

WALK 13 A DIFFERENT ANGLE

DESCRIPTION It's easy to associate Milford Haven with nothing but oil, and latterly gas. But you will soon change your mind with a visit to Angle, tucked into the east of the harbour entrance. Whilst the views may be of ships and refineries, your immediate surroundings are beautiful bays, islands, forts, an unspoiled pub and a truly remarkable and understated 14th century tower house. A wonderful 3½ miles!

START Turn left off the B4320 at Angle to park in the car park by the shore at West Angle Bay (toilets and 'Dive-in' cafe). SM 854032.

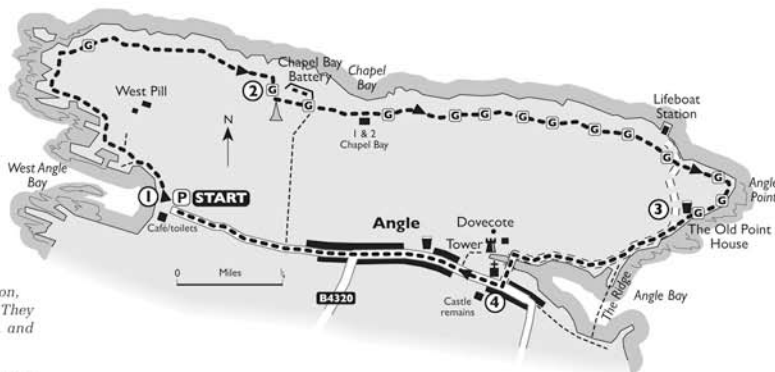
1 From the car park walk with the sea to your left to climb around the north side of West Angle Bay. Ignore the first track to the left, but take the next (and visit the viewpoint if you wish). Now follow the distinct coastal path, which passes Thorn Island. This was one of a series of forts built in the 1860s as part of the defences of Milford Haven, and which has now been converted into a hotel. Those familiar with Compton Mackenzie's tale *Whisky Galore*, based upon a ship laden with whisky which was wrecked on the island of Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides, should know that a similar event happened here, when the sailing ship *Loch Shiel* was wrecked on Thorn Island in January 1894. The crew were rescued by the local lifeboat, leaving 7000 cases of whisky aboard, a bonanza which proved to be too tempting for some. A father and son drowned whilst getting the liquor ashore, and another died from excessive consumption. Bottles were hidden everywhere – indeed two were discovered 60 years later when a cottage was being renovated. Divers still recover bottles today. Go through a gate/stile and continue, enjoying a splendid view of the shipping activity and the north shore of Milford Haven.

2 Cross a gate/stile by Chapel Bay Fort, with its prominent gun, and carry on ahead. Cross another gate/stile and join a

track which passes in front of a pair of cottages – numbers 1 & 2 Chapel Bay. Now just follow the obvious path over seven assorted gates and stiles until you arrive above the Lifeboat Station, which is painted pale green. Pass the RNLI container, cross the access road and walk into the hedged path to round Angle Point and cross another three gates/stiles to arrive at the charming **Old Point House** pub, having said hello to the resident goats. This charming 15th century oak beamed inn is situated in an enviable waterside position, and still retains many original features. They specialise in fresh locally caught fish, and serve real ale.

3 Continue beside the bay, passing The Ridge – a spit where samphire grows – to eventually pass by the church on your right, to join a road.

4 Turn RIGHT to walk back to your car along the main street of Angle. This still has medieval field patterns extending either side, and contains 25 listed buildings. First visit St Mary's Church and the Seamen's Chapel. There were once three churches in Angle: St Antony's, near West Angle Bay and St Mary's at Chapel Bay are no longer there, but St Mary's thankfully remains. It was built in the 14th century, with the tower being added in the 15th century. It has a Norman font and 19th century stained glass windows. There is also a fine monument to the ancient families of Ferrers and Daws, who lived at Bangeston Castle, about a mile to the south-east. The charming Seamen's Chapel, which stands beside the church, is dedicated to St Anthony. It was founded by Edward de Shirburn, who was Knight of 'Nangle' in 1447. An effigy of Shirburn stands to the left of the doorway. The tiles around the altar match those in St David's Cathedral. The crypt was used for the many bodies of seamen once washed ashore here, recorded in the 19th century register as 'drowned'. Continue along the road, turning right by a



sunken garden and passing through a stile to visit the 14th century Tower House, where you can climb stairs to the top floor via the rounded stair turret. This medieval, once moated, mansion is a remarkable survival. It was occupied at one time by Edward

de Shirburn of 'Nangle', who dedicated the Seamen's Chapel. This is Wales' only example of such a tower, and from here you have a good view of the nearby Dovecot. Return along the road to West Angle Bay, where you can enjoy a cup of tea at the café.



The Seamen's Chapel, Angle