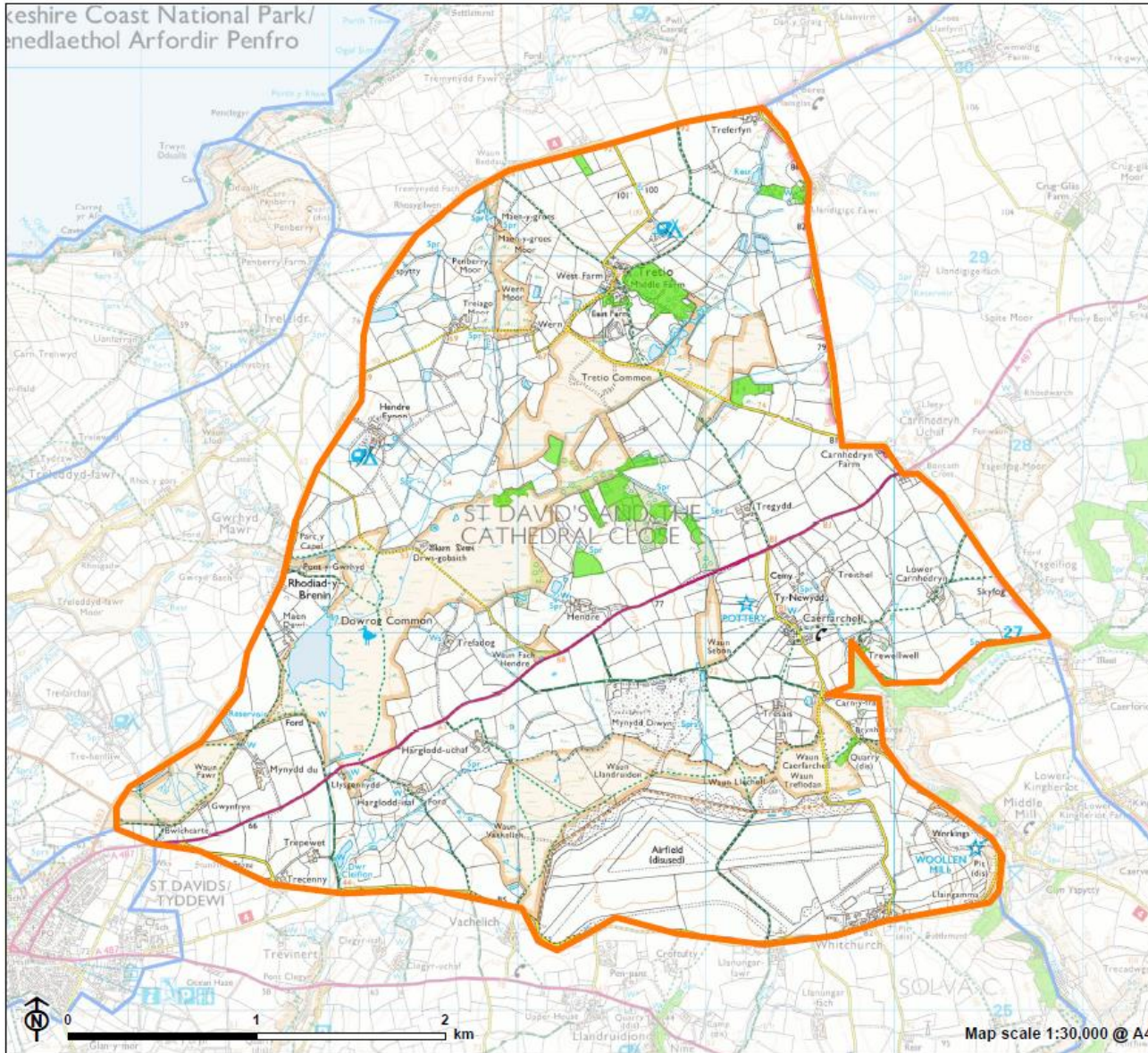


LCA 15: Dowrog & Tretio Commons



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



LCA 15 location and existing woodland coverage

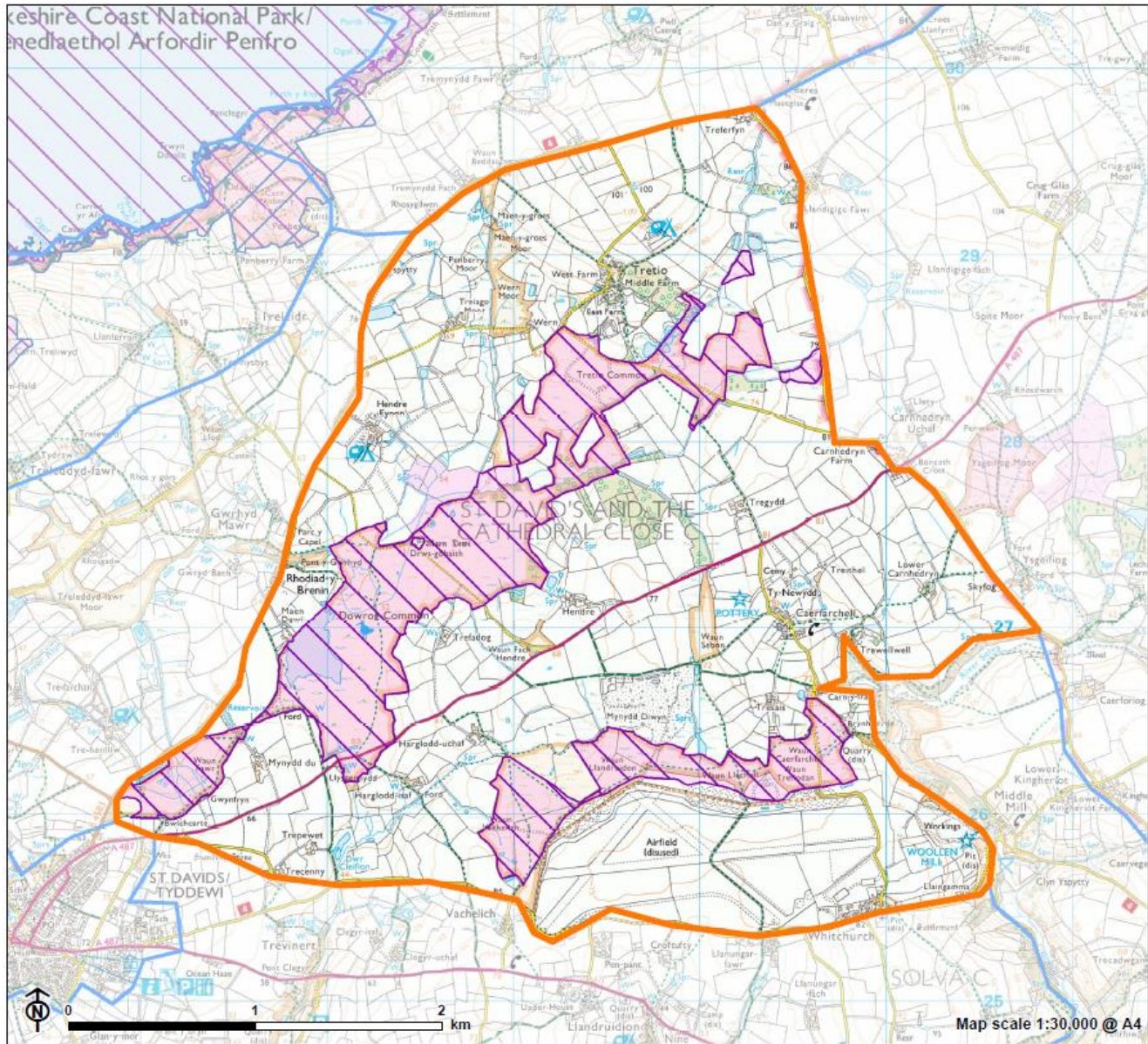
- LCA 15: Dowrog & Tretio Commons
- Neighbouring LCA
- Existing Woodland**
- Ancient woodland
- National Forest Inventory woodland*

*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

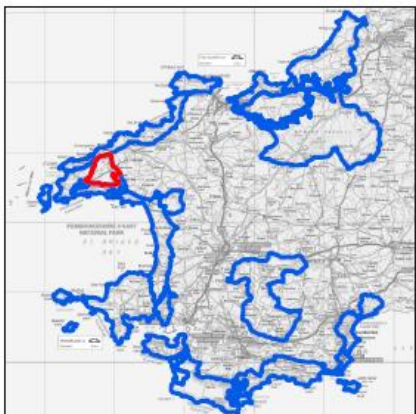


Trees and Woodland Siting and Design Guidance
 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority



LCA 15 nature conservation designations

-  LCA 15: Dowrog & Tretio Commons
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  Special Protection Area
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest



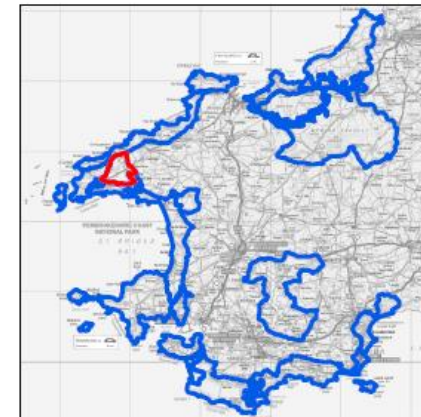
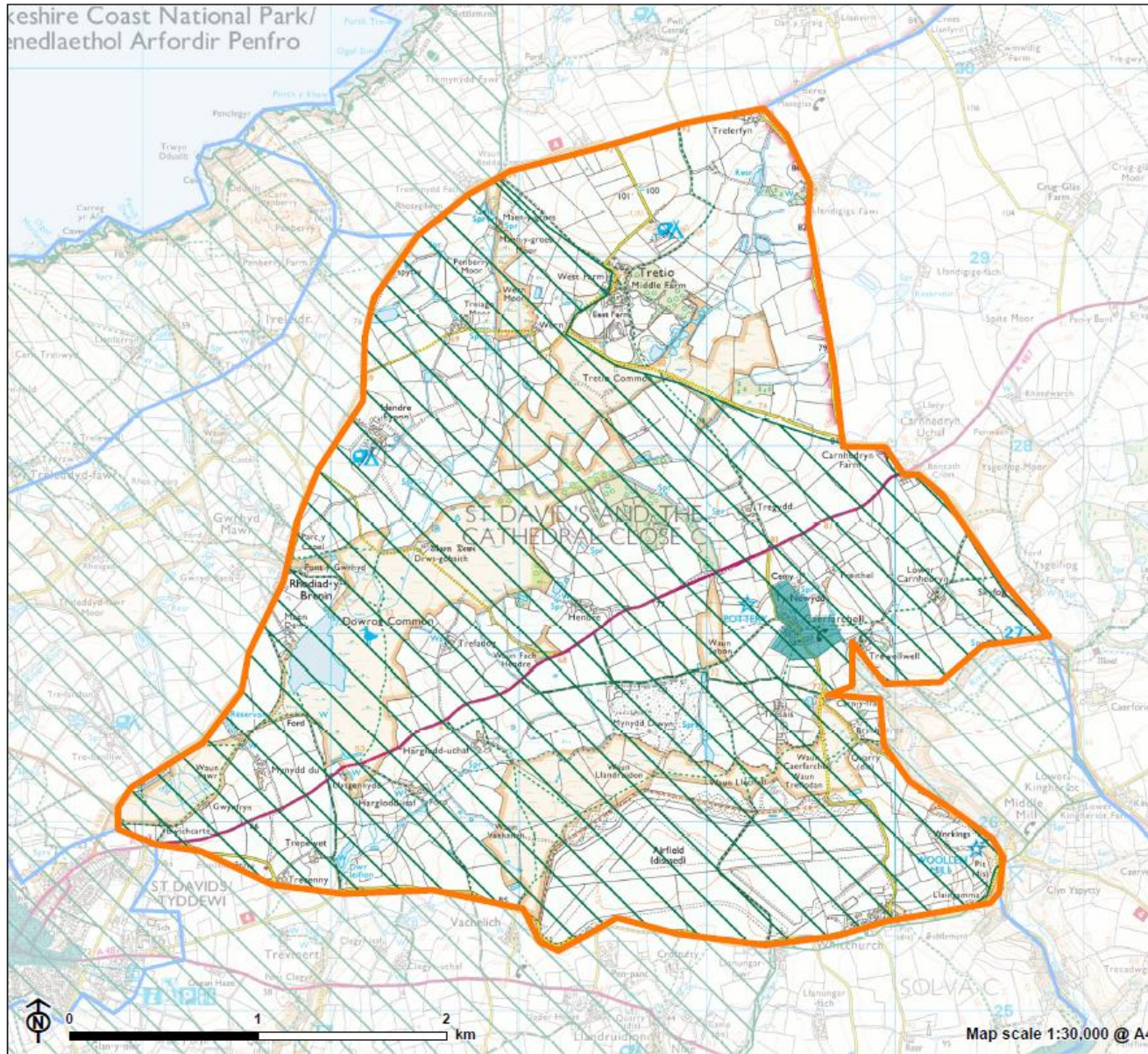
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 Source: OS, NRW



**LCA 15 Historic Environment
Designations**

-  LCA 15: Dowrog & Tretio Commons
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  Outstanding Historic Landscape
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Conservation Area



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Source: OS, Cadw

Existing woodland coverage within the LCA



View north-west across grassland at Waun Caerfarchell, with occasional wind-blown hawthorn bushes along the roadside.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is characterised by an inland area of undulating lowland located to the north-east of St Davids. The LCA contains several large areas of common land (including Dowrog Common and Tretio Common) which are interspersed with farmland. Woodland is sparse, comprising around 1.7% of the total land cover. Most of the woodland is broadleaved species (46.6%) or young trees (27.4%) and occurs adjacent to the common land in the centre of the LCA. Another block of woodland is located to the east of Tretio. Fields are generally divided by low hedgerows, post and wire fencing or temporary livestock fencing and trees are an infrequent feature.

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) RIGS Ancient woodland</p>	<p>The North West Pembrokeshire Commons SAC covers 227 ha (17.3% of the LCA). There are five SSSI in the LCA which cover 235 ha (17.9%). Tretio Common Wildlife Trust Reserve is within the LCA. There is one RIGS within the LCA, which covers 3.5ha (0.27%).</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>National Park Register of Historic Landscapes Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data</p>	<p>The St David's Peninsula and Ramsey Head Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales covers 85.4% of the LCA. LCA 15 Dowrog & Tretio Commons includes 197 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>

Landscape sensitivity to new woodland planting

Key sensitivities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pastoral farmland interspersed with large areas of common land, including heathland and grassland habitats of international/national importance (designated as SAC/SSSI). ■ The small-medium scale fields enclosed by low hedgerows with infrequent trees. ■ The area's strong historic and cultural sense of place, as reflected in the Conservation Area status of Caerfarchell and its inclusion in the wider St David's Headland & Ramsey Head Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Importance. ■ The presence of prehistoric and early Christian sites and monuments of national importance. ■ Long views across the open landscape which include the distinct landform of Carn Llidl to the north-west. Skylines are open and undeveloped. ■ The open, exposed character due its general absence of trees and the rural qualities of the landscape. ■ The strong sense of place and history, particularly in the south-west of the LCA close to the cathedral city of St Davids.
Overview	<p>Extensive tracts of internationally and nationally designated semi-natural habitats on the common land are highly sensitive to change from woodland creation which would reduce the area of non-woodland habitat coverage. However, small-scale woodland creation could be used to form linkages between discrete areas of semi-natural habitat and to create a mosaic of habitat types.</p> <p>There are opportunities for the creation of up to small-medium scale woodlands within the agricultural landscape which would be in keeping with the existing character of the landscape, however the cumulative impact of woodland creation would need to be carefully assessed due to the open and expansive character of the LCA as a whole. The site of the landfill/spoil heap (now St Davids Recycling Centre) in the south-east of the LCA provides an opportunity for the creation of up to medium-scale woodlands.</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-moderate			
Small-medium scale broadleaved woodlands (>5- 15ha)			Moderate		
Medium-scale broadleaved woodlands (>15-30ha)				Moderate-high	
Large-scale broadleaved woodlands (>30ha)					High

Opportunities for future tree and woodland coverage within the LCA

- There are opportunities for woodland planting (up to medium-scale) on the landfill/spoil heap (now St Davids Recycling Centre) in the south-east of the LCA.
- Small-medium or small-scale woodland planting 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.
- Small-medium or small-scale woodland planting could also provide increased connectivity with more extensive woodland in adjacent landscapes, such as the Solva Valley (LCA 14).
- Small-scale woodland creation could provide opportunities to increase the connectivity of existing broadleaved woodlands and linear riparian woodland belts.
- Consider opportunities for the regeneration and extension of traditional wood pasture.
- Site new small-scale woodland to screen farm-based development or small-scale tourism developments and integrate within the existing pattern of woodland distribution and land-use.
- 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.
- 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

- 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 extensive marshy grassland and wet heathland on the commons which are internationally/nationally designated as SAC/SSSI.
- Appropriate consideration should also be given to undesignated habitats, such as the transition habitats between areas of marshy grassland and wet heathland, and priority should be given to the creation of these habitat networks to link fragmented component of the designated SAC/SSSI.

Field pattern

- Restore and reinforce the pattern of small to medium scale 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.

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.
- Encourage a diverse range of native species in woodlands to build resilience to pathogens, pests and diseases.

Historic character

- Avoid adversely affecting, directly or indirectly, the rich cultural heritage of the area. This includes prehistoric and early Christian sites and monuments of national importance.
- Consider the setting of the Caerfarchell Conservation Area when siting and designing new woodland.
- Protect the role of the landscape as part of the St. David's Headland and Ramsey Head Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest, with the extensive commons forming a distinct part of the historic landscape.

Visual character

- Conserve the views to Carn Llidi (LCA 16) which provide a sense of orientation in the landscape and a distinctive sense of place.

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Conserve the distinctive open character of the commons. Locate new woodland so that it does not detract from the enjoyment of the exposed and remote quality of the vast tracts of open access land in this landscape.
- Enhance the experience for recreational users, ensuring public access is maintained across the network of public rights of way through the farmland and commons.
- Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting, ensuring it does not lead to a change of the open exposed character of the landscape.



A small natural pool south of Wern Moor.



View north-west across Dowrog Common towards Carn Penberry and Carn Perfedd.



Ponies grazing small fields south of Tretio Common, with patches of scrub and occasional low hawthorn trees.



A small conifer plantation on the eastern edge of Tretio Common.