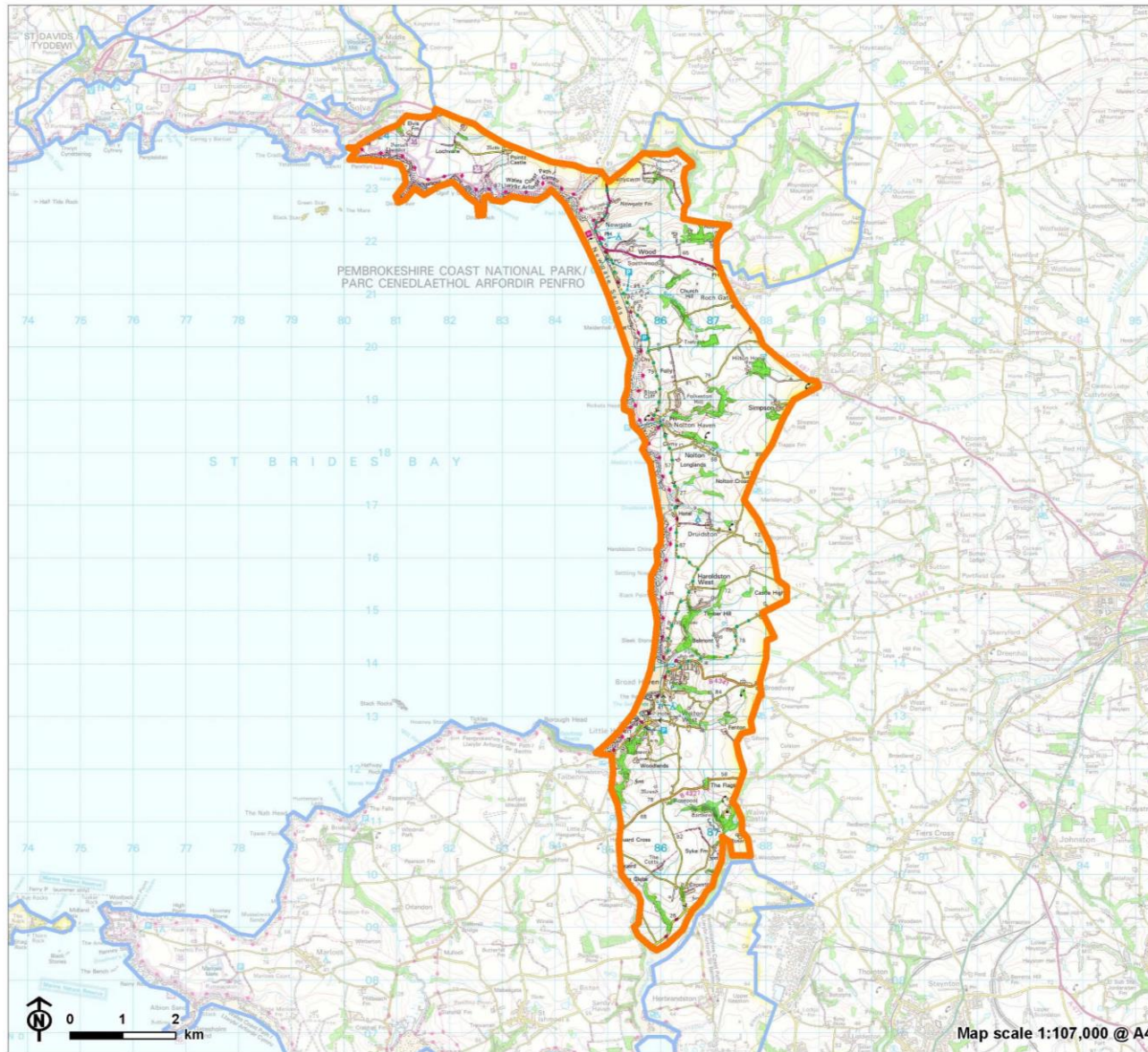


LCA 12: St Brides Bay




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



LCA 12 location and existing woodland coverage

 LCA 12: St Brides Bay

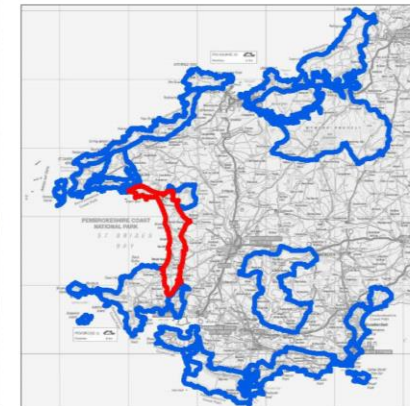
 Neighbouring LCA

Existing Woodland

 Ancient woodland

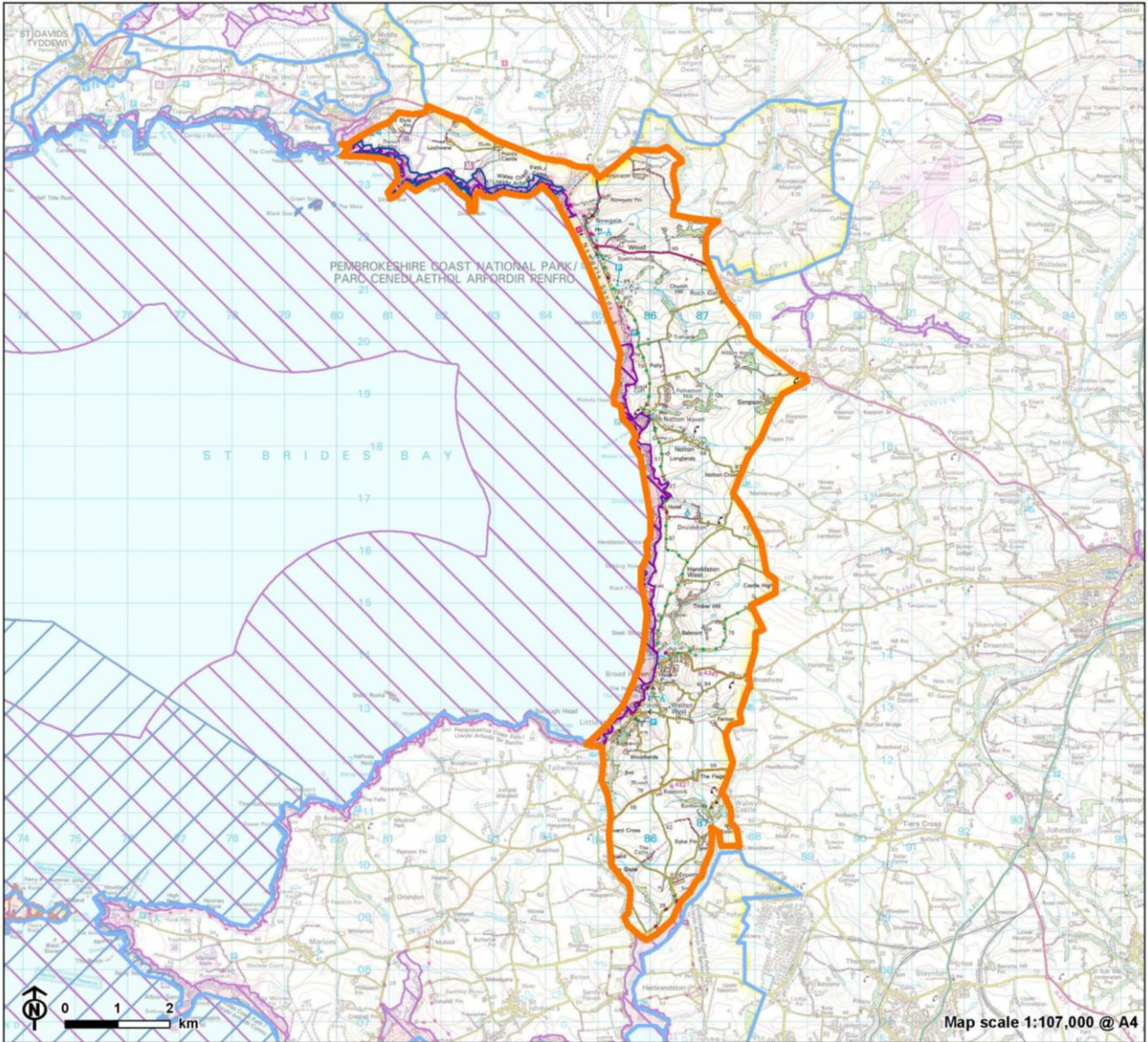
 National Forest Inventory woodland*

*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

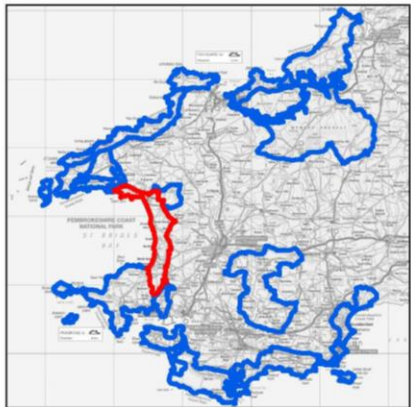


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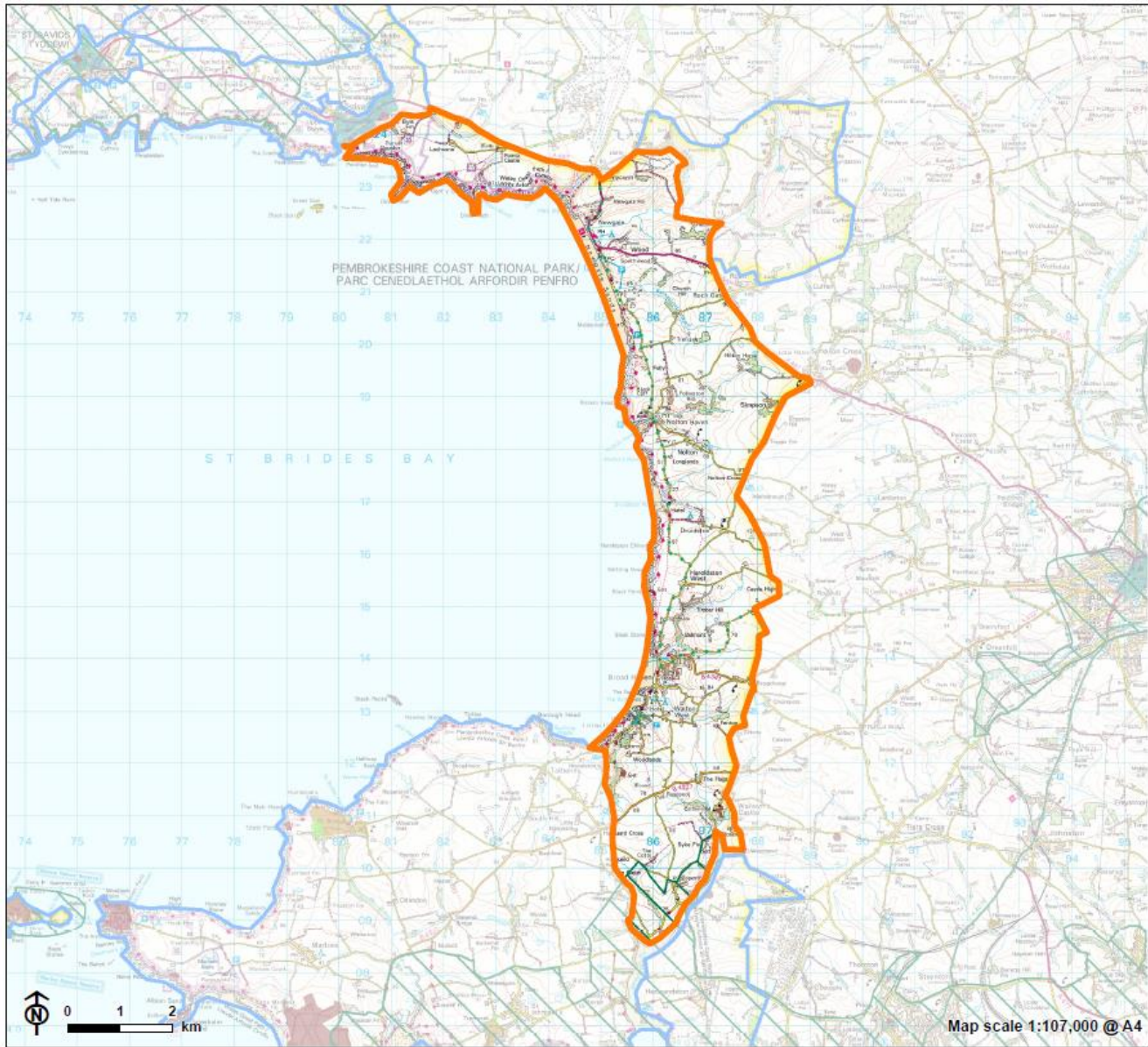


LCA 12 nature conservation designations

-  LCA 12: St Brides Bay
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  National Nature Reserve
-  Special Protection Area
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest



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

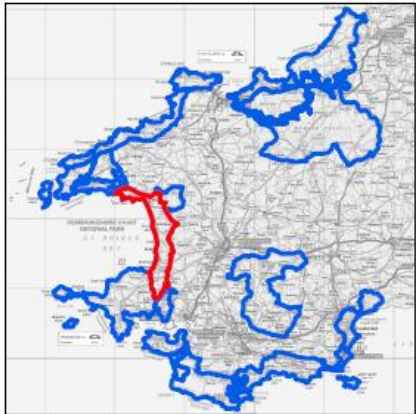


Trees and Woodland Siting and Design Guidance
 Pembrokehire Coast National Park Authority



LCA 12 Historic Environment Designations

-  LCA 12: St Brides Bay
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  Outstanding Historic Landscape
-  Gardens and Kitchen Gardens
-  Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Conservation Area



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

Existing woodland coverage within the LCA



View north-west over Newgale showing coastal pasture fields and low and scrubby hedgerows. There is little tree cover in this part of the LCA.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is characterised by a large area of rolling lowland which transitions to the coast at St Brides Bay to the west. Woodland comprises 4.1% of the total land cover, most of which (87.1%) is broadleaved. The majority of woodland within the landscape is located within stream valleys (e.g. around Broad Haven, Nolton/Nolton Haven and along Bathesland Water). Within the agricultural landscape fields are divided by hedgerows, which vary locally throughout the LCA. Close to the coast, field boundaries are often low-cut and gappy in places, dominated with gorse and bramble and generally devoid of trees due to the exposed conditions. Elsewhere, hedgerows are overgrown and situated on hedgebanks comprising a variety of species including blackthorn, hawthorn, grey willow, hazel, sycamore and ash. Further inland (e.g. east of Nolton Haven) hedges contain numerous mature broadleaved trees. There are some blocks of woodland within the farmed landscape including at Hilton Home Farm and Folkeston Moor, often comprising low-lying broadleaved specimens including sycamore, ash, grey willow, horse chestnut and hazel. Scrub habitats are located atop the cliffs.

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 NNR, LNR (including Wildlife Trust/ RSPB reserves) Ancient woodland, RIGS</p>	<p>There are three SACs which collectively cover 350.9ha (9.4%) of the LCA.</p> <p>There are four SSSI in the LCA which cover 311.9ha (8.3%) of the LCA. Ancient woodland amounts to 15.7ha.</p> <p>There are seven RIGS which cover 57ha (1.5%) of the LCA.</p>

Cultural heritage	National Park Register of Historic Landscapes Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	The Milford Haven Waterway is a Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales which covers 144ha (4%) of the LCA. There are 16 listed buildings in the LCA. There are 14 Scheduled Monuments which cover 6.5ha (0.2%) of the LCA. Little Haven and Solva are Conservation Areas; collectively they cover 5.6ha (0.2%) of the LCA. The LCA includes 601 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.
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Landscape sensitivity to new woodland planting

Key sensitivities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Steep slopes associated with stream valleys and open headlands and bays along the St Brides Bay coast. ■ Mosaic of internationally/nationally significant semi-natural habitats (designated as SAC/SSSI), particularly on the coast and flood plain areas, including heath, grassland (including marshy grassland and reed bed on floodplains), deciduous woodland, rocky cliffs and beaches. ■ Bracken and regenerating scrub habitats which support a variety of animal and plant species, including small pearl bordered fritillaries (particularly in the north of the LCA) and adders. ■ Varied pattern of small-medium scale hedge-bound fields of differing shapes which are influenced by the landform and presence of settlement. ■ Nationally important archaeological features, particularly prehistoric sites, monuments, and relic lime kilns. ■ The southernmost part of the LCA forms part of the wider Milford Haven Waterway Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. ■ Generally low hedgerows resulting in high levels of visibility across the landscape, although hedgebanks visually enclose some rural lanes crossing the landscape. ■ The extensive views along the coastline and across St Bride's Bay and views inland which include the prominent Grade I listed thirteenth-century Roch Castle. ■ The open and exposed character of the coastal edge and the close relationship between the land and sea.
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Overview	<p>The coastal strip of the LCA has a high level of sensitivity to woodland creation due to the open, exposed character, distinctive sea views, archaeological remains and extensive areas of semi-natural habitat.</p> <p>Areas characterised by steep slopes (e.g. near Newgale, Broad Haven and Little Haven) are more sensitive to woodland creation, particularly woodlands larger than small-medium scale. Existing woodlands along the valleys could be extended up the slopes, but the creation of new woodland blocks on high ground should be avoided.</p> <p>Agricultural areas of the LCA, away from the coast, are less sensitive to woodland planting (up to medium-scale) and woodland creation of this scale could enhance the existing mosaic of woodland and farmland, extend and link existing woodlands and would be in keeping with the scale of the landcover pattern. Large-scale woodlands would alter the character of the landscape and would not be in keeping with existing character.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity to all scales of mixed woodland for this LCA is high.</p>
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Landscape Sensitivity Scores

Small-scale broadleaved woodlands (≤5ha)		Low-moderate			
Small-medium scale broadleaved woodlands (>5- 15ha)			Moderate		
Medium-scale broadleaved woodlands (>15-30ha)			Moderate		
Large-scale broadleaved woodlands (>30ha)					High

Opportunities for future tree and woodland coverage within the LCA

- Woodland creation, up to medium-scale, could increase woodland coverage in the agricultural land but should adjoin existing woodland and/or hedges in order to avoid masking the field patterns of the pastoral landscape.
- Site new small-scale woodland to screen farm-based development or small-scale tourism developments/infrastructure (such as camping sites and car parks) and integrate within the existing pattern of woodland distribution and land-use.
- Woodland creation could be used to integrate the settlement edges of Roch (outside the LCA) and Broad Haven into the landscape.
- There is an opportunity to extend existing stream woodlands along valleys or up valley slopes (up to small-medium scale), however the creation of block shaped woodlands on elevated slopes should be avoided.
- Consider the potential for natural regeneration of semi-natural woodland and scrub extending along the stream valleys to enhance flood management, water quality, biodiversity and to help prevent soil erosion.
- Explore opportunities to restore gappy hedgerows and plant new hedgerow trees using disease resilient species. New hedgerows should be in keeping with the character of existing surrounding hedgerows.
- There are opportunities for the creation of wood pasture to integrate more trees into the agricultural landscape.
- 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 coastal landforms with rugged cliffs punctuated by caves, bays and small headlands.
- Design woodland to align along existing contours and undulations of the landscape, such as the minor stream valleys running to 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 the extensive tracts of heathland, grassland (including marshy grassland and reed bed on floodplains), deciduous woodland, scrub and bracken, rocky cliffs and beaches which are internationally/nationally designated as SAC/SSSI.

Field pattern

- Restore and reinforce the irregular pattern of pastoral fields by conserving and regenerating hedgerow boundaries and hedgebanks.
- 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 areas of ancient woodland extending along some of the small-scale stream valleys. Buffer ancient woodland by establishing fringing areas and encourage natural regeneration to extend coverage along the 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 national important prehistoric sites, monuments and relic lime kilns.

- Ensure new woodland planting does not screen key views to distinctive cultural heritage features, such as the Grade I listed Roch Castle from Newgale Sands.
- A small part of Milford Haven Waterway Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest is located in the south of the LCA. The impact of woodland planting on the setting of features which contribute to this historic landscape should be carefully considered.

Visual character

- Conserve extensive views along the coast and out to sea, including from the Pembrokeshire coast path. Ensure that new woodland does not detract from these views or views from the adjoining farmland to the coastline.

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Conserve the open and exposed character of the coastal landscape.
- Enhance the experience for recreational users, ensuring public access is maintained along the coast path and the network of public rights of way in the adjoining 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 the more open landscape along the coast.



View south along a rural lane to the north of Nolton Haven, showing hedgebanks enclosing the lane and pastoral fields.



View north-west along the coastline from a rural lane to the south of Roch, across the open pastoral landscape



View south along a rural lane to the north of Nolton Haven, showing the wooded stream valleys that meet at the village.



View south across Broad Haven Beach, showing some woodland in the valley to the south of Broad Haven.