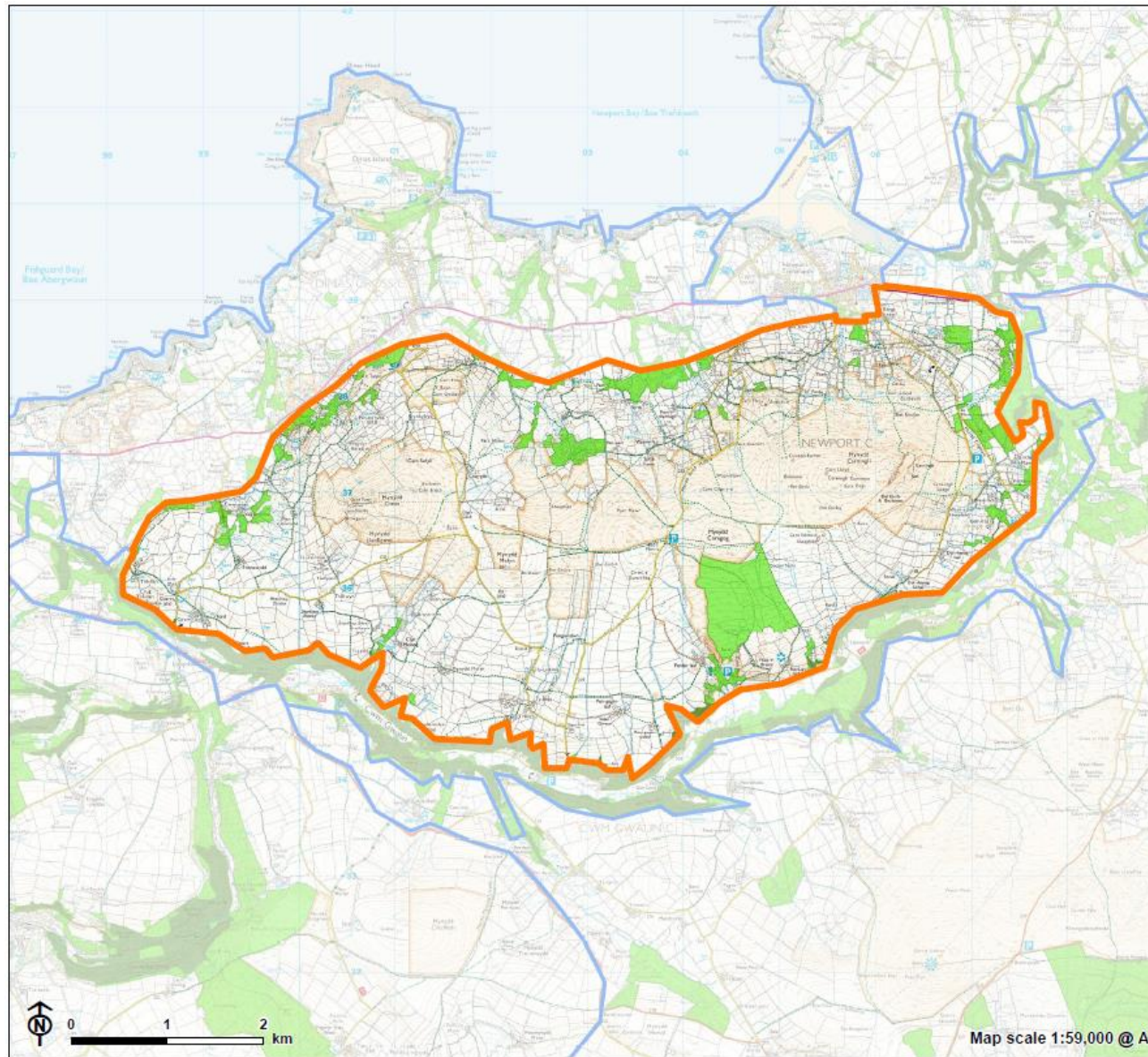


LCA 22: Mynydd Carningli



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



LCA 22 location and existing woodland
coverage

 LCA 22: Mynydd Carningli

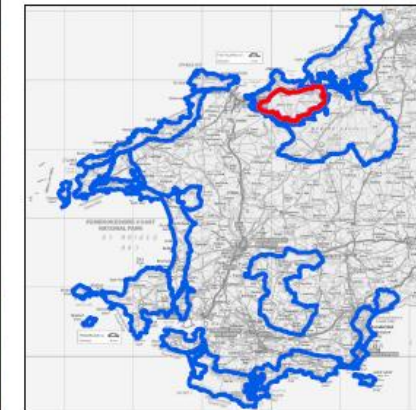
 Neighbouring LCA

Existing Woodland

Ancient woodland

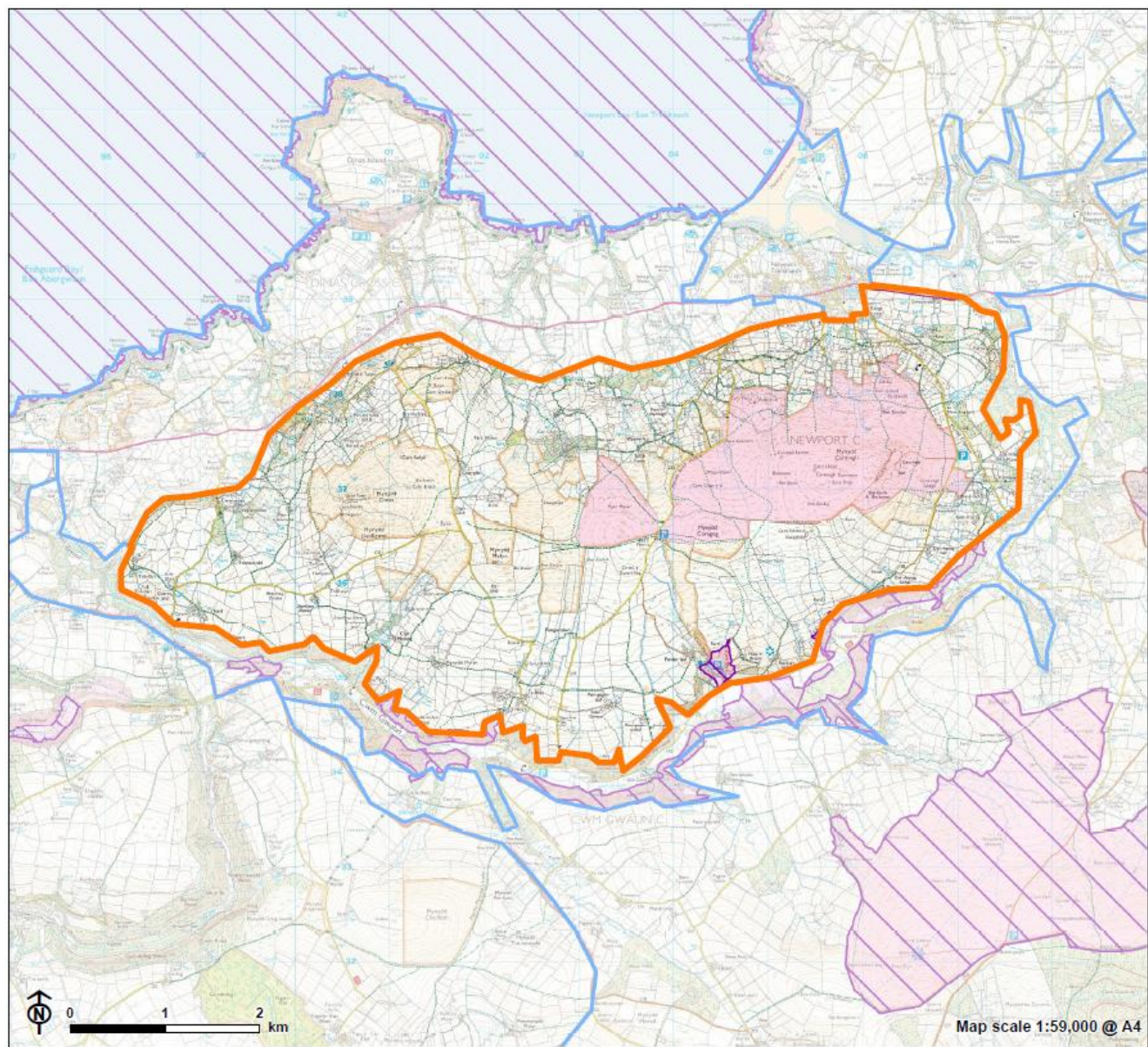
National Forest Inventory woodland*

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



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021. Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right. Contains derived Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey license number 100019741. Contains Forestry Commission data © Crown copyright and database rights 2021. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100021242.

CB:AHB EB:Collins_N LUC FIGX_11664_r0_LocationAndWoodland_A4L 09/11/2021
Source: OS, FC, NRW

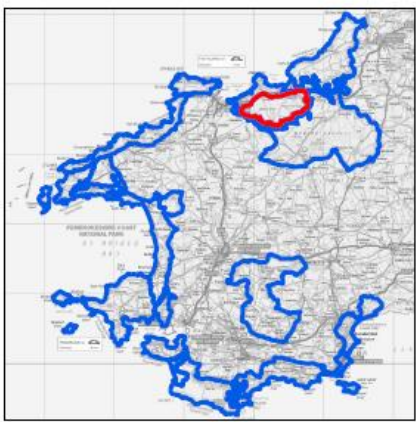


Trees and Woodland Siting and
Design Guidance
Pembrokeshire Coast National
Park Authority



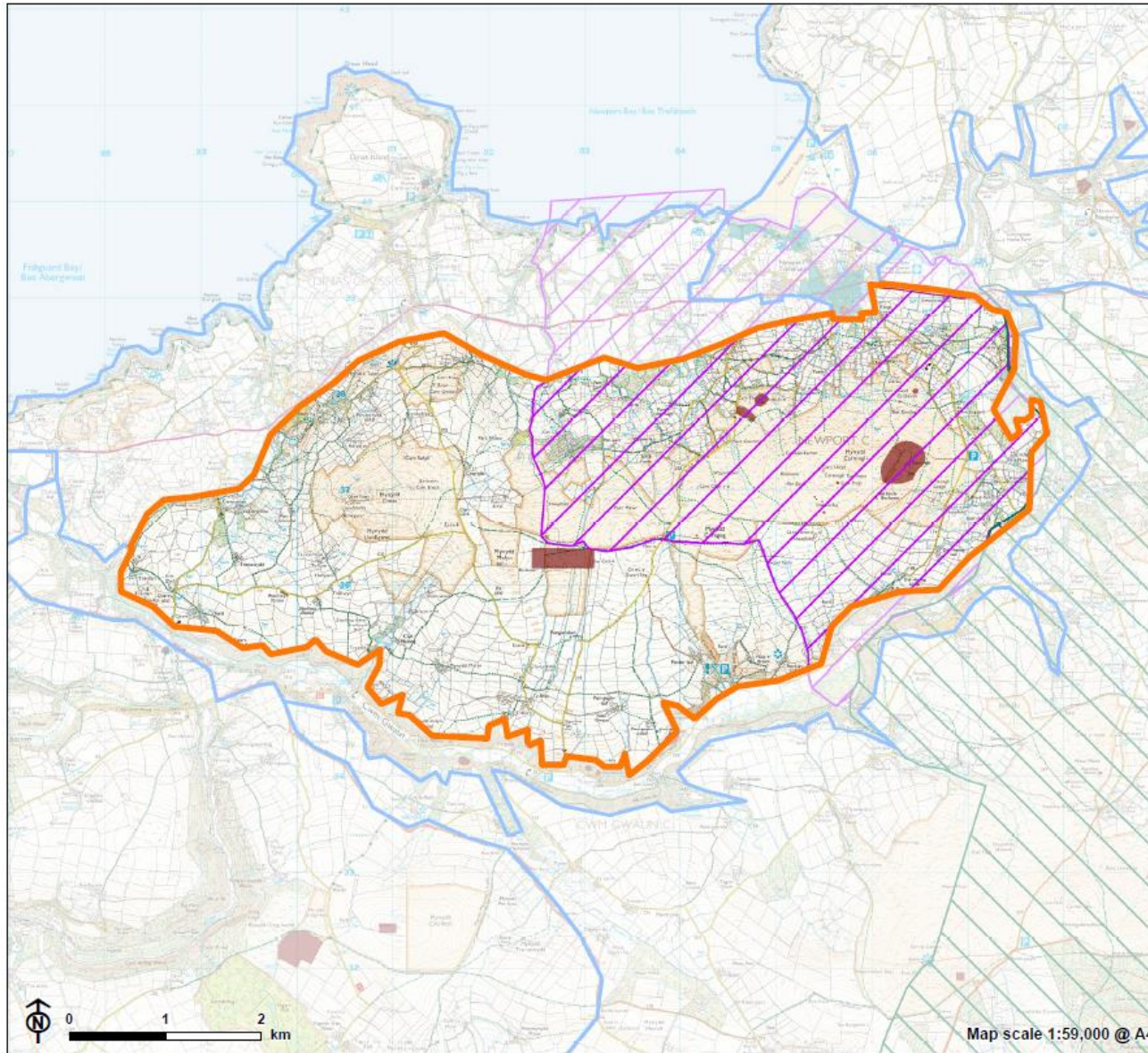
LCA 22 nature conservation designations

- LCA 22: Mynydd Carningli
- Neighbouring LCA
- National Nature Reserve
- Special Area of Conservation
- Site of Special Scientific Interest



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021 © Getmapping plc.
Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right. Contains
derived Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey license number 100019741.

CB:AHS EB:Collins_N LUC FIGX_11664_r0_NatureConservationDesignations_A4L 09/11/2021
Source: OS, NRW



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022 © Getmapping plc.
Contains Cadw data ©

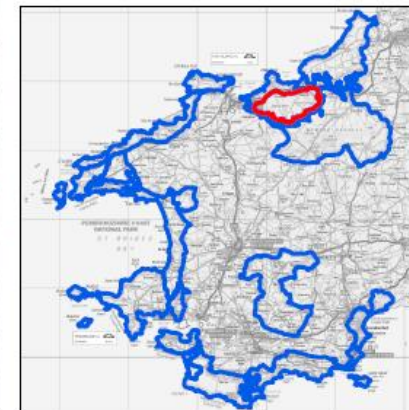
CB:AHB EB:Hardie-Brown_A LUC FIGX_11664_r0_CulturalHeritageDesignations_A4L 30/06/2022
Source: OS, Cadw

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



LCA 22 Historic Environment Designations

- LCA 22: Mynydd Carningli
- Neighbouring LCA
- Outstanding Historic Landscape
- Special Historic Landscape
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area



Existing woodland coverage within the LCA



View north-west across sparsely wooded moorland with Dinas Head headland beyond.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) comprises the east-west ridge of the Preseli Hills, with rocky peaks, steep scree slopes, open moorland and heath. The hills are fringed by small irregular pastoral fields. Woodland comprises 6.7% of the total land cover, of which 49.7% is broadleaved species while clearfelled¹ areas account for 35.8% of the total woodland cover in the LCA.

Woodland and trees are almost entirely absent from the exposed hilltops of the Carningli ridge. The southern slopes drop to the wooded valley of the River Gwaun but are largely unwooded, except for the sessile oakwood along Cwm Bach, much of which is of ancient origin (designated as a SSSI and SAC). A large (over 70ha) coniferous plantation on the lower slopes has been clear felled, with some stands remaining. The steep north-west slopes are more wooded and broadleaved species often trace streams in steep sided hollows draining from the uplands to the Clydach river valley to the east and the coast to the north. These linear woodlands are mostly small in size (under 5ha) but on the lower slopes small-medium scale woodlands (up to 15 ha) include both deciduous woodlands and mixed plantations. Pasture fields on higher slopes are enclosed by sparse low hedges or hedgebanks, reinforced with post and wire fencing. On lower slopes hedgerows are more overgrown and contain bracken and hedgerow trees including clumps of hawthorn.

Designated features and valued attributes within the LCA

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.

¹ The NFI defines clear felling as woodland areas that have been cleared and left fallow. This is likely to be predominantly a temporary change and largely arises as a result of the normal economic activity and the silvicultural practice of felling trees at economic maturity. These areas are likely to subsequently be replanted.

Natural heritage	SAC, SPA, SSSI NNR, LNR (including Wildlife Trust/ RSPB reserves) RIGS Ancient woodland	The North Pembrokeshire Woodlands SAC covers 10.7 ha (0.4% of the LCA). There are four SSSI in the LCA which cover 440.4 ha (15% of the LCA). There is one RIGS in the LCA which covers 19 ha. Ancient woodland amounts to 7.9 ha (0.3% of the LCA).
Cultural heritage	National Park Register of Historic Landscapes Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	The 'Newport and Carningli' and 'Preseli' Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales cover 42.7% of the LCA in total. LCA 22 Mynydd Carningli includes 395 HER assets which cover a range of archaeological and historical features, including scheduled and undesignated monuments, listed and non-listed historical buildings and locations of finds. These features date from prehistory up to recent times.

Landscape sensitivity to new woodland planting		
Key sensitivities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The distinctive landforms of the Carningli ridge, including rocky peaks and steep scree slopes. ■ Semi-natural habitats of national importance, including extensive areas of unenclosed dry heathland on the higher slopes (a large part of the area is designated as the Carn Ingli SSSI), along with pockets of wet heath and marshy grassland which support a variety of animal and plant species, including the marsh fritillary butterfly and southern damselfly. ■ The ancient sessile oak woodland at Cwm Bach (designated as part of the North Pembrokeshire Woodlands SAC and Cwm Bach, Sychpant SSSI). ■ The strong pattern of irregular small sized fields in the fringing pastoral farmland. ■ Nationally significant archaeological features, including Neolithic ritual sites, hut circles and prehistoric field systems, designated as part of the Newport and Carningli Registered Landscape of Special Historical Interest. ■ Extensive views from this elevated landscape across surrounding landscapes, to the neighbouring ridge of Mynydd Preseli and out to the sea. The open rocky skylines of the Carningli ridge are distinctive. ■ The strong feeling of remoteness and wildness due to the sense of exposure on the open ridge and unenclosed heathland, as well as the proximity to the sea. 	
Overview	<p>The open ridgeline and upland areas of unenclosed heathland are highly sensitive to change from woodland creation of any size due to their distinctive landform, visual prominence, cultural significance as a Registered Historic Landscape and valued semi-natural habitats (much of the area is designated as the Carn Ingli SSSI).</p> <p>Medium to large scale broadleaved woodland creation would not be out of keeping with landscape character if planted on the lower slopes, particularly the unwooded south and east facing slopes, where they would provide the opportunity connect with the heavily wooded valley of the Gwaun. The landscape has a low sensitivity to smaller scale broadleaved woodland if sited along the course of streams draining from the uplands.</p> <p>Large clearfelled areas on the southern slopes and mixed plantations elsewhere, offer the opportunity for long term restructuring to a mosaic of open habitats and broadleaved woodlands and carefully sited small to medium scale broadleaved woodland would not be out of place. Sensitivity to new mixed woodland would be higher, although smaller woodlands may be accommodated if sensitively placed as part of a long-term restructuring programme, where the ultimate aim is to move to a high percentage of native woodland species.</p>	

Landscape Sensitivity Scores					
Broadleaved woodland					
Small-scale broadleaved woodlands (≤5ha)	Low				
Small-medium scale broadleaved woodlands (>5- 15ha)		Low-moderate			
Medium-scale broadleaved woodlands (>15-30ha)			Moderate		
Large-scale broadleaved woodlands (>30ha)			Moderate		
Mixed woodland					
Small-scale mixed woodlands (≤5ha)			Moderate		
Small-medium scale mixed woodlands (>5- 15ha)				Moderate-high	
Medium-scale mixed woodlands (>15-30ha)				Moderate-high	
Large-scale mixed woodland (>30ha)					High



Upland grassland and heathland (part of Carn Ingli SSSI) with the Preseli Hills (LCA 27) to the south.



View south across pastoral fields enclosed by post and wire fencing, under the backdrop of the Preseli Hills (LCA 27).

Opportunities for future tree and woodland coverage within the LCA

- Woodland creation of any size or type should be avoided on the upper slopes and summits of the Mynydd Carningli and its outliers, due to the risk of masking the landscape's distinctive skylines and rocky crags, obscuring its expansive character, or negatively impacting important upland habitats.
- Restructure existing clearfelled areas on the lower south facing slopes, removing remaining conifer stands and working towards a mosaic of open habitats and woodlands with a high broadleaved content. A reversion to broadleaved woodland is particularly important on these visually prominent slopes.
- New broadleaved woodland planting (up to and including large scale woodlands) should be carefully located on the lower southern slopes to relate to the local topography of the stream valleys. New woodland could provide increased connectivity with more extensive woodland outside the LCA, particularly in the lowland river valleys of the Gwaun and Clydach.
- New broadleaved woodland planting (up to and including medium-scale woodlands) could strengthen the wooded character of the lower north and east facing slopes but should be designed as linear woodlands related to the local topography of the stream valleys and provide links to existing woodlands.
- There are opportunities to create new woodland or extend existing wooded areas in order to create a habitat mosaic, linking to valued semi-natural habitats including open heathland and grassland.
- The natural regeneration of existing small-scale upland woodland (such as sessile oak woodland) and natural colonisation by trees on suitable open ground should be encouraged.
- Consider the potential for small-scale upland woodland and scrub extending up the slopes along the upper courses of incised tributary streams to enhance flood management, water quality, biodiversity and to help prevent soil erosion. Small or small-medium scale broadleaved woodland planting could increase coverage in agricultural land on the lower slopes but should adjoin existing woodland and/or hedges in order to avoid masking the intricate prehistoric field patterns.
- Site new small-scale woodland to screen farm-based development or small-scale tourism infrastructure (such as car parks) and integrate within the existing pattern of woodland distribution and land-use.
- There are opportunities for the creation of wood pasture to integrate more trees into the agricultural landscape.
- Consider opportunities to regenerate traditional hedgerows and hedgerows, particularly where hedgerows have been replaced by post and wire fencing. 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 masking the distinctive exposed ridgeline of the Mynydd Carningli with its rocky crags and historic skyline features (including a Neolithic hill fort).
- The design and siting of woodlands on upper slopes should be carefully considered due to the risk of obscuring its open expansive character.
- Design woodland to align along existing undulations of the landscape, such as the steep sided hollows draining from the uplands.

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 of existing and potential habitat networks. This includes upland habitats (acidic grassland and heathland) some designated as part of the Carn Ingli SSSI, with areas of wetland habitats (boggy flushes, marshy grassland and wet heath) in the small valleys surrounding the upland areas which support a variety of animal and plant species, including the marsh fritillary butterfly.

Field pattern

- Conserve and reinforce the intricate pattern of small pastoral fields surrounding the open moorland on the northern

slopes by regenerating existing hedgerow boundaries and hedgebanks, especially the boundary bank between the enclosed fields and open heathland. Promote less intensive management of these features.

Existing tree and woodland character

- Protect the small area of ancient sessile oak woodland in the south of the character area along Cwm Bach (North Pembrokeshire Woodlands SAC and Cwm Bach, Sychpant SSSI). Buffer ancient woodland by encouraging natural regeneration and establishing fringing areas using appropriate species (referring to the Guidance on Selection of Trees and Shrubs in Pembrokeshire ²).
- Conserve, restore, and where appropriate extend, existing semi-natural broadleaved woodlands and trees in the landscape, including field boundaries, to improve connectivity and strengthen the landscape framework.
- Conserve existing hedgerow trees and plant new ones where absent or to avoid senescence. Spacing between trees should be irregular.
- Encourage a mixed age and diversity of native species to build resilience to disease outbreaks e.g. *Phytophthora*, *Chalara* (ash dieback), acute oak decline, bronze birch borer.

Historic character

- Avoid adversely affecting, directly or indirectly, the rich cultural heritage of the area, which is designated as part of the Newport and Carningli Registered Landscape of Special Historical Interest for its numerous archaeological remains (including Neolithic tomb sites, hillforts, hut circles and radiating prehistoric field boundaries), as well as the natural setting the hills provides to the medieval landscapes around Newport.

Visual character

- Conserve the extensive views from the higher slopes over surrounding landscapes to the coast and the Preseli Hills, particularly from the ridgeline and the marked viewpoint above Dinas Cross. When designing and siting woodland, ensure that it does not obscure these important views.
- Ensure that new woodland in the pastoral landscape does not detract from views to the rugged skylines of this area and open hilltops, as these are important features of the landscape.

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Locate new woodland so that it does not detract from the enjoyment of the exposed and remote quality of the vast tracts of open access land in this upland landscape.
- Explore potential for new access opportunities linked to new woodland creation.
- 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 landscape of the higher slopes.

² Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership, Guidance on Selection of Trees and Shrubs in Pembrokeshire (2020)