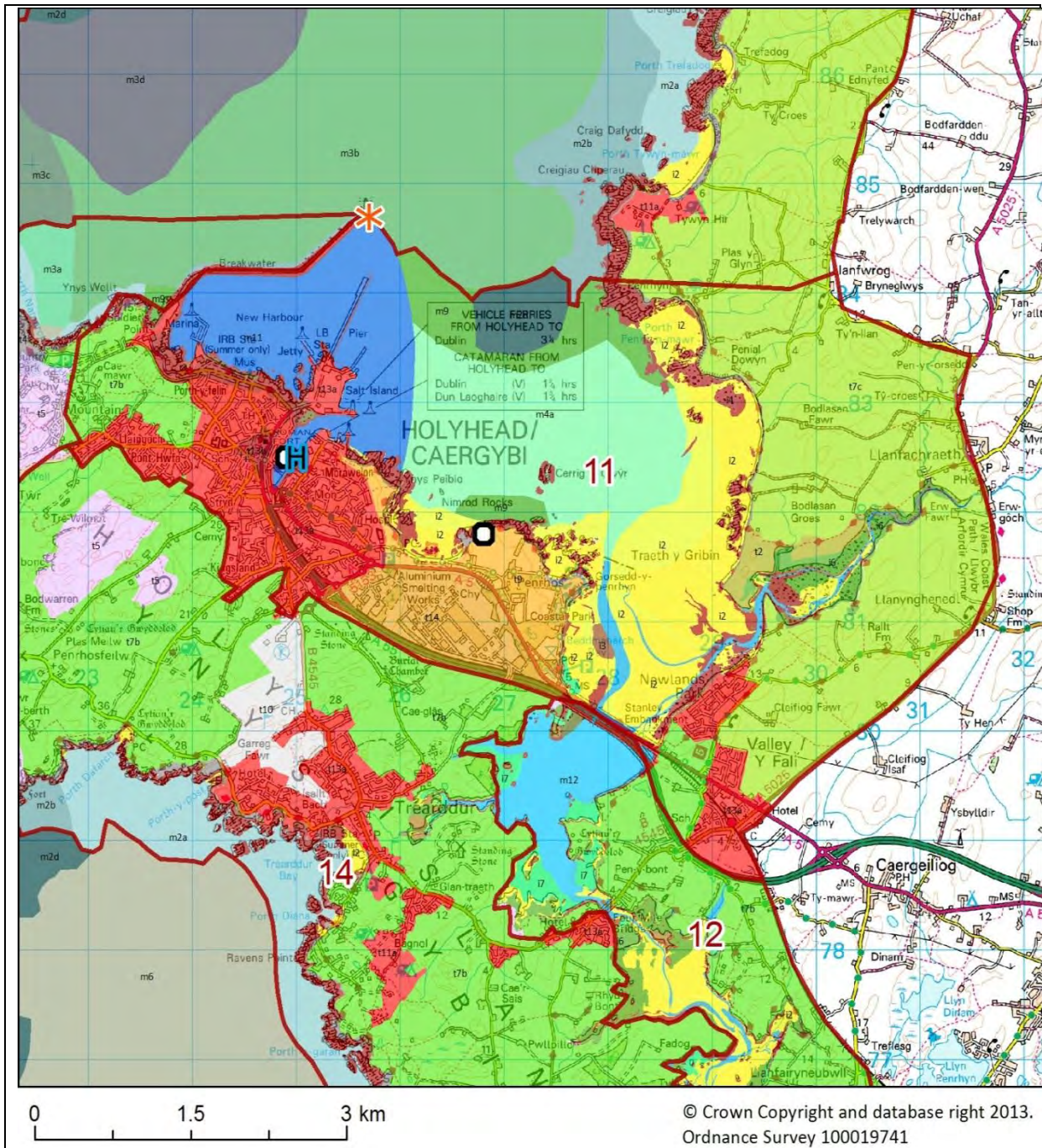
Holyhead port, town and harbour as seen from Holyhead Mountain. Image © Fiona Fyfe

Summary Description

This SCA is characterised by its relatively high level of development (in the Holyhead and Valley areas) and the influence of Holyhead Port. It has many centuries of maritime history, the earliest evidence of which is a Roman fort. Today, views of the port are dominated by the long breakwaters, large ships (including the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ferries), cranes, walkways, and many colours and sizes of smaller craft. It is a settled and busy environment, and at night its coloured lights become apparent. Holyhead mountain rises above the town, forming a backdrop and setting. Its rocky profile and wild, heather-covered appearance contrasts with the built structures of the town and port below. The chimney of the aluminium smelter is a prominent local landmark.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

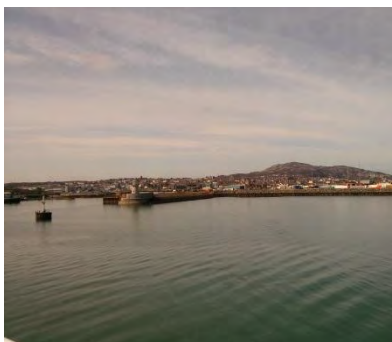
Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



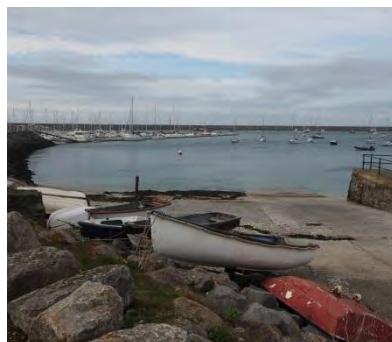
Seascape Character Types in the Holyhead SCA.

Key Characteristics

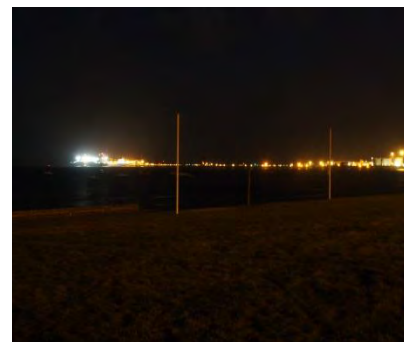
- Underlain by Cambrian and Ordovician rocks, with occasional igneous intrusions, especially in the south of the SCA.
- Landform generally low-lying, and marine areas relatively shallow with extensive intertidal areas and rocky islands. Large areas of intertidal sands in the Traeth Y Gribin area.
- Wave and tidal patterns modified by harbour breakwaters and A5/A 55 causeway across the Inland Sea.
- Extensive harbour, port, town and industrial land uses in western part of LCA; farmland and estuary in eastern part. Bay used by many different types of shipping.
- Extensive Intertidal habitats around shoreline, including the Aber Alaw estuary.
- Numerous onshore historic and cultural features reflecting the area's long history of transport, defence and trade. The chimney of the aluminium works is a prominent local landmark.
- Offshore historic and cultural features associated with development of the port, harbour and marina, including breakwaters, lighthouses, beacons and other infrastructure.
- A well-settled and developed area with extensive commercial, industrial, residential and leisure development resulting from the importance of Holyhead as a trading and ferry port.
- A complex and busy area, both on land and at sea, visually enclosed by the surrounding headlands and therefore relatively inward-looking.
- Landscape setting dominated by the impressive, rugged outline of Holyhead Mountain to the west. To the east, low-lying farmland provides a less dramatic setting.
- Seascape setting strongly influenced by harbour infrastructure (breakwaters, navigation lights etc) and shipping. Skerries visible in the distance on northern horizon.



Holyhead port and mountain as seen from Dublin Ferry. Image © Jonathan Porter



Harbour and marina with breakwater forming the horizon. Image © Fiona Fyfe



Holyhead port at night. Image © Fiona Fyfe

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Watersports	Relaxation	Natural	Informal	Spiritual
Active	Exercise	Cultural	Formal	Religious
Beach				
Exploring				

Natural Influences and sites

- The sheltered location of the harbour, combined with artificial breakwaters and other structures result in a very sheltered, muddy environment with extensive areas of inter-tidal sand at Traeth y Gribon.
- Processes of sediment erosion and deposition affected by dredging.
- Natural processes responding to turbulence from boats, and modifications by man-made structures such as harbour piers, breakwaters, and the Stanley Embankment carrying the A5 and railway across the Inland Sea.
- Extensive SSSI (Beddmanarch-Cymyran) covering intertidal areas, including the Afon Alaw estuary, and the seagrass bed, sand and rock in Beddmanach Bay.
- Designated RIGS sites at Penial Dowyn, Penrhos Drumlin, and Holyhead Roman fort and Medieval churches.
- Harbour structures and mooring buoys provide solid substrate for a wide variety of algae and animals e.g. anemones and ascidians. This is the only location in Wales where the non-native seasquirt *Didemnum vexillum* has been found. This has undergone a programme of eradication by CCW (now NRW).

Cultural Influences and sites

- Numerous defensive sites including Caer Gybi Roman Fort (Scheduled Monument), Napoleonic War battery at Penrhos, Soldiers Point, and WW2 pillbox defences around the harbour.
- Sites associated with transport, trade and recreation (still in use today) including old harbour and many buildings in the town. Reflected in Conservation Area status of Central Holyhead and Newry Beach. Key to the development of Holyhead as a port was the mail and packet service to Ireland.
- Large industrial site of Anglesey Aluminium located to the east of Holyhead, with tall chimney stack a major landmark feature in views.
- Intertidal archaeology on the eastern side of the SCA includes submerged forest/ intertidal peats between Peniel and Bodardreath and the spectacular fish trap at Newlands. Further fishtraps may be seen at Beddmanarch Bay.
- Afon Alaw navigable by small wooden boats as far as the limekiln at Ty Newydd until relatively recently. Transhipment may have been undertaken at Penrhynbach/ Pen Morfa, where a possible large storehouse remains visible.
- Penrhos Coastal Park in grounds of former Penrhos estate, including the re-positioned toll-house designed by Thomas Telford for the London to Holyhead road.

- Settlement of Valley originally a camp for workers building the Stanley Embankment in 1820s. Valley foundry was located at the eastern end of the Stanley Embankment.
- Harbour breakwater the longest in the UK, with unusual square lighthouse. Constructed in mid-nineteenth Century as a refuge for ships unable to reach Liverpool in bad weather conditions. Stone for breakwater quarried from Holyhead Mountain (now Breakwater Country Park, SCA 13). Within the outer refuge harbour, disabled vessels could be run ashore on a specially-prepared beaching slope.
- Development of the town for tourism from the mid Nineteenth Century onwards.
- The Platters and Skinners Rock form navigational hazards for ships entering the outer refuge harbour.
- Popular recreational dive site at Newry Beach, where divers can see the regionally rare sea pen s.
- Partially within Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- A relatively inward-looking area, surrounded by landform and – on the seaward site- by the harbour breakwater. Within this are structures and landforms of many different scales.
- A diverse area, characterised by its movement and busy, developed feel.
- A wide variety of forms (e.g. strong verticals of aluminium works chimney and port gantries; strong horizontals of jetties and breakwaters) textures (e.g. water, rocks, intertidal areas) and colours (e.g. boats, containers, flags)
- Development, movement, noise, people and lights result in a lack of tranquillity, remoteness or wildness within the settlements of this SCA. The non-developed parts of the coast (notably the Aber Alaw estuary) are relatively calm and peaceful with a much greater sense of timelessness.
- Holyhead Mountain (immediately adjacent to the west) provides a wild and imposing setting and adds a sense of scale to the town and port below.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change						
	Special Qualities						
	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use
Ongoing development of Holyhead Port and expansion of the town, including industrial and residential development and associated lighting. Proposed waterside development at Newry will potentially affect the open character of the area and reduce public access to the waterfront.							
Proposed holiday village development at Penrhos Coastal Park.							
Seasonal visitor pressure, particularly at popular coastal sites.							
Agricultural/ land management changes, potentially affecting the character of the periphery and setting of the SCA.							
Flood risk (exacerbated by sea level rise) associated with discharging river at Porth-y-felin and low lying land surrounding the mouth of the Afon Alaw.							
Welsh Language							
Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views							
Rural agricultural communities and their associated features							
Richness of habitats and biodiversity							
Cultural heritage							
Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness							
Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment							
Geology and geomorphological features							
Islands							
Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens							
Soil, air and water quality							
Key	Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>High coastal peak of Holyhead mountain is a visual backdrop to the area.</p> <p>Views out to sea from bays framed by surrounding headlands and breakwaters.</p>	
Existing development	Character of historic harbour and associated buildings and transport routes.	Presence of existing development and port infrastructure, including breakwaters.
The visual experience	<p>Setting of Holyhead Mountain (SCA 13) contributes to character of SCA.</p> <p>SCA often experienced from the sea, as well as from land.</p> <p>Elevated views looking across and down on the SCA from surrounding high land to the west, and from across the bay.</p>	<p>Industrial character of parts of SCA, due to scale of port development and presence of large aluminium smelting works.</p> <p>Marinas, esplanade, sailing club etc. give parts of the SCA a recreational character.</p> <p>Views seaward often contain boats of many types and sizes.</p>
Tranquillity	Much of the coastline on the Anglesey side is relatively undeveloped, and with extensive inter-tidal areas, is more tranquil.	Settlements contain developed areas, busy all year round and especially in summer.

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 12:

INLAND SEA

Component LCAs (Anglesey): Inland Sea; North-west Anglesey

Location and Context

SCA 12 Inland Sea is located on the western coast of Anglesey, and separates Holy Island from the rest of Anglesey. It is bordered to the west by SCA 13 Holyhead Mountain, to the south by SCA 14 Rhoscolyn and to the north by SCA 11 Holyhead



Southern Part of the Inland Sea at low tide, showing intertidal habitats and fringing reeds. Holyhead Mountain and the chimney of the aluminium works are visible on the horizon. Image © Fiona Fyfe

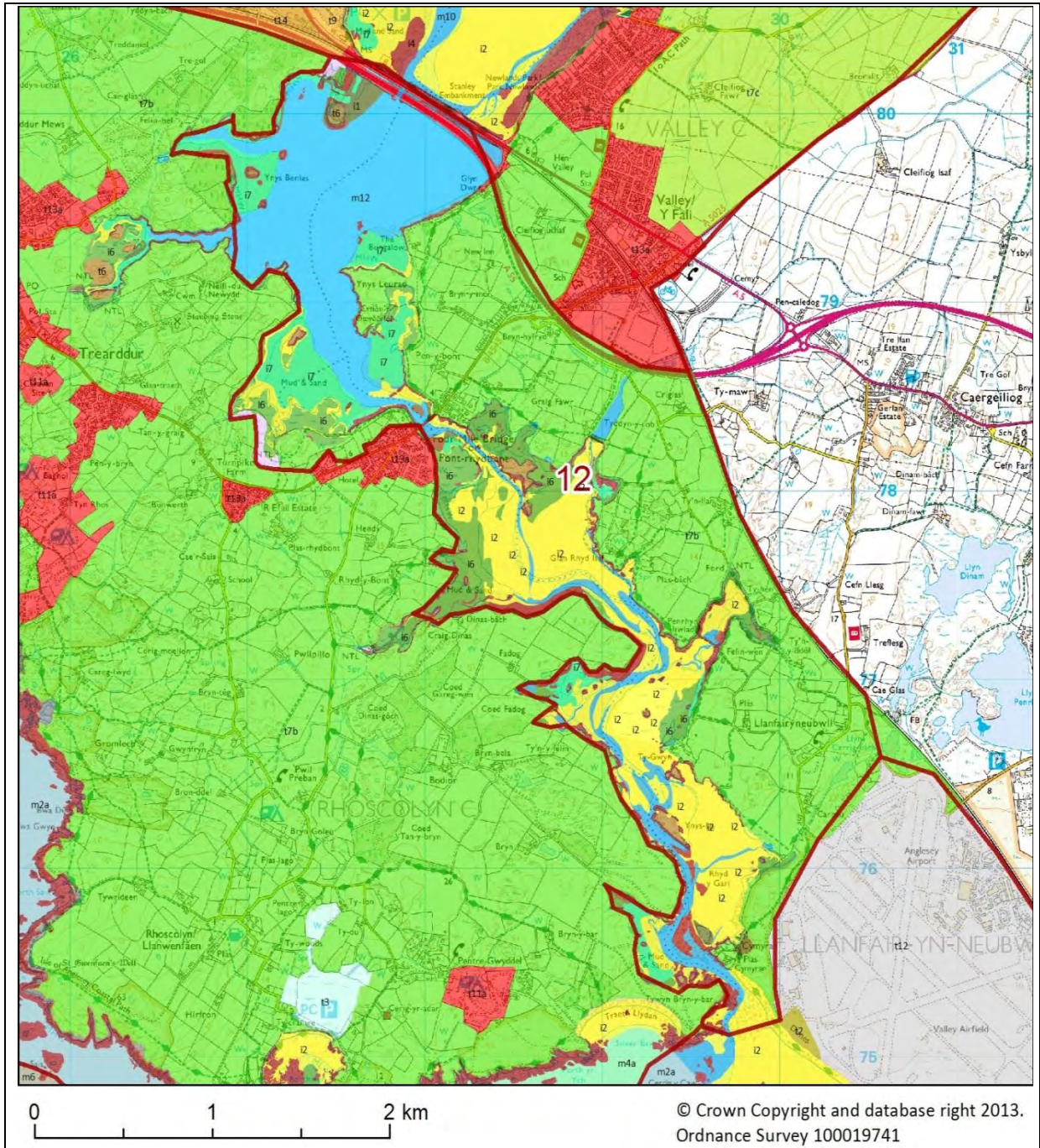
Summary Description

The Inland Sea is a unique environment, created by the impounding of a tidal channel. The Stanley embankment across the channel (which marks the northern edge of the SCA) was originally constructed by Thomas Telford in 1825, and has since been widened to accommodate a dual carriageway and railway line. The resulting 'inland sea' contains a rare variety of intertidal habitats and has a unique sense of place. The sheltered, calm water makes it a popular location for watersports.

The character of the area distinctly changes at Four Mile Bridge. The northern part has a very shallow tidal range, and remains flooded at low tide as it has been impounded by the Four Mile Bridge wall at the southern end and the Stanley Embankment at the northern end. In contrast, the southern part drains at low tide to a few meandering channels, with extensive sand banks, a number of rocky islets, and various sheltered muddy creeks and saltmarshes. The surrounding landscape is low-lying, and away from roads and settlements the Inland Sea has a strong sense of seclusion.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Inland Sea SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Underlain by Ordovician mudstones, with occasional igneous intrusions, especially in the south of the SCA.
- Landform generally low-lying, and marine areas relatively shallow with extensive intertidal areas
- Complex wave and tidal patterns modified by the A5/A 55 causeway across the Inland Sea. The water within the tidal lagoon is shallow and the tidal range very limited. South of Four Mile Bridge the channel becomes more sinuous.
- Recreational uses, including water sports and bird watching.
- Extensive Intertidal habitats around Inland Sea, supporting a rich variety of species and characterised by firm, muddy sand with some rocky patches and fringing beds of seagrass.
- Chimney of the nearby aluminium works is a key landmark and provides a sense of orientation in an otherwise low-lying landscape.
- Settlement clustered around Four Mile Bridge in the centre of the SCA.
- A relatively inward- looking area, with colours and textures constantly changing as result of tides and weather. Tranquil qualities away from roads and settlements.
- Rugged outline of Holyhead Mountain visible to the west. To the east, low-lying farmland provides a less dramatic setting.
- Views seawards restricted by the Stanley Embankment.



View north from Four Mile Bridge, showing lagoon between embankments.

Image © Fiona Fyfe



View south from Four Mile Bridge at high tide in winter.

Image © Fiona Fyfe



View south from Four Mile Bridge at low tide in spring. [Compare with adjacent photo to see effects of tide and season.]

Image © Fiona Fyfe

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Watersports	Relaxation	Natural	Informal	Spiritual
Ecotourism	Exercise	Cultural	Formal	Religious
Exploring				
Active				

Natural Influences and sites

- Natural processes responding to modifications by man-made structures, notably the embankment at Four-Mile Bridge, and the Stanley Embankment carrying the A5, A55 and railway across the Inland Sea. The embankments have culverts for tidal flow, but the tidal range is restricted to approx. 1m, and the tidal regime is complex. Between the Stanley Embankment and Four Mile Bridge is a shallow lagoon.
- South of Four Mile Bridge, natural processes are more estuarine, with a narrow, sinuous channel surrounded by extensive sand and mud flats at low tide.
- Sediment is firm, muddy sand, with infauna including lugworm, edible cockle, polychaetes and crustaceans. Other habitats include rocky outcrops, and areas of muddy gravel. Peacock worms and seasquirts live on the lower shore rock.
- Designated RIGS sites at Craig Fawr, Felin-wen and Rhyd-y-gari.
- Extensive seagrass beds, and red and brown algae colonise intertidal areas.
- Extensive SSSI (Beddmanarch Cymyran) covering intertidal areas and Inland Sea.
- Supports a variety of bird species.

Cultural Influences and sites

- Historic transport routes and structures including the Stanley Embankment (originally designed by Thomas Telford in 1823 as part of the London-Holyhead road providing a connection to Dublin, and subsequently widened to accommodate railway line and the A55).
- Prehistoric settlement on Ynys Leurad.
- Five well-preserved Medieval tide mills in Inland Sea.
- Former ferry crossing just to the north of Cymyran at Rhyd-y-gari, and landing places to the south of Cymyran and in the less of the Plascymyran.
- Popular recreation location for water sports (windsurfing and canoeing) and bird watching.
- Inland sea is a location for bait digging.
- Within Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- A fairly large-scale landscape, with an open feel due to the presence of water and the relatively low-lying landform. Around the periphery of the SCA, creeks have a more enclosed and intimate feel.
- Water/ intertidal areas dominate views and create a distinctive and unified sense of place.
- Constantly changing patterns, colours and textures depending on the light and the tide.
- Presence of water and the lack of settlement creates a relatively tranquil feel in much of the SCA, although it is locally affected by movement and noise from transport routes.
- The relatively undeveloped surroundings of the southern part of the SCA contribute to its character. Views to Holyhead Mountain to the north-west contribute to the setting of the SCA and give a sense of orientation.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change							
<p>Development along the B4545, and a proposed holiday village close to the Inland Sea at Cae Glas.</p> <p>Recent improvements to A55 impacting on geomorphology.</p> <p>Seasonal visitor and recreational pressure (including traffic issues), with occasional conflicts of interest between recreation and conservation.</p> <p>Impacts on tranquillity (and visual impacts) from MOD activities at RAF Valley (in adjacent SCA).</p> <p>Natural tidal processes modified by construction of Stanley Embankment. Flood risk (exacerbated by sea level rise) includes overtopping of the Stanley Embankment, and a potential increase in the tidal prism between the mainland and Holy Island, resulting in changes to the southern entrance to the Inland Sea.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use
	Welsh Language							
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views							
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features							
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity							
	Cultural heritage							
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness							
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment							
	Geology and geomorphological features							
	Islands							
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens							
	Soil, air and water quality							
	Key	Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>High coastal peak of Holyhead mountain is a visual backdrop to the area.</p> <p>A rare example of an embanked tidal strait- the only example in Wales.</p>	
Existing development	<p>Historic transport routes have high cultural value and add to the SCA's sense of place</p>	<p>Views of chimney of aluminium smelting works give some views from the SCA a more industrial character.</p>
The visual experience	<p>Setting of Holyhead Mountain (SCA 12) contributes to character of SCA.</p> <p>SCA often experienced from the water as well as from land.</p>	<p>Views often contain boats of many types and sizes and give the area a more recreational character. .</p>
Tranquillity	<p>Lack of development, particularly in the southern part of the SCA.</p>	<p>Road and rail traffic on embankment and bridges create noise and visual movement, locally reducing tranquillity.</p>

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 13:

HOLYHEAD MOUNTAIN

Component LCAs (Anglesey): Holyhead Mountain

Location and Context

The Holyhead Mountain SCA lies in the extreme west of Anglesey. It comprises the coastal heathland of Holyhead Mountain (which rises to 220m) and the associated cliffs and islets, including South Stack and its lighthouse. Three seascape character areas lie off the coast: SCA10 Carmel Head to Penrhyn to the north; SCA30 North-west of Anglesey to the north-west and SCA 31 West of Anglesey to the west. SCA 11 Holyhead is to the east and SCA 14 Rhoscolyn is to the south.



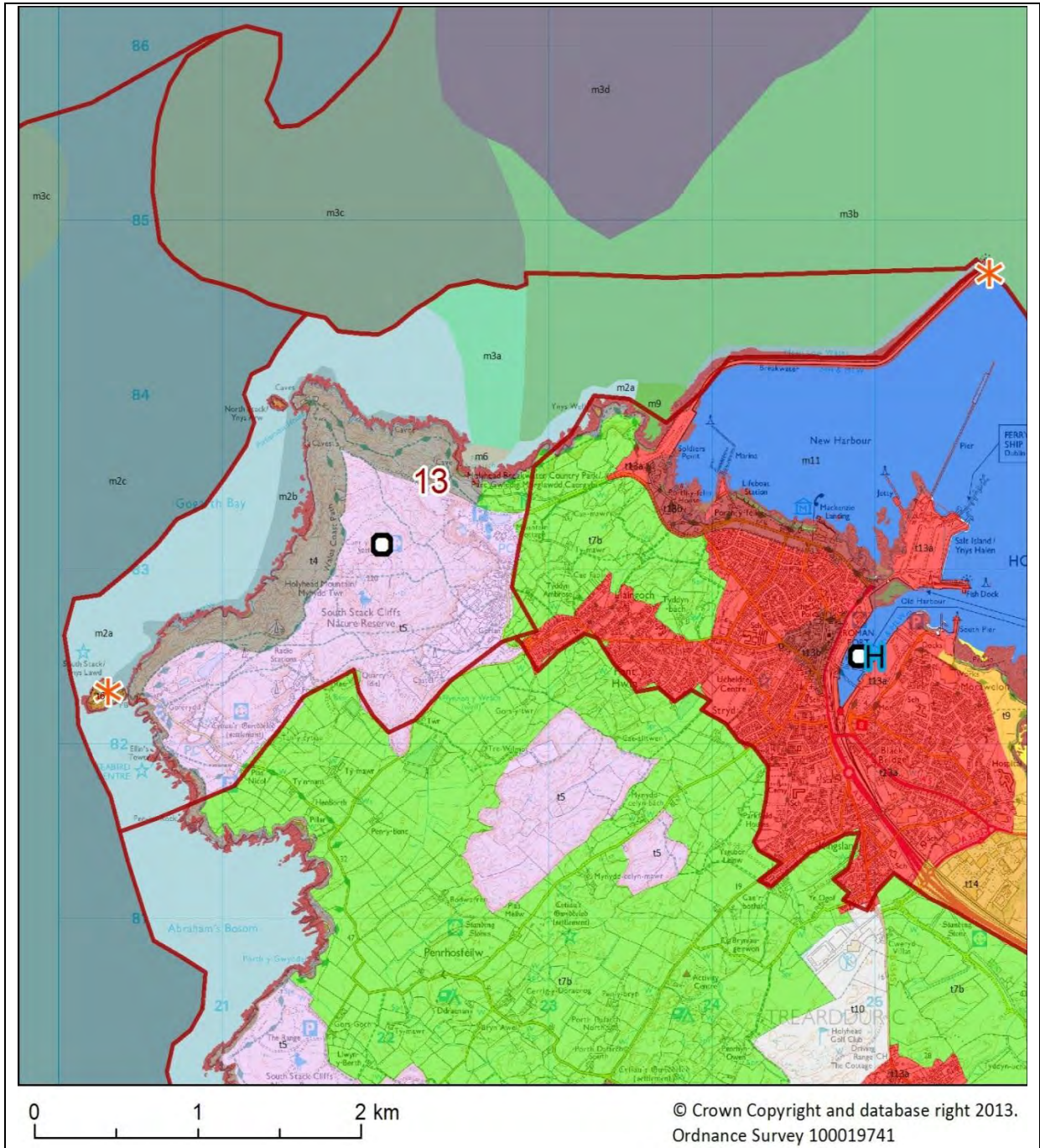
View south from Holyhead Mountain showing cliffs and coastal heath at Gogarth Bay. Image ©Fiona Fyfe

Summary Description

The high, rugged profile of Holyhead Mountain rises sharply from the sea at the north-west tip of Anglesey. It is a prominent and distinctive landmark from land and from approaching shipping, and over the years has been used as a hillfort, watchtower and signal station. The high cliffs and white water create a dramatic and dangerous coastline, and the lighthouse at South Stack is still in use. The mountain forms an important setting to the town and port of Holyhead below. Holyhead Mountain comprises the largest single expanse of coastal heath on Anglesey, and contains a mosaic of heather, bracken, gorse and grassland, as well as the unique *spatulate fleawort*. The colours of vegetation change throughout the year, with purple heather and yellow gorse being a particularly dramatic combination. The SCA supports many different species of sea birds, and has a tranquil, wild and remote quality, despite its proximity to Holyhead. It is popular with visitors who come to admire the panoramic views and the wildlife.

Constituent Seascapes Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascapes Character Types.



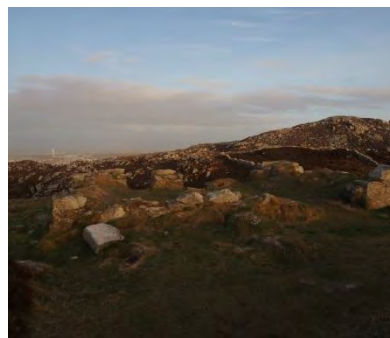
Seascapes Character Types in the Holyhead Mountain SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Underlying geology of Cambrian quartzite. Dramatic folding visible, for example at South Stack.
- Land rises sharply to 220m at the summit (the highest point on Anglesey). Dramatic juxtaposition of mountain dropping steeply into the open sea, with the sea shelving steeply away from the shore.
- A high-energy wave environment, with full force of south-westerly waves battering high cliffs and rocky islands. White water and eddies occur at bases of cliffs.
- Onshore land use is coastal heath, managed for nature conservation and tourism. Dangerous marine environment limits offshore activities.
- Nationally-important coastal heath habitats supporting rare species of plants and birds. High cliffs are habitats for nesting sea birds.
- Archaeological sites associated with defence include Iron Age hillfort and Roman watchtower. Also hut circles, communications masts, signal station and quarrying legacy.
- Offshore historic and cultural features include South Stack lighthouse and bridge (now a tourist attraction).
- Very limited settlement or development. Visitors' centres and car parks at South Stack, and Breakwater Country Park.
- An exceptionally open, exposed and elevated landscape, with panoramic views over the sea and Anglesey. Sense of tranquillity, wildness and remoteness, despite the proximity to Holyhead town and port.
- Landscape setting of surrounding lower-lying farmland, and the town of Holyhead, with distant views across to Snowdonia in the east.
- Surrounded by open sea, with Holyhead harbour a feature in the foreground to the east, and the Llyn Peninsula on the southern seaward horizon.



Quartzite rock on Holyhead Mountain. Image ©Fiona Fyfe



Remains of building (possible site of signal cannon) and summit.

Image ©Fiona Fyfe



South Stack Lighthouse from the sea. Image ©Bangor University

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Active	Relaxation	Natural	Informal	Spiritual
Exploring	Exercise	Cultural	Formal	Religious
Ecotourism				

Natural Influences and sites

- Cambrian quartzites comprise exceptionally hard ancient rocks (some of the oldest in Britain). Designated RIGS sites include South Stack, Holyhead Breakwater Country Park, Porth Namarch and Soldiers' Pont Bay.
- Coastal erosive processes creating dramatic cliff scenery including stacks.
- RSPB Nature Reserve at South Stack RSPB, and Breakwater Country Park, providing car parking and access.
- Rare *Spatulate Fleawort* plant unique to this SCA.
- Extensive coastal heath and cliff habitats designated SSSI (Holy Island Coast), SPA and SAC. Marine environment supports porpoises and seals, which bask on the rocks.
- Designated Heritage Coast.
- Marine habitat of tide-swept bedrock around the headlands of North and South Stack. Bedrock and boulders dominated by animals such as sponges, anemones and seasquirts, particularly within surge gullies and on vertical walls.

Cultural Influences and sites

- Caer Y Twr Iron-Age hillfort, Prehistoric hut circles and Roman watchtower (all Scheduled Monuments)
- Long association with communication, shown in old signal station (part of Holyhead- Liverpool Telegraph which allowed ships to communicate their arrival or loss information to the Underwriters' Room at Liverpool) as well as more recent communications masts.
- Cliff top cannon (now in Country Park) fired to warn vessels which were too close to the shore. The Magazine survives near North Stack.
- South Stack lighthouse (established 1809) and footbridge connecting the stack to the shore.
- Shipwrecks include the *Matilda* (1853) returning from Africa to Liverpool, and stranded near South Stack in thick fog, and the steamship *Harold* (1908).
- WW2 Aircraft wreck of Vickers Wellington DV442 near South Stack, which crashed whilst waiting to land at RAF Valley.
- Holyhead Mountain Conservation Area.
- Quarry on north coast used as a source of stone for construction of Holyhead harbour breakwater (now part of Breakwater Country Park). The industrial landscape also includes the quarry tramway, two large limekilns and a powder magazine. The quarry was reused as a rifle range in the late Nineteenth Century.
- Within Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- An open and exposed landscape with a strong sense of elevation and panoramic views. On very clear evenings, the Wicklow Hills in Ireland can be seen from the summit.
- Homogenous in character: coastal heath and cliffs with few other features, although communications masts interrupt the skyline.
- Surface rocks, cliffs and vegetation create a rough texture, with strong seasonal colours from extensive heather, gorse and bracken.
- Strong sense of remoteness, wildness and tranquillity, despite the presence of Holyhead nearby. Difference in elevation between mountain and town lends a sense of detachment.
- Tranquillity reduced in summer months due to numbers of visitors, and at night due to light pollution from Holyhead.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change								
Changes in grazing management potentially affecting the composition of valuable coastal heath habitats. Changes in vegetation (particularly growth of bracken and woody shrubs) can also damage archaeology.	<p>Special Qualities</p>	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use	
Seasonal visitor pressure potentially leading to damage of sensitive habitats and archaeology, loss of tranquillity and traffic issues.		Welsh Language							
Visual impacts of existing telecommunications masts on summit.		Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views							
Visual impacts of development and lighting in Holyhead port and town affecting the setting of the SCA.		Rural agricultural communities and their associated features							
Natural coastal processes including wave action on cliffs and stacks.		Richness of habitats and biodiversity							
Natural coastal processes including wave action on cliffs and stacks.		Cultural heritage							
Natural coastal processes including wave action on cliffs and stacks.		Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness							
Natural coastal processes including wave action on cliffs and stacks.		Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment							
Natural coastal processes including wave action on cliffs and stacks.		Geology and geomorphological features							
Natural coastal processes including wave action on cliffs and stacks.		Islands							
Natural coastal processes including wave action on cliffs and stacks.		Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens							
Natural coastal processes including wave action on cliffs and stacks.		Soil, air and water quality							
Key			Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>Steep, high cliffs form natural rocky shoreline and associated cliff and coastal heath habitats.</p> <p>Coastal peak and a prominent landmark, visible over land and sea.</p> <p>High land close to the coast forms a distinctive coastal backdrop and skyline.</p>	
Existing development	Very limited development and few roads within the SCA resulting in an undeveloped quality which contrasts with Holyhead below.	Communications masts on summit.
The visual experience	<p>From summit, 180 degree views over land and sea.</p> <p>Users of Wales Coast Path and visitors to Nature Reserve are sensitive receptors.</p> <p>Forms backdrop and setting to town and port of Holyhead.</p>	Views from the SCA include existing development at Holyhead.
Tranquillity	Existing high levels of tranquillity, remoteness and wildness.	Localised reductions in tranquillity due to concentrations of visitors.

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 14:

RHOSCOLYN

Component LCAs (Anglesey): Holy Island; Inland Sea; Holyhead Mountain

Location and Context

SCA 14 Rhoscolyn is located in the west of Anglesey and covers the majority of Holy Island, including the settlements of Trearddur and Rhoscolyn. To the north-west is SCA 13 Holyhead Mountain, and to the north are SCA 11 Holyhead and SCA 12 Inland Sea. To the south-east is SCA 15 Rhosneigr. To the south-west (seaward) is SCA .31 West of Anglesey.



Trearddur Bay with sandy beach and rocky headlands. Holyhead mountain is visible in the distance.

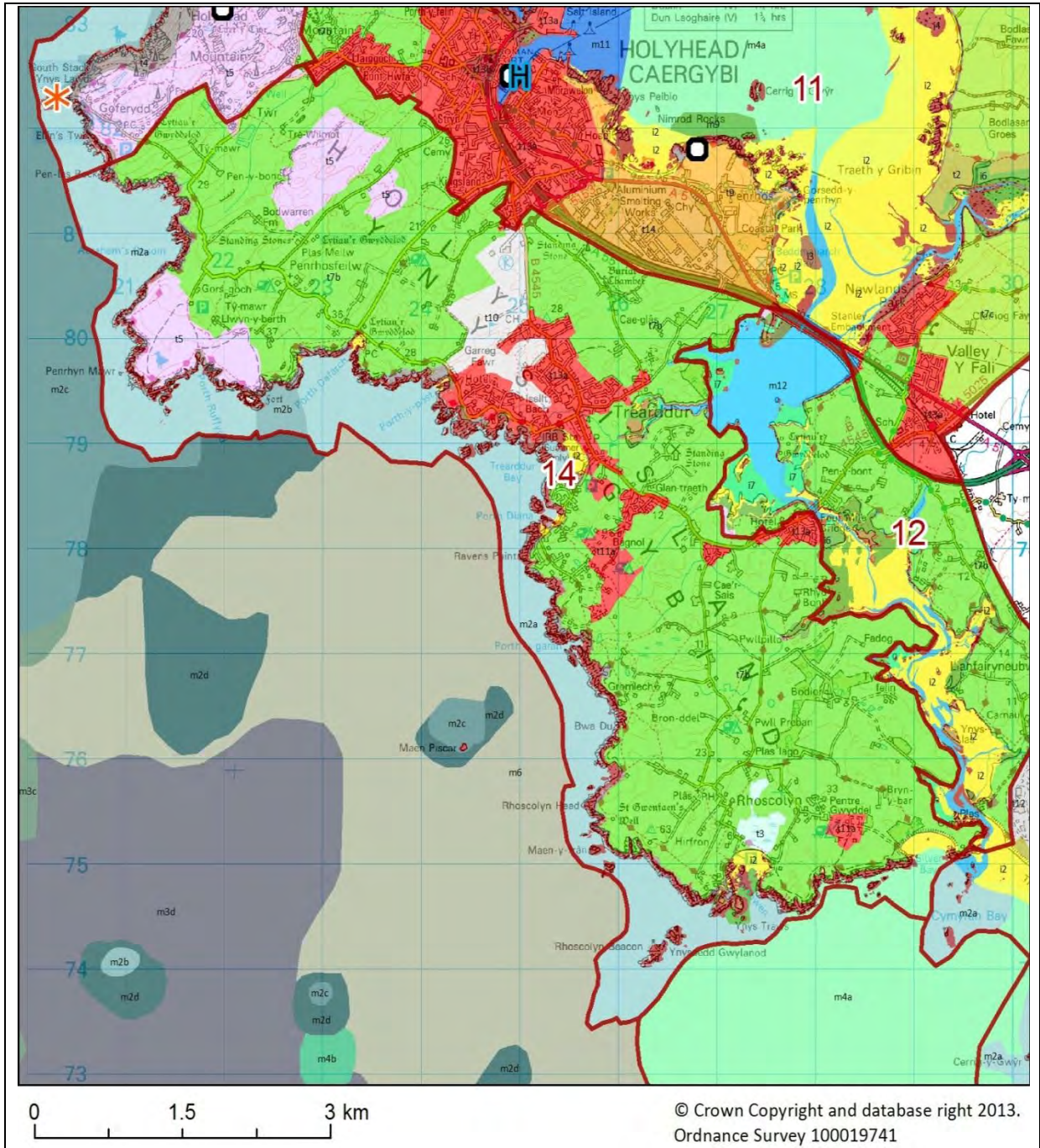
Image © Fiona Fyfe

Summary Description

This is a relatively flat, low-lying area with horizontal horizons and long views out to sea. It has a rough, textured quality due to the mosaic of rhos pasture, coastal heath and exposed surface rocks. This variety of vegetation creates patches of seasonal colour in the landscape. The coast is deeply crenellated, with low rocky cliffs and small bays. It is an exposed, wild coastline, particularly in prevailing south-westerly conditions. Holyhead Mountain rises to the north-west, and provides a prominent landmark and backdrop. Settlements follow the B4545 (the old Holyhead road), but elsewhere settlement is largely limited to scattered farms, giving much of the SCA an undeveloped feel.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Rhoscolyn SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Underlying geology of folded Cambrian rocks with occasional Precambrian igneous intrusions.
- Landform generally rugged and low-lying, with a crenellated coastline of low cliffs, geos & rocky bays. Small sandy beach at Trearddur, and coastal arch at Bull Bay.
- A high energy wave environment with the coastline feeling the full force of Atlantic breakers in prevailing south-westerly winds.
- Land uses onshore dominated by pastoral farming on rhos pasture, with patches of heathland, settlement and leisure use. Treacherous conditions offshore limit sea uses to potting and recreational angling.
- A rich mosaic of habitats including rocky cliffs, intertidal rocks, rhos pasture and heathland.
- A concentration of prehistoric archaeological sites including standing stones and burial chambers, as well as historic landscape features such as lanes and field boundaries.
- Settlement concentrated along the B4585 (the former main road to Holyhead), including Trearddur village and associated tourism development. Farms, caravan and campsites throughout SCA but often hidden by landform.
- A strongly-textured landscape due to the rugged, landform, surface rocks, cliffs, rocky coast, and rough pasture and heathland landcover. Coastal views are generally open, and exposed in south-westerly conditions.
- With the exception of Holyhead Mountain rising up to the north-west, horizons are generally low and there is not a strong sense of the landscape setting.
- Seascape setting contains offshore islands (e.g. Ynysoedd Gwylanod and Maen Piscar), with views across Caernarfon Bay to the Lleyn Peninsula.



Trearddur Bay in winter storm Image © Fiona Fyfe



Rhoscolyn coastline as seen from Holyhead Mountain. Image ©John Briggs



Coastal Arch at Bull Bay Image © Efan Milner

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Beach	Relaxation	Natural	Informal	Spiritual
Watersports	Exercise	Cultural	Formal	Religious
Active				
Exploring				
Ecotourism				

Natural Influences and sites

- Exceptionally hard Cambrian and Precambrian rocks (some of the oldest exposed rocks in Britain).
- Dramatic coastal geomorphology features, including rugged cliffs, crenulated bays + natural arch at Bull Bay.
- Relict glacial features including glacio-fluvial deposits.
- Extensive SSSIs and SPAs covering coasts, cliffs and coastal habitats. SSSIs include Holy Island Coast, Tre Wilmot, Porth Diana, Glannau Rhoscolyn, Rhoscolyn Reedbed, and a small part of Beddmanarch- Cymyran.
- Numerous coastal RIGS sites, including Porth Dafarch, Porth-y-post, Porth-y-pwll, Careg-lwyd, Bwa Du and Dennis Wood’s Memorial.
- Strong tidal currents, particularly in the north. Wave action can be high. Caves, arches and bedrock support marine communities including sponges, anemones and seasquirts.
- Rhoscolyn Bay (Borthwen) is relatively sheltered and supports a subtidal seagrass community (a Welsh Biodiversity Action Plan habitat). Associated with the seagrass beds are many species of algae, crustaceans, molluscs, fish, sponges and anemones.
- Tidal race of Penrhyn Mawr with standing waves is popular with sea kayakers.

Cultural Influences and sites

- Long history of human habitation demonstrated in concentration of prehistoric sites (e.g. Scheduled Monuments of Trefignaeth Burial chamber, Ty Mawr and Penrhos Feilw standing stones.)
- Periodic exposure of ancient submerged forests/ peat deposits in the intertidal area of Trearddur Bay. Stone axes and Roman coffins have been found on the beach, confirming a long history of use of the foreshore.
- Early medieval chapel at Towyn-y-capel and associated burial ground lost through coastal erosion.
- Small traditional landing places along the exposed coast. e.g. at Porth-y-cowgl, Porth-y-post and Porth-y-pwll. Henborth provided one of the few places where a small boat could be launched to row to the assistance of shipwrecked mariners.
- Documentary references to shipwrecks in this vicinity tend to use the phrase ‘back of Holyhead’. It remains a notoriously dangerous stretch of coastline, marked with a warning beacon off Rhoscolyn Point. Admiralty Sailing Directions published in 1870 describe it as *studded with dangers and a stranger should not under any circumstances approach within two miles of it.*
- Historic settlements along routeway to Holyhead (e.g. Four mile bridge and Trearddur).
- Designated Heritage Coast west of Trearddur.

- Fishing activity is mainly potting and recreational angling.
- Lifeboat station and slipway at Trearddur Bay.
- Porth Dafarch has a long (and continuing) history as a landfall for submarine telecommunications.
- This SCA is popular for recreational boating and watersports, particularly around sandy beaches.
- Borthwen, 'The Beacons', and the wreck of the *Missouri* off Porth Dafach are popular diving sites.
- Historic oyster industry.
- Within Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- A medium-scale landscape, with low horizons and a generally open feel, although the undulating landform does create localised sense of enclosure.
- A strong sense of the sea, with frequent views of the coast, as well as a strong sense of time-depth from the archaeological sites and ancient farms, lanes and enclosure patterns.
- Landscape strongly textured by rhos pasture, coastal and inland rocks, cliffs, and heath. Coastal heath also adds seasonal colour and variety.
- Perceptual qualities vary throughout the SCA. Close to coasts there is a greater sense of remoteness and wildness (particularly in heathland areas) but this reduces in the more settled, farmed parts of the SCA. Some remote coastal areas also experience high degrees of tranquillity although this can be reduced by weather and sea conditions, and by the presence of people (particularly in summer).
- Holyhead mountain forms an imposing backdrop to views north-west, adding a dramatic and wild character to the landscape and seascape.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change								
<p>A popular tourist destination, with several caravan/ campsites and seasonal visitor pressures, particularly traffic.</p> <p>Proposed holiday village at Cae Glas on the eastern side of the SCA near the Inland Sea, and some development pressure, particularly around Trearddur.</p> <p>Changes in land/ agricultural management practises potentially affecting the character of the SCA and valuable habitats including coastal heath and Rhos pasture.</p> <p>Natural coastal processes, including erosion at Trearddur Bay and Porth Dinas. Low-lying land around Trearddur is also vulnerable to flooding (with the flood risk exacerbated by sea level rise).</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use	
	Welsh Language								
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views								
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features								
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity								
	Cultural heritage								
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness								
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment								
	Geology and geomorphological features								
	Islands								
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens								
	Soil, air and water quality								
	Key		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	A crenellated coastal edge of cliffs and small pebbly bays separated by rocky headlands, with a wild and natural quality and associated wildlife habitats.	
Existing development	Much of SCA has an undeveloped character.	Settlements along B4545, including larger village of Trearddur, scattered farms and caravan parks/ campsites.
The visual experience	Users of Wales Coast Path are sensitive receptors. Skylines of Holyhead Mountain contributes to character and visual qualities of SCA. SCA also visible from Holyhead Mountain.	
Tranquillity	Senses of remoteness, wildness and tranquillity in coastal areas inaccessible by road.	Traffic on B4545, and seasonal increases in visitor numbers, particularly around Trearddur.

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 15:

RHOSNEIGR

Component LCAs (Anglesey): Valley Airfield Environs; Aberffraw

Location and Context

SCA 15 Rhosneigr is located on the south-western coast of Anglesey between Rhoscolyn Beacon and Carreg y-trai headland. It includes Cymyran Bay and Porth Trecastle with their associated headlands, islands, beaches and dune systems. The village of Rhosneigr, Valley airfield and the motor-racing circuit are located within this SCA, along with the open farmland which surrounds them. SCA 32 Caernarfon Bay lies to the south (seaward), with SCA 14 Rhoscolyn to the north-west and SCA 16 Malltraeth to the south-east.



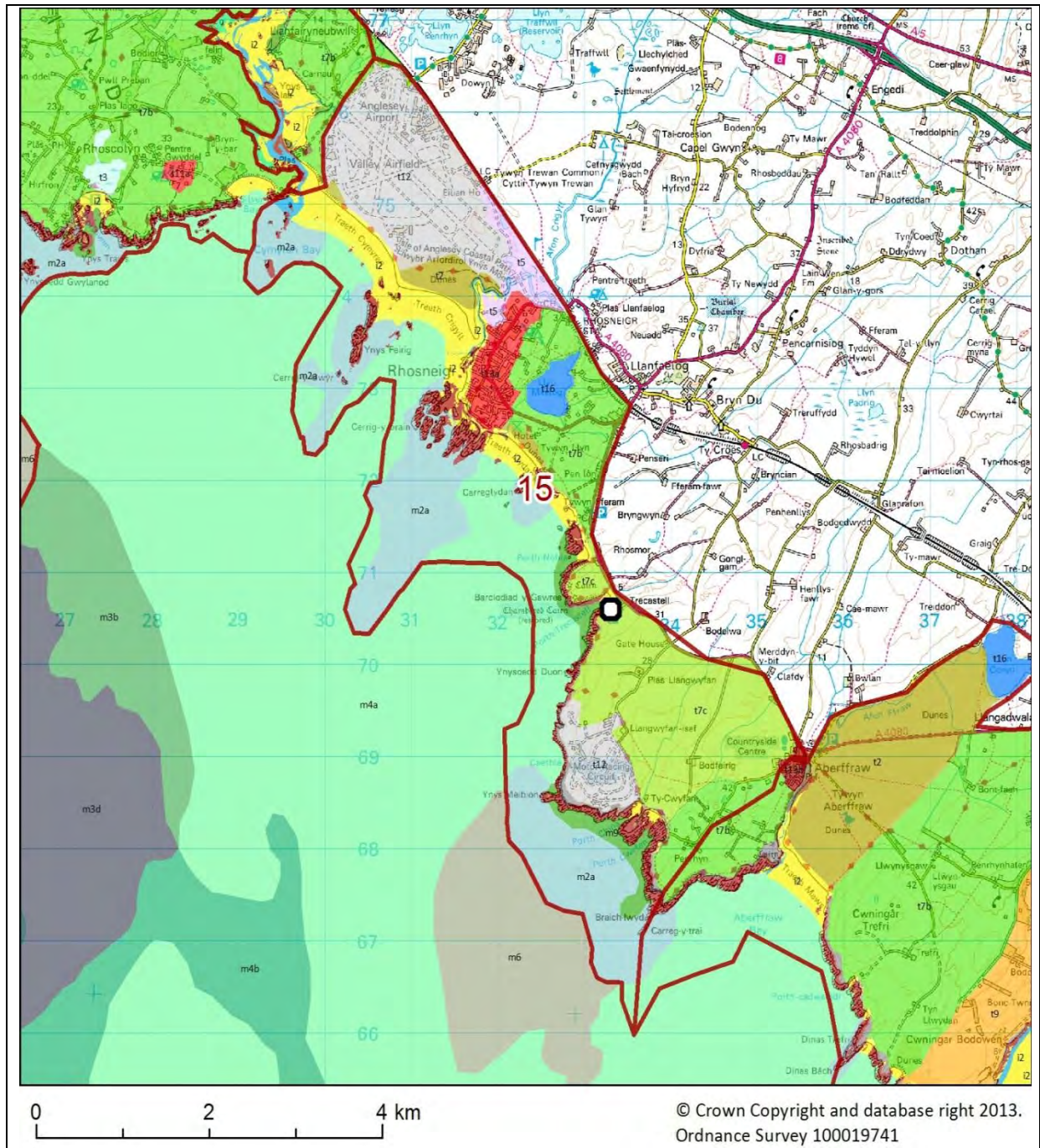
*Traeth Llydan (east of Rhosneigr) showing intertidal rock and sand on beach, and islands visible at low tide. The buildings of Valley Airfield can be seen on the horizon on the right of the picture.
Image © Fiona Fyfe*

Summary Description

This SCA is characterised by expansive sandy beaches and smooth-profiled headlands. Atlantic breakers roll up the beaches, making this a popular recreation area for watersports. Inland of the beaches are extensive areas of sand dunes and marram grass. The land above the rocky headlands is exceptionally smooth in its profile with large, open fields and very little surface vegetation. Amongst this expansive landscape are the more developed areas of Valley Airfield, Rhosneigr village and the motor racing circuit at Llangwyfan. The rocky headlands end in distinctive fingers of rock extending into the sea. Some have islands offshore, including Cribinau with its tiny church.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Rhosneigr SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Varied geology of Cambrian and Ordovician rocks in the west, and Precambrian metamorphic and igneous rocks (some of the oldest rocks in Britain) in the east, which have a smoother landform profile.
- Low, wide, plateau-like headlands with smooth profiles divide rocky bays and wide sandy beaches. Rocky islands just offshore are the remains of former headlands eroded by the sea. Shallow nearshore bathymetry associated with beaches.
- Atlantic waves combine with shallow bathymetry and wide beaches to create rolling breakers. Crigyll river flows into the sea at Rhosneigr.
- Popular for offshore recreation: surfing, kite surfing, sailing, etc. Land uses include Valley airfield, Anglesey racing circuit (the site of a WW2 camp), farmland and settlement.
- Habitats include rocky reefs, intertidal rock and sand, dunes, and freshwater lake (Lleyn Maelog).
- Onshore Historic and cultural features include the prominent reconstructed burial chamber at Barclodiad y Gawres, containing early examples of cave art, and former shipbuilding site at Llyn Maelog.
- Offshore historic and cultural features include Cribinau Church on a causewayed island, and transatlantic communications cables coming ashore at Porth Trecastell.
- Rhosneigr village, expanded in recent years with a strong 'touristy' feel. Valley airfield and Anglesey motor racing circuit give parts of the SCA a more developed feel.
- Farmland in the east of the SCA is exceptionally smooth, with few trees or hedgerows. The whole SCA has an open and exposed feel, particularly during south-westerly conditions.
- Farmland continues inland, but does not form a well-defined landscape setting.
- Seascape visually contained by headlands. Includes nearshore islands, and the Lleyn Peninsula on the southern horizon.



Dolmen at Borthwen.

Image © Fiona Fyfe



Smooth-profile headland at Mynydd Bach. Image (and image to right) ©Fiona Fyfe



Rhosneigr Beach, showing Ynys Ferig, breakers, and amenity grassland of recent development.

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Watersports	Relaxation	Natural	Informal	Spiritual
Beach	Exercise	Cultural	Formal	Religious
Active				
Exploring				
Ecotourism				

Natural Influences and sites

- Strong influence of geology on landform and profile, including some of the oldest exposed rocks in Britain. Designated coastal RIGS sites include Porth Nobla 1 and 2, Porth Tre Castell and Porth Cwyfan. Llanfaelog RIGS site is located inland of Llyn Maelog.
- Past glacial processes, including deposition of fluvio-glacial sediments (i.e. sediments deposited by the rivers which flowed underneath glaciers).
- Extensive deposition of wind-blown sand, including the site of Valley airfield.
- SSSI and SPA designated for bird life around and Ynys Feurig.
- Other SSSIs at Llyn Maelog (freshwater lagoon), Rhosneigr Reefs (designated for seaweed communities), Rhosneigr and Ty Croes (designated for heathland, grassland and rock habitats, and the Marsh Fritillary butterfly).
- Ongoing coastal processes, including erosion around Rhosneigr.
- Predominantly shallow exposed bedrock and boulder habitat. Near Ynys Meibon in the south of the SCA the rock is colonised by kelp and algae. Gullies in the rock contain hydroids, soft corals, anemones and molluscs such as the sea hare. Wide rocky platforms at the top of the shore have extensive lichens, e.g. Sea Holly.

Cultural Influences and sites

- Reconstructed burial chamber and associated Neolithic art at Barclodiad y Gawres (Scheduled Monument). Other prehistoric remains include promontory forts and cairns.
- Twelfth- Fifteenth Century church of St Cwyfan on Cribinau island, reached by tidal causeway and small landing places.
- Former shipbuilding site at Llyn Maelog.
- Crigyll Rocks notorious for wrecks, and ruthless wreckers (known as the Crigyll Wreckers) robbing the cargoes of stricken vessels.
- Trwyn Euphrates is named after a vessel wrecked there in 1868.
- Former lifeboat and coastguard station at Rhosneigr.
- World War II defensive sites at Valley airfield (still in use as RAF Valley) and headland to the west of Aberffraw (originally a military training camp and now the Anglesey Motor Racing Circuit). The camp was a training ground for anti-aircraft gunners, with a range extending for several miles out to sea. Sea Slug missiles were tested here in the 1950s, and it remained a dominant feature of the seascape until its closure in the 1990s.
- Tre Castell Bay used for submarine telecommunications cables to Howth (Ireland).
- Popular area for watersports including surfing. The wreck of the *Norman Court* is a popular recreational diving site.
- Largely within Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- A relatively large scale and expansive landscape, with long views and a sense of openness and exposure, particularly on beaches and open headlands.
- Generally a smooth landscape with few trees and wide sandy beaches. Dunes and marram create subtle texture which contrasts with the roughness of coastal rocks and the regular patterns of waves.
- Contrasts between beaches, cliffs, farmland and developed coastal land at Valley airfield and racing track.
- A relatively developed area (for military and tourism uses), especially in the western part of the SCA. Aircraft noise has localised impacts. East of Rhosneigr, the area feels more peaceful and less developed, but retains a settled quality.
- A dangerous stretch of coastline for shipping, often with treacherous conditions and hidden rocks. The roughness of the sea contrasts with the smooth profile and appearance of the land.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change								
<p>Continuing development of WWII defensive sites at RAF Valley and Anglesey Motor Racing Circuit, with impacts on tranquillity, and visual intrusion from prominent buildings.</p> <p>Development pressure around Rhosneigr, including recent beach-front tourism development. Seasonal pressure from visitors, particularly on beaches and roads.</p> <p>Seasonal conflicts of interest between different recreational users of beaches and bays.</p> <p>Changes in farm management and intensity potentially affecting the character of the farmed landscape.</p> <p>Natural coastal processes including erosion, with the frontage at Rhosneigr under notable pressure.</p> <p>Flooding of low-lying land (including RAF valley, Lley Maelog and Afon Crygyll valley) a potential force for change, exacerbated by sea level rise.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use	
	Welsh Language								
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views								
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features								
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity								
	Cultural heritage								
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness								
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment								
	Geology and geomorphological features								
	Islands								
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens								
	Soil, air and water quality								
	Key		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>Views out to sea from bays framed by surrounding headlands.</p> <p>Headlands have a natural, rocky coastline with fingers of rock and islands extending into the sea.</p>	
Existing development	Settlement and development concentrated in western and central parts of SCA; with the exception of the motor racing circuit, the eastern part of the SCA has a more open and undeveloped quality.	Existing developments including Valley airfield, motor-racing circuit, Rhosneigr village, caravan parks.
The visual experience	<p>Users of Wales Coast Path are sensitive receptors.</p> <p>Sweeping bays focus views across them, making development highly noticeable.</p> <p>Rugged natural coastline and inter-tidal area with sweeping vistas across to the dramatic mountainous profile of the Lleyn Peninsula.</p>	Recreation/ tourism uses on land and water influence the character of parts of the SCA, especially in summer.
Tranquillity		<p>Busy holiday destination, with seasonal increases in visitor numbers.</p> <p>Impacts of existing development, roads and occasional trains.</p>

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 17:

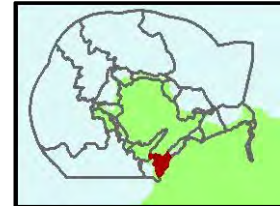
CAERNARFON

Component LCAs (Anglesey): Western Menai Strait; Newborough

Component LCAs (Gwynedd): Caernarfon Coast and Plateau; Menai Coast

Location and Context

SCA 17 includes the western end of the Menai Strait and the historic castle town of Caernarfon. It also includes the Foryd Bay estuary, and farmland to the north and south of the Menai Strait. It adjoins SCA 16 Malltraeth to the north-west and SCA 4 Menai Strait to the north-east. SCA 18 Abermenai lies to the west beyond Abermenai Point.



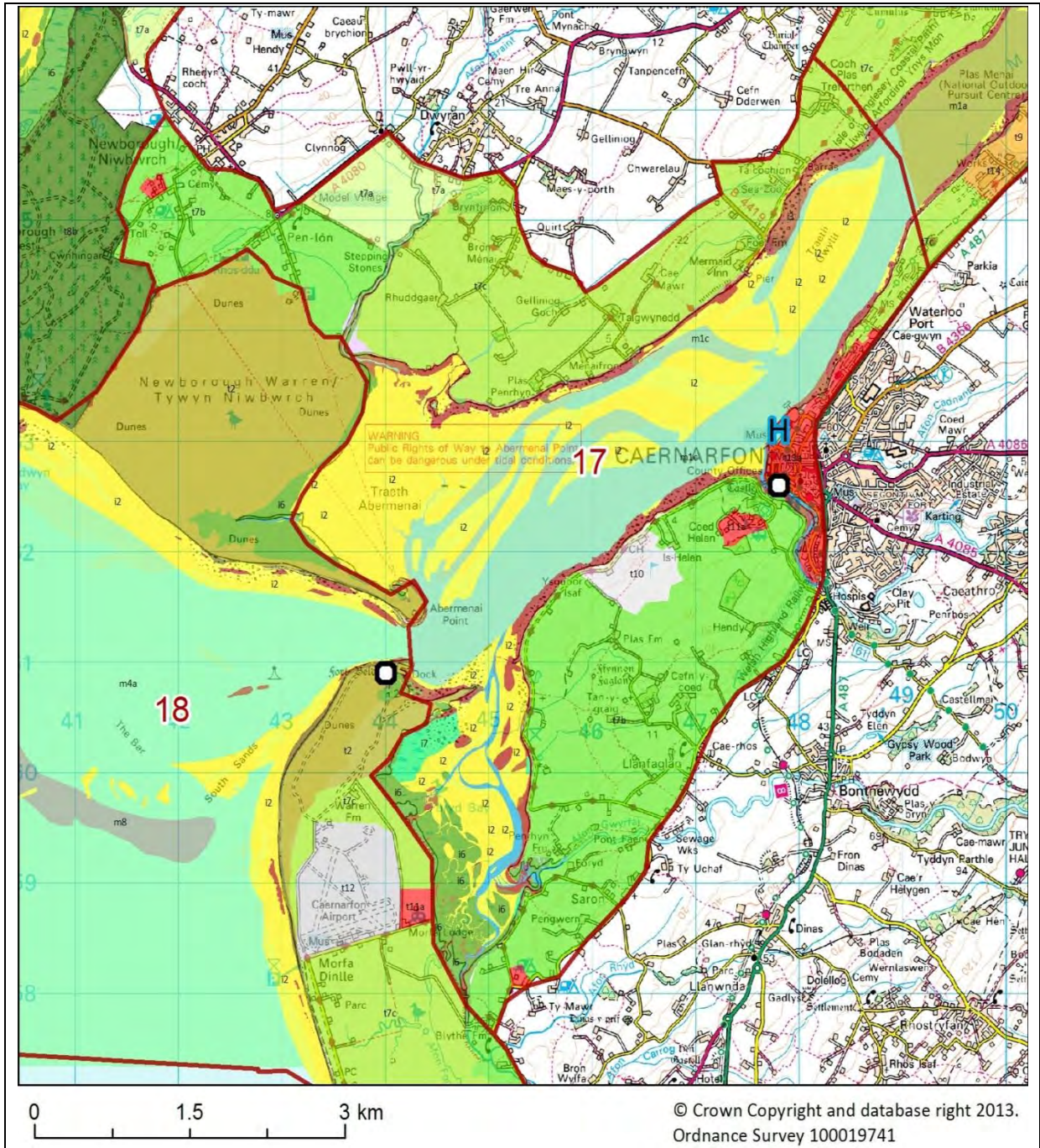
Caernarfon and the Llyn Peninsula from the Menai Strait. Views of Caernarfon Castle are obscured by recent harbourside development. Image © Fiona Fyfe

Summary Description

The walled town of Caernarfon and its splendid Medieval castle dominate views from the Menai Strait, with the high, pointed peaks of Snowdonia and the Llyn peninsula creating a dramatic backdrop. The Menai Strait is broader here than further east, and contains extensive sandbanks, visible at low tide. It is framed on both sides by pastoral farmland. The estuary of Foryd Bay contains a variety of intertidal wetland habitats, with views across the Menai Strait to the dark mass of Newborough Forest (SCA 16) on the horizon.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

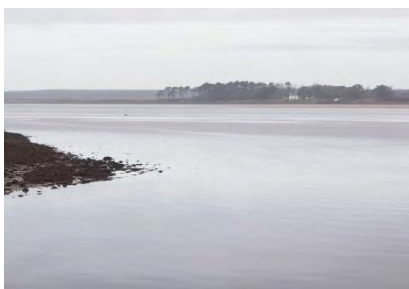
Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Caernarfon SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Varied geology, with Pre-Cambrian rocks and Carboniferous limestone west of the Menai Strait, and Ordovician mudstones to the east.
- Menai Strait divides low ridges of hills. Much higher hills (forming Snowdonia and the Llyn Peninsula) lie to the east and south.
- Complex tidal patterns create constantly changing channels and sandbanks within the western part of the Menai Strait.
- Varied land and sea uses, reflecting the importance of the Menai Strait. They include farmland, the historic town of Caernarfon, tourism, recreation, shipping and fishing.
- A wide range of habitats, including farmland, sand banks, and intertidal habitats at Foryd Bay (including extensive seagrass beds).
- Defensive sites spanning millennia (including Caernarfon Castle and Roman fort), Caernarfon town, historic harbours and slipways, and historic farms, lanes and field patterns.
- Town of Caernarfon forms focus of the SCA. Comprises medieval core and harbour surrounded by later development. Scattered farms occur throughout the area.
- Views dominated by the ever-changing channel of the Menai Strait, and framed by the surrounding landform.
- Mountains of Snowdonia and Llyn Peninsula form dramatic landscape setting to east and south.
- Seascape setting of sand dunes, which form an irregular and apparently continuous line on the horizon when viewed from the Menai Strait.



View west across the Menai Strait from Caernarfon, showing sandbanks. Newborough Forest is on the horizon. Image © Fiona Fyfe



Foryd Estuary, with Newborough Warren sand dunes on the horizon. Image © Fiona Fyfe



Caernarfon Castle as seen from the Menai Strait. Image © Fiona Fyfe

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Exploring	Relaxation	Cultural	Informal	Spiritual
Watersports	Exercise	Natural	Formal	Religious

Natural Influences and sites

- Menai Strait formed by glacial erosion of bedrock channel, which became tidal following subsequent rises in sea level.
- Dynamic marine environment, with changing patterns of sand deposition. Sediment is deposited by the slowing tidal currents in the Menai Strait. Coarse sediment is found in the centre of the main channel, with finer mobile sand habitat found towards the edges and in the delta. There is net sediment transport out of the Menai Strait towards the south west.
- Wetland/ estuary habitats at Foryd Bay (Nature Reserve and SSSI) which include extensive seagrass beds (a Welsh Biodiversity Action Plan habitat). The Afon Seiont is also designated SSSI.
- Whole of Menai Strait designated SAC.
- Designated RIGS site at Foel Ferry.

Cultural Influences and sites

- Anglesey coast rich in prehistoric sites including chambered tombs and standing stones, with findspots from other early periods (e.g. Roman coins).
- Defensive sites from many eras, emphasising the strategic importance of the southern entrance to the Menai Strait. Sites include Segontium Roman fort (Caernarfon) (Scheduled Monument) and Caernarfon Castle (Scheduled Monument and UNESCO World Heritage Site), and settlement associated with Caernarfon castle and harbour (Conservation Area).
- Traditional ferry crossing between Abermenai and Fort Belan/ Caernarfon with a small anchorage for the ferryboat inside Abermenai Point. Surviving slipway at the Mermaid Inn, opposite Caernarfon.
- St Baglan’s church on the eastern side of Forydd bay, notable as a late-Medieval church which was not restored in the Nineteenth Century.
- Historic harbour at Caernarfon, further developed for the export of slate. The shipping returns for 1868 record 760 vessels outward carrying slate.
- Lime kiln near the entrance to Foryd Bay (now a ruin) used as a leading mark and shown on early charts. Another lime kiln located at southern end of Forydd Bay, near a quay which served the Nantlle slate quarry.
- Wreck visible at low tide in Traeth Abermenai: a wooden vessel which still contains its cargo of granite setts.
- Tourism development around Caernarfon (including modern harbourside development).
- Mussels and Pacific oysters are cultivated in this SCA on the northern shore of the Menai Strait.
- Salt produced here (Halen Mon) is available nationally.
- Recreational boating takes place in this SCA, particularly during the summer months.
- Partially within Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- A medium-scale landscape and seascape, with views dominated by the Menai Strait, and the enclosing landform.
- A diverse SCA with many different land uses. The Menai Strait provides a unifying feature.
- A relatively busy environment on land and water. The town of Caernarfon has a relatively developed feel, but Foryd Bay retains a sense of tranquillity.
- Texture, pattern and colour of water constantly changing in response to weather, season, tides and sediment patterns.
- Mountains of Snowdonia and Llyn Peninsula form dramatic setting and create strong sense of place.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change							
	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use
Development pressure associated with the key settlement of Caernarfon. Recent developments have included large-scale waterfront buildings impacting on the setting of Caernarfon Castle.								
Seasonal visitor pressures including increased traffic and numbers of people and boats.	Welsh Language							
Changes in agricultural and land management potentially affecting the character of land within the SCA, and sensitive habitats.	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views							
Potential threat to inland setting and skylines from onshore wind turbine development.	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features							
Complex tidal system, and natural estuarine processes of sediment movement and deposition, creating constantly-changing sandbanks and channels.	Richness of habitats and biodiversity							
Flood risk for low-lying land, e.g. Foryd Bay, exacerbated by sea level rise.	Cultural heritage							
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness							
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment							
	Geology and geomorphological features							
	Islands							
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens							
	Soil, air and water quality							
	Key	Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>Horizontal landform dominated by water/ sandbanks and sensitive to the introduction of vertical features.</p> <p>Sensitive coastal habitats in and wetland areas.</p> <p>A dynamic environment dominated by sand deposition and movement.</p>	<p>Sand dunes of Abermenai Point form a low visual barrier between the Menai Strait and the open sea.</p>
Existing development	<p>Historic character of Caernarfon castle, town and harbour. Important setting for Caernarfon restricts spread of development from running south along the coastline.</p> <p>Western part of SCA has very limited development.</p>	<p>Existing settlement of Caernarfon.</p>
The visual experience	<p>Users of Wales Coast Path and nature reserve are sensitive receptors.</p> <p>SCA appreciated from land, and from the Menai Strait.</p> <p>Hills and skylines forming the setting contribute to the character and visual qualities of the SCA.</p>	
Tranquillity	<p>Tranquil areas within SCA, away from towns and roads.</p>	<p>Impacts of existing settlements and roads.</p> <p>Seasonal increases in visitor numbers, particularly in tourist areas such as Caernarfon.</p>

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 18:

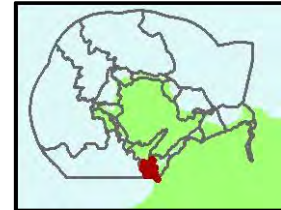
ABERMENAI

Component LCAs (Anglesey): Newborough

Component LCAs (Gwynedd): Menai Coast

Location and Context

SCA 18 Abermenai is centred on Abermenai point, where the Menai Strait meets Caernarfon Bay. It includes Ynys Llanddwyn in the west of the SCA, and the small settlement of Dinas Dinlle in the south-east which marks the southern boundary of this part of the study area. It also includes the dunes of Newborough Warren, and Morfa Dinlle. It adjoins SCA 16 Malltraeth to the north and SCA 17 Caernarfon to the east. SCA 32 Caernarfon Bay lies to the west (to seaward).



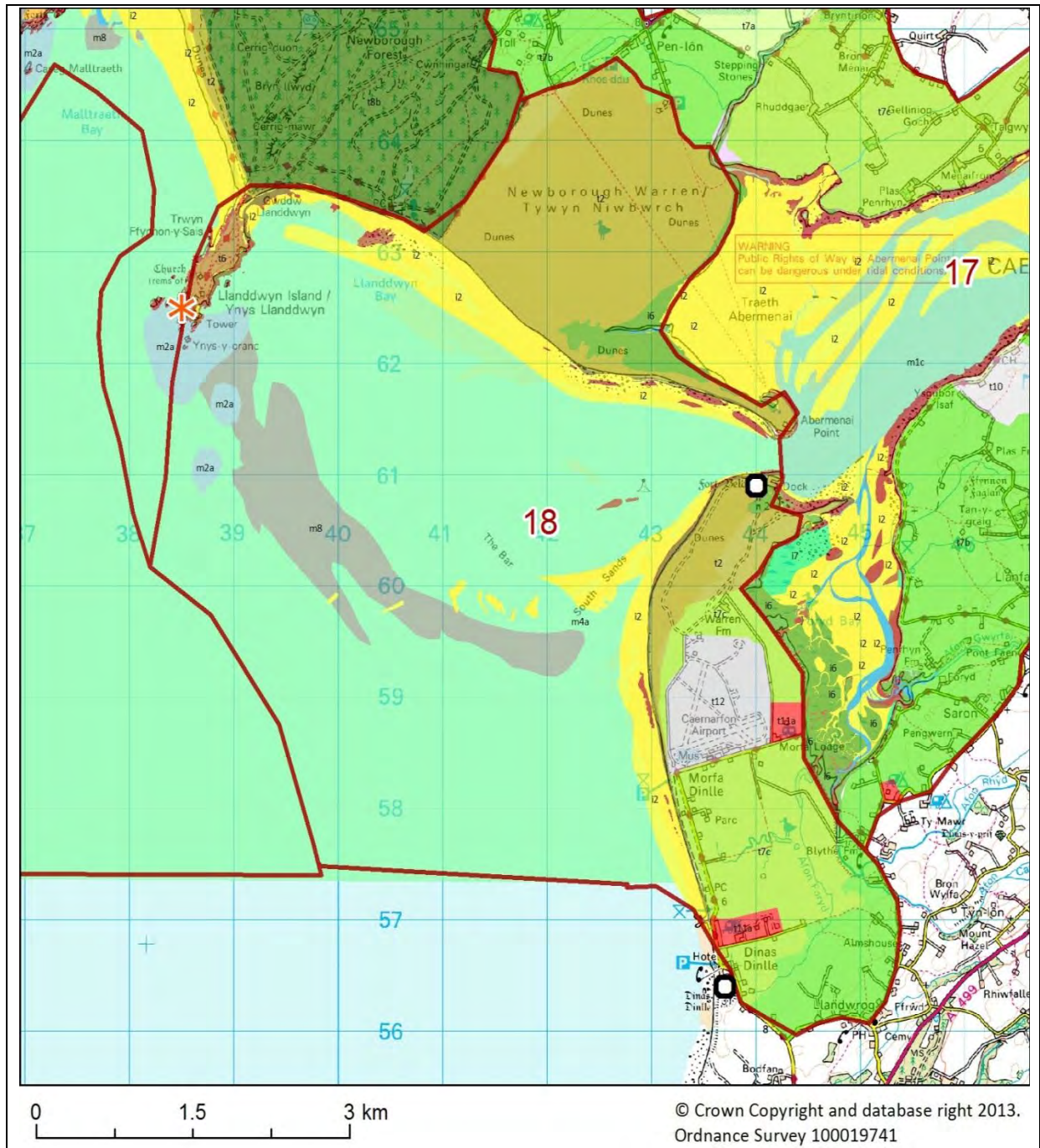
Ynys Llanddwyn and the Lley Peninsula. Image © John Briggs

Summary Description

This SCA is dominated by patterns of shifting sand at the western end of the Menai Strait, including the extensive dune system of Newborough Warren and the spit of Abermenai point. Views south across Caernarfon Bay are dominated by the pointed peaks of the Lley Peninsula, which create a dramatic backdrop. The backdrop continues eastwards to encompass the high hills of Snowdonia, giving the SCA a very strong sense of place, especially when viewed from the sea. Ynys Llanddwyn dominates the horizon to the west, and the hillfort of Dinas Dinlle is a landmark at the southern edge of the SCA. The entrance of the Menai Strait has long been of strategic importance, and the SCA contains defensive structures from prehistoric, Roman, post-Medieval and modern periods.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the Abermenai SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Varied geology, with Precambrian rocks and Carboniferous limestone west of the Menai Strait, and Ordovician mudstones to the east. Ynys Llanddwyn notable for pillow lava rocks and geological melange.
- Complex tidal and wave patterns create constantly changing channels and sandbanks around Abermenai point, and the large active dune system at Newborough Warren.
- Varied land and sea uses, reflecting the importance of the entrance to the Menai Strait. They include tourism, recreation, shipping, fishing, parkland, airfield and Newborough Warren dune system.
- A wide range of habitats, including extensive dune system at Newborough Warren, sand banks, wetlands, and rocky habitats at Ynys Llanddwyn.
- Defensive sites spanning millennia, including Dinas Dinlle hill fort, Fort Belan and Caernarfon airport (WW2 Llandwrog airfield).
- Offshore historic and cultural features include Ynys Llanddwyn, associated with the Welsh saint of love, St Dwynwen. Island contains the remains of a chapel, a lighthouse and the lighthouse and pilots' cottages.
- Linear settlement and small-scale seaside development at Dinas Dinlle, with larger buildings (including prominent wind turbines) at Caernarfon Airport.
- Navigation and views dominated by the entrance to the Menai Strait and its associated sandbanks.
- Mountains of Snowdonia and Lley Peninsula form dramatic landscape setting to east and south.
- Sand dunes form an irregular and apparently continuous line on the eastern horizon when viewed from Caernarfon Bay.



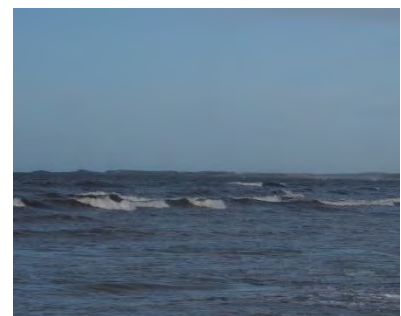
Dinas Dinlle beach and hillfort, with the Lley Peninsula beyond.

Image © Fiona Fyfe



Abermenai point from the sea.

Image © Fiona Fyfe



View towards Newborough and Ynys Llanddwyn from Dinas Dinlle Beach. Image © Fiona Fyfe

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Beach	Relaxation	Natural	Informal	Spiritual
Active	Exercise	Cultural	Formal	Religious
Ecotourism				
Watersports				
Exploring				

Natural Influences and sites

- Menai Strait formed by glacial erosion of bedrock channel, which became tidal following subsequent rises in sea level. Whole of Menai Strait designated SAC.
- Ynys Llanddwyn world-famous geologically for its pillow lavas and melange. Designated RIGS sites at Ynys Llanddwyn and Newborough Warren.
- Dynamic marine environment, with changing patterns of sand deposition. Complex deposits from the Irish Sea and Welsh deposits of sands, silts and gravels.
- Extensive sand dune systems at Newborough Warren and Morfa Dinlle form parts of the same coastal cell in terms of morphology and sediment movement. Newborough Warren is part of the Newborough Warren- Ynys Llanddwyn SSSI, and is also designated SAC and National Nature Reserve).
- Wetland Nature Reserve at Morfa Dinlle (designated SSSI).
- Coastal erosion of drumlin-shaped hills at Dinas Dinlle has created superb exposures of Quaternary sediments. Also signs of periglacial features in eroding cliffs beneath Dinas Dinlle hill fort.

Cultural Influences and sites

- Defensive sites from many eras, emphasising the strategic importance of the southern entrance to the Menai Strait. Sites include Dinas Dinlle Iron-Age hillfort (which may have also been used as a defensive site by the Romans), Fort Belan (Eighteenth Century fort built for use by the local Militia during the American War of Independence), and World War II airfield at Llandwrog.
- Llandwrog airfield developed on an older tank training ground, and associated with the development of mountain rescue services. Several aircraft from the airfield were lost in the SCA during WW2. Militarisation of the seascape included a network of pillboxes and gun emplacements to defend the airfield, and the use of Newborough Warren as a dummy airfield.
- SCA dominated by navigational hazard of Caernarfon Bar, and the North and South Sands. The lighthouse on Ynys Llanddwyn, Dinas Dinlle, and the flagstaff at Fort Belan were all essential leading marks for mariners. Seven buoys and a perch were used to guide vessels over the bar in the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries.
- Anchorage off Ynys Llanddwyn, outside the bar, from where ships would signal for a pilot.
- Ynys Llanddwyn associated with St Dwynwen (the Welsh patron saint of love), and containing lighthouse, pilots’ cottages and ruined chapel. A lifeboat was also stationed on the island.
- Tourism development at Dinas Dinlle, including small-scale example of Nineteenth Century linear seaside development.
- Partially within Anglesey Coast AONB.

Perceptual Qualities

- A medium-scale landscape and seascape, with views dominated by the Menai Strait, sandbanks and distant peaks.
- The Caernarfon Bay and the dune systems of Abermenai provide a sense of unity within the SCA.
- A relatively busy environment on land and water.
- Texture dominated by the sea, and by sand dunes, banks and spits. Newborough Forest (SCA 16) is a dark backdrop to the Newborough Warren dune system.
- Seaward of Abermenai Point, feels relatively remote. Level of wildness experienced depends on sea conditions. Land has a relatively developed feel, with the exceptions of Ynys Llanddwyn and Newborough Warren, which feel much more isolated, remote and tranquil.
- Mountains of Snowdonia and Llyn Peninsula form dramatic setting and create strong sense of place.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change								
<p>Continued development at Caernarfon airport, including recently-constructed wind turbines.</p> <p>Seasonal visitor pressure at Dinas Dinlle potentially affecting archaeology and fragile habitats.</p> <p>Changes in land management potentially affecting vegetation, dune systems and coastal wetlands.</p> <p>Potential development (including onshore wind turbines) outside the SCA, including sites on high land/ ridgelines which contribute to the setting and skylines of the SCA.</p> <p>Natural coastal processes of weak sediment drift towards the Menai Strait, and recycling of sediment from the mouth of the Menai Strait to the nearshore of Caernarfon Bay. Accretion of sediment, e.g. at north end of the Dinlle Morfa dune system.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use	
	Welsh Language								
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views								
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features								
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity								
	Cultural heritage								
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness								
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment								
	Geology and geomorphological features								
	Islands								
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens								
	Soil, air and water quality								
	Key		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

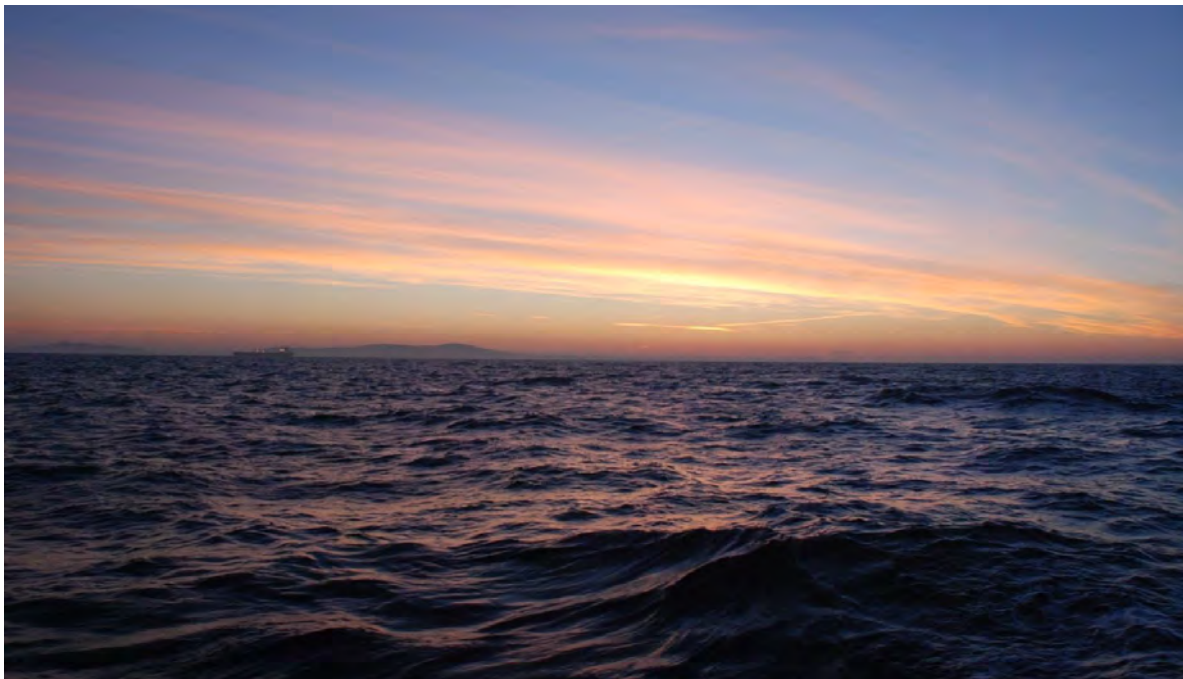
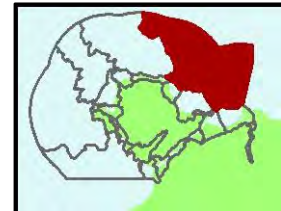
Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	<p>Horizontal landform sensitive to the introduction of vertical features.</p> <p>Sensitive coastal habitats in dune systems and wetland areas.</p> <p>A dynamic environment dominated by sand deposition and movement.</p>	<p>Sand dunes of Abermenai Point form a low visual barrier between Caernarfon Bay and the Menai Strait.</p>
Existing development	<p>Western part of SCA has very limited development.</p>	<p>Linear development and caravan parks at Dinas Dinlle.</p> <p>Development at Caernarfon airport.</p>
The visual experience	<p>Users of Wales Coast Path and nature reserve are sensitive receptors.</p> <p>SCA appreciated from land, and from Caernarfon Bay.</p> <p>Hills and skylines forming the setting contribute to the character and visual qualities of the SCA.</p>	
Tranquillity	<p>Tranquil areas within SCA, notably Ynys Llanddwyn and Newborough Warren.</p>	<p>Seasonal increases in visitor numbers, particularly in tourist areas such as Dinas Dinlle.</p>

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 28:

NORTH-EAST OF ANGLESEY

Location and Context

This Offshore SCA is located in the north-east of the Study Area. It lies to the north of SCAs 2, 3 and 6, and to the east of SCAs 7, and 8. It also lies to the east of SCA 29: North of Anglesey. It is located within the wider area of sea known as Liverpool Bay, and extends northwards to the Study Area boundary 12 nautical miles offshore.



View south from SCA 28, showing Snowdonia on the horizon, and ships awaiting the Liverpool Pilot.

Image ©Bangor University.

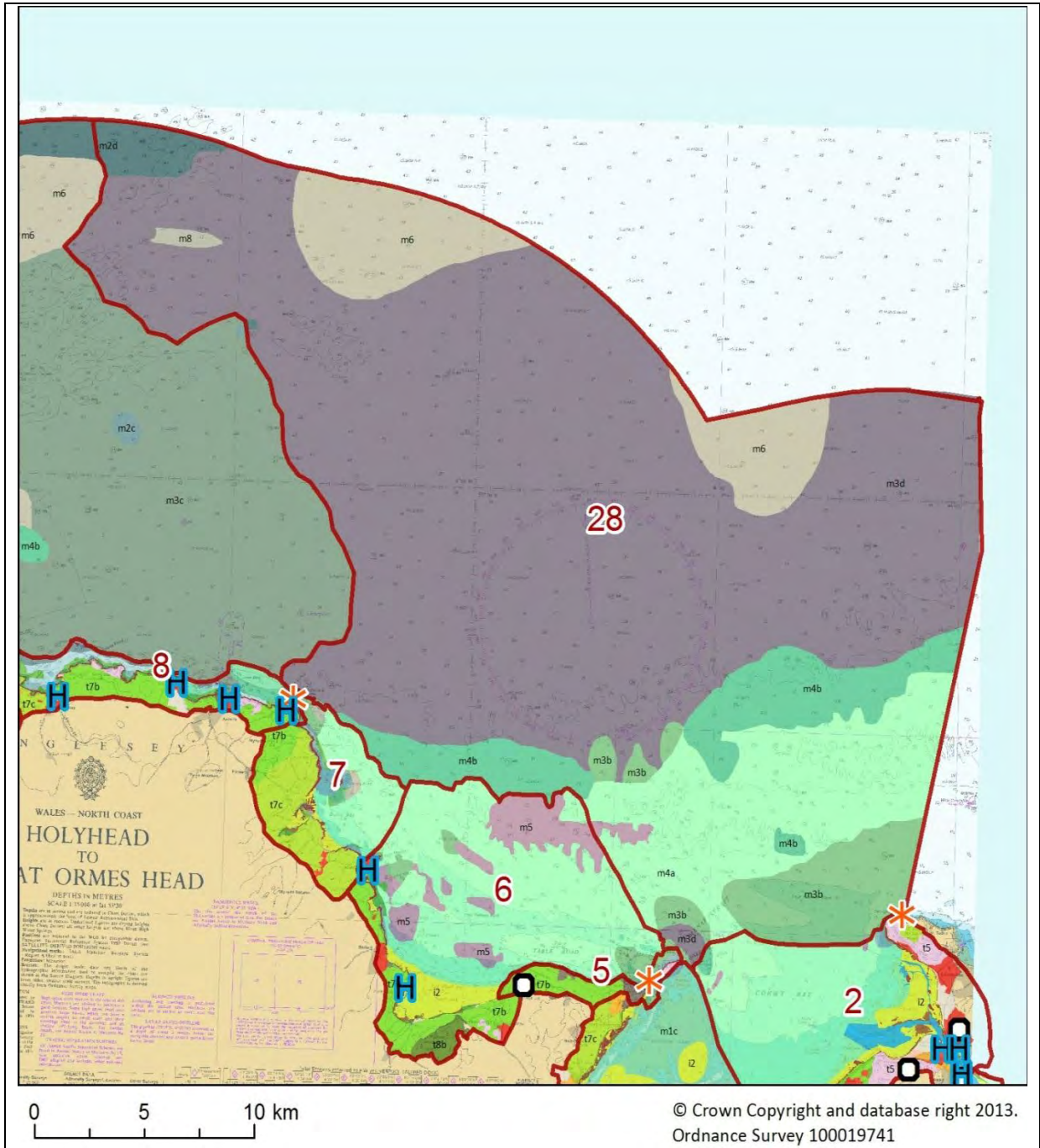
Summary Description

This SCA is characterised by sedimentary seabed deposits of sand, gravel and mixed sediment. The water depth is generally 15 – 50m, and the seabed slopes gently offshore. The SCA is used for commercial fishing including scallop dredging and trawling, and also as a waiting area for large vessels waiting for pilot boats into Liverpool ports. These large vessels are a characteristic feature of this SCA. There are also many wrecks, including wartime losses.

Moving northwards, the coastline of Anglesey becomes difficult to see, but the mountains of Snowdonia remain visible on the southern horizon. The Isle of Man is visible northwards in clear conditions, and the Cumbrian Fells may also be seen to the north-east.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the North-East of Anglesey SCA.

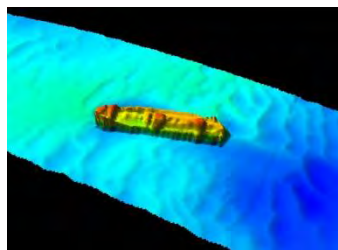
Key Characteristics

- Mostly coarse sediment overlying sedimentary rock, with finer sand in the south east.
- Depth increases gradually from approximately 15m below chart datum near Conwy Bay to over 50m in the north west.
- Moderately strong tidal currents and wave height, greatest in the west.
- A rich variety of life on the sea bed provides important feeding grounds for sea birds, particularly in the south east.
- High levels of phytoplankton.
- Marine mammals including bottlenose dolphin and grey seal can be sighted.
- Commercial shipping seen offshore, including large vessels waiting for Liverpool Pilots.
- Large fishing boats target demersal fish and scallops offshore with smaller potting boats seen closer to the coast.
- Recreational boats seen particularly in the south east of the SCA during the warmer months.
- A number of wrecks can be found in the SCA, including wartime losses.
- The landscape view changes considerably throughout the SCA, with rocky headlands, islets and large bays found to the west and the large shallow opening of Conwy Bay to the east, with a backdrop of the mountains of Snowdonia. Further out to sea the land becomes barely visible but commercial ships are a common sight.



Great Orme Headland as seen from SCA 28.

Image © John Briggs



Seabed survey image of the wreck of the Cartagena.

Image © Bangor University



Seabed survey image of the wreck of the Derbent.

Image © Bangor University

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Watersports		Natural	Formal	Spiritual
		Cultural		

Natural Influences

- Designated Natura 2000 sites of Liverpool Bay SPA and Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC.
- A thin layer of mostly coarse quaternary sediments overlying Carboniferous and Triassic sedimentary bedrock. Finer sand is found in the south east of the SCA.
- Gently sloping seabed from approximately 15m below chart datum near Conwy Bay to over 50m in the north west.
- Maximum tidal range of 5-6 m, with the higher range to the east. Moderately strong east-west tidal currents with peak spring velocities of 0.5-1.5 ms⁻¹. The strongest currents are found in the south west.
- Maximum significant wave height of approximately 4-6m.
- The mobile sediment dominated SCA contains a rich variety of infauna including many species of polychaetes, bivalves and echinoderms.
- Shallower parts of the SCA are important feeding grounds for sea birds including the common scoter.
- Marine mammals including bottlenose dolphin and grey seal can be sighted in this SCA.
- Important spawning and nursery grounds for a number of commercially important fish.
- Area of high primary productivity (increased chlorophyll-a concentration).
- Wrecks attract a variety of marine life, and also affect patterns of scour on the seabed. Wrecks on the eastern side of the SCA partially buried by sediment, due to sediment transport inflow to Liverpool Bay

Cultural Influences

- Dominant maritime character is one of transit: recreational vessels entering or leaving the Menai Strait/ Conwy, or commercial vessels passing east and west to and from the Mersey and Dee.
- Diffuse shipping lanes, with choice of route based on whether ships had gone inside or outside the Skerries.
- A number of wrecks including the *Delfina*: a steel steamship built in 1921 which lies on the seabed north of Puffin Island.
- Wartime shipwrecks reflect enemy submarine action (e.g. *HMS Derbent*, sunk by a U-Boat in 1917 and *Visgnes* sunk by a U-Boat in 1945), and also mine-laying activity (e.g. *Kinforth* steam-driven long-liner mined in 1941).
- Wreck of the *Gambira* deliberately sunk by salvoes from the WW2 Coastal Artillery School, based on the Great Orme.
- This SCA contains important commercial fishing grounds and activity includes scallop dredging, otter and beam trawling, mixed demersal fishery with towed mobile gear, whelk potting and boat based netting in the shallower areas.
- Several wrecks are visited by recreational divers and diving clubs, including the *HMS Derbent*, *Cartagena*, *Kinforth*, *Delfina*, *Cork* and *Vigsnes*.
- Fishing charter boats operate in this SCA.
- Deep-water anchorage used today by large ships awaiting pilots or good weather to enter Liverpool. In the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries, tugs towing a sailing vessel out of Liverpool Bay would have been a common sight.

Perceptual Qualities

- The boundary of this SCA comes close to the shore in three places, near the Great Orme, Puffin Island and Points Lynas. These distinctive landmarks (including Point Lynas lighthouse) provide good reference points for orientation.
- The majority of the SCA is open water, with little to no view of land. Large cargo ships and tankers are seen throughout the SCA.
- Large commercial ships and trawlers are present in the offshore areas, with recreational boats and smaller fishing boats more common close to the shore.
- The mountains of Snowdonia are visible in the south east of the SCA as you look into Conwy Bay, bounded by the prominent features of the Great Orme to the east and Puffin Island to the west. In the south west of the SCA the Anglesey shoreline is visible, composed mostly of rocky cliffs and islets broken up by the large bays of Red Wharf Bay, Lligwy Bay and Dulas Bay.
- Mainland barely visible from northern part of SCA, but Isle of Man and Cumbrian Fells can be seen in clear conditions. In the south east of the SCA offshore wind farms can be seen when looking east into Colwyn Bay.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change								
<p>Natural variability in marine habitats and their communities.</p> <p>Climate change may impact marine ecosystem processes and prevailing conditions.</p> <p>Proposed Marine Conservation Zone around Puffin Island.</p> <p>EU fisheries policy reform is likely to alter fishing practices which in turn impact marine habitats.</p> <p>New wind farm developments under construction in Colwyn Bay and the large Irish Sea Zone proposed 15km north of Anglesey.</p> <p>Proposed East-West Interconnector cable route to connect Irish and Welsh electricity grids passes through this SCA.</p> <p>New developments may displace transport routes and fishing.</p> <p>Expansion of Liverpool port may lead to more shipping activity.</p> <p>Potential for marine aggregate extraction.</p> <p>Natural processes impact on marine archaeology such as wrecks through corrosion or covering by sediment.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use	
	Welsh Language								
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views								
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features								
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity								
	Cultural heritage								
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness								
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment								
	Geology and geomorphological features								
	Islands								
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens								
	Soil, air and water quality								
	Key		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

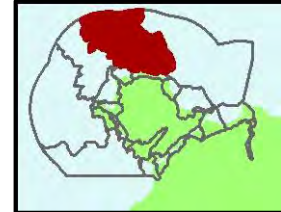
Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	Coastal bays frame views out to sea.	
Existing development	Existing use as a fishing ground.	Views to offshore wind farms outside the SCA.
The visual experience	Visible from coastal viewpoints, including Great Orme and Puffin Island, and from high land inshore (e.g. mountains of Snowdonia).	
Tranquillity		Presence of large ships.

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 29:

NORTH OF ANGLESEY

Location and Context

This Offshore SCA is located in the north of the Study Area, and extends from close to the northern coast of Anglesey northwards to the Study Area boundary 12 nautical miles offshore. To the east is SCA 28: North-east of Anglesey, and to the west is SCA 30: North-west of Anglesey. To the south are SCA 8: Amlwch and Cemaes, and SCA 9: Cemlyn Bay.



Commercial shipping lanes in the offshore part of SCA 29. Image © Bangor University

Summary Description

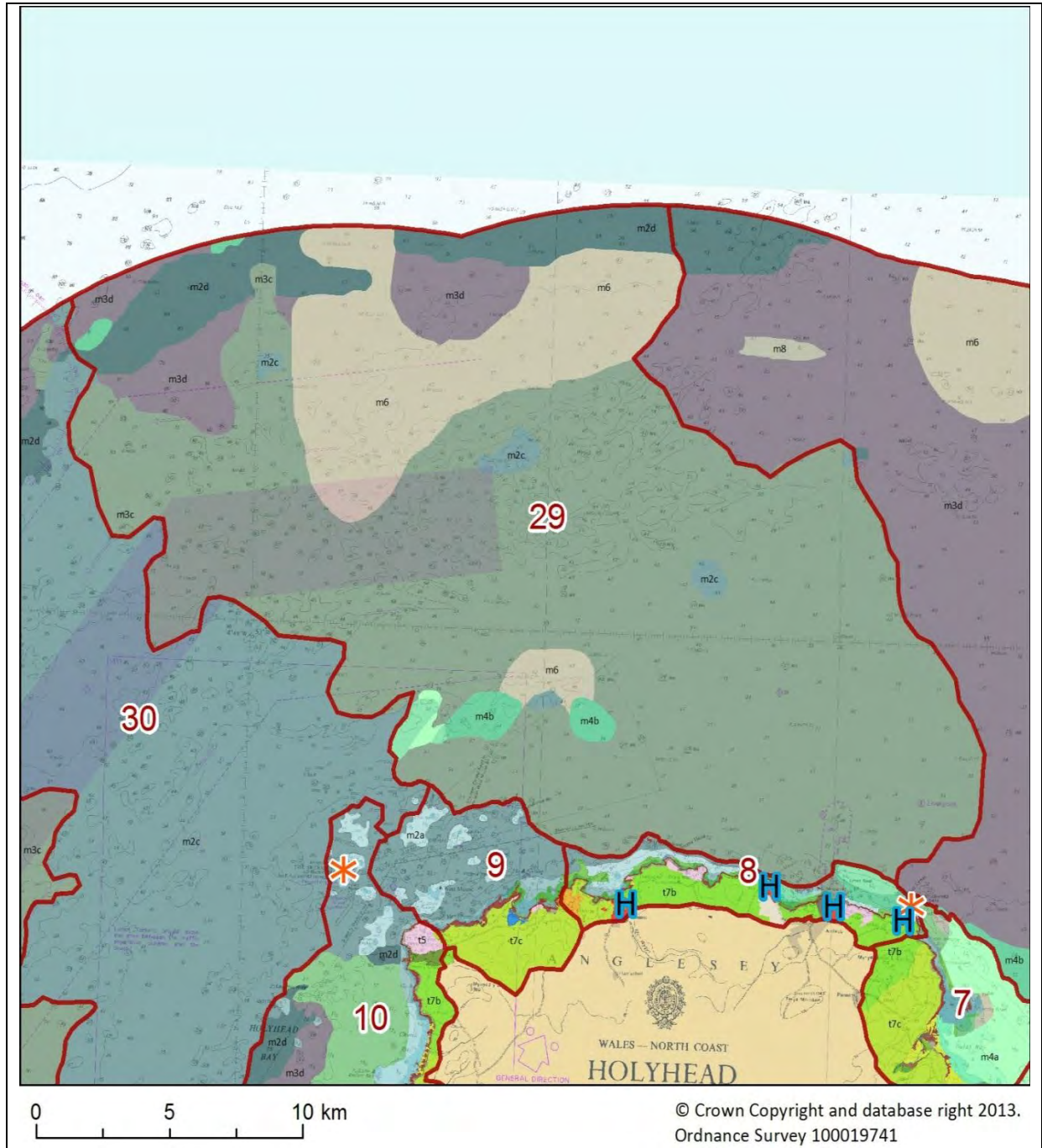
This is a relatively deep sea environment, scoured by the tidal currents which flow parallel to the coast. The majority of the SCA comprises deep water, high energy environment, with coarse sediments on the sea bed. In the north of the SCA, away from the strongest currents, the energy of the marine environment is reduced.

The seabed in the northern part of this SCA contains a preserved glacial drumlin field similar to that seen on the north-west coast of Anglesey, suggesting that at the time of glaciation the two areas were under similar environmental conditions. It is likely that drumlins in the southern part of this SCA have been scoured away by tidal currents.

The SCA is used for commercial and recreational fishing and for commercial shipping lanes offshore. There are many wrecks reflecting its important use as a shipping route. From close to shore, the northern coast of Anglesey is visible as a series of headlands and bays. However, the coast is relatively low-lying and recedes from view fairly quickly. Some higher peaks (e.g. Snowdonia) remain visible on the horizon. The Isle of Man and Cumbrian Fells are visible to the north and the north-east in clear conditions.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

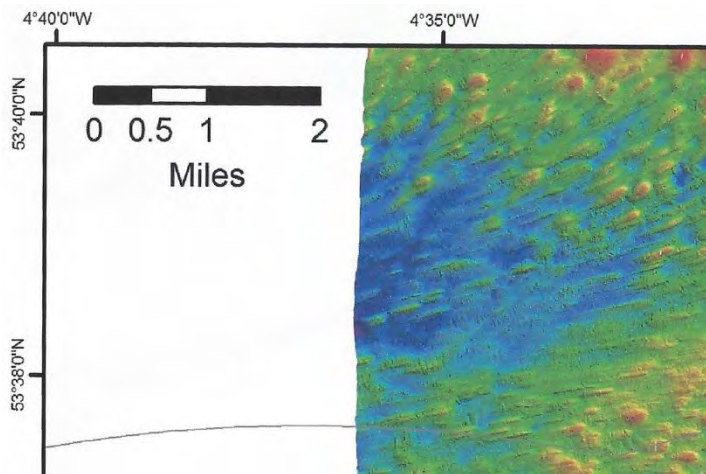
Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the North of Anglesey SCA.

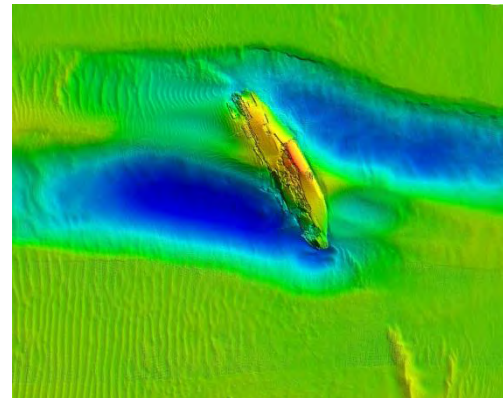
Key Characteristics

- Mobile coarse sediment overlying sedimentary rock.
- Water depth of 30 – 80m below chart datum.
- Preserved glacial bedforms found offshore.
- Strong tidal currents particularly to the south west.
- Robust infauna colonise the harsh seabed environment supporting a mixture of demersal fish species. Marine mammals can be sighted on the surface.
- A large number of wrecks can be found in this SCA (including WW1 and WW2 losses) which represent a wealth of seafaring heritage.
- Potting takes place close to the shore with trawling and scallop dredging occurring further out.
- Commercial shipping lanes offshore, recreational boats can be seen close to the shore in the warmer months.
- In the south the SCA boundary comes close to the land with views of the rocky north coast of Anglesey with small bays and inlets.
- The Skerries are a prominent feature to the south west of this SCA. Further offshore the coastline becomes less distinctive and on clear days the Isle of Man can be seen to the north.
- Evidence of both modern and historic industry visible along the coast.



Extract from seabed survey showing glacial drumlin field and striations on the seabed in the north of the SCA.

Image © Bangor University



Seabed survey of the wreck of the 'Apara' and its associated scour pits.

Image © Bangor University

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
		Natural	Formal	Spiritual
		Cultural		

Natural Influences

- A thin layer of coarse quaternary sediments overlying mostly carboniferous sedimentary bedrock. Fine sediment particles remain suspended in the high energy water.
- The seafloor in this SCA shows a variety of interesting bedforms thought to be glacial in origin including preserved drumlins.
- The sea bed drops steeply away from the north coast of Anglesey and water depth is more than 30m below chart datum for most of the SCA, increasing to more than 80m in the extreme north-west.
- Strong tidal currents particularly in the south west, with peak spring velocities of more than 1.5 ms⁻¹ across much of the SCA. The maximum tidal range is approximately 4-5 m. Maximum significant wave height is approximately 4-6 m.
- Mostly mobile coarse sediment with a robust community of infauna. In more stable areas of mixed sediment more epifauna can be found.
- A number of marine mammal species can be sighted including harbour porpoise and Risso's dolphin.

Cultural Influences

- Commercial fishing including Queen scallop dredging, beam trawling (heavy and light), light otter trawling, longlines and whelk potting.
- Commercial cargo ships and tankers can be seen passing offshore.
- Recreational boats and charter fishing boats are seen particularly in the warmer months.
- Many wrecks, with a trend in the pattern of shipwreck losses into 'shipping lanes', approximately 3-4 miles, 6 miles, and 9 miles distant from Carmel Head. These appear to reflect the historic preferences of sailing masters.
- Some losses resulted from collisions between ships, e.g. between the wooden fishing ketch *Day Lily* and Dublin-registered steamship *Kerry* in 1913.
- Wartime losses include the *Apapa* (built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast, and owned by Elder Dempster) which was sunk by a U-boat in 1917, and *HMS Westphalia* (a decoy or 'Q' ship which helped to protect transatlantic convoys) which was also sunk by a U boat.

Perceptual Qualities

- Views of the north coast of Anglesey – rocky cliffs and small bays, and the lighthouses at Lynas Point and the Skerries.
- Views of past and present industry – historic brick works, disused factories, Wylfa power station.
- Open sea for much of the SCA with identifiable landmarks including the Skerries and Point Lynas to the south.
- Isle of Man visible as feature on the horizon to the north on clear days, providing a sense of orientation. The Cumbrian fells may also be seen to the north-east.
- Distant views to existing offshore wind farms to the east.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change							
	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use
<p>Natural variability in marine habitats and their communities.</p> <p>Climate change may impact marine ecosystem processes and prevailing conditions.</p> <p>EU fisheries policy reform is likely to alter fishing practices which in turn impact marine habitats.</p> <p>New large wind farm development of the Irish Sea Zone proposed that would enter the northern region of this SCA.</p> <p>Proposed East-West Interconnector cable route to connect Irish and Welsh electricity grids passes through this SCA.</p> <p>Potential new industrial development at Wylfa would impact views to the land.</p> <p>New developments may displace transport routes and fishing activity.</p> <p>Expansion of Liverpool port may lead to more shipping activity.</p> <p>Potential for marine aggregate extraction.</p> <p>Natural processes impacting on marine archaeology such as wrecks through corrosion or covering by sediment.</p>	Welsh Language							
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views							
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features							
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity							
	Cultural heritage							
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness							
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment							
	Geology and geomorphological features							
	Islands							
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens							
	Soil, air and water quality							
	Key		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality					

Inherent Sensitivity

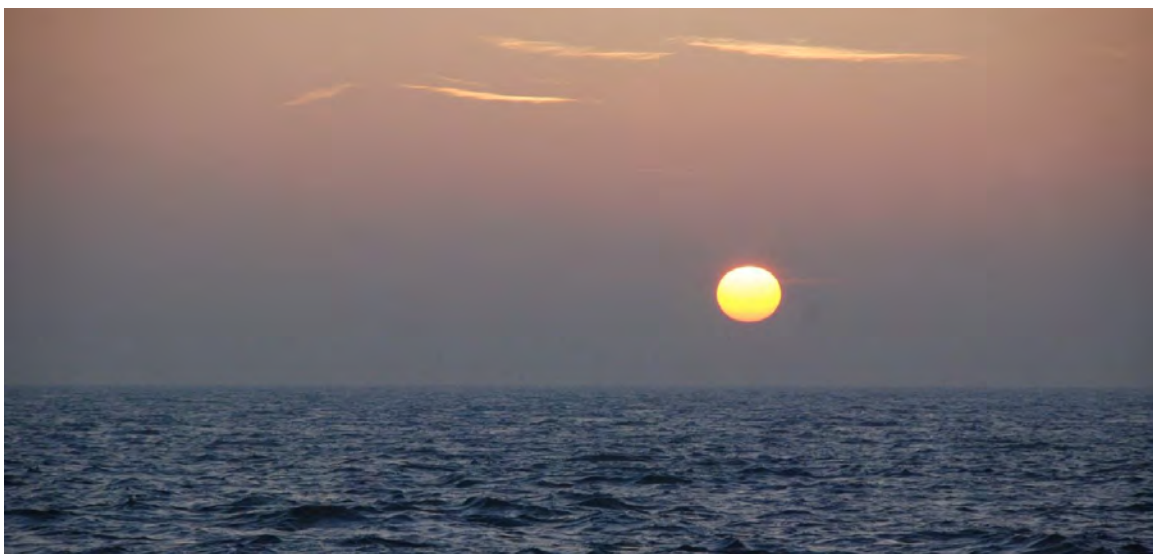
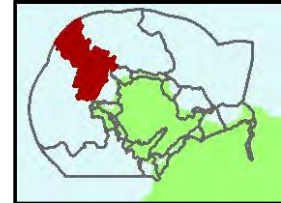
Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	Presence of relict glacial landscape on seabed.	
Existing development	Use as fishing ground	Distant views to offshore windfarms to the east of the SCA.
The visual experience	Relatively close to shore, therefore visible in views from coast.	Northern coast of Anglesey relatively low-lying, therefore becomes less prominent in views from sea to land.
Tranquillity		

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 30:

NORTH-WEST OF ANGLESEY

Location and Context

This Offshore SCA is located in the north-west of the Study Area, off the north-west coast of Anglesey. To the east is SCA 29: North of Anglesey, and to the south is SCA 31: West of Anglesey. To the east are SCA 9: Cemlyn Bay, and SCA 10: Carmel Head to Penrhyn.



Open view westwards from SCA 30. Image © Bangor University

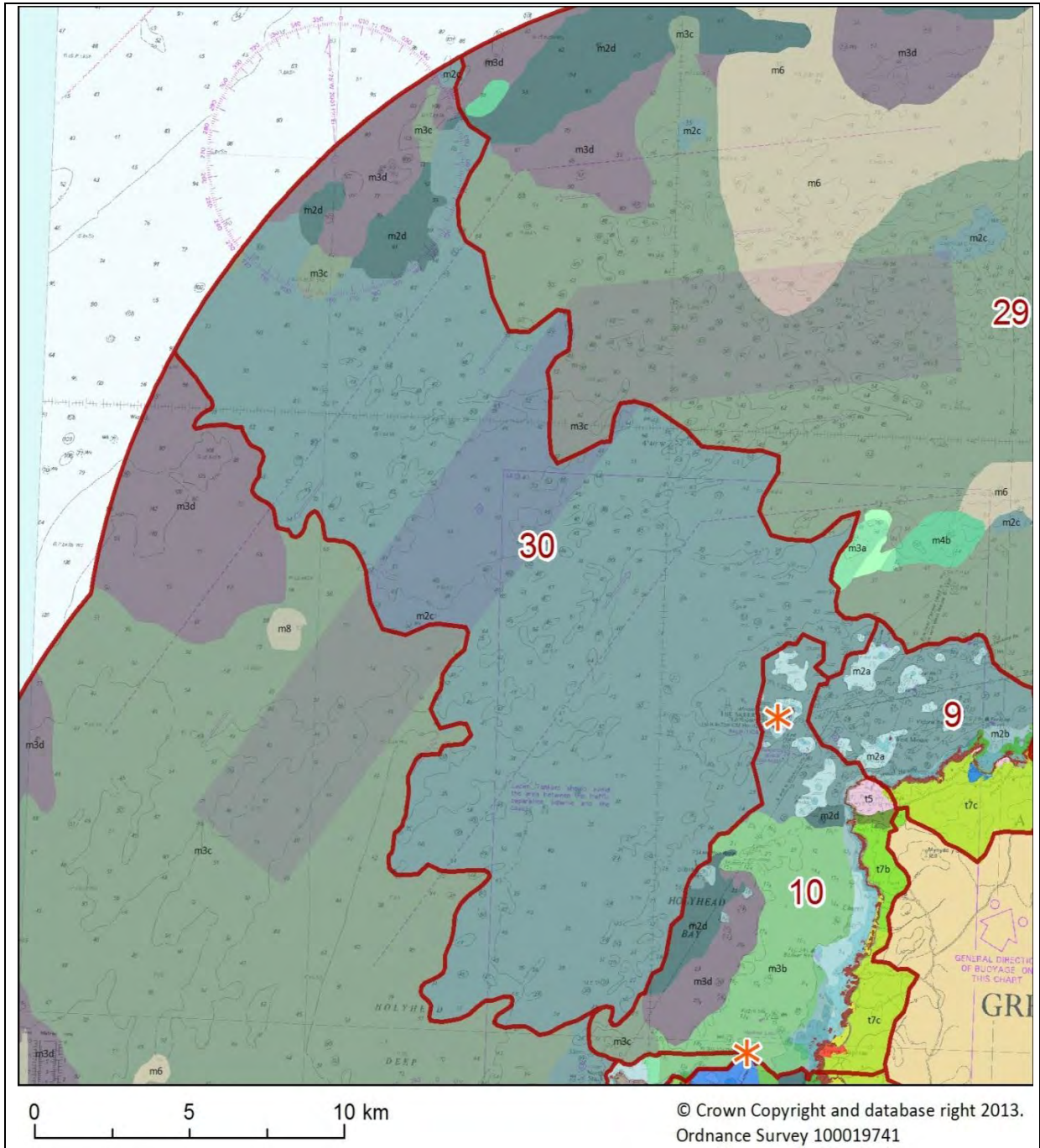
Summary Description

A deep water environment with an undulating and rocky sea floor, and high energy levels due to the tidal currents which flow parallel to the coast.

The southern part of the SCA is used as the route for Holyhead- Dublin ferries, and by ships entering the port of Holyhead. There are many wrecks within the SCA, representing a rich maritime heritage. Fishing in the areas is generally limited to longlining and whelk potting. The skerries and their lighthouse are prominent features to the east of the SCA, and the Isle of Man is visible on the northern horizon in clear conditions. The lights and breakwaters of Holyhead Harbour are visible to the south-east. Holyhead Mountain is a prominent landmark and remains visible from a considerable distance out to sea.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the North-west of Anglesey SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Very strong tidal currents govern much of the natural environment in this SCA.
- Sediment is suspended in the water leaving a substrate of mostly exposed Precambrian rock and boulders with patches of coarse gravel, pebbles and cobbles.
- Sand scouring of the sea bed limits the epifauna present in the more tide swept areas.
- High turbidity due to suspended particulate matter.
- Deep water with an undulating sea bed relief (30 – 100+ m).
- Sand scour limits the amount of life found on the rocks particularly in the south east. In lower energy areas diverse reef communities are found with many filter feeders.
- Many wrecks can be found in this SCA, reflecting its importance and dangers for shipping over centuries. There are also several wartime wrecks of ships and aircraft.
- The Skerries are a prominent natural feature to the south east while Holyhead Mountain can be seen to the south, and the Isle of Man to the north.
- The presence of ferries and the Holyhead harbour breakwater are signs of significant human activity to the south east of this SCA, while commercial shipping can be seen passing further offshore.
- Fishing is generally limited to longlining and potting on the rocky sea bed.



*SCA 30 (beyond the Skerries) as seen from above Carmel Head.
Image © John Briggs*



Photograph of seabed in rocky, deep water, high energy environment, as found in this SCA. Image © Bangor University.

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
		Natural	Formal	Spiritual
		Cultural		

Natural Influences

- Exposed bedrock and boulders. Mainly Precambrian gneisses, schists and igneous rocks of the Monian Supergroup.
- Water depth of more than 30m below chart datum across most of the SCA with a rugged undulating relief. Depth extremes are found to the south west in Holyhead Deep (over 80m) and at the northern 12 nm limit (over 100m).
- Very strong tidal currents with peak spring velocities of 1.5 – 2.5 ms⁻¹. Tidal range of approximately 4 – 4.5m and maximum significant wave height of 6-7m.
- Mostly deep rocky reef and boulder habitat. In the most tide swept areas there is little epifauna due to scour from sand. In less tide swept areas a rich variety of filter feeders including sponges, corals, barnacles, mussels and anemones colonise the rock. Patches of highly mobile coarse shelly sand and cobble are found sporadically.
- Bedforms found offshore which may be glacial in origin.
- Area of high turbidity due to suspended particulate matter.

Cultural Influences

- This SCA receives a considerable amount of boat traffic. Commercial shipping travelling to Liverpool and north-west England, ferries travelling to and from Holyhead harbour, and recreational boats, all use these waters.
- Fishing activity in the SCA consists mainly of longlining and whelk potting.
- The Skerries to the south east are a navigational hazard.
- Many wrecks, with a trend in patterning of historic shipping losses in the northern part of the SCA, with vessels passing east-west or entering/ exiting the deep water of the northern end of St George’s Channel. A further trend observed relates to vessels lost exiting/ entering Holyhead Bay north-northwest to south-southeast.
- Older sailing vessel losses include full-rig ships, brigs, schooners, and sloops, dating from the beginning of Lloyd’s Insurance Records in 1741 to the Twentieth Century. Foundering is the most common cause given. Early recorded losses include the *Sampson* (1767) and the *Oxford* (1750). Both were engaged in Liverpool’s infamous ‘triangular trade’ of goods, slaves and sugar/ tobacco/ rum.
- Wartime losses include the *Abgeri* torpedoed on Christmas Day 1917 whilst sailing from Dacca to Liverpool, and several aircraft lost whilst on patrols or convoy protection duties over the Irish Sea. Many of these planes were based at airfields on the Welsh Coast. Each downed aircraft is a Protected Place under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1989.

Perceptual Qualities

- Fast moving high energy water particularly near the Skerries to the east.
- Commercial tankers and cargo ships are seen offshore following the traffic separation scheme.
- Views of Holyhead mountain, Holyhead town/harbour, the Skerries and low-lying Anglesey become clearer towards the south of the SCA, diminishing the sense of remoteness.
- Skerries lighthouse, and beacons of Holyhead Harbour contribute to orientation and distinctive character of the seascape, particularly at night.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change								
<p>Natural variability in marine habitats and their communities.</p> <p>Climate change may impact marine ecosystem processes and prevailing conditions.</p> <p>Large wind farm development area of the Irish Sea Zone to the north of this SCA.</p> <p>Impacts from a tidal energy array proposed for the Skerries to the south east may affect this SCA through, for example, increased boat traffic.</p> <p>Holyhead waterfront regeneration proposal would increase boat traffic through this SCA.</p> <p>New offshore developments may displace transport routes.</p> <p>Expansion of Liverpool port may lead to more shipping activity.</p> <p>Natural processes impact on marine archaeology such as wrecks through corrosion or covering by sediment.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use	
	Welsh Language								
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views								
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features								
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity								
	Cultural heritage								
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness								
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment								
	Geology and geomorphological features								
	Islands								
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens								
	Soil, air and water quality								
	Key		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

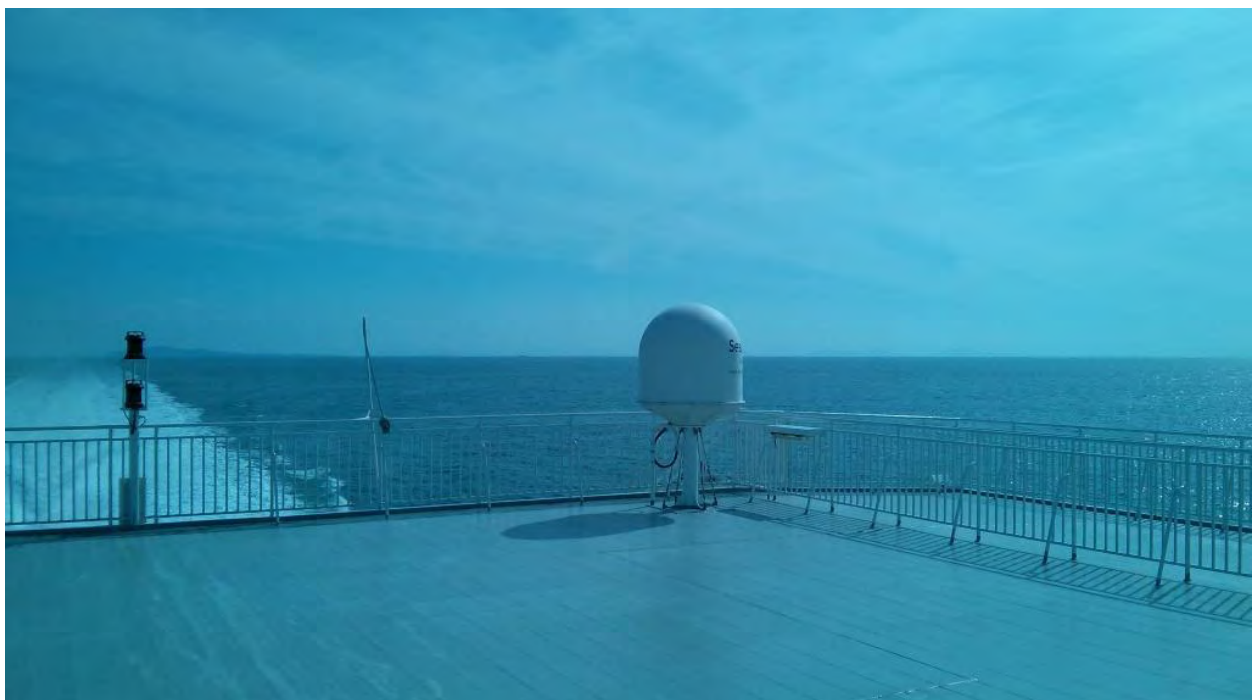
Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	Southern part of SCA visible from Holyhead Mountain.	Much of SCA fairly far out from coast, and therefore less visible from land.
Existing development		Lights and infrastructure of Holyhead Port.
The visual experience	SCA experienced by relatively large numbers of people (ferry passengers).	
Tranquillity		Numbers of vessels using this area, including Holyhead-Dublin ferries.

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 31:

WEST OF ANGLESEY

Location and Context

This offshore SCA is located in the north-west of the Study Area, to the west of Anglesey. To the north is SCA 30: North-west of Anglesey, and to the south is SCA 32: Caernarfon Bay. To the east (inshore) are SCA 13: Holyhead Mountain, SCA 14: Rhoscolyn and a small part of SCA 15: Rhosneigr.



View towards Anglesey from the Dublin ferry, taken 12 nautical miles offshore. Holyhead Mountain is visible on the horizon on the left of the picture. Image © Jonathan Porter

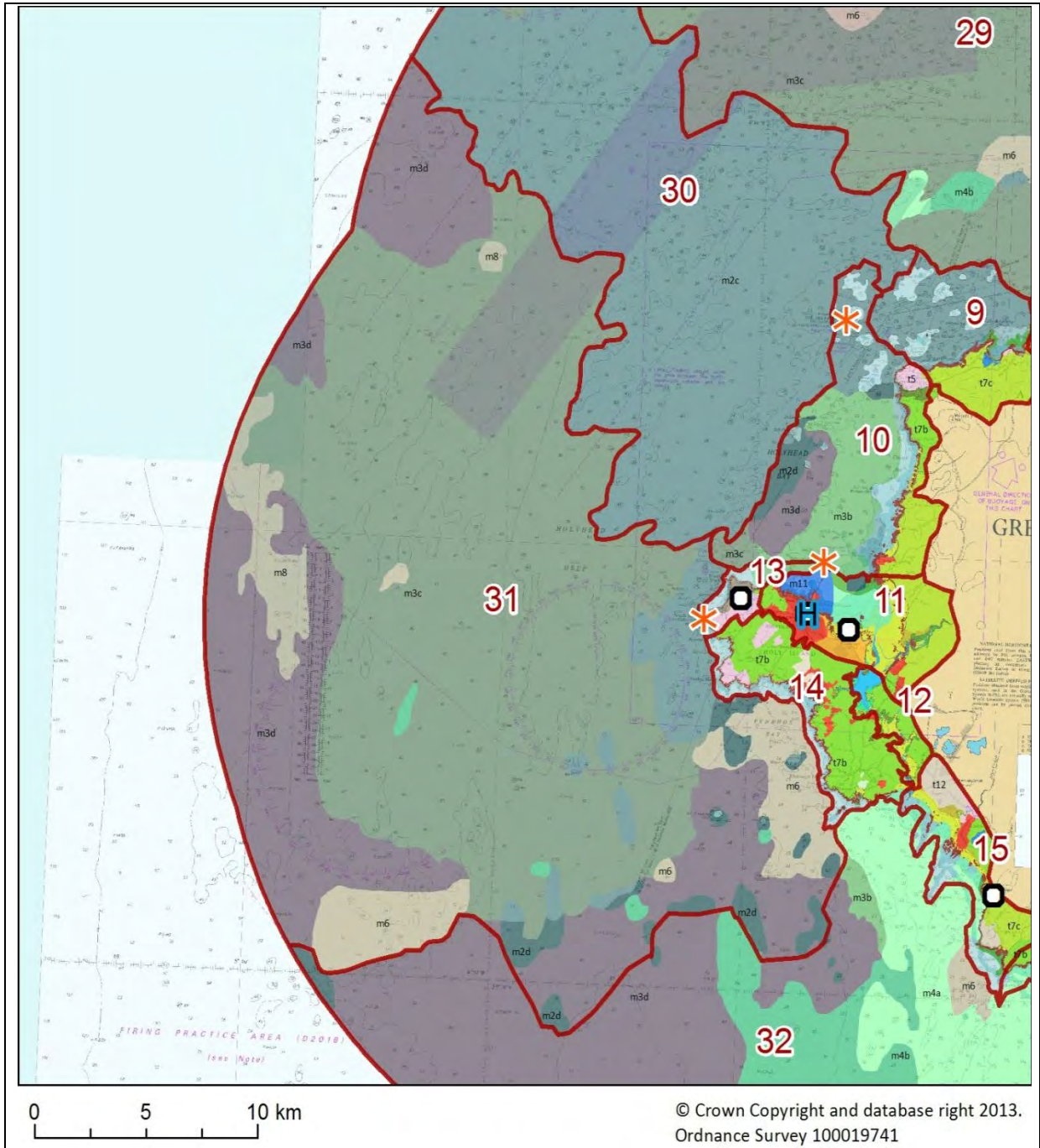
Summary Description

In the eastern part of the SCA the seabed is a rocky, moderate energy environment. Further offshore the seabed becomes deeper, and more dominated by sediment, although patches of rock remain. The coastline inland of this SCA is treacherous, containing many offshore rocks, and the patterns of wrecks reflect this. The South Stack lighthouse is located just to the east of the SCA boundary.

Holyhead Mountain is a prominent landmark onshore, and gives a strong sense of place and orientation. There is a long and continuing tradition of maritime communications, particularly with Ireland, and the SCA is used by commercial shipping, passenger ferries, and by a variety of fishing vessels.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in the West of Anglesey SCA.

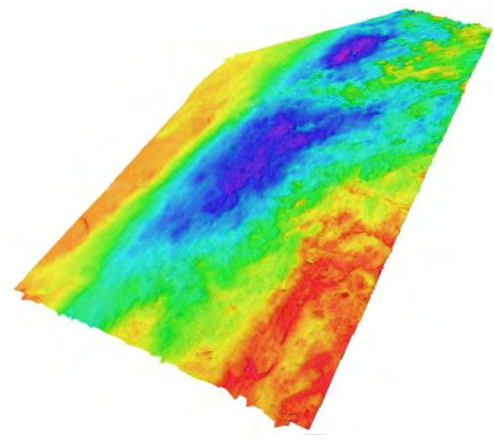
Key Characteristics

- Mostly coarse sediment in deep water with exposed Precambrian bedrock in the east.
- High energy water due to strong tidal currents and wave action.
- High turbidity due to suspended particulate matter.
- Water depth of 40-60m with deeper sections in the far north and in Holyhead Deep.
- A robust community of infauna colonises the mobile sediment with erect epifauna found on rocky substrate.
- A variety of fishing activity with towed mobile gear in the offshore sediment and static gear used closer to the shore and on rocky ground.
- Commercial shipping and ferries seen offshore, with recreational boats more common close to the coast.
- Long history of trade and communication between Holyhead and Ireland.
- Concentration of wrecks off the north and south stacks. Located wrecks include WW2 losses
- Holyhead mountain is a landmark in the southern part of the SCA, with the Isle of Man visible from the northern part of the SCA in clear conditions.



Commercial vessel approaching Holyhead.

Image © Bangor University



Seabed survey of Holyhead Deep.

Image © Bangor University

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
		Natural	Formal	Spiritual
		Cultural		

Natural Influences

- A thin layer of coarse quaternary sediment overlying mainly Precambrian Monian bedrock which is exposed in the higher energy eastern part of the SCA.
- Water depth for most of the SCA is 40-60m below chart datum. There are deeper sections in Holyhead Deep (over 80m) and to the far north (over 100m).
- Strong tidal currents particularly in the eastern part of the SCA with peak spring velocities reaching over 2ms^{-1} . Maximum tidal range of 3-4m and maximum significant wave height of approximately 6-8m.
- Mostly tide-swept circalittoral coarse sediment habitat with outcrops of bare rock in the south east of the SCA. Robust polychaetes, crustaceans and bivalves make up the infaunal community while rocky habitats are colonised by a varied community that includes sponges, ascidians, hydroids and bryozoans among many other taxa.
- Area of high turbidity due to suspended particulate matter.

Cultural Influences

- Commercial fishing activity includes scallop dredging, beam trawling, light otter trawling, longlining and potting.
- There are commercial shipping lanes offshore with recreational boat activity closer to the coast, particularly near Trearddur Bay.
- Trend in patterning of shipwreck losses is from the southwest, rounding Holy Island off the North/South Stacks.
- The Dublin to Holyhead and Dublin to Liverpool ferry routes pass through the north of this SCA. The long history of Holyhead as an embarkation point for passengers and mail to Ireland is represented by the wreck of the *Slieve Bloom* which was carrying passengers, cattle and mail when it was run down by a US Destroyer in March 1918.
- Located wrecks from WW2 include the *Farfield*, *USS Roanoke* and *Normandy Coast*.
- Wales-Ireland submarine telecommunications/ power cables, still in use, run through this SCA.

Perceptual Qualities

- Views of Holyhead mountain and the rocky, wave-exposed coastline of Holy Island. In the southern parts, the mountains of Snowdonia and the Lleyen peninsula are visible. Further to the north and west coastline features become less distinguishable, although the Isle of Man can be seen on the horizon in clear conditions.
- Fishing boats and large commercial ships can be seen offshore, with ferries seen in the north. Recreational boats are a common sight in the east of the SCA during warmer months.
- In the east there are views of the rugged wave exposed rocky coastline of Holy Island with steep cliffs and lighthouses including the iconic South Stack. Further south the low lying rocky coast is interrupted by the beach at Trearddur Bay.
- Lighthouses at South Stack, the Skerries and beacons at Holyhead Harbour are features of the seascape at night.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change								
<p>Natural variability in marine habitats and their communities.</p> <p>Climate change may impact marine ecosystem processes and prevailing conditions.</p> <p>EU fisheries policy reform is likely to alter fishing practices which in turn impacts marine habitats.</p> <p>Expansion of Liverpool port may lead to more shipping activity.</p> <p>Holyhead waterfront regeneration proposal may increase boat traffic through this SCA.</p> <p>Seasonal variations in recreational boat traffic.</p> <p>Natural processes impact on marine archaeology such as wrecks through corrosion or covering by sediment.</p>	Special Qualities	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use	
	Welsh Language								
	Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views								
	Rural agricultural communities and their associated features								
	Richness of habitats and biodiversity								
	Cultural heritage								
	Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness								
	Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment								
	Geology and geomorphological features								
	Islands								
	Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens								
	Soil, air and water quality								
	Key		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

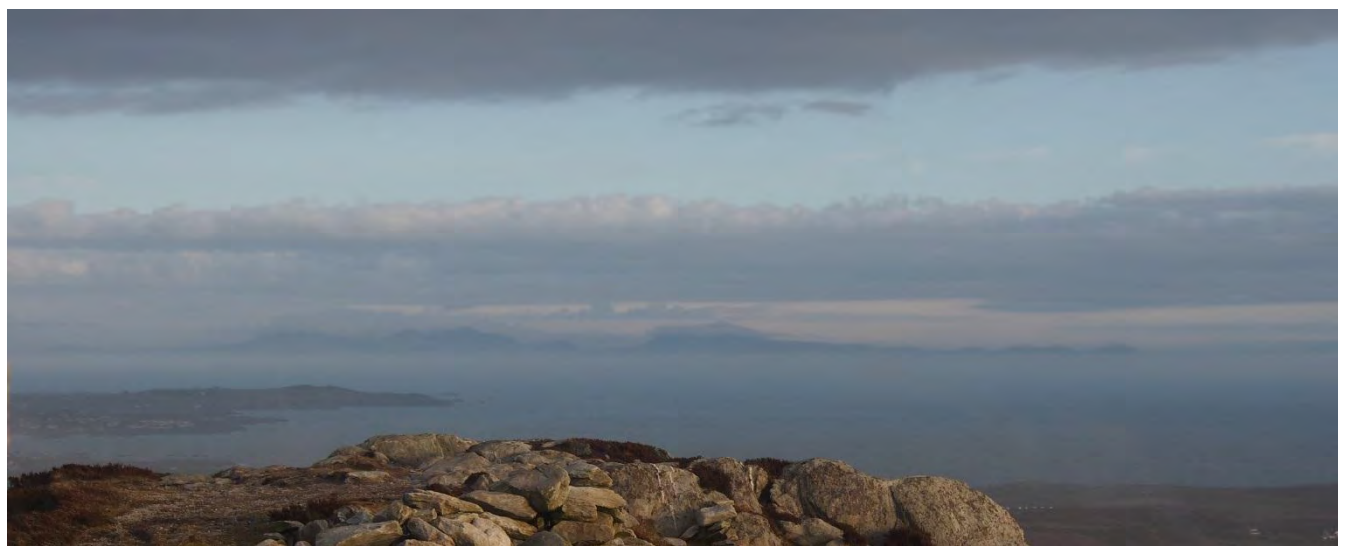
Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	Intervisibility with Holyhead Mountain and its spectacular cliffs.	
Existing development	Use for fishing	Lights and structures of Holyhead Port visible from the eastern part of the SCA.
The visual experience	Visual links with Anglesey create a strong sense of place.	
Tranquillity		

SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREA 32:

CAERNARFON BAY

Location and Context

This Offshore SCA is located in the central part of the Study Area, to the south-west of Anglesey. SCA 31: West of Anglesey is to the north, and SCAs 15: Rhosneigr, 16: Malltraeth, and 18: Abermenai are located to landward. The southern extent of this SCA is cut by the Study Area boundary.



View across Caernarfon Bay from Holyhead Mountain, with the Lleyn Peninsula on the horizon.

Image © Fiona Fyfe

Summary Description

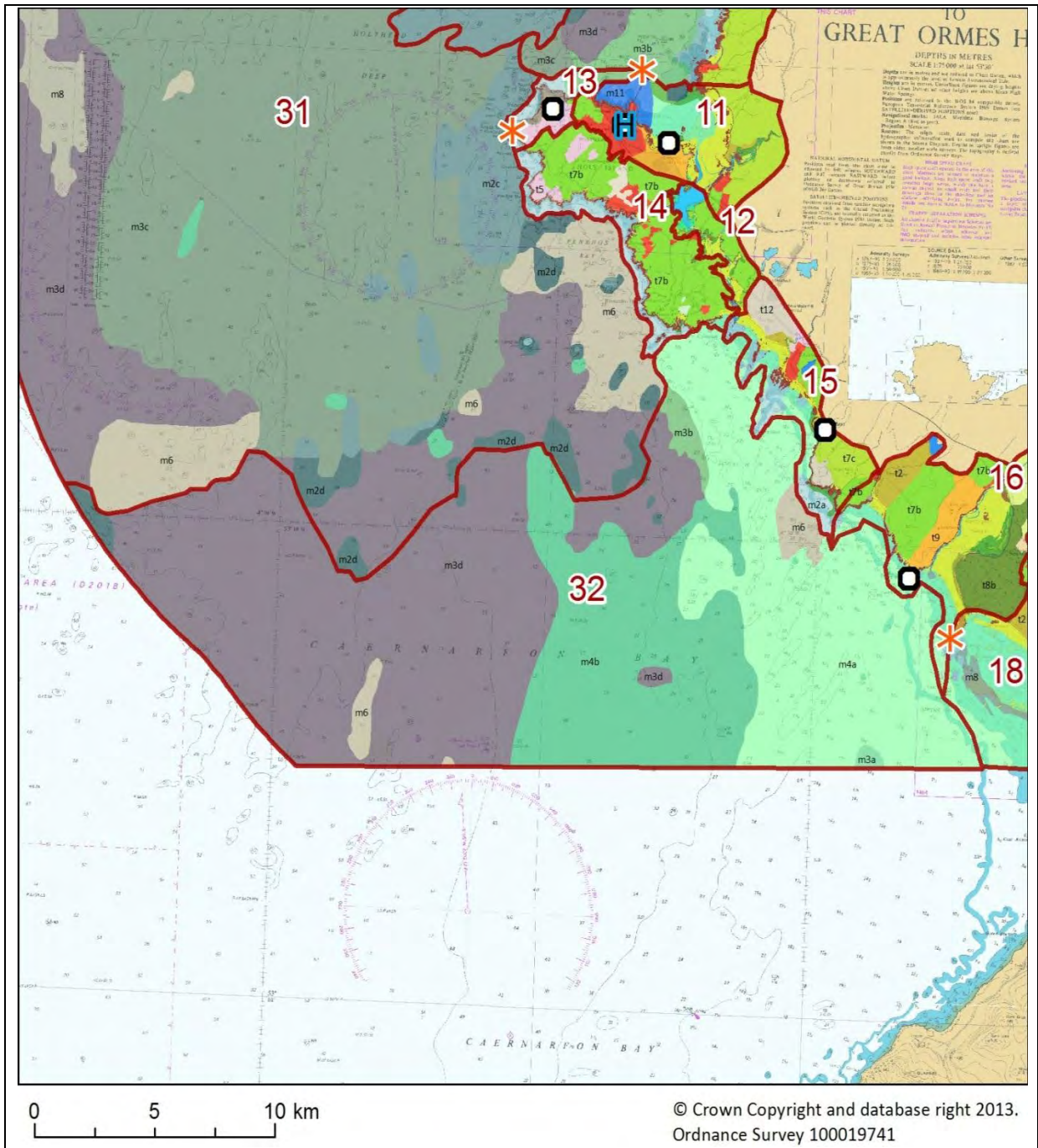
The seafloor of this SCA is dominated by shallow sand, deepening further offshore. There are also pockets of coarse sediment, and (close to the coast off Aberffraw) an area of rocky seabed. The SCA is exposed to south-westerly waves, although the Lleyn Peninsula provides some shelter to the south.

This area of sea is used for trawling, scallop dredging and potting. It is a bay with a relatively enclosed feel, and land visible on three sides: Anglesey to the north, Snowdonia to the east, and the Lleyn Peninsula to the south.

Caernarfon Bay has seen military activity from WW1 onwards, including the loss of the H5 submarine in 1918, a site which has recently been given war grave status. The SCA contains numerous other wrecks, including the Caernarvon Bay Lightship.

Constituent Seascape Character Types

Please refer to Appendix I for a list of constituent Seascape Character Types.



Seascape Character Types in Caernarfon Bay SCA.

Key Characteristics

- Moderate tidal currents result in coarse sediment offshore with finer sand in the eastern portion of the SCA.
- Large range in depth from less than 10m in the east to a maximum of over 100m.
- Area of high primary productivity.
- Wave action disturbs the sediment particularly in shallower inshore areas.
- The varied benthic environment provides habitat for a mixture of communities: Sea birds feed in the shallow sediment, and cetaceans and seals can be sighted.
- Fishing activity includes towed mobile gear as well as potting and set nets.
- Fishing activity includes towed mobile gear as well as potting and set nets.
- Commercial shipping seen in the western part of the SCA, with recreational boats seen closer to shore.
- A relatively enclosed offshore SCA with expansive views of Anglesey, and the peaks of Snowdonia and the Llyn peninsula.
- Sandy beaches make up a lot of the visible coastline.
- Wrecks including that of the Caernarfon Bay lightship.
- Significant military influences on maritime character, including the loss of H5 submarine by 'friendly fire' in 1918.



Caernarfon Bay as seen looking north from the Llyn Peninsula. The low profile of Anglesey is just visible on the horizon. Image © Fiona Fyfe

Cultural Benefits and Services

Key: Bold shading = widespread; medium shading = localised; no shading = occasional

Leisure, recreation & tourism	Health	Heritage	Education	Religious & spiritual
Watersports		Natural	Formal	Spiritual
		Cultural		

Natural Influences

- A layer of quaternary sand and sandy gravel overlying a mosaic of Carboniferous, Precambrian and undivided lower Palaeozoic bedrock. Active bedforms such as sandwaves are found in the mobile sediment. Sediment dominated SCA with sand found close to the shore and coarser sediment further offshore.
- Shallow sea bed close to the shore with a gentle slope westwards to a maximum of 60m for most of the SCA. There are two deeps in the SCA with depths of over 80m and 100m.
- Moderate tidal currents with peak spring velocities generally less than 1ms⁻¹. Currents are fastest in the north of the SCA. Maximum tidal range is 3-4m and maximum significant wave height is approximately 7m.
- This SCA is exposed to swell travelling up the Irish Sea and refracting around the Lleyn peninsula. Wave direction is generally north east.
- Mostly sand or sandy gravel with shell fragments, with a large infralittoral region in the east. The sediment is mobile, with diverse infauna that includes crustaceans, polychaetes and bivalves. Crabs and echinoderms are distinctive epifauna.
- The large shallow inshore areas are important feeding grounds for sea birds.
- Cetaceans and seals can be sighted in this SCA.
- An area of high primary productivity (increased chlorophyll-a concentration).

Cultural Influences

- Fishing activity includes beam trawl (heavy and light), light otter trawl, scallop dredging, longlines, set nets and whelk potting.
- Commercial shipping can be seen in the outer regions of this SCA.
- Recreational boats and charter fishing boats are seen accessing Caernarfon and the Lleyn peninsula.
- Trends in patterns of historic shipping losses highlight a corridor converging on the anchorage off the Caernarfon Bar.
- Former station of the Caernarfon Bay lightship at the southern extreme of the SCA. The first light vessel was moored on the station in 1869, to warn shipping of the Caernarfon Bar and the looming Anglesey Coast. The lightship which was on station in WW1 is thought to be the one on the seabed.
- Military influence on character from firing range at Ty Croes and other airfields. Reported aircraft losses include a number of ‘Queen Bees’ (radio-controlled Tiger Moth biplanes), and manned aircraft lost during bad weather. More recent military material on the seabed includes the remains of test rockets/ missiles.
- War Grave site at wreck of H5 Submarine, a British submarine rammed by a British ship in 1918 whilst on surface patrol. At the time, ships were instructed to ram any sighted submarines without checking which side they were on. Site now controlled under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1989.

Perceptual Qualities

- Views of low lying Anglesey with sandy beaches separated by rocky headlands in the north east part of the SCA. Further south there are views of the entrance to the Menai Strait with a backdrop of the mountains of Snowdonia. Looking south the hills of the Llyn peninsula dominate the skyline.
- A fairly enclosed SCA with views of land to the north, east and south for much of the area.
- South Stack lighthouse to north of SCA contributes to seascape at night.

Forces for Change

Summary	Key forces for change									
<p>Natural variability in marine habitats and their communities.</p> <p>Climate change may impact marine ecosystem processes and prevailing conditions.</p> <p>EU fisheries policy reform is likely to alter fishing practices which in turn impacts marine habitats.</p> <p>Seasonal variation in tourism and recreational boats accessing Caernarfon.</p> <p>Helicopter search and rescue base moving from Valley to Caernarfon may have effects on tranquillity for different regions of the SCA.</p> <p>Natural processes impact on marine archaeology such as wrecks through corrosion or covering by sediment.</p>	<p>Special Qualities</p>	Natural processes/ climate change	Visitor pressure	Marine use- commercial and fishing	Offshore energy or minerals	Development pressure/ transport routes	Land management changes	MOD use		
		Welsh Language								
		Diversity of landscapes, including coastal landscape features & expansive views								
		Rural agricultural communities and their associated features								
		Richness of habitats and biodiversity								
		Cultural heritage								
		Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness								
		Access to land and water and recreation/ enjoyment								
		Geology and geomorphological features								
		Islands								
		Archaeology and history including historic parks and gardens								
		Soil, air and water quality								
		<p>Key</p>		Change occurring in the area affecting the selected special quality						

Inherent Sensitivity

Theme	Factors making the area more sensitive	Factors making the area less sensitive
Coastal geometry and landform	Within a bay with land on three sides, and therefore visible from many onshore locations.	
Existing development	Use as a fishing ground. The sea area and its coastal and mountain backdrop are all remarkably undeveloped compared to other parts of the North Wales coast.	
The visual experience	Spectacular mountain backdrop, especially to east and south.	
Tranquillity	Shallow and enclosed bay less used by large shipping.	