

LCA 11: Herbrandston Refinery Fringe



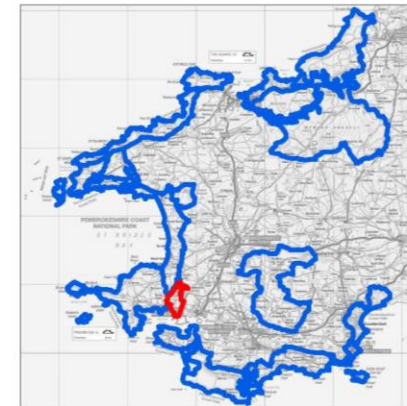
Trees and Woodland Siting and Design Guidance
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority



LCA 11 location and existing woodland coverage

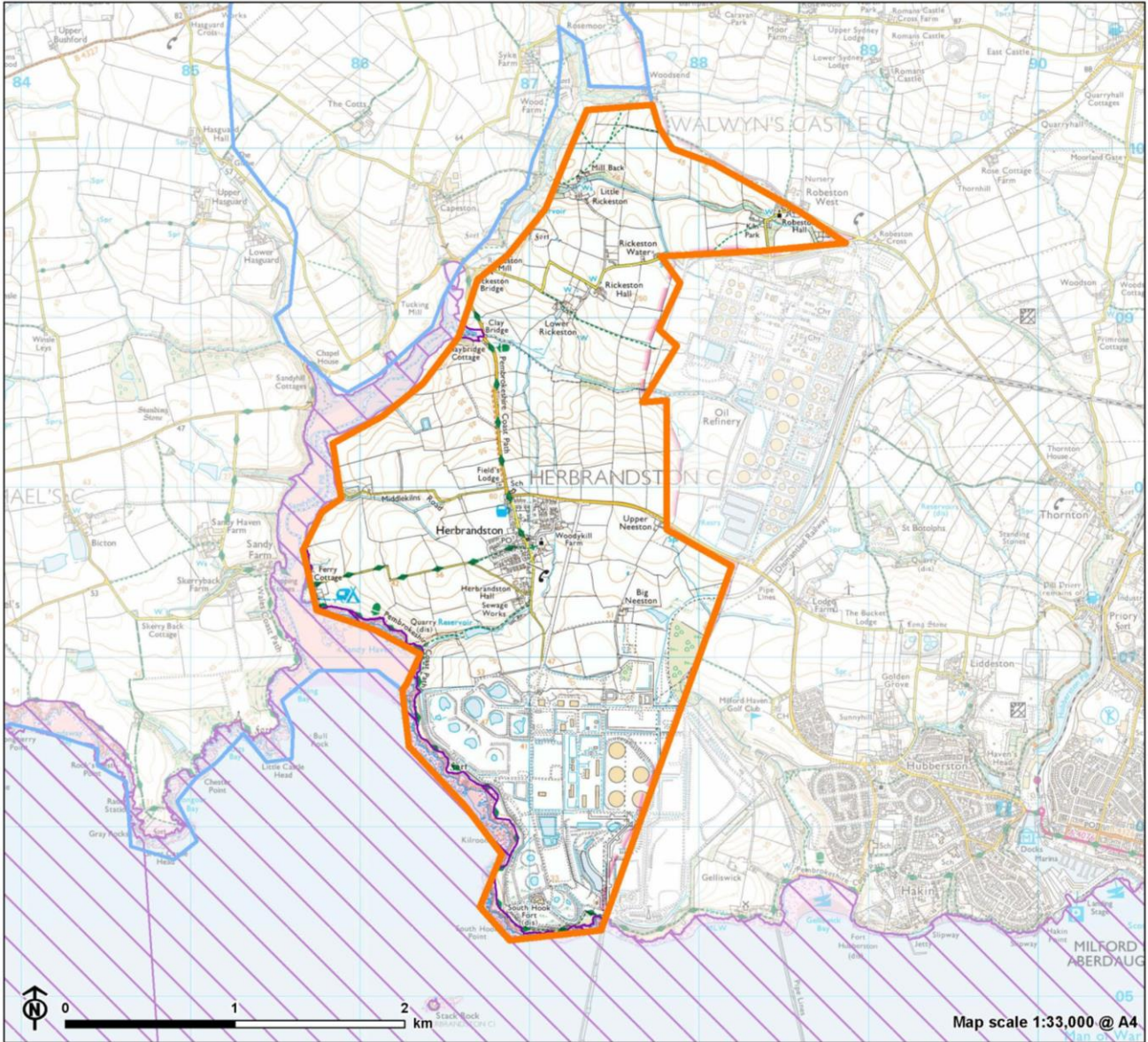
- LCA 11: Herbrandston Refinery Fringe
- Neighbouring LCA
- Existing Woodland**
- Ancient woodland
- National Forest Inventory woodland*

*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

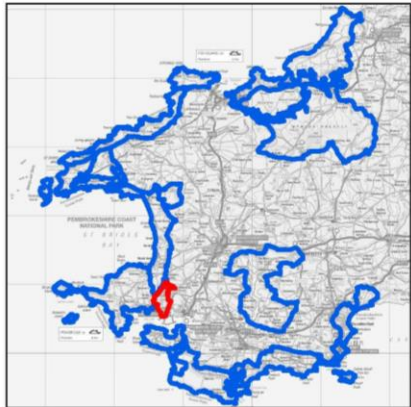


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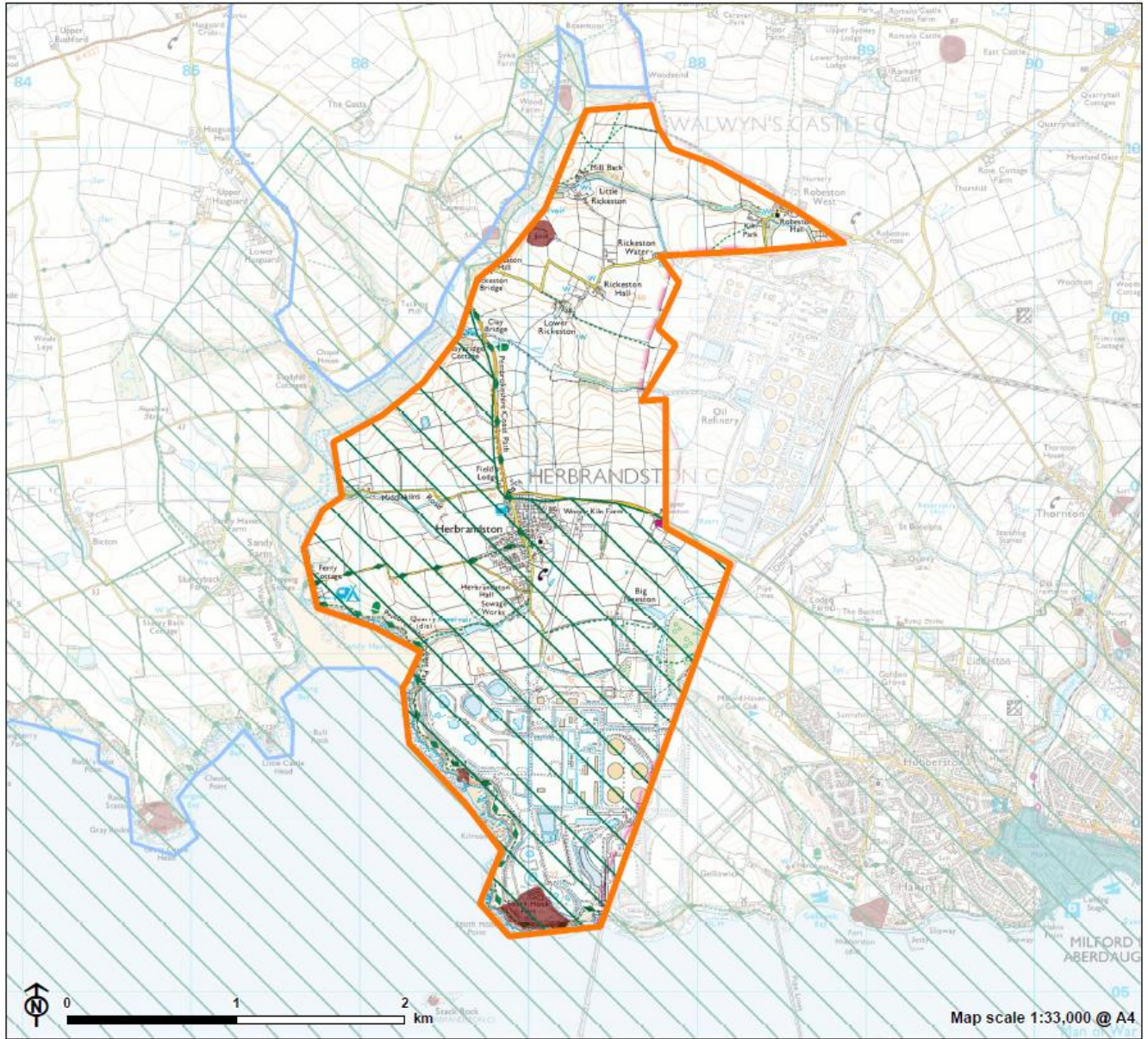
LCA 11 nature conservation designations

-  LCA 11: Herbrandston Refinery Fringe
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest



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 Source: OS, NRW



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 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority



LCA 11 Historic Environment Designations

-  LCA 11: Herbrandston Refinery Fringe
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  Outstanding Historic Landscape
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Conservation Area



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CB:AHB EB:Hardie-Brown_A LUC FIGX_11864_r0_CulturalHeritageDesignations_A4L 30/08/2022
 Source: OS, Cadw

Existing woodland coverage within the LCA



View north from Herbrandston showing fields enclosed by strong hedgerow boundaries containing frequent hedgerow trees.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is characterised by undulating lowland with the South Hook LGN terminal occupying the south of the LCA. Woodland is sparse, covering just 1.1% of the total land cover and is almost entirely broadleaved species (97.5%). Woodland is limited to small copses (less than 5 hectares), linear woodlands along streams and occasional windswept hedgerow trees. The majority of the landcover in the LCA is pastoral farmland and fields are mostly contained by overgrown hedgebanks comprising hawthorn, elm, ash and sycamore with mature trees (often ash and sycamore) located along some lengths of hedgerow. Trees are also associated with the edges of settlements (e.g. the eastern edge of Herbrandston, Rickeston and Robeston West) and provide shelter from the exposed coastal conditions. Extensive areas of coastal scrub are located on the land surrounding the oil refinery.

Natural and cultural heritage designations and records		
<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	<p>SAC, SPA, SSSI</p> <p>NNR, LNR (including Wildlife Trust/ RSPB reserves)</p> <p>Ancient woodland, RIGS</p>	<p>The Pembrokeshire Marine SAC covers 24.2ha (3.4%) of the LCA. There is one SSSI in the LCA which covers 23.1ha (3.3%) of the LCA.</p> <p>Ancient woodland amounts to 1.8ha.</p> <p>RIGS cover 6.2ha (0.9%) of the LCA.</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>National Park Register of Historic Landscapes</p>	<p>The Milford Haven Waterway is a Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales which covers 455ha (65%) of the LCA. There are six listed buildings in the LCA. There are three Scheduled Monuments which cover 8.7ha (1.2%) of the LCA. The LCA includes 106 HER records,</p>

	Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	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.
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Landscape sensitivity to new woodland planting

Key sensitivities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Undulating lowland carved by small-scale stream valleys. There are some locally prominent slopes adjacent to Sandyhaven Pill. ■ The internationally and nationally designated estuaries, saltmarsh and coastal scrub (SAC/SSSI) occurring at the estuarine and coastal fringes of the predominantly pastoral farmland. ■ Areas managed as valued open habitat, including the former tank farm to the west of South Hook LGN terminal. ■ Small-scale stream woodlands and copses located amongst the farmland. There are some small areas of restored ancient woodland around Robeston Hall. ■ Important historic features and cultural landscapes, including structures such as tombs and forts which are associated with the Milford Haven Waterway Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. ■ The views of St Ishmael's (LCA 9: Marloes) across Sandy Haven Pill and views across Milford Haven Waterway. ■ The open and exposed character, particularly on the coast.
Overview	<p>Coastal areas would have high sensitivity to change from woodland creation of any scale which could mask the distinctive views, landforms and non-woodland semi-natural habitats.</p> <p>The farmland and the steam valleys would have a lower sensitivity to small or small-medium scale woodland creation, and there are some opportunities for woodland creation (up to medium-scale), to extend and link existing woodland areas within the landscape. This could also contribute to a mosaic of habitats for the benefit of biodiversity.</p> <p>Woodland creation in specific locations within the LCA (up to and including large-scale woodlands) provide opportunities to screen the large-scale industrial features (both within and adjacent to the LCA) to benefit the visual character of the landscape and the setting of important heritage features which contribute to the Milford Haven Waterway Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.</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)				Moderate-high	

Opportunities for future tree and woodland coverage within the LCA

- There are locationally specific opportunities to use woodlands (up to large-scale) to screen the large-scale industrial development of the South Hook LGN terminal (and former oil refinery) in the south of the LCA and adjacent to the east. This could benefit the setting of heritage features in the landscape and views from Sandy Haven Beach.
- Small to medium-scale woodlands and woodland copses should sit within the existing field pattern, adjoining existing hedgebanks, in order to avoid masking the landscape structure of the pastoral landscape.
- Small-scale woodland creation could provide opportunities to increase the connectivity of existing broadleaved woodlands and linear riparian woodland belts along the minor stream valleys.
- 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 new small-scale woodland to screen farm-based development including animal sheds or small-scale tourism developments/infrastructure (such as camping sites) and integrate within the existing pattern of woodland distribution and land-use.
- Explore opportunities to restore lost lengths of hedgerow and plant new hedgerow trees using disease resilient species. New hedgerows should be in keeping with the character of existing surrounding hedgerows.
- 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 woodland creation which would mask the distinctive rugged coastline.
- Design woodland to align along existing contours and undulations of the landscape, such as the minor stream valleys.

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 estuarine, saltmarsh and coastal scrub habitats which are internationally/nationally designated as SAC/SSSI on the estuarine and coastal fringes of the LCA and other valued open habitats.

Field pattern

- Restore and reinforce the field pattern of small pastoral fields by conserving and regenerating hedgerow boundaries and hedgebanks including lengths of hedgerow which have been lost.
- 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 absent or to avoid senescence, using disease resilient native species.

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 the tracts of ancient woodland around Robeston Hall. Buffer ancient woodland by establishing fringing areas and encourage natural regeneration to extend coverage along stream valleys, enhancing their roles in flood management and reducing diffuse pollution from agriculture.
- 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, the rich cultural heritage of the area, including structures such as tombs

and forts which are associated with the Milford Haven Waterway Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.

Visual character

- Conserve the distinctive views across Milford Haven Waterway and Sandy Pill to the Marloes and Angle Peninsulas.

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Conserve the open and exposed character experienced along the coastline by avoiding new tree/woodland planting in coastal locations.
- Enhance the experience for recreational users, ensuring public access is maintained along the coast path and across the network of public rights of way in the farmland.
- 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 coastal areas and on the estuary slopes.



View north from Herbrandston, showing hedge-bound fields and animal sheds in the distance.



View south-east from Sandy Haven Farm (in LCA 12) showing South Hook LNG terminal.