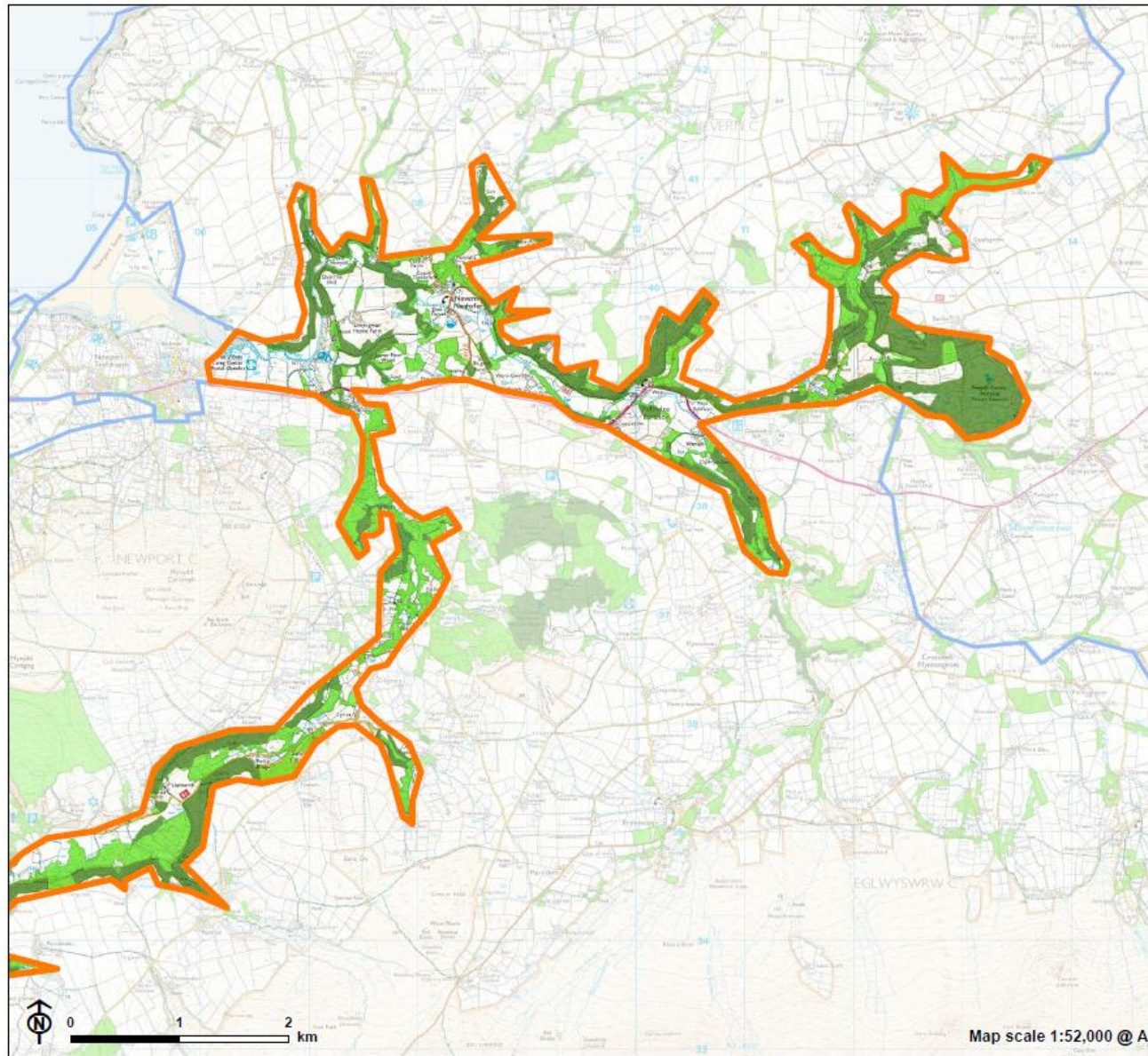


LCA 26: Cwm Gwaun/Afon Nyfer



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LCA 26 (east) location and existing woodland coverage

Orange outline: LCA 26 (east): Cwm Gwaun/Afon Nyfer

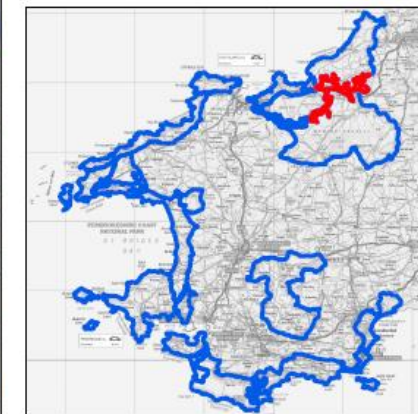
Blue outline: Neighbouring LCA

Existing Woodland

Dark green: Ancient woodland

Light green: National Forest Inventory woodland*

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



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CB/AHB EB:Collins_N LUC FIGX_11864_r0_LocationAndWoodland_A4L 09/11/2021
Source: OS, FC, NRW



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LCA 26 (west) Location and Existing Woodland Coverage

 LCA 26 (west): Cwm Gwaun/Afon Nyfer

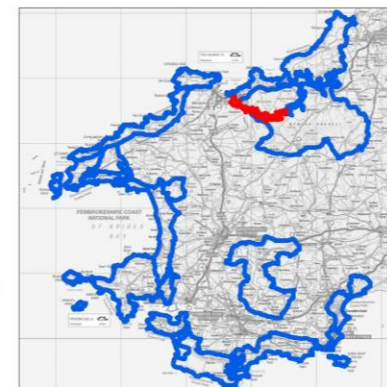
 Neighbouring LCA

Existing Woodland

Ancient woodland

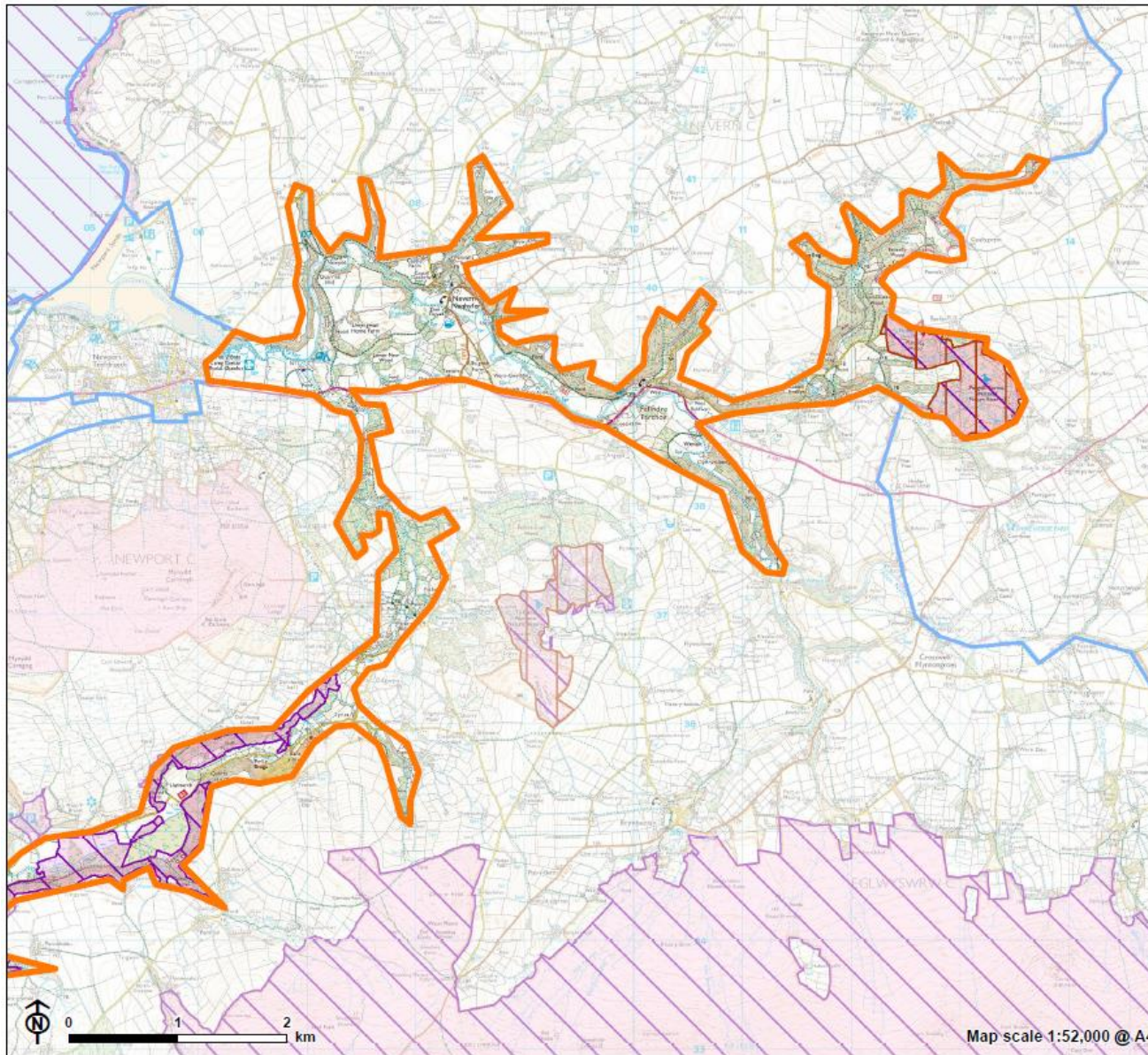
National Forest Inventory woodland*

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



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Source: OS, FC, NRW

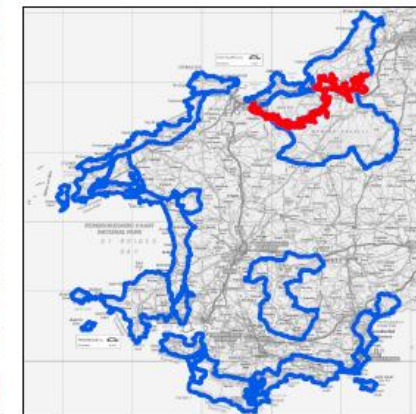


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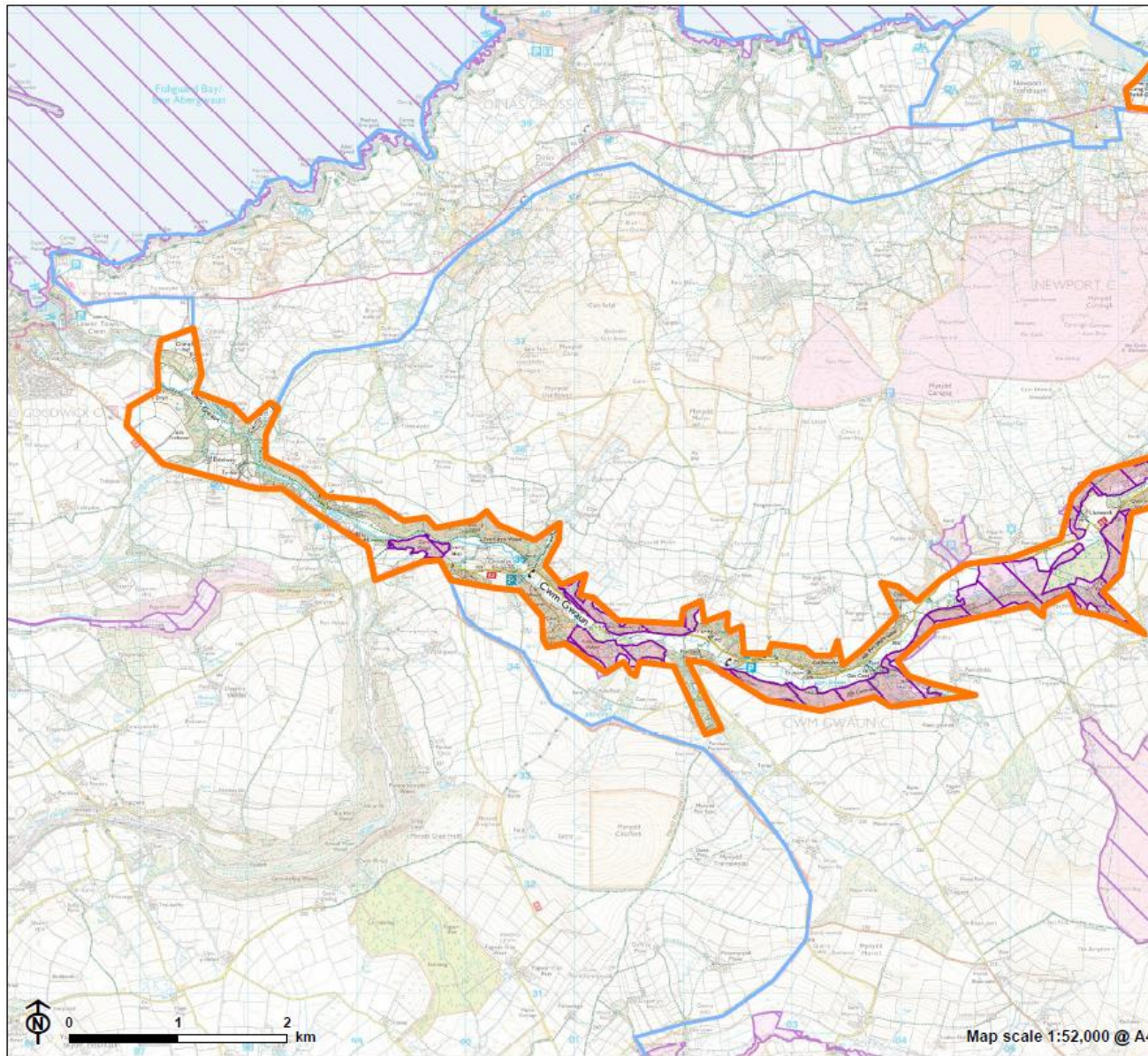
LCA 26 (east) nature conservation designations

- LCA 26 (east): Cwm Gwaun/Afon Nyfer
- Neighbouring LCA
- National Nature Reserve
- Special Area of Conservation
- Site of Special Scientific Interest



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Source: OS, NRW

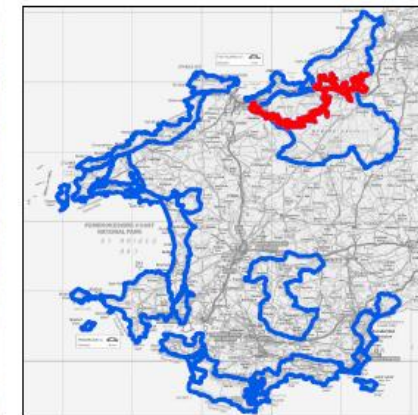


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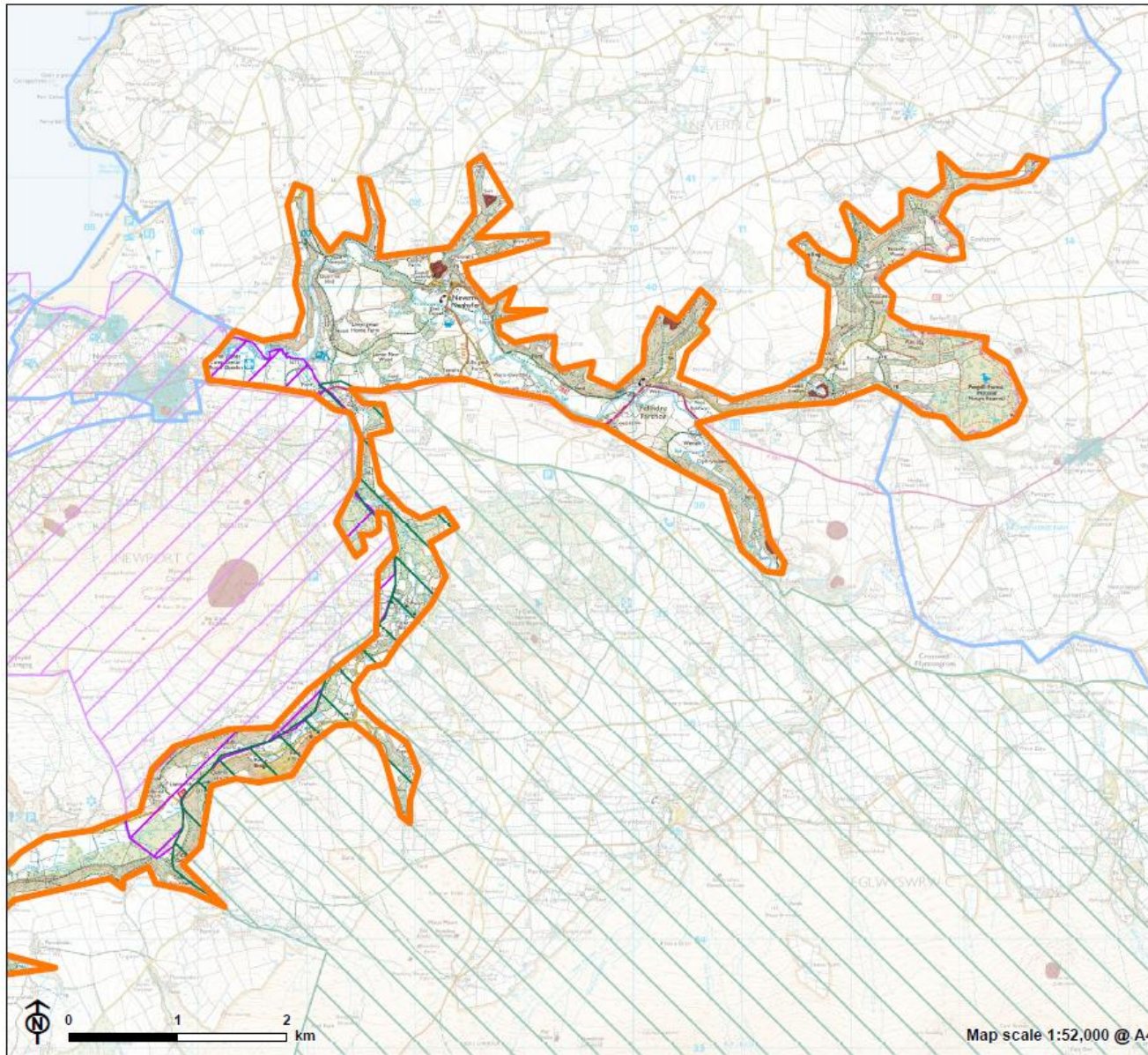
LCA 26 (west) nature conservation designations

- LCA 26 (west): Cwm Gwaun/Afon Nyfer
- Neighbouring LCA
- Special Area of Conservation
- Site of Special Scientific Interest



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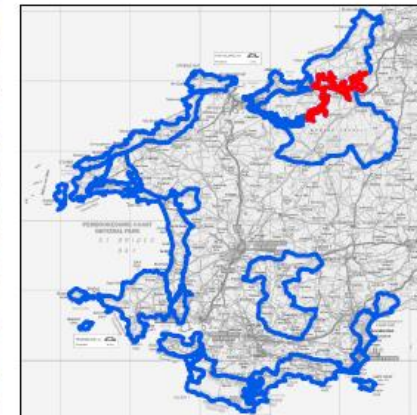
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Source: OS, Cadw

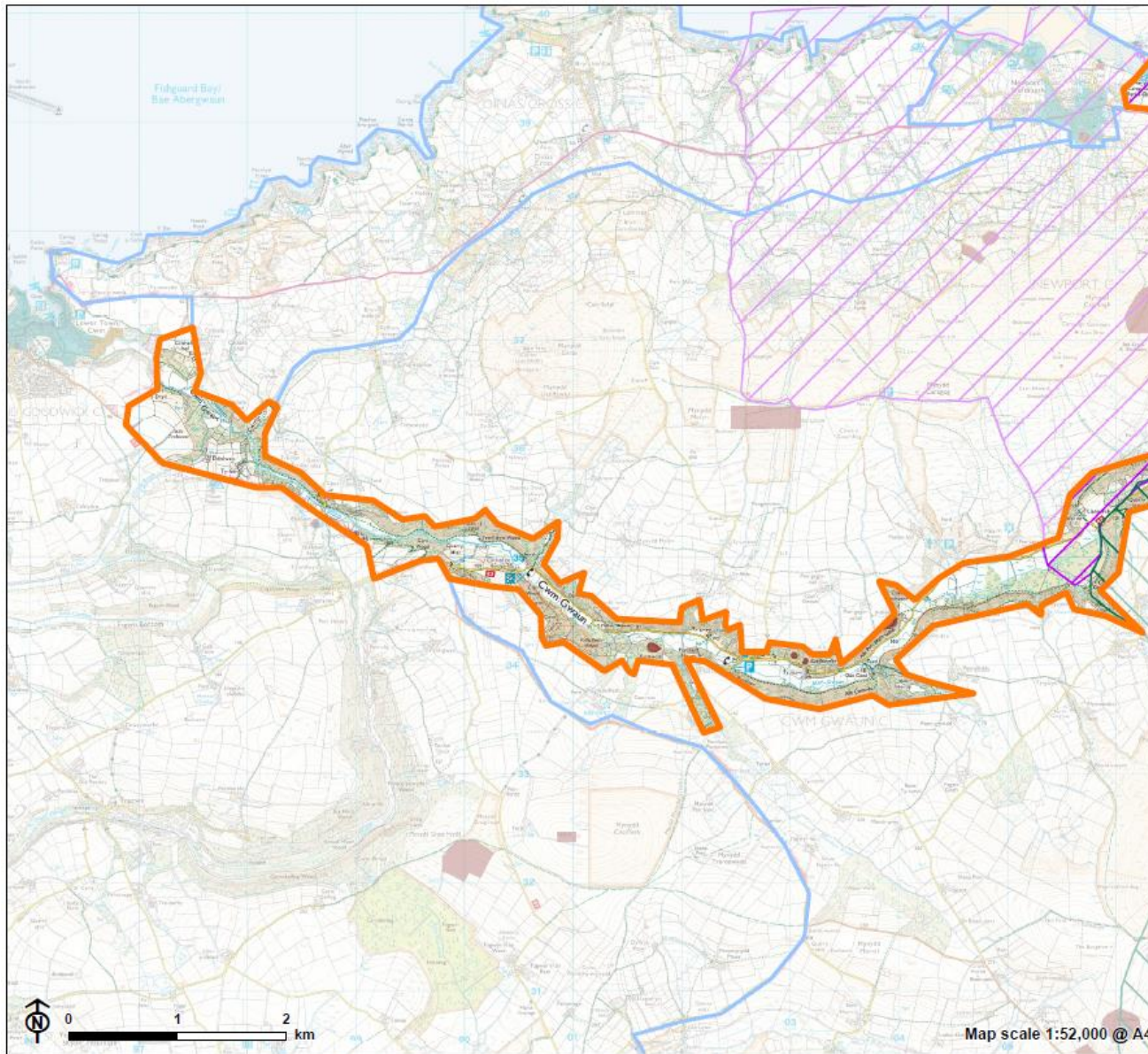
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LCA 26 (east) Historic Environment Designations

- LCA 26 (east): Cwm Gwaun/Afon Nyfer
- Neighbouring LCA
- Outstanding Historic Landscape
- Special Historic Landscape
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area

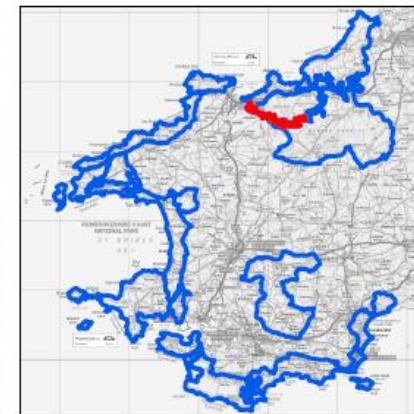




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LCA 26 (west) Historic Environment Designations

- LCA 26 (west): Cwm Gwaun/Afon Nyfer
- Neighbouring LCA
- Outstanding Historic Landscape
- Special Historic Landscape
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area



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Source: OS, Cadw

Existing woodland coverage within the LCA



Strongly wooded valley slopes at Pontfaen.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) comprises the wooded river valley system of the Nyfer and the Gwaun, which run to the coast at Newport and Fishguard respectively. Woodland comprises 52.6% of the total land cover, with most being broadleaved (89.2%). Mature broadleaved woodland rich in sessile oak (as well as hazel, ash and rowan) dominates the steeply sloping valley sides with alluvial woodland (alder, ash and willow) on the floodplain. Woodlands are extensive (many over 30 hectares and some larger) and mostly ancient in origin. A patchwork of rough pasture occupies the valley bottoms and open upper slopes. The small fields are enclosed by mature, often overgrown, hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees.

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>	
SAC, SPA, SSSI NNR, LNR (including Wildlife Trust/ RSPB reserves) Ancient woodland	There are two SAC within the SAC which cover 226.1 ha (15.2% of the LCA). There are six SSSI in the LCA which cover 226.3 ha (15.2%). There are two Wildlife Trust Reserves within the LCA at Llanerch Alder Carr and Pengelli Forest. Pengelli Forest NNR covers 65ha (4.4% of the LCA). Ancient woodland amounts to 488.4ha (32.9% of the LCA).
National Park Register of Historic Landscapes	The Newport and Carningli Registered Landscape of Special Historic Landscape, and the Preseli Landscape of Special Historic Interest, together cover 19.9% of the LCA. Nevern, St

Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	<p>Brynach's Churchyard is a Registered Historic Park and Gardens, covering 0.37ha (0.02%) of the LCA.</p> <p>LCA 26 Cwm Gwaun - Afon Nyfer includes 333 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.</p>
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Landscape sensitivity to new woodland planting						
Key sensitivities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The intimate scale of the narrow, steep sided river valley landscapes.■ The patchwork of small pastoral fields and rough grazing enclosed by wooded areas.■ Extensive areas of ancient woodland (70% of the broadleaved woodland in the LCA is registered as ancient semi-natural woodland).■ Nationally or internationally designated semi-natural habitats along the River Gwaun including sessile oak and alluvial woodland, dry and wet heathland and purple moor grass meadows, which are designated as part of the North Pembrokeshire Woodlands SAC or as individual SSSIs. The Pengelli Forest is a NNR, SAC and SSSI.■ The network of marshy grassland which support a variety of animal and plant species, including the marsh fritillary butterfly.■ The unspoilt character of the landscape due to its sparse settlement pattern with traditional buildings and lack of recent development.■ Nationally significant archaeological sites (such as the Iron Age hillforts and Neolithic tombs around Nevern) and Post-Medieval buildings and areas designated as Registered Historic Landscapes (including the Preseli / Newport and Carningli Registered Landscapes).■ An intimate, sheltered landscape of densely wooded valleys which provide a contrast to the open moorlands of the adjacent Preseli Hills.					
	<p>Overview</p> <p>The extensive woodland cover already present in the LCA, means that sensitivity to small and small-medium scale broadleaved woodland planting is low. However, the intimate scale and historic character of the river valleys are sensitive to change from medium or large-scale woodland creation on the remaining open land in this LCA. Areas of other important semi-natural habitats, including dry and wet heathland and purple moorgrass meadows are highly sensitive to the impacts of woodland creation of any scale.</p> <p>Medium scale planting would only be appropriate when restructuring existing mixed woodland with native broadleaved species. Woodland creation of this scale would need to be carefully managed so that it is not detrimental to the special qualities of the landscape and to avoid a cumulative change to the baseline character with its mosaic of broadleaved woodland, grazed pasture and marshy grassland.</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				
	Small-medium scale broadleaved woodlands (>5- 15ha)	Low				
	Medium-scale broadleaved woodlands (>15-30ha)			Moderate		
	Large-scale broadleaved woodlands (>30ha)					High

Opportunities for future tree and woodland coverage within the LCA

- There are opportunities for the long-term reconstruction of existing coniferous plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWs) such as those on the upper reaches of the River Nyfer, removing non-native species and replanting with native broadleaved woodland (up to and including medium scale woodlands).
- Woodland creation (up to and including small-medium-scale woodlands) could provide opportunities to increase the connectivity of existing broadleaved woodlands in the enclosed wooded valleys.
- Small or small-medium scale woodland creation could also provide opportunities to extend existing riparian woodland along tributary valleys into adjacent landscapes, including up the lower slopes of the Mynydd Carningli (LCA 22) and Mynydd Preseli (LCA 27).
- Small-scale woodland planting could increase woodland coverage in the pastoral farmland but should sit within the traditional field pattern, adjoining existing woodland and hedgerows in order to avoid masking the existing landscape structure.
- There are opportunities for the creation of woodland pasture to integrate trees into the wider landscape.
- Consider the potential for natural regeneration of semi-natural woodland and scrub extending along the upper courses of tributaries to enhance flood management, water quality, biodiversity and to help prevent soil erosion.
- There are opportunities to regenerate traditional hedgerows and plant new (climate resistant) hedgerow trees to increase habitat connectivity across the farmed landscape and reinforce the landscape pattern.
- Consider the opportunities for the regeneration and extension of traditional orchards using heritage varieties.
- 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) in order to achieve a diverse woodland mosaic character; oak woodland on the valley slopes (with a dominance of oak in the canopy with ash and rowan), and alluvial woodland on the valley floor (wet woodland species with a dominance of alder).

Strategic guidance for new woodland / tree planting

Landform and scale

- Design new woodland to align along existing contours and undulations of the river valley slopes and narrow tributary valleys.

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 dry and wet heathland and purple moor grass meadows in the River Gwaun, which are designated as part of the North Pembrokeshire Woodlands SAC or as individual SSSIs.

Field pattern

- Restore and reinforce the historic pattern of small irregular fields by conserving and reinstating traditional hedgerow field boundaries. Promote less intensive management of traditional hedgebanks.
- Conserve existing hedgerow trees and plant new locally native species to avoid senescence. Spacing between trees should be irregular.

Existing tree and woodland character

- Protect the mature semi-natural broadleaved woodlands which characterise the valleys, including the extensive areas of ancient woodland. Buffer ancient woodland by establishing fringing areas and encourage natural regeneration.
- Encourage natural regeneration to extend woodland coverage along the valleys, enhancing their roles in flood management and reducing diffuse pollution from agriculture.
- Manage invasive native or harmful species in woodlands and the impact of pathogens, pests and diseases, e.g. *Phytophthora*, *Chalara* (ash dieback), acute oak decline, bronze birch borer. Encourage a mixed age and diversity of native species to build resilience to disease outbreaks.

Historic character

- Parts of the LCA are designated as Registered Historic Landscapes (Newport and Carningli / Preseli) and this should be carefully considered when designing and siting new woodland
- Avoid adversely affecting, directly or indirectly, the rich cultural heritage of the area, particularly the numerous archaeological remains, including Iron Age hillforts and Neolithic tombs around Nevern, all of which are of national significance. Consider the impact of woodland creation on the setting and legibility of these historic features.

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation, ensuring it does not lead to a change of landscape character in the more open landscapes on the valley floor or upper slopes.
- Explore potential for new access opportunities linked to new woodland creation.



Settlement and floodplain pasture fields at Nevern, contained by steep wooded valley slopes.



View east from Poentfaen along the narrow and enclosed valley floor of the Afon Gwaun.



View west to Berry Hill Wood, on the steep northern bank of Afon Nyfer near Newport.



Isolated property nestled within woodland on valley slopes north of Nevern.