

The Seas/Oceans Around Us: Pollution on our Beaches

Llygredd ar ein Traethau



Dyffryn Taf Local Oceans, Seas & Beaches



Barafundle Bay

<https://www.aroundtenby.co.uk/listing/barafundle-bay-beach/>



Tenby

Image courtesy of <https://www.shutterstock.com/>



Blue Lagoon

Image courtesy of <https://www.shutterstock.com/>



Dyffryn Taf

<https://www.mickledore.co.uk/walking-holidays/pembrokeshire-coast-path/>

We are surrounded by the Irish Sea of the North Atlantic ocean.

Throughout the year we are lucky enough to be visited by a wide range of wildlife including seals, basking sharks, turtles, whales, dolphins, jellyfish and many more.

Five main species of jellyfish can be seen; the barrel jellyfish, the lion's mane jellyfish, the moon jellyfish, the compass jellyfish and the blue jellyfish. Moon jellyfish are a common species to see. Cardigan Bay is also a Special Area of Conservation (SAC for marine species).

<https://cardiganbaysac.org.uk/>

Local Pollution Issues & the Blue Flag Award

The Pembrokeshire Coast has been renowned for its natural beauty and little pollution. Nevertheless, litter still remains. In the 2012 UK initial assessment, levels of marine litter were considered problematic in all areas where there were systematic surveys of beached litter density. Data shows that apart from a peak in winter 2013, litter levels have remained at much the same levels, averaging around 387 items/100m. Litter and pollution is often much more visible after a storm which washes all the pollution from the sea on land. Since 2012 the UK government has aimed to reduce the number of visible litter items on coastlines.



The Blue Flag Award

Blue Flag Award

The International Award for beaches



<https://coastradar.com/blue-flag-beaches/united-kingdom/>



<https://www.visitpembrokeshire.com/explore-pembrokeshire/beaches/whitesands>

The Blue Flag Award supports this aim. It is an internationally recognised ecolabel, awarded to beaches and marinas for cleanliness, safety and high quality amenities. The blue flag enables beaches to be rewarded for their efforts in remaining eco friendly and pushing local councils to keep their beaches clean.

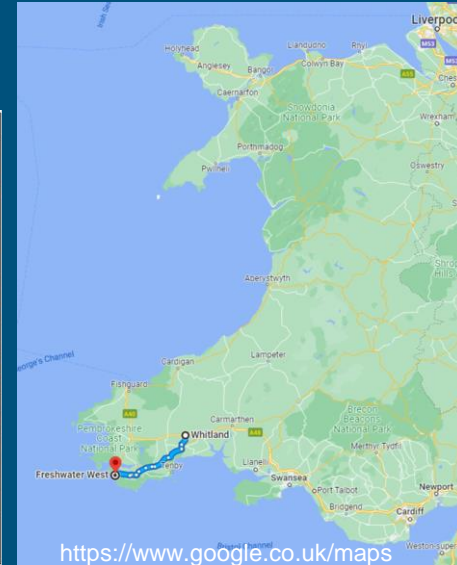
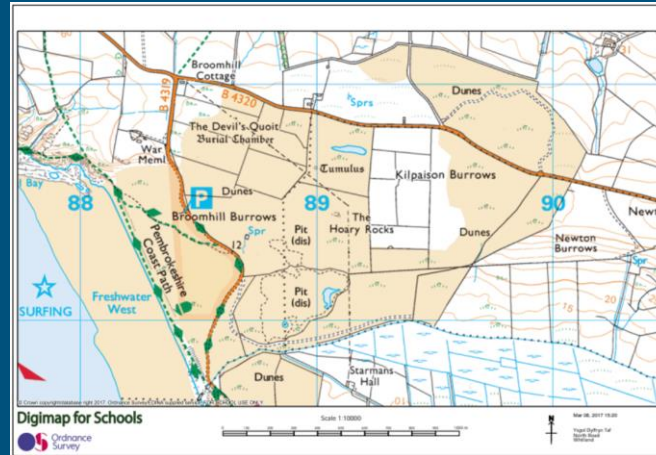
Pembrokeshire alone has 12 blue flags along with more in Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire, the neighbouring counties.

Freshwater West Beach - Local Case Study

Freshwater West is a wide sandy and rocky beach backed by cliffs and sand dunes. There is a rocky reef at the southern end and some quiet bays at the other end. Freshwater West is part of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and is one of Wales' top surfing locations.



<https://drewbuckleyphotography.com/product/freshwater-west-last-light/>



The Sea Empress Disaster

The Sea Empress Disaster happened on the 15th of February 1996.

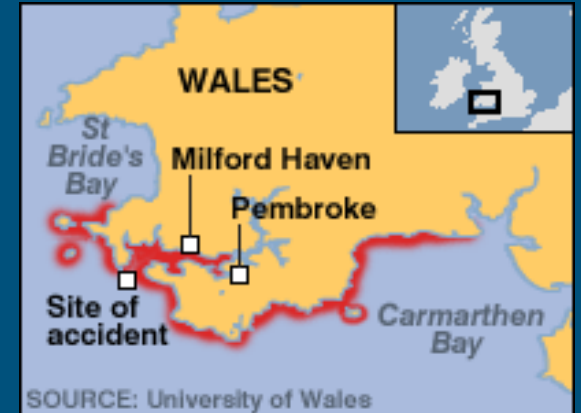
Some of the impacts of the disaster were birds dying, The fishing and tourism industries in and around Tenby and also harmed the wildlife in the area.

Some patches of the oil still gets uncovered after big storms today (more than 25 years later).

Freshwater West was also affected by the Sea Empress disaster.



https://www.riskaware.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Sea-Empress-Case-Study_2.pdf



http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/south_west/4712406.stm

The Sea Empress Video



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EET_6DLaQG8

Filming at Fresh West

Thanks to its wide, sandy plains and picturesque features, Freshwater West has become a popular filming location in recent years, appearing in:

- **Their Finest**
 - a comedy about propaganda during WWII, where the beach doubled for Dunkirk
- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (Pts I and II)**
 - The final 2 films of the Harry Potter franchise.
 - 'Shell Cottage', a unique, character-filled cottage was constructed for the film, and taken down when filming ended
 - The shell roofing was completed with plastic moulding, whilst the cottage itself was filled with water containers to make sure it didn't blow away in the wind.
- **Robin Hood (2010)**
 - Which depicted the French invasion of southern England.
 - Over 600 extras and 150 horses were used during the filming on the beach.
- **Sarah Jane Adventures**
 - A Dr Who spin-off series which aired from 2007-2011
- **The Thief of Bagdad**
 - A 1940 British Technicolor historical fantasy film which heavily influenced Disney's 'Aladdin'.
 - Interestingly production was halted due to WWII and filming was continued in California.



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/ba/Robin_Hood_filming_at_Freshwater_West_2.jpg/675px-Robin_Hood_filming_at_Freshwater_West_2.jpg?201100504200601

These productions have had a positive impact on tourism in the area as people flock to the beach to take pictures where these films were shot.

Despite some concern regarding pollution, there was very little litter from the productions.

Locals when they hear that Warner Bros are gonna come and take over the beach for filming

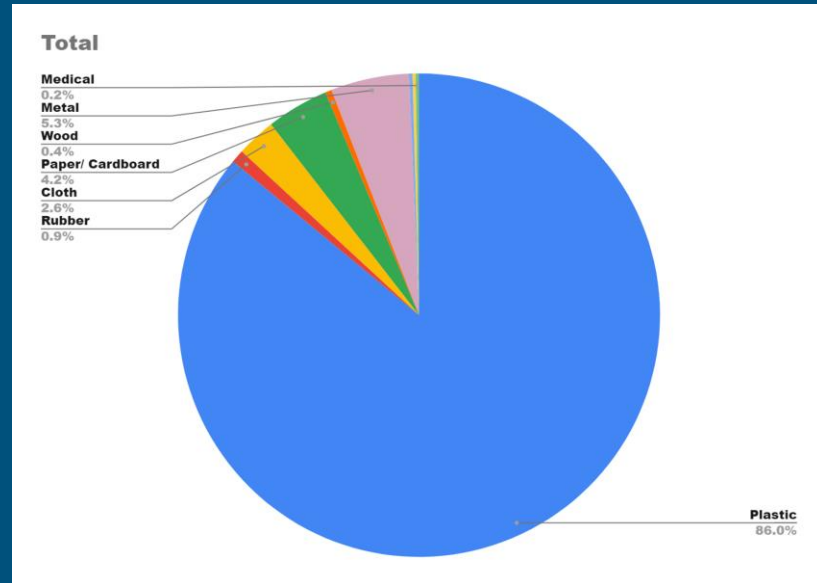


Locals when they see visitor numbers in Pembrokeshire rose by almost 30,000 thanks to the filming



Freshwater West Pollution Survey Results

Type of Rubbish	Total
Plastic	392
Rubber	4
Cloth	12
Paper/ Cardboard	19
Wood	2
Metal	24
Glass	1
Pottery/ Ceramics	0
Sanitary	1
Medical	1
Pollutants	0



In March we conducted a beach survey to determine how much and how many types of litter were present at Freshwater West beach. From the pie chart we have created you can see that clearly plastic is most prevalent - we found 392 pieces of it all together, after this was metal. We were surprised at the amount of microplastics all throughout the beach and tide lines that you would normally miss if you were on a normal walk but when looking closer there was lots that would be almost impossible to pick up.

Dobby's Grave

Among the litter we found a series of interesting items, this ranged from a brand new adidas football, a belt, a needle, a wedding fastener and a spade. From the Harry Potter films Dobbys supposed grave has become a small tourist attraction, this has resulted in people leaving socks, laminated plastic messages and painting rocks in “memory”. The socks and plastic are detrimental to the environment and the grave itself is becoming an eyesore on the dune.



Blue Planet II Plastic Pollution Awareness 2018 Video



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLx4fVsYdTI>