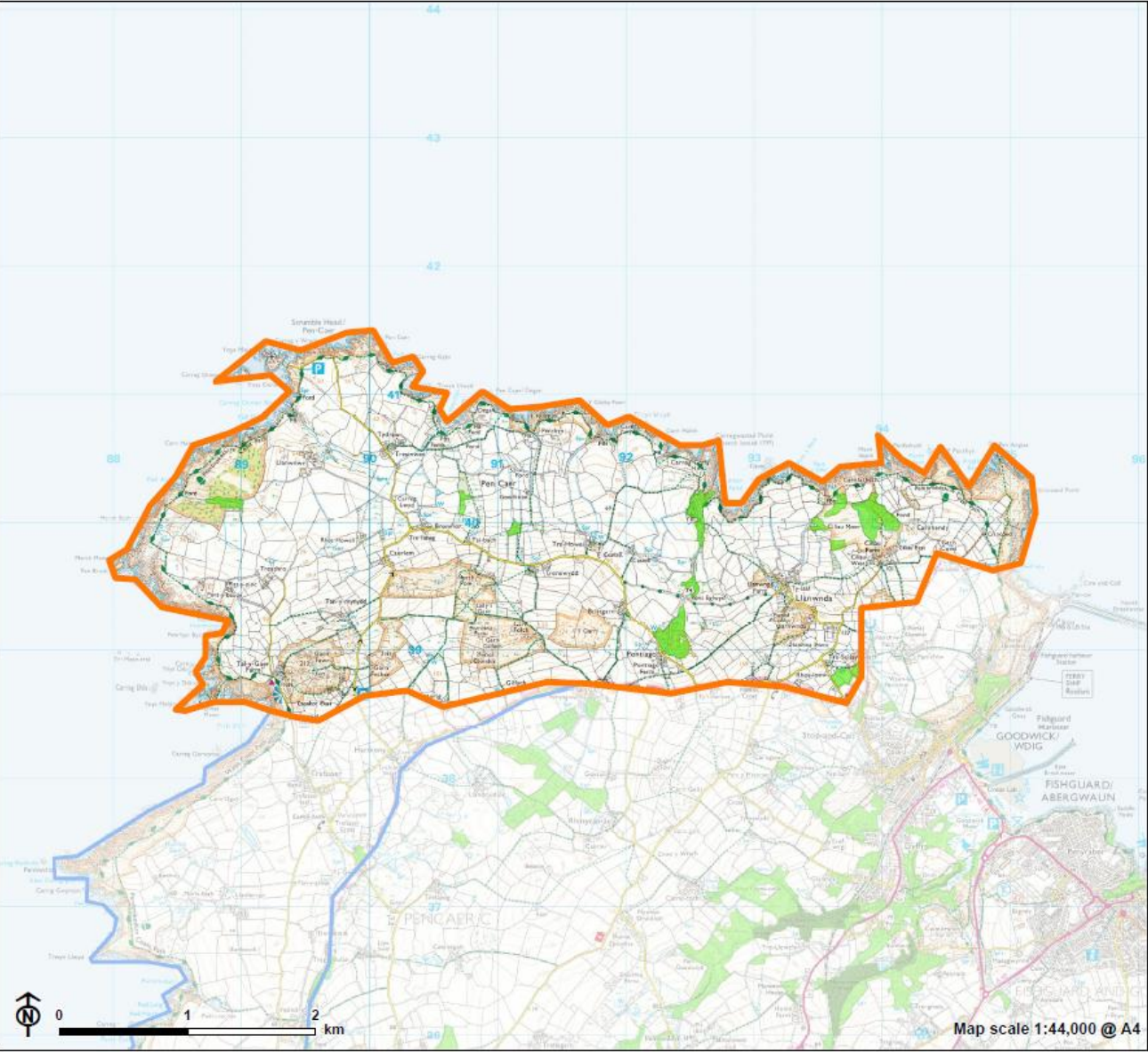



LCA 21: Pen Caer/Strumble Head







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CB/AHB EB:Collins\_N LUC FIGX\_11664\_r0\_LocationAndWoodland\_A4L 08/11/2021  
Source: OS, FC, NRW

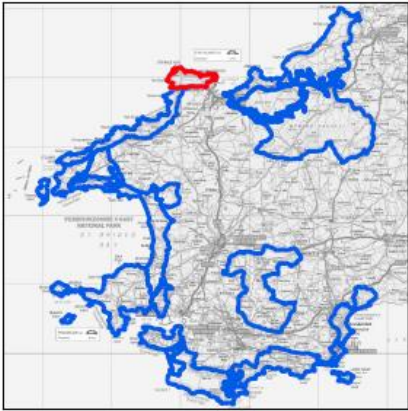
Trees and Woodland Siting and Design Guidance  
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority



LCA 21 location and existing woodland coverage





-  LCA 21: Pen Caer/Strumble Head
-  Neighbouring LCA
- Existing Woodland**
  -  Ancient woodland
  -  National Forest Inventory woodland\*

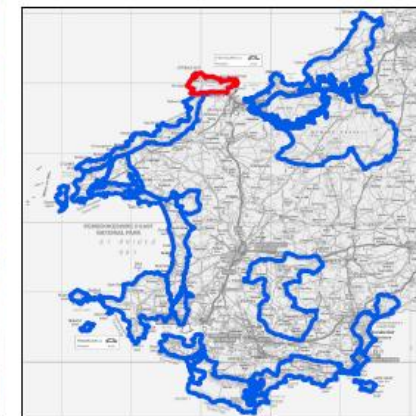
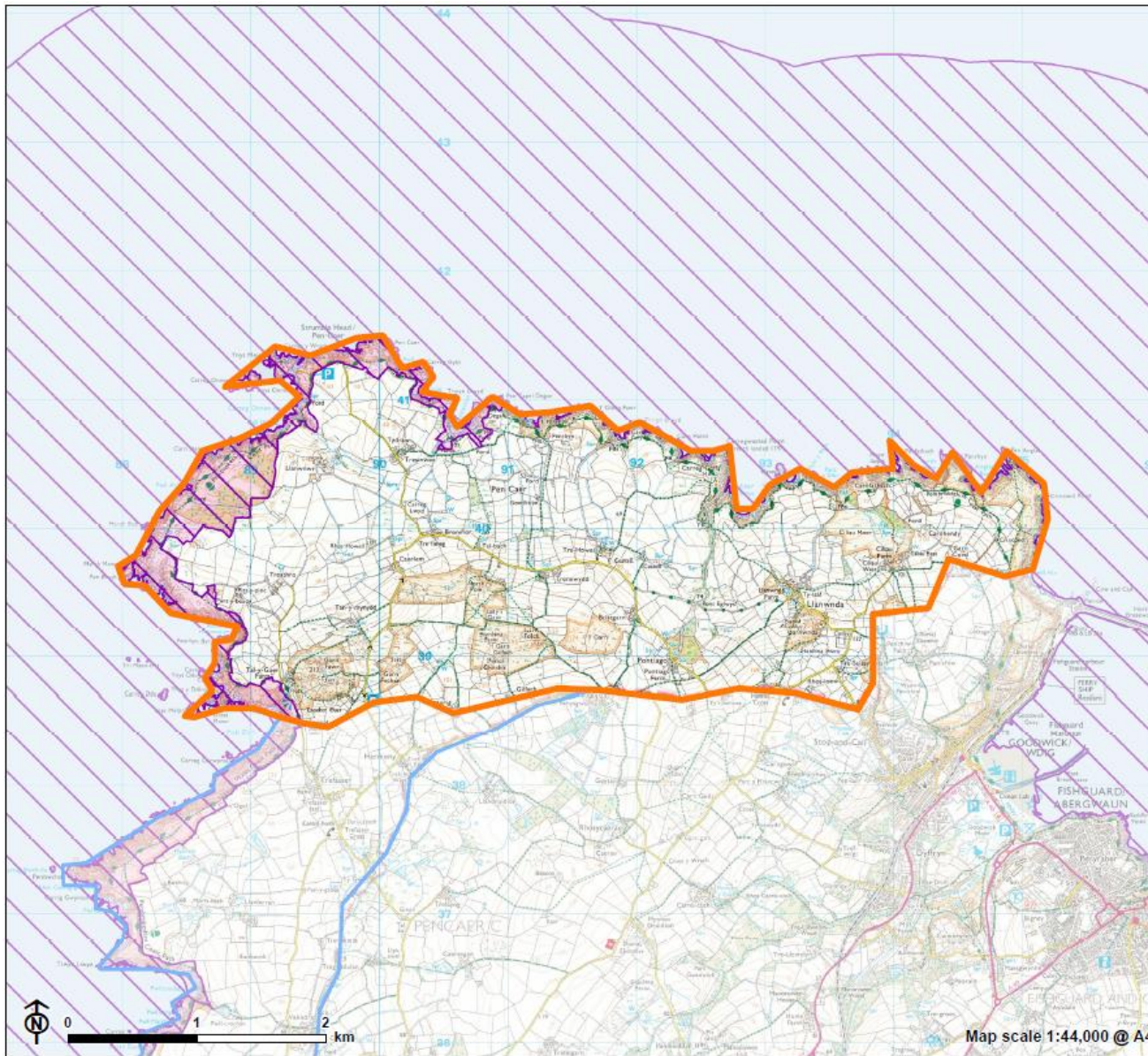
\*The NFI definition of woodland is a minimum area of 0.5 hectares





**LCA 21 nature conservation designations**

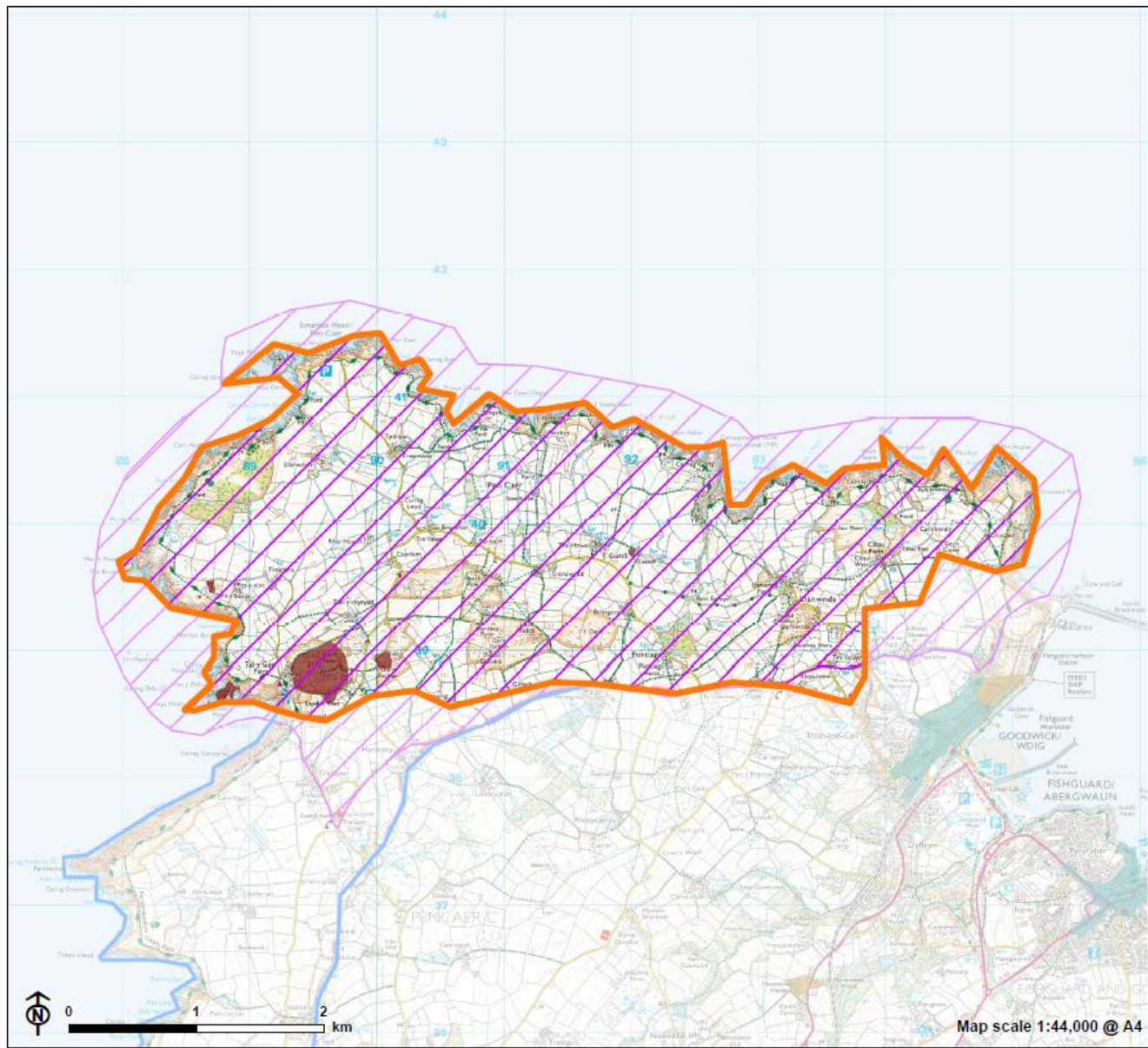
-  LCA 21: Pen Caer/Strumble Head
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest



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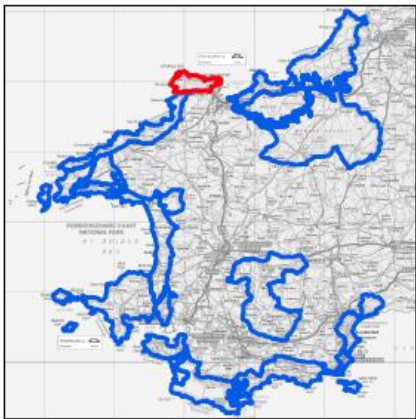
CB:AHB EB:Collins\_N LUC FIGX\_11664\_r0\_NatureConservationDesignations\_A4L 09/11/2021  
Source: OS, NRW





### LCA 21 Historic Environment Designations

- LCA 21: Pen Caer/Strumble Head
- Neighbouring LCA
- Special Historic Landscape
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area



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CB-AHB EB:Hardie-Brown\_A LUC FIGX\_11664\_r0\_CulturalHeritageDesignations\_A4L 30/06/2022  
Source: OS, Cadw

## Existing woodland coverage within the LCA



View north across exposed and rugged pastoral fields towards the headland at Strumble Head.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is characterised by gently rolling farmland interspersed with rough grazing and open moorland around rocky hilltops. The rocky coastline of maritime cliffs forms the northern boundary of the LCA and is vegetated by coastal heath, grassland and scrub.

Woodland is very limited and comprises just under 2% of the total land cover, the majority of which (84.3%) is broadleaved. Most woodlands are small (under 5ha) and sit within the small-scale field pattern, or in association with farms. Larger woodlands are uncommon, except adjacent to common land at Cilau Moor or tracing the course of a small watercourse rising near Pontiago. Pasture fields are enclosed by stone walls or traditional hedgebanks with bracken, bramble and gorse, with boundaries largely devoid of trees. Scrub has replaced a large area of felled coniferous planting south of Carreg Onnen Bay.

Designated features and valued attributes within the LCA		
<i>The focus of this Guide is on the sensitivity and opportunities for woodland creation in relation to landscape character. It can only play an advisory role in the weighing of potential benefits of woodland creation against likely impacts on non-woodland habitats and cultural heritage assets, which should be considered in more detail at site level. Please refer to the main report for more detail.</i>		
Natural heritage	SAC, SPA, SSSI, NNR, LNR (including Wildlife Trust/ RSPB reserves)  Ancient woodland. RIGS	There are two SAC within the LCA which cover 156.5 ha (12% of the LCA). Strumble Head - Llechdafad Cliffs SSSI covers 122.9 ha (9.4% of the LCA).  There is one RIGS within the LCA which covers 12.5 ha.
Cultural heritage	National Park Register of Historic Landscapes	The Pen Caer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head Landscape of Special Historic Interest covers 99% of the LCA.  LCA 21 Pen Caer/Strumble Head includes 248 HER assets which cover a range of archaeological and historical features, including scheduled and undesignated monuments, listed and non-listed

	Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	historical buildings and locations of finds. These features date from prehistory up to recent times.
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Landscape sensitivity to new woodland planting					
Key sensitivities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Areas of unenclosed moorland with exposed rocky hill tops set within the undulating farmland and distinctive coastal landforms, including rocky cliffs and narrow bays.</li><li>■ Coastal habitats of national and international importance, including maritime cliffs and slopes, grassland and heathland (designated as the St David's SAC and Strumble Head - Llechdafad Cliffs SSSI).</li><li>■ Important heathland and grassland habitat networks, including unenclosed heathland on the rocky hill tops to the south of the LCA.</li><li>■ Bracken and regenerated scrub habitats, including those to the north of the LCA, which support a variety of animal and plant species including small pearl bordered fritillaries, adders and violets.</li><li>■ The strong pattern of irregular small sized fields, enclosed by traditional stone walls or hedgebanks, much of which is prehistoric in origin.</li><li>■ The cultural importance of the landscape due to the string of Iron Age hillforts on the craggy ridge to the south of the LCA and associated prehistoric field systems, designated as the Pen Caer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest.</li><li>■ Extensive views along the coast, and to the Strumble Head lighthouse. Views across the open landscape of the headland to the craggy ridge in the south of the LCA with the Preseli Hills forming the skyline.</li><li>■ The landscape's strong sense of exposure and remoteness resulting from proximity to the sea, its sparse vegetation and strong rural qualities.</li></ul>				
Overview	<p>The coastal area has a high sensitivity to woodland creation of any scale due to the distinctive landforms of rocky cliffs, and expansive views along the coast and out to the sea. There are also nationally and internationally significant coastal habitats including maritime cliffs and slopes, grassland and heathland (designated as the St David's SAC and Strumble Head - Llechdafad Cliffs SSSI).</p> <p>Upland areas on the craggy ridge to the south of the LCA, are also highly sensitive to change from woodland creation due to their lowland heath habitats, exposed rocky landform and visual prominence. The nationally important Iron Age hill forts, and the prehistoric field systems associated with these sites which extend into the surrounding areas, are also highly sensitivity to woodland creation and the cultural importance of the landscape of the LCA is reflected in its designation as a Registered Historic Landscape.</p> <p>The pastoral farmland has a low-moderate sensitivity to new small-scale broadleaved woodland which could sit within the historic field patterns (much of which is prehistoric) but a higher sensitivity to larger-scale woodland, which would be out of keeping with the scale of the existing landscape pattern.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity to all scales of mixed woodland for this LCA is high.</p>				
Landscape Sensitivity Scores					
Small-scale broadleaved woodlands (≤5ha)		Low-moderate			
Small-medium scale broadleaved woodlands (>5- 15ha)				Moderate-High	
Medium-scale broadleaved woodlands (>15-30ha)					High
Large-scale broadleaved woodlands (>30ha)					High



## Opportunities for future tree and woodland coverage within the LCA

- Woodland creation of all sizes should be avoided on the craggy upland ridge in order to maintain its distinctive open skylines, valued semi-natural habitats and the prehistoric field system which is visible as low banks in the now open heathland of the crags and continues down the slope into the surrounding areas.
- Woodland creation should be avoided in coastal areas, to avoid obscuring the landscape's distinctive landforms of rocky cliff and inlets, or negatively impacting valued coastal habitats.
- There are opportunities for small scale woodland creation within the agricultural landscape, however, woodland copses should sit within the traditional field pattern, adjoining existing hedgebanks or stone walls, in order to avoid masking the landscape structure of the pastoral landscape, particularly in those areas with prehistoric field systems.
- There are opportunities to create small woodland copses or extending existing wooded areas (such as at Cilau Moor) to create a habitat mosaic within the farmed landscape (linking to valued semi-natural habitats including coastal grassland and lowland heathland).
- Consider the potential for natural regeneration of semi-natural woodland and scrub extending along streams running to the coast, such as the enclosed stream valley running from Pontiago to enhance flood management, water quality, biodiversity and to help prevent soil erosion.
- There are opportunities for the creation of wood pasture to integrate more trees into the agricultural landscape.
- There are opportunities to regenerate traditional hedgebanks, and plant new (climate resistant) hedgerow trees in more sheltered locations, to increase habitat connectivity across the farmed landscape and reinforce the landscape pattern.
- Any new planting should follow principles of good design as set out in the UK Forestry Standard.
- Choose appropriate native species suited to local conditions (e.g. climate, soil, hydrology, existing vegetation) to achieve a diverse woodland mosaic character.

## Strategic guidance for new woodland / tree planting

### Landform and scale

- Avoid planting which would obscure the jagged coastline of rugged cliffs, angular headlands and inlets, or the exposed hills tops to the south of the LCA.

### Landcover (including semi-natural habitats)

- Avoid adversely affecting existing areas of non-woodland semi-natural habitats, directly or indirectly, and consider new woodland in the context of other opportunities for nature recovery. This includes valued upland habitats (rough grassland and heathland vegetation) and coastal habitats (maritime cliffs, coastal grassland, coastal heathland and dry heath) designated as the St David's SAC and Strumble Head - Llechdafad Cliffs SSSI, as well as bracken and scrub habitats.

### Field pattern

- Preserve the existing pattern of small irregular pastoral fields, particularly those of prehistoric origin, by conserving and regenerating traditional hedgebanks and promote less intensive management of these features. Avoid masking dry-stone walls boundaries that are a characteristic feature of this LCA.

### Existing tree and woodland character

- Conserve, restore and where appropriate extend existing semi-natural broadleaved copses and trees in the landscape to improve connectivity and strengthen the landscape framework. Plant hedgerow trees in more sheltered locations. Spacing between trees should be irregular.
- Encourage a diverse range of native species to build resilience to the impact of pathogens, pests and diseases, e.g. *Phytophthora*, *Chalara* (ash dieback), acute oak decline, bronze birch borer.

### Historic character

- The LCA is designated as the Pen Caer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest and this should be carefully considered when designing and siting new woodland, particularly the potential impact on the historic field systems.
- Avoid adversely affecting, directly or indirectly, the rich cultural heritage of the area, including the prehistoric field systems and inscribed stones, Iron Age forts, chambered tombs, and Medieval earthworks, all of which are of national

significance. Consider the impact of woodland creation on the setting and legibility of these historic features.

#### Visual character

- Conserve the extensive views along the coast and out to the sea, particularly from the coastal footpaths, including the key views to the Strumble Head lighthouse and views across the headland to the Iron Age fort at Garn Fawr.

#### Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting, ensuring it does not lead to a change of landscape character, particularly in the more open and exposed parts of the LCA along the coast or on the open hill tops.



High hedgebanks enclose the single-track lanes within the LCA.



View south-west across pastoral fields enclosed by a mix of post and wire fencing and low, scrubby hedgerows. Garn Fawr and Garn Fechan are prominent on the skyline.



A small area of woodland on the southern edge of the LCA at Pontiago Farm, with dense, intact hedgerows.



Sparsely vegetated clifftops above Pwll Deri Bay.