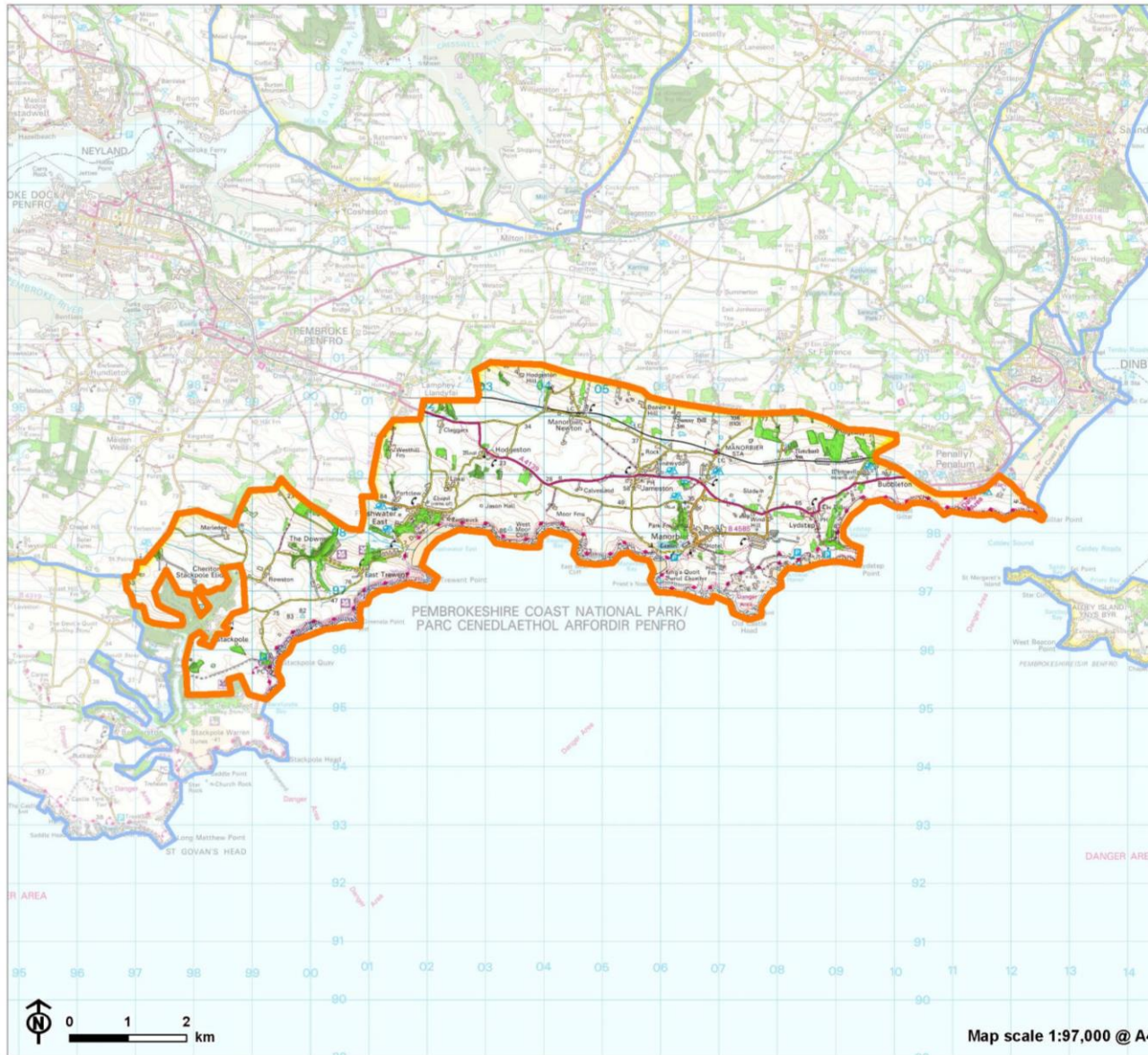


## LCA 4: Manorbier/Freshwater East



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



LCA 4 location and existing woodland coverage

  LCA 4: Manorbier/Freshwater East

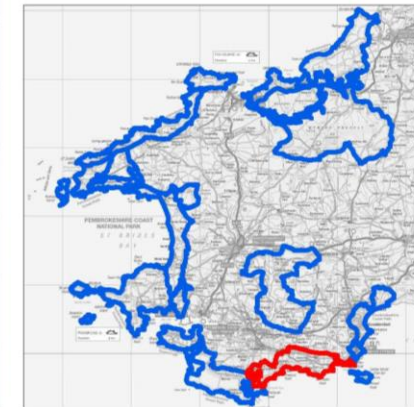
  Neighbouring LCA

**Existing Woodland**

Ancient woodland

National Forest Inventory woodland\*

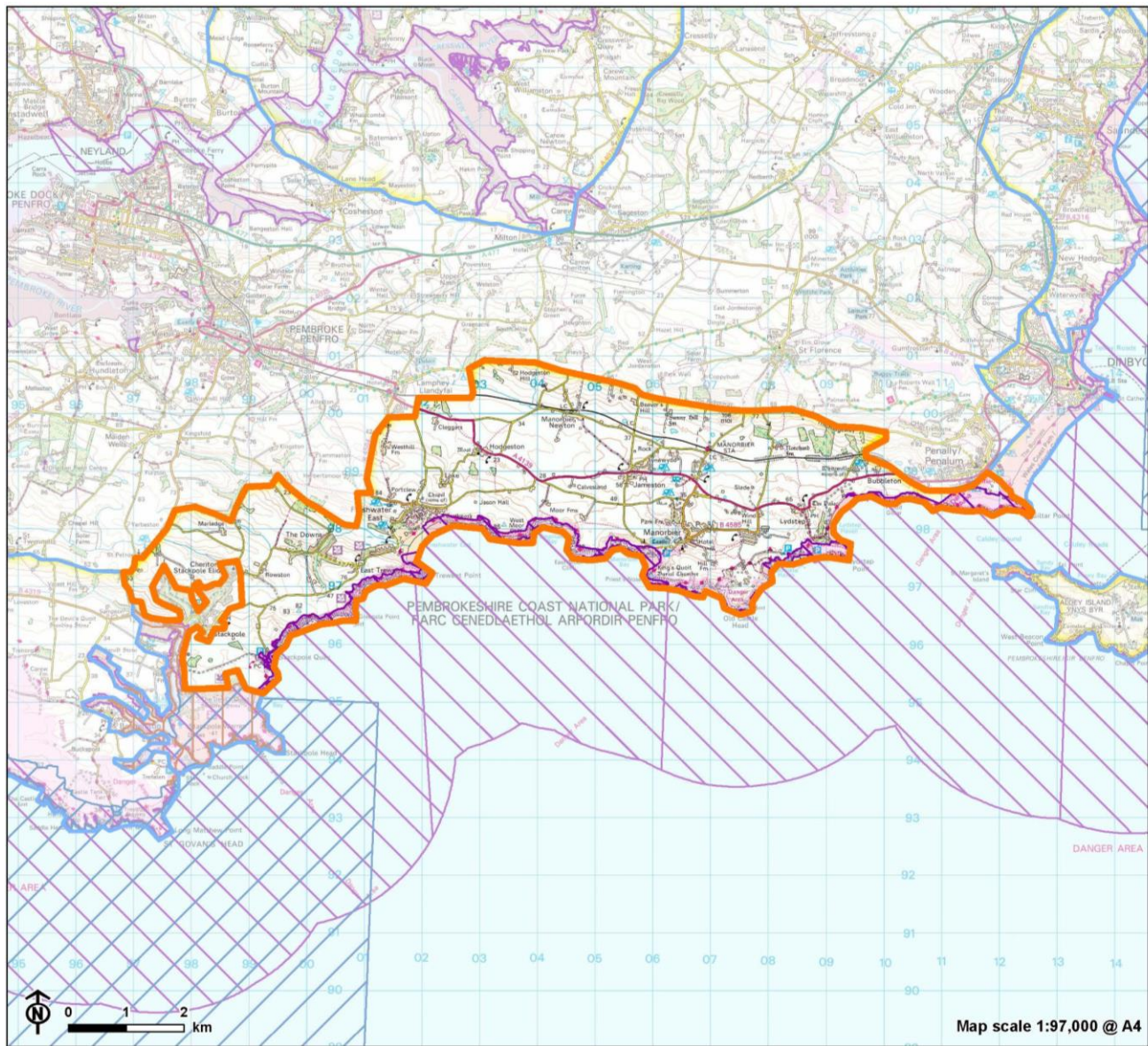
\*The NFI definition of woodland is a minimum area of 0.5 hectares



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CB/AHB EB/Collins\_N LUC FIGX\_11664\_r0\_LocationAndWoodland\_A4L\_09/11/2021  
Source: OS, FC, NRW



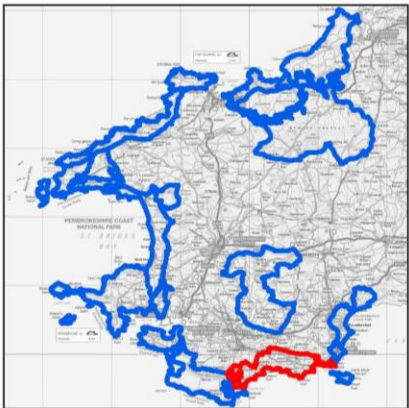


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Pembrokeshire Coast National  
Park Authority



#### LCA 4 nature conservation designations

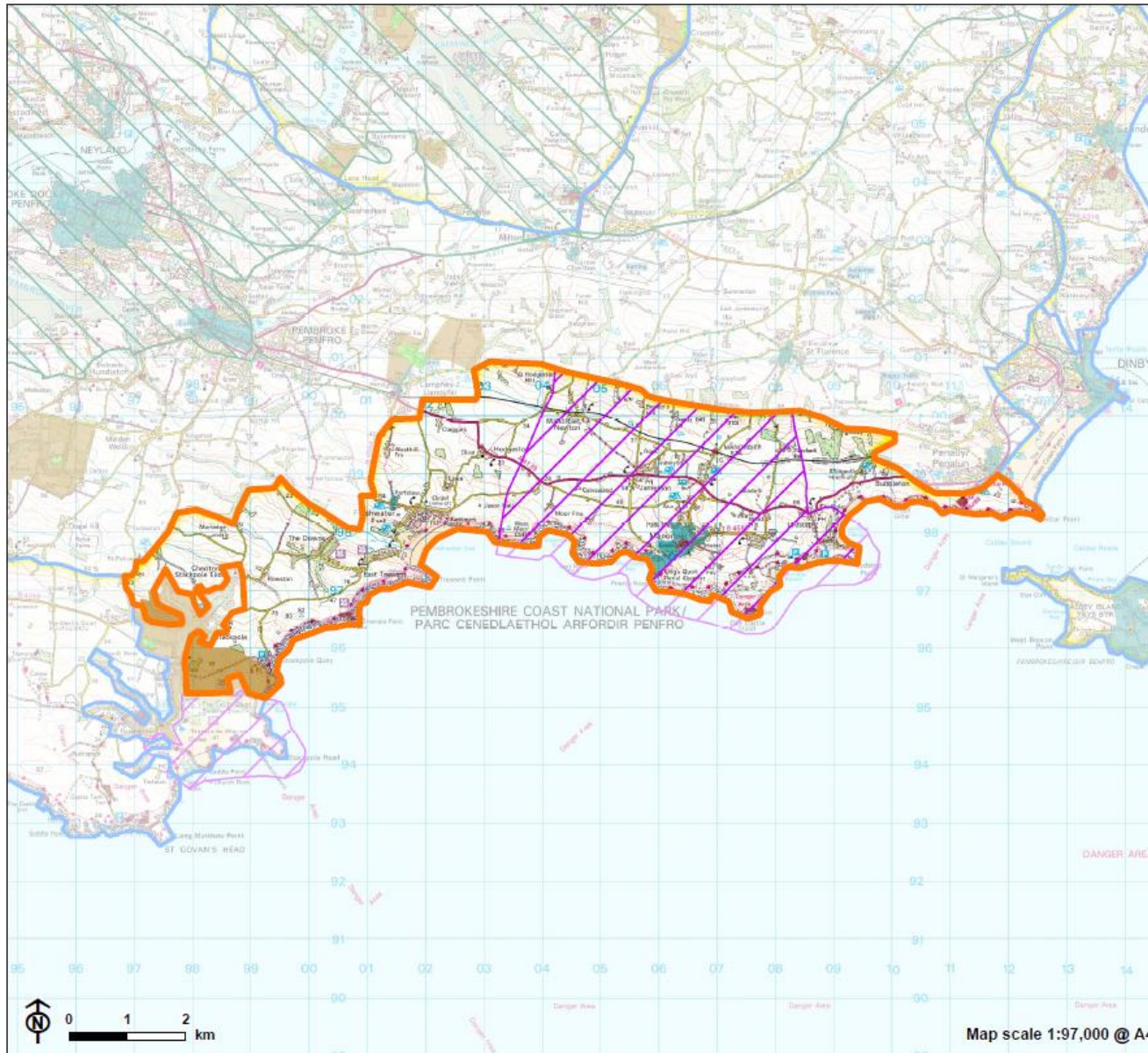
- LCA 4: Manorbier/Freshwater East
- Neighbouring LCA
- National Nature Reserve
- Special Protection Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Site of Special Scientific Interest



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Source: OS, NRW





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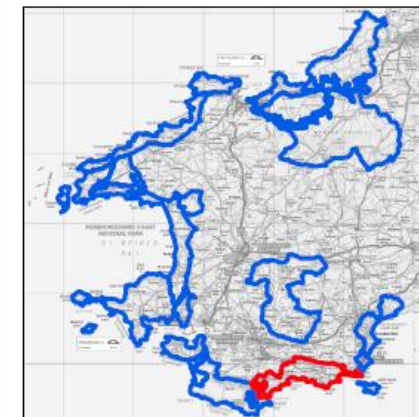
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Source: OS, Cadw

Trees and Woodland Siting and  
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Pembrokeshire Coast National  
Park Authority



#### LCA 4 Historic Environment Designations

- LCA 4: Manorbier/Freshwater East
- Neighbouring LCA
- Outstanding Historic Landscape
- Special Historic Landscape
- Gardens and Kitchen Gardens
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area



Existing woodland coverage within the LCA



View north-east towards Manorbier Newton, showing large fields enclosed with hedges and occasional mature trees and well as woodland on the slopes enclosing the north of the LCA.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is characterised by a large area of rolling lowland with semi-natural habitats along the coastline including cliffs, beaches and sand dunes. Woodland comprises 4.4% of the total land cover, the majority of which (86.5%) is broadleaved. There are some small (less than 10 hectares) geometric shaped woodlands within the farmed landscape (particularly on the eastern edge) but trees mostly occur in tracts along stream valleys such as the woodland to the west of Freshwater East, or surrounding settled areas including Manorbier, Freshwater East and East Trewent. Successional woodland is associated with the sand dune system at Freshwater East. Linear woodland follows parts of the A4139 and the railway crossing through the LCA. Common woodland species include sycamore, ash, oak and hazel. Hedgerow trees are more frequent in localised areas (e.g. strip fields around Manorbier and Jameston). Hedgerows are often tall, grown-out and notably species diverse, enclosing the rural lanes crossing the area. Trimmed hedgerows enclosing larger scale fields and along the coast commonly contain hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and grey willow. Trees are not a common in field boundaries close to the coast, except for occasional mature ash and oak. Linear woodland follows parts of the A4139 and the railway crossing through the LCA.

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	There are four SACs which cover 305ha (8.8%) of the LCA. There are six SSSI in the LCA which cover 303.4 ha (8.8%) of the LCA. Stackpole NNR covers 0.5ha (0%) of the LCA. there is one LNR, which covers 40.9ha (1.2%) of the LCA.  Ancient woodland amounts to 37.8ha (1.1%) There are three RIGS



	RIGS	within the LCA which collectively cover 53.3ha (1.5%) of the LCA.
Cultural heritage	National Park Register of Historic Landscapes  Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	Manorbier and Stackpole Warren are both Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales which cover 1542.7ha (44.7%) of the LCA.  There are 54 listed buildings in the LCA. The 13 Scheduled Monuments collectively cover 11ha (0.3% of the LCA).  Portclew and Manorbier are Conservation Areas, collectively they cover 44.5ha (1.3%) of the LCA. Stackpole Court is a Registered Park and Garden; it covers 21.1ha (0.6%) of the LCA.  The LCA includes 567 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

<b>Key sensitivities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The prominent Ridgeway in the north of the LCA.</li> <li>■ The dramatic coast with cliffs and headlands punctuated by occasional sandy beaches.</li> <li>■ The presence of internationally/nationally important coastal habitats designated as SAC/SSSI, including maritime grassland and heath, sand dunes, cliffs and sandy bays which support diverse species (e.g. cloughs which forage on open grasslands).</li> <li>■ Stream valley characterised by woodlands, including areas of ancient woodland.</li> <li>■ The traditional enclosed farmland with a strong historic sense of place including extensive areas of medieval field systems with distinctive strip fields.</li> <li>■ A wealth of historic and archaeological sites including the preserved manorial landscape of Manorbier (a Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest). There are two Conservation Areas at Manorbier and Portclew.</li> <li>■ The open skylines with attractive views across the coast and beyond to Caldey Island as well as views across the landscape from the elevated ridgeline marking the northern boundary of the LCA.</li> <li>■ The traditional rural character of the landscape which is also strongly influenced by the coastal location.</li> </ul>
<b>Overview</b>	<p>Areas characterised by designated semi-natural habitats are highly sensitive to tree planting, especially those which are designated SAC/SSSI such as the low coastal cliffs with maritime heath and grassland. Coastal areas tend to have a more open and exposed character and woodland planting here would be out of place. The top of the distinctive Ridgeway landform is also more sensitive to woodland planting due to the prominent character and expansive views out from this part of the LCA.</p> <p>The distinctive traditional strip field systems are highly sensitive to woodland planting of any size which could mask their distinctive character. However, there are opportunities to restore and enhance hedgerow boundaries in areas surrounding these strip fields.</p> <p>The farmed landscape, inland from the coast, has a lower sensitivity to woodland creation (up to small-medium scale) while to the west of Freshwater East, the field pattern becomes larger and there is the potential for up to medium-scale woodland creation, particularly if linked to existing valley woodlands. Large-scale woodlands would be out of character within this LCA.</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-moderate			
Medium-scale broadleaved woodlands (>15-30ha)			Moderate		
Large-scale broadleaved woodlands (>30ha)					High

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

- Explore the potential for new woodland planting (up to medium-scale) in the western part of the LCA where the field pattern is less intricate. Link existing valley woodlands in the LCA and in the adjacent LCA 5: Stackpole.
- There are opportunities to plant up to small-medium scale woodland within the farmed landscape or along stream valleys, which would reinforce the existing landscape character by aligning with the existing contours of the landscape as well as improving habitat connectivity.
- Explore opportunities to extend existing woodlands and link to the hedgerow network to improve habitat connectivity.
- There are opportunities for the creation of wood pasture to integrate more trees into the agricultural landscape.
- Consider the potential for natural regeneration of semi-natural woodland and scrub extending along watercourses to enhance flood management, water quality, biodiversity and to help prevent soil erosion.
- Site woodlands along streams to reduce agricultural run-off and ensure that the risk of water pollution incidents is kept to a minimum and conserve sandy beaches.
- Woodland creation (up to small-medium scale) provides opportunities to soften the geometric edges of existing woodlands within the agricultural landscape, most notably woodlands on the south facing slopes ascending to the Ridgeway, where existing angular conifer plantations and mixed woodlands are visible from the wider landscape.
- Site new small-scale woodland to screen caravan/holiday parks (e.g. to the north of Manorbier) and to integrate them within the existing pattern of woodland distribution and land-use.
- Consider opportunities to enhance and reinforce hedgerow boundaries where they have become gappy or degraded. Plant new hedgerow trees where this would be in keeping with landscape character, choosing disease resilient species (e.g. replacing ash with oak).
- 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) to achieve a diverse woodland mosaic character.

## Strategic guidance for new woodland / tree planting

### Landform and scale

- Avoid masking coastal landforms and prominent ridgelines/hills which provide a sense of orientation in the landscape.
- Design woodland to align along existing contours and undulations of the landscape, such as the minor stream valleys extending down towards the coast.

### Landcover (including semi-natural habitats)

- Avoid adversely affecting existing areas of non-woodland semi-natural habitats, directly or indirectly, and encourage diversity of habitat networks. This includes internationally/nationally designated habitats (SAC/SSSI) such as cliffs, sand dunes and maritime grassland/heathland.

### Field pattern

- Restore and reinforce the existing field pattern by conserving and regenerating hedgerow boundaries.
- Consider allowing hedgerows to grow out (where not obscuring public highways/rights of way) through reduced coppicing/flailing cycles, to enhance biodiversity.
- Conserve existing hedgerow trees and plant new ones where appropriate.
- Tree planting should be considered to address the potential loss of diseased mature ash trees in hedgerows, replacing the mature trees with other locally distinctive species such as oak.

### Existing tree and woodland character

- Conserve and restore existing semi-natural broadleaved woodlands and trees in the landscape, including field boundaries, to improve connectivity and strengthen the landscape framework.
- Protect areas of ancient woodland including those adjacent to Manorbier Castle and East Trewent. Buffer ancient woodland by establishing fringing areas and encourage natural regeneration.

- Encourage a diverse range of native species to build resilience to the impact of pathogens, pests and diseases, e.g. *Phytophthora*, *Chalara* (ash dieback)

#### Historic character

- Avoid adversely affecting, directly or indirectly, archaeological features including moated sites, coastal forts and tumuli. These features should be kept open, and scrub removed – ideally through grazing at appropriate levels.
- Avoid siting woodland across multiple fields which may mask the historic medieval strip field system.
- The eastern part of the LCA contains the Manorbier Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest and this should be carefully considered when designing and siting new woodland. The strip field system is a distinct part of the Registered Landscape.
- Avoid adversely affecting the character and setting of Conservation Areas including those at Portclew and Manorbier.

#### Visual character

- Conserve the extensive and distinctive views to the coast and surrounding landscapes from the Ridgeway which forms the northern boundary of the LCA. When designing and siting woodland, ensure that it does not obscure these important views.
- Conserve distinctive coastal views, particularly from the Wales Coast Path/Pembrokeshire Coast Path.

#### Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Conserve the open and exposed character of land on the coast by avoiding tree/woodland planting in these locations.
- Explore opportunities to improve or create new access opportunities as part of woodland planting.
- 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.



row land enclosed by tall broadleaved woodland on slopes to the south-west of Freshwater East.



View south-west over the wooded valley, The Downs, situated to the west of Freshwater East.



View south across the exposed coast to Stackpole Quay.



Small scale, strip fields bound by mature grown-out hedgerows to the west of Jameston.