

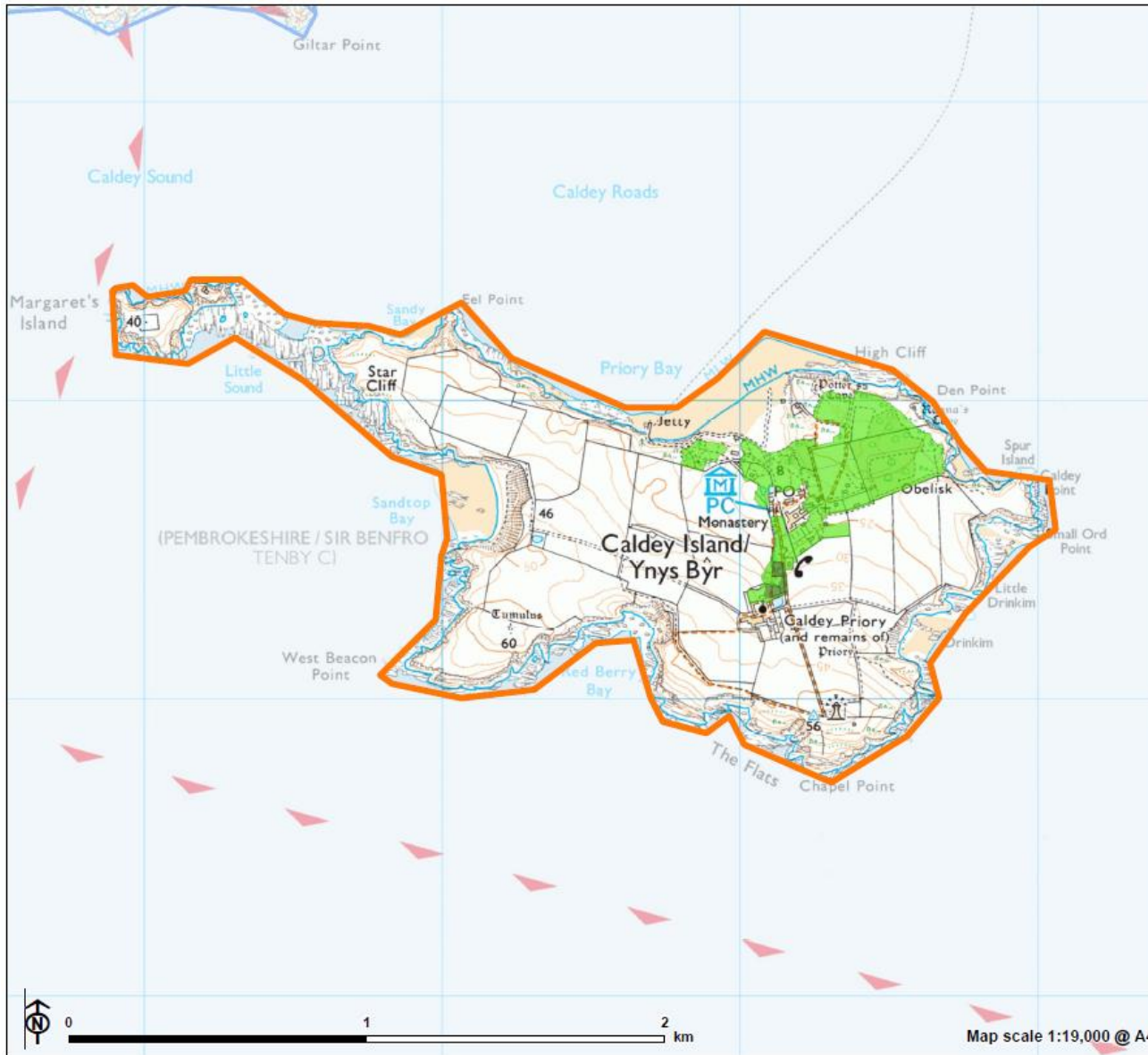
LCA 3: Caldey Island

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

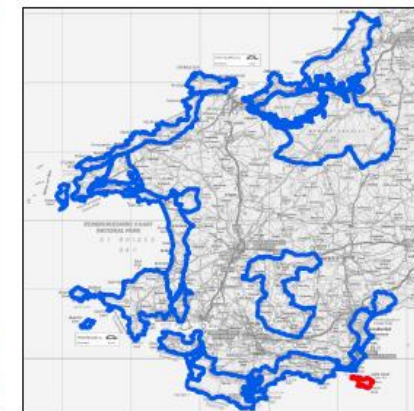


LCA 3 location and existing woodland coverage

- LCA 3: Caldey Island
- Neighbouring LCA
- Existing Woodland**
- Ancient woodland
- National Forest Inventory woodland*







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

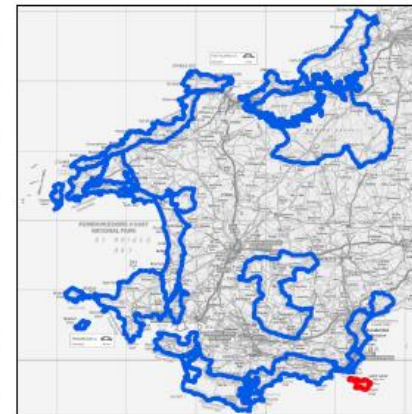
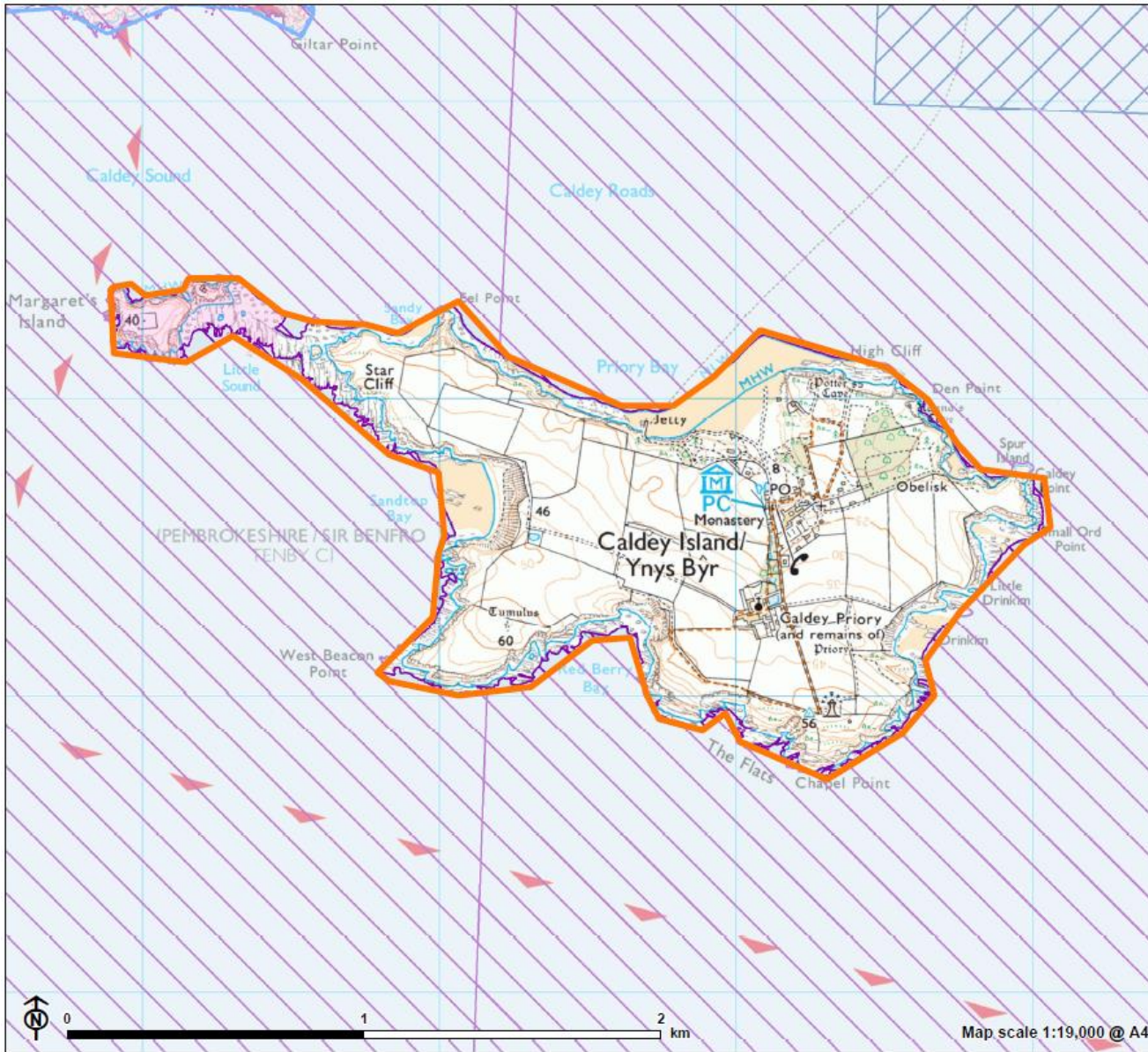


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CB:AHB EB:Collins_N LUC FIGX_11864_r0_LocationAndWoodland_A4L 09/11/2021
Source: OS, FC, NRW

LCA 3 nature conservation designations

-  LCA 3: Caldey Island
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  Special Protection Area
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest



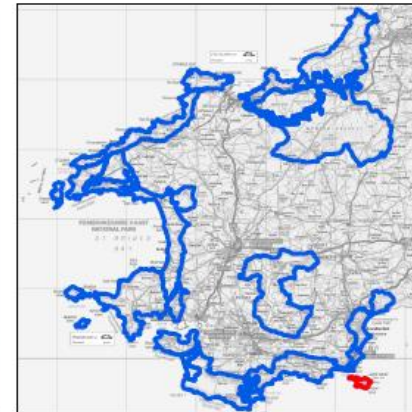
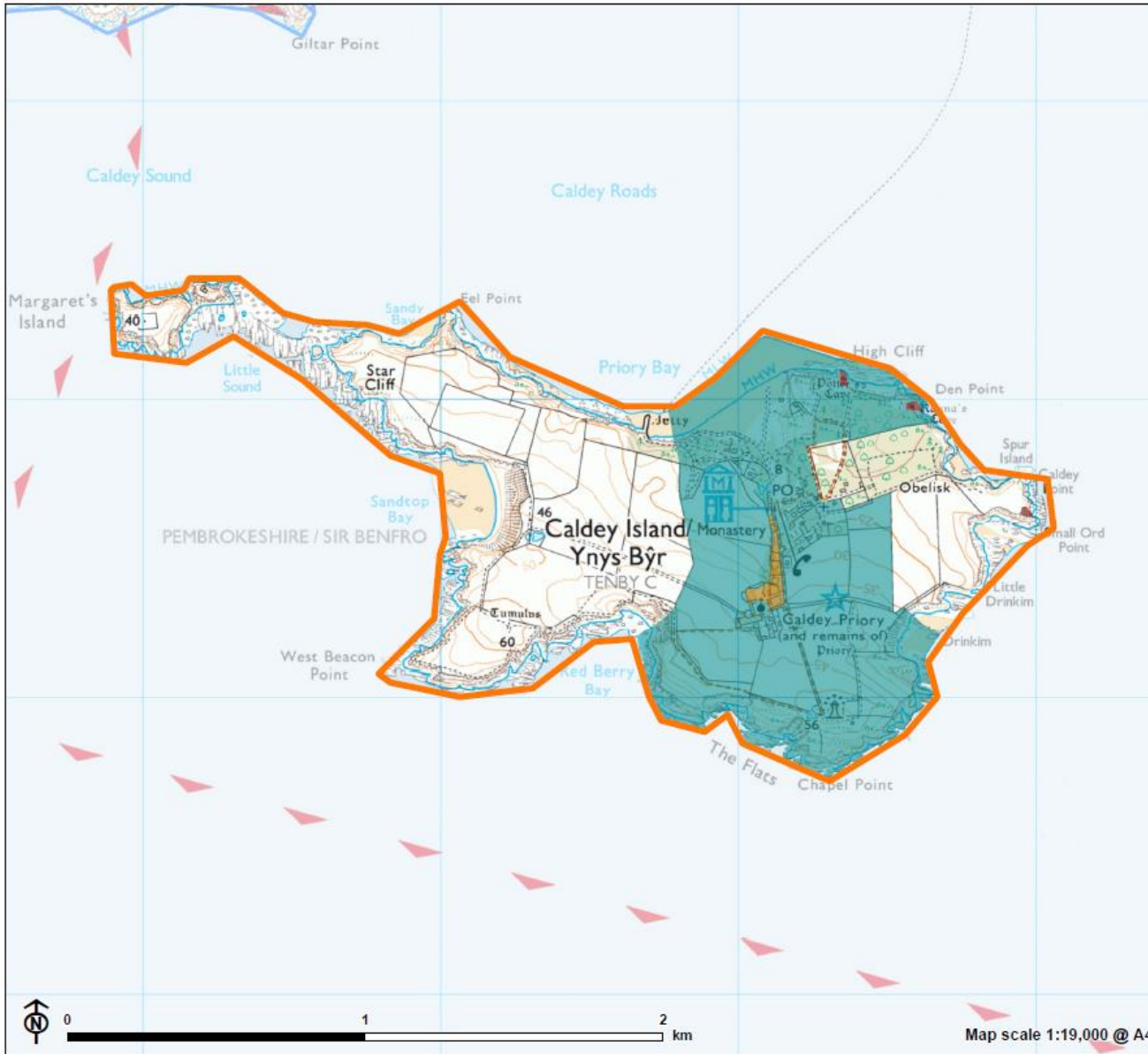
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 Source: OS, NRW



LCA 3 Historic Environment Designations

- LCA 3: Caldey Island
- Neighbouring LCA
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area



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CB:AHB EB:Hardie-Brown_A LUC FIGX_11884_r0_CulturalHeritageDesignations_A4L 30/08/2022
 Source: OS, Cadw

Description of existing woodland coverage

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is an offshore island characterised by farmland, woodland and low cliffs centred around a monastery. Woodland comprises 8.5% of the total land cover, the majority of which (72.5%) is deciduous. The north-eastern area of the island is characterised by a mix of deciduous and coniferous plantations which surround Caldey Abbey. Altogether this woodland occupies approximately 20 hectares. Scrub habitat occurs on some of the clifftops. The rest of the island is managed as farmland, and field boundaries are devoid of trees creating an open character.

Designated features and valued attributes within the LCA		
<p><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></p>		
Natural heritage	SAC, SPA, SSSI NNR, LNR (including Wildlife Trust/ RSPB reserves) RIGS, Ancient woodland	There are two SAC which collectively cover 21.3 ha (8.7%) of the LCA. St Margaret's Island SSSI covers 10.4 ha (4.2%) of the LCA. RIGS cover 20.7 ha (8.5%) of the LCA. Ancient woodland amounts to 0.53ha.
Cultural heritage	National Park Register of Historic Landscapes Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	There are 28 listed buildings within the LCA. Three Scheduled Monuments collectively cover 0.34ha of the island. There is a Conservation Area covering the eastern part of the island. Caldey Priory is a Registered Park and Garden, which covers 1.28 ha (0.52%) of the LCA. The LCA includes 144 HER records, 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 small-scale character of the island's landscape. ■ The open pastoral character of the landscape, with boundaries devoid of trees. ■ Open grassland habitats which support diverse species e.g. ground nesting birds such as skylarks (concentrated in the west of the island) or grassland foraging species such as cloughs ■ Important coastal habitats and species, including sea bird colonies on the cliffs. St Margaret's Island is a SSSI and Wildlife Trust Reserve located on the western edge of the LCA. ■ Nationally important archaeological and historic remains, including the island's medieval priory and the heritage potential of the inter-tidal zone. Scheduled monuments are located along the coast and include caves and Daylight Rock Mesolithic Site. ■ The Conservation Area which encompasses the monastery and the eastern part of the island and contains many listed structures. Caldey Priory Grade II Registered Park and Garden falls within the Conservation Area. ■ The visual prominence of the island from the mainland (including the island's lighthouse) and long views across the surrounding seascape from the island. ■ The tranquil, open and exposed character, with perceptual qualities strongly influenced by the changing conditions of the surrounding seascape.
Overview	<p>Caldey Island is a landscape highly sensitive to change, including as a result of woodland creation. There are extensive areas of nationally significant coastal habitats including maritime cliffs and slopes, sand dunes, rocky and sandy shores. Much of the island is valued for its nationally important archaeological remains, including the Conservation Area which recognises the importance of the monastery and its surrounds. The island is highly sensitive to most woodland creation as this would detract from the distinctive open character and expansive views across the island to the sea.</p> <p>There are some opportunities for establishing woodland including extending and infilling the existing wooded area in the north-east of the island with small-scale woodland and hedgerow planting. Landscape sensitivity to all scales of mixed woodland for this LCA is high.</p>

Landscape Sensitivity Scores					
Small-scale broadleaved woodlands (≤5ha)			Moderate		
Small-medium scale broadleaved woodlands (>5- 15ha)					High
Medium-scale broadleaved woodlands (>15-30ha)					High
Large-scale broadleaved woodlands (>30ha)					High

Opportunities for future tree and woodland coverage within the LCA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Due to the small size of the LCA (approx. 217 hectares) and its distinct open character, opportunities for woodland creation are limited. ■ Small-scale woodland planting could be used to extend and in-fill the existing wooded area in the north-east of the island, including softening the edges of the woodland. ■ There are opportunities for the planned long-term restructuring of existing mixed /conifer woodlands in the north east of the island to improve climate change resilience by increasing age and species diversity. ■ 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
<p>Landform and scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Avoid planting which would obscure the intricate coastline of rugged cliffs and bays. ■ Design woodland to reflect the small-scale island landform. <p>Landcover (including semi-natural habitats)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Avoid adversely affecting existing areas of non-woodland semi-natural habitats, directly or indirectly, and encourage diversity of habitat networks. This includes maritime cliffs and slopes, sand dunes and coastal grasslands, rocky and sandy shores. <p>Field pattern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Preserve the regular agricultural field pattern and woodland mosaic character, including appropriate management of existing hedgerows. Avoid masking dry-stone wall boundaries that are a characteristic feature of this LCA. <p>Existing tree and woodland character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conserve and restore existing semi-natural broadleaved woodlands and trees in the landscape. ■ Manage cliff-top scrub habitats to help prevent erosion and to limit agricultural run-off into the coastal waters. ■ Manage and monitor invasive native or harmful species in woodlands and the impact of pathogens, pests and diseases, e.g. <i>Phytophthora</i>, <i>Chalara</i> (ash dieback), acute oak decline, bronze birch borer. <p>Historic character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Avoid adversely affecting, directly or indirectly, the rich cultural heritage of the area including the Caldey Island Conservation Area and the Grade II Registered Park and Garden. Conserve and enhance the physical fabric of the priory and gardens as key extant features of the important Medieval religious settlement on the island ■ There are also numerous monuments including tumuli, caves containing prehistoric remains and the remains of Caldey Priory. These features should be kept open, and scrub removed. <p>Visual character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conserve the extensive views across the island to the sea, particularly from the coastal footpaths.

- Conserve the key views to the Abbey and the lighthouse.
- Avoid woodland planting within the agricultural landscape which would detract from its open character and expansive views.

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Conserve the open and exposed character of the island which is strongly associated with the sea. Locate new woodland so that it does not detract from the enjoyment of the exposed and remote quality of the landscape.
- Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting, ensuring it does not lead to a change of landscape character on the distinctively open island.