

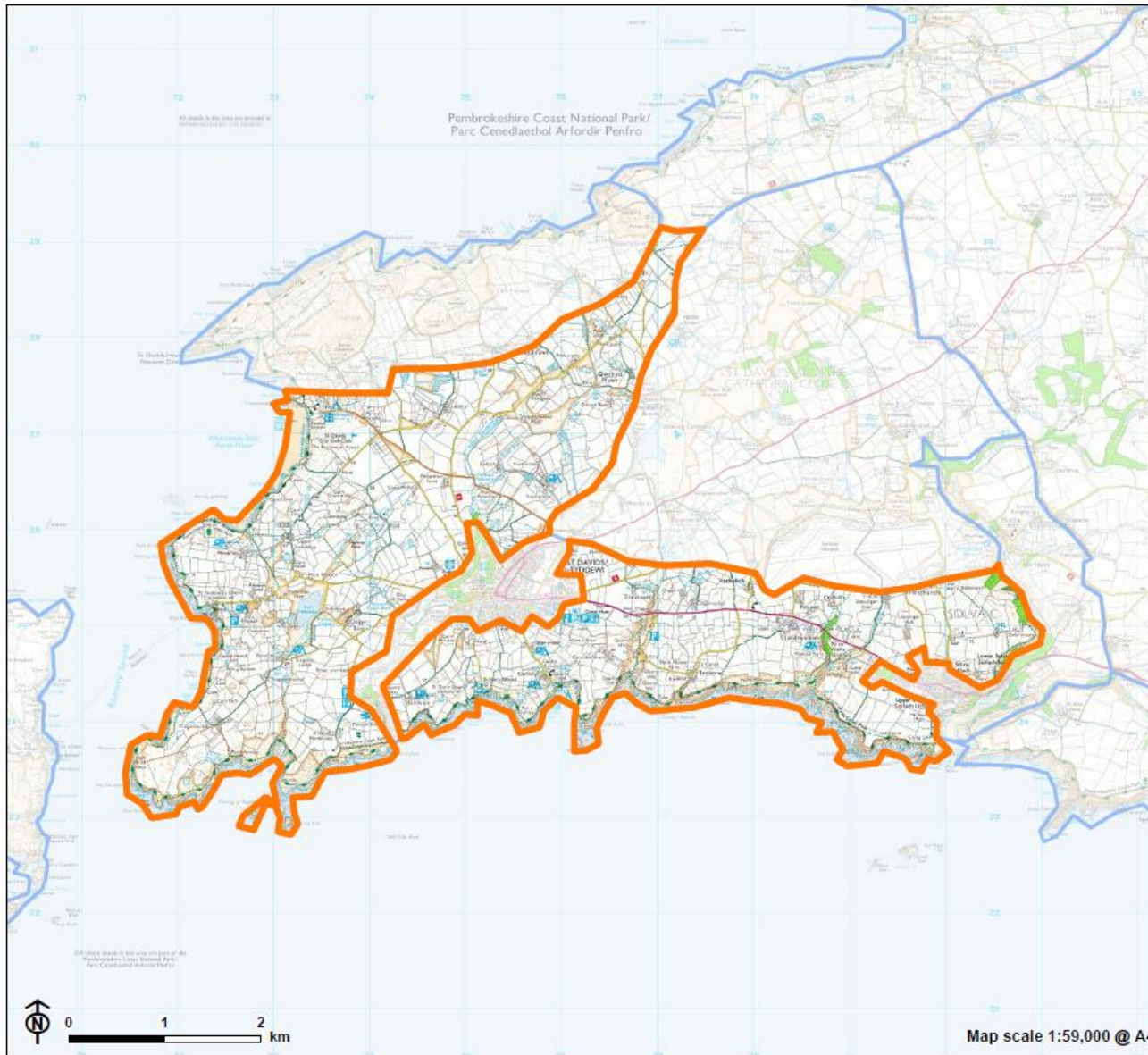
# LCA 18: St David's Headland

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

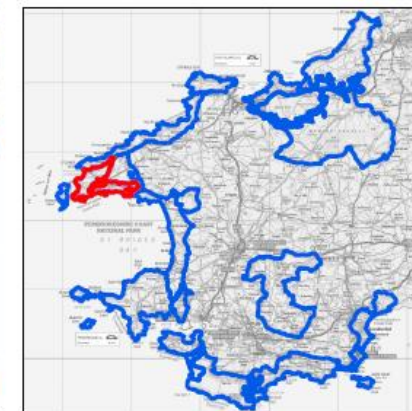


## LCA 18 location and existing woodland coverage

-  LCA 18: St Davids Headland
-  Neighbouring LCA
- Existing Woodland**
  -  Ancient woodland
  -  National Forest Inventory woodland\*



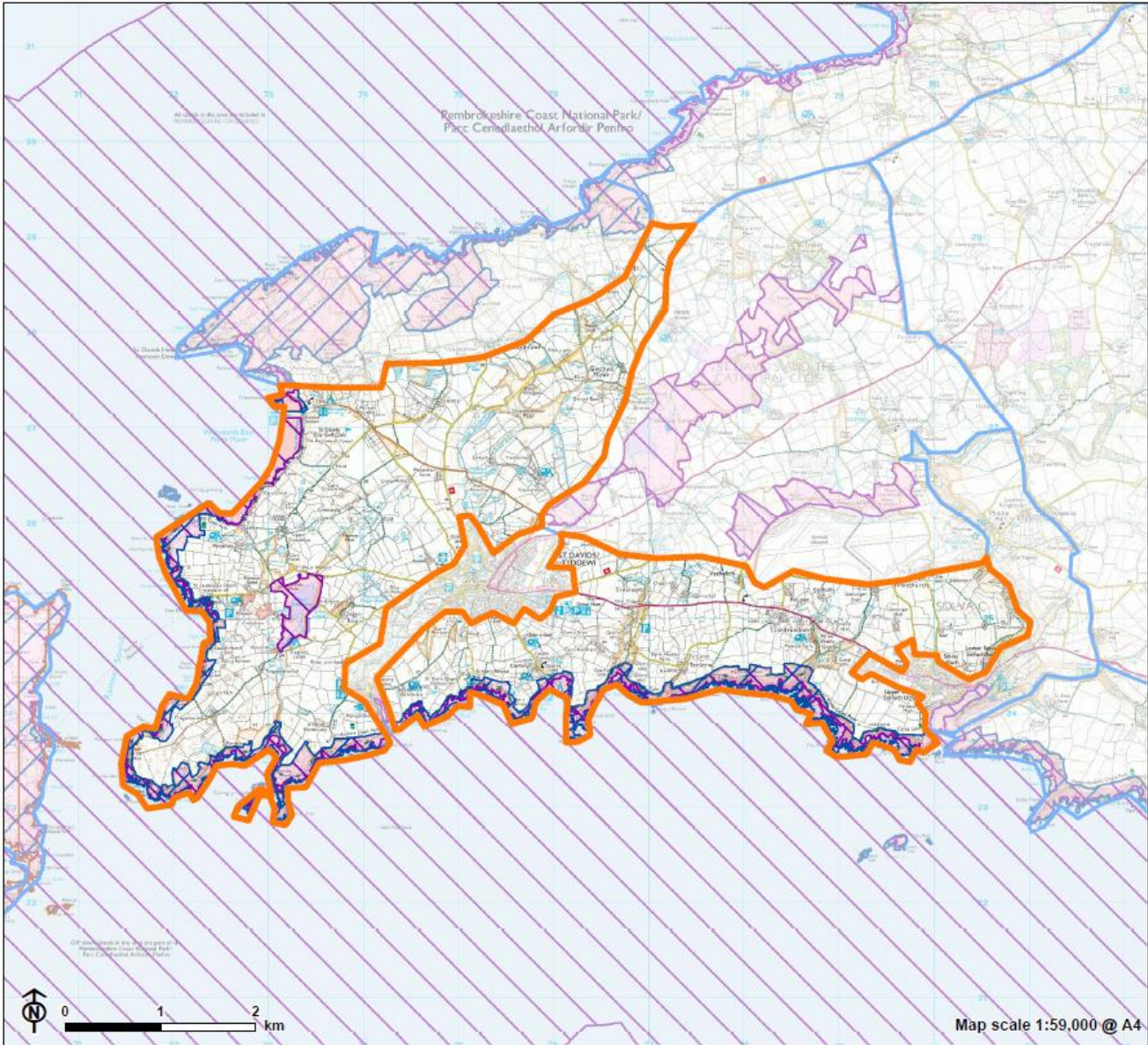
\*The NFI definition of woodland is a minimum area of 0.5 hectares



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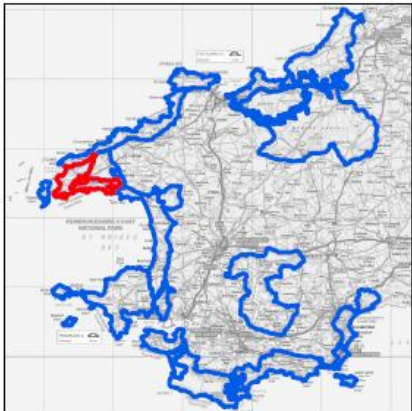
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 Source: OS, FC, NRW





LCA 18 nature conservation designations

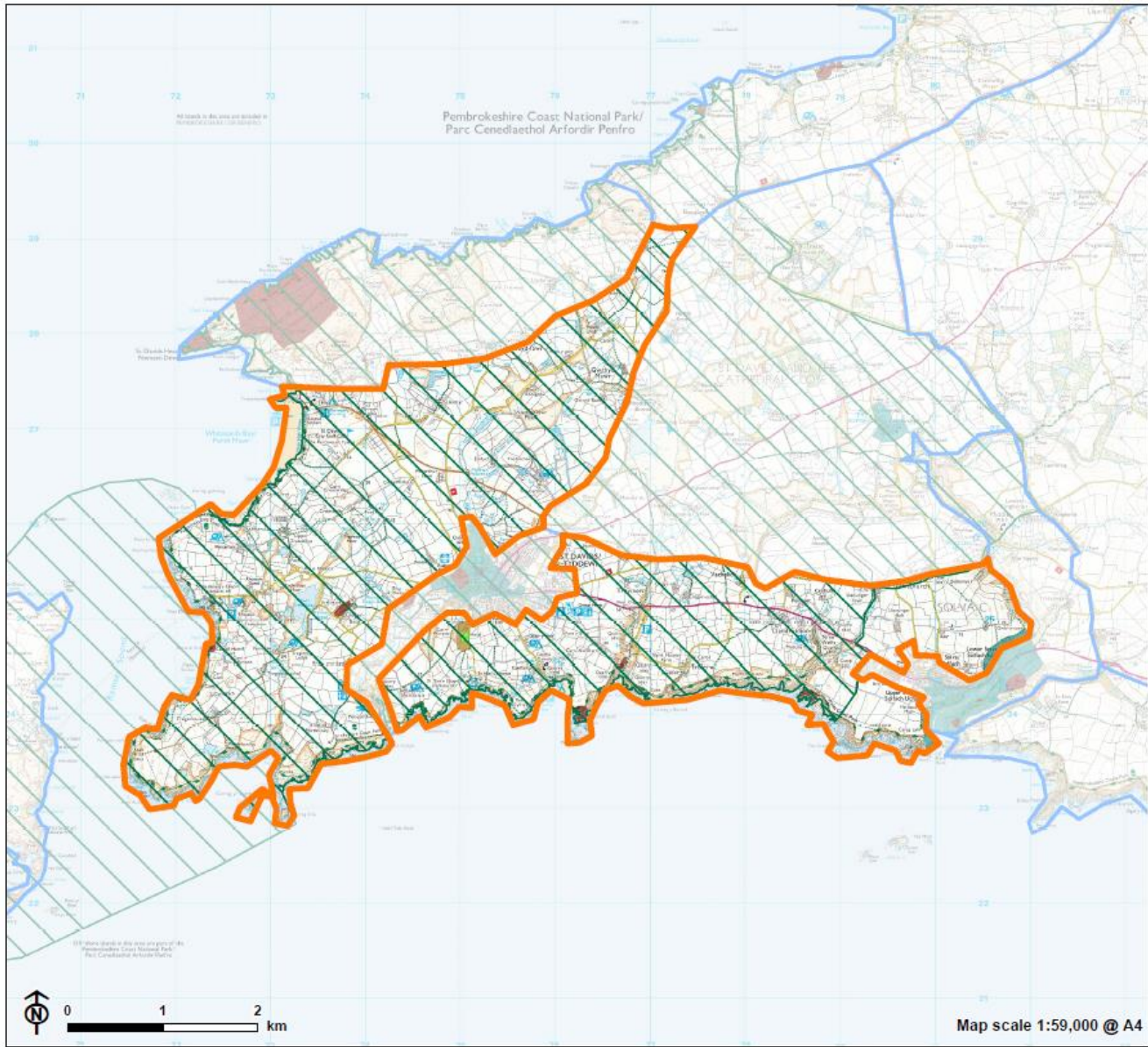
-  LCA 18: St Davids Headland
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  National Nature Reserve
-  Special Protection Area
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest



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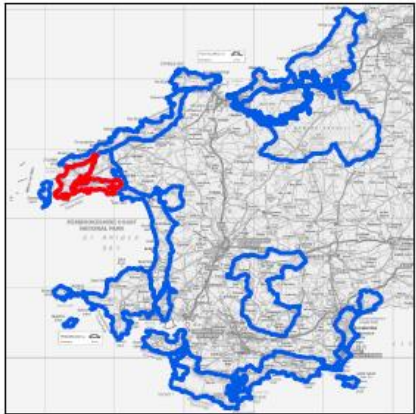
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 Source: OS, NRW





**LCA 18 Historic Environment Designations**

- LCA 18: St Davids Headland
- 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



A small coastal stream valley lined with scrub and bracken, with open views west across the farmed coastal plateau towards St David's Head.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is located on the coast and is characterised by gently rolling farmland interspersed with areas of heathland, with cliffs and beaches forming the southern and western boundaries of the LCA. Woodland is sparse and occupies only 0.4% of the total land cover (approximately 8 hectares). Linear broadleaved woodland traces the course of the River Alun to the north of St Davids and the stream valley adjacent to Llandrudion. Close to the coast fields are divided by low hedgerows and post and wire fencing without trees. Further inland some hedgerows are more overgrown and contain bracken and small trees. Scrub habitat is located atop cliffs and at St Davids City Golf Club.

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	SAC, SPA, SSSI NNR, LNR (including Wildlife Trust/ RSPB reserves) Ancient woodland. RIGS	There are four SAC in the LCA, which cover 376.7ha (17.2% of the LCA). There are four SSSI in the LCA which cover 253.7 ha (11.6% of the LCA)  There is one RIGS in the LCA which covers 6.2ha  Ancient woodland within the LCA amounts to just under 1ha
Cultural heritage	National Park Register of Historic Landscapes	The St David's Peninsula and Ramsey Head Landscapes of Special Historic Interest cover 1897.9ha (86.8%) of the LCA. Warpool Court Hotel is a Registered Historic Park and Garden, covering 3.57 ha (0.16%).



	Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	LCA 18 St David's Headland includes 557 HER assets that 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**

<b>Key sensitivities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The intricate coastal landforms, including dramatic sea cliffs and beaches.</li> <li>■ The open character of the predominantly pastoral farmland due to a lack of woodland or other tall vegetation.</li> <li>■ Extensive networks of semi-natural habitat including heathland, wetlands and grassland, bracken or scrub, of both local national and international importance (many designated as SAC/SSSI) which support a variety of animal and plant species e.g. clough, adders, small pearl bordered fritillaries, violets and rare arable flora.</li> <li>■ The pattern of irregular small-medium scale fields (including some areas likely to be of medieval origin) enclosed by hedgerows, interspersed with areas of open moor.</li> <li>■ Outstanding historic and cultural value, including nationally important prehistoric features such as the Clegyr Boia Neolithic settlement and early Christian sites. This LCA lies wholly within the St. David's Headland and Ramsey Head Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest.</li> <li>■ There are extensive unspoilt views along the open coastline.</li> <li>■ The open and rural character, which is particularly expansive along the coast and on the headland, with perceptual qualities influenced by conditions at sea. There are strong associations with the cathedral city of St. Davids.</li> </ul>
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<b>Overview</b>	<p>The LCA has a wealth of nationally important historic features and the whole LCA forms part of the St. David's Headland and Ramsey Head Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest. The impact of woodland creation on the important historic qualities of this landscape should be carefully considered when designing and siting new woodland.</p> <p>The coastal parts of the LCA have high sensitivity to woodland creation of any scale due to the intricate coastline of with cliffs and bays and extensive semi-natural habitats (often designated as SAC/SSSI). Distinctive coastal landforms provide a sense of place across the landscape and should be kept open and visible. The open areas of common land found amongst the cultivated farmed landscape also have high sensitivity to woodland planting.</p> <p>The agricultural landscape is less sensitive to woodland creation (up small-medium scale), particularly along the stream valleys and inland where the field pattern is less intricate than that found along the coast. As existing woodland in the LCA is limited, larger woodland creation would be out of scale with the existing woodland pattern, except in the north-western part of the LCA close to St Davids City Golf Club where field patterns are larger, although even medium-scale woodland would alter the character of the distinctly open landscape.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity to all scales of mixed woodland for this LCA is high.</p>
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**Landscape Sensitivity Scores**

<b>Small-scale broadleaved woodlands (≤5ha)</b>		<b>Low-moderate</b>			
<b>Small-medium scale broadleaved woodlands (&gt;5- 15ha)</b>			<b>Moderate</b>		
<b>Medium-scale broadleaved woodlands (&gt;15-30ha)</b>				<b>Moderate-high</b>	
<b>Large-scale broadleaved woodlands (&gt;30ha)</b>					<b>High</b>

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

- The north-western part of the LCA adjacent to St Davids City Golf Club has larger fields than the rest of the LCA and features including camp sites and the golf course and could potentially provide an opportunity for up to medium-scale woodland planting, although this would be conspicuous in the open landscape.
- The creation of up the small-medium scale woodlands provides an opportunity to create a habitat mosaic within the farmed landscape and provide linkages between valued areas of semi-natural habitat.
- There are opportunities for the creation of wood pasture to integrate more trees into the agricultural landscape.
- There are opportunities to plant small or small-medium scale woodlands to screen caravan parks and camp-sites to minimise their visual impact and to respect the historical significance of this area.
- New woodland should adjoin existing woodland and/or hedges in order to avoid masking the field patterns of the pastoral landscape.
- Woodland creation could be used to provide links to woodland in adjacent landscapes (e.g. LCA 14: Solva Valley) to improve habitat connectivity.
- There are opportunities for the planting of linear woodlands/natural regeneration of semi-natural woodland and scrub along watercourses which could enhance flood management, water quality, biodiversity and to help prevent soil erosion.
- There are opportunities to restore hedgerows which have been lost as a result of agricultural intensification.
- 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 landforms which occur along the exposed coastline.
- Design woodland to align along existing contours and undulations of the landscape, such as the minor stream valleys which carve through the landscape and flow to the coast.
- Avoid the loss or damage of significant geological or geomorphological features, particularly the coastal exposures along the peninsula which are designated as SSSI.

### 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, including bracken and regenerating scrub habitats.
- Protect the numerous areas of heathland and wetland located amongst the agricultural land, particularly those designated as SAC/SSSI. The development of scrub and woodland on the species-rich heaths and commons should be kept in check through appropriate grazing levels.
- Protect the important coastal habitats (including rough grassland and heathland), particularly those internationally/nationally designated as SAC/SSSI.

### Field pattern

- Restore and reinforce the pattern of small pastoral fields by conserving and regenerating hedgerow boundaries and hedgebanks. There is opportunity to recreate field boundaries which have been lost through intensification in the past century.
- 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.
- Protect, and where appropriate, extend the existing woodland along the minor watercourses which flow to the coast.

### Historic character

- Avoid adversely affecting, directly or indirectly, the rich cultural heritage of the area, particularly the numerous archaeological remains, including Neolithic settlement remains, coastal forts and early Christian sites. Consider the impact of woodland creation on the setting of historic features.
- Remove scrub from buried archaeological features to keep them open and legible in the landscape.
- The whole LCA forms part of St. David's Headland and Ramsey Head Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest and the impact of woodland planting on the numerous historic features which contribute to this historic landscape should be carefully considered.
- Avoid siting woodland across multiple fields which may mask the historic field patterns of small irregular fields.

### Visual character

- Conserve important sea views from the Wales Coast Path/Pembrokeshire Coast Path. Ensure that new woodland does not detract from key views including those of distinct coastal landforms (within the LCA and in the adjacent LCA 16: Carn Llidi) and Ramsey Island, which provide orientation and a unique sense of place in the landscape.

### Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Conserve the open, expansive character of the landscape, particularly on the coast. 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.
- Enhance the experience for recreational users, ensuring public access is maintained across the network of public rights of way in the farmland and the numerous pockets of open access land.
- Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting, ensuring it does not lead to a change of landscape character, particularly on the coast and in locations which provide an important setting to heritage features.



View east towards St Davids, with the Cathedral tower visible on the skyline.



Open views west from Clegyr Boia across large-scale fields enclosed by low hawthorn hedgerows.



View north across Treswny Moor to Carn Croeswdig.



View north-west from St Justinian across the Ramsey Sound, including the northern end of Ramsey Island.