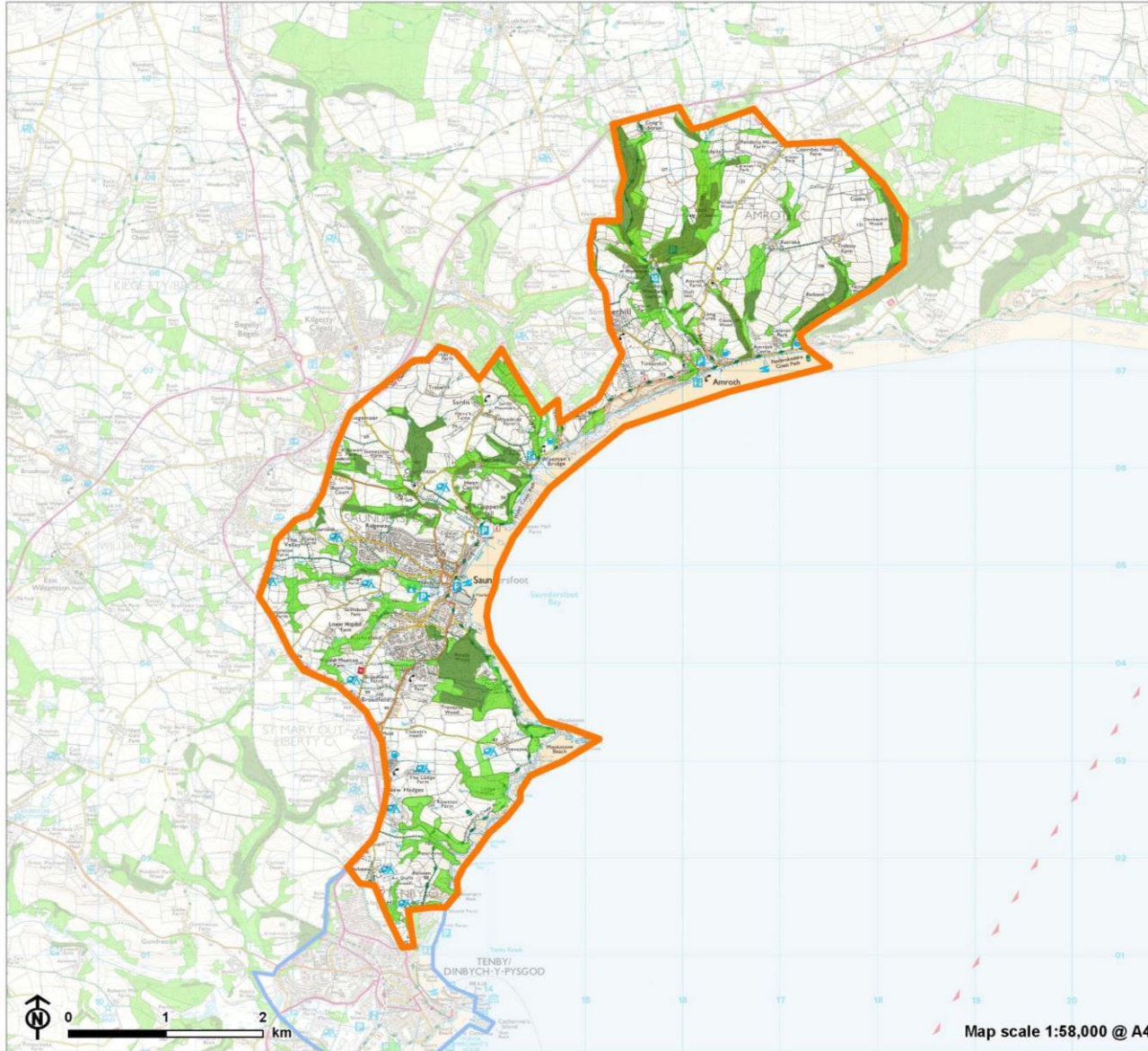


LCA 1: Saundersfoot Settled Coast



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



LCA 1 location and existing woodland coverage

LCA 1: Saundersfoot settled coast

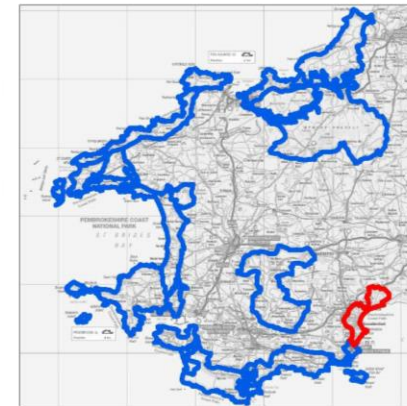
Neighbouring LCA

Existing Woodland

Ancient woodland

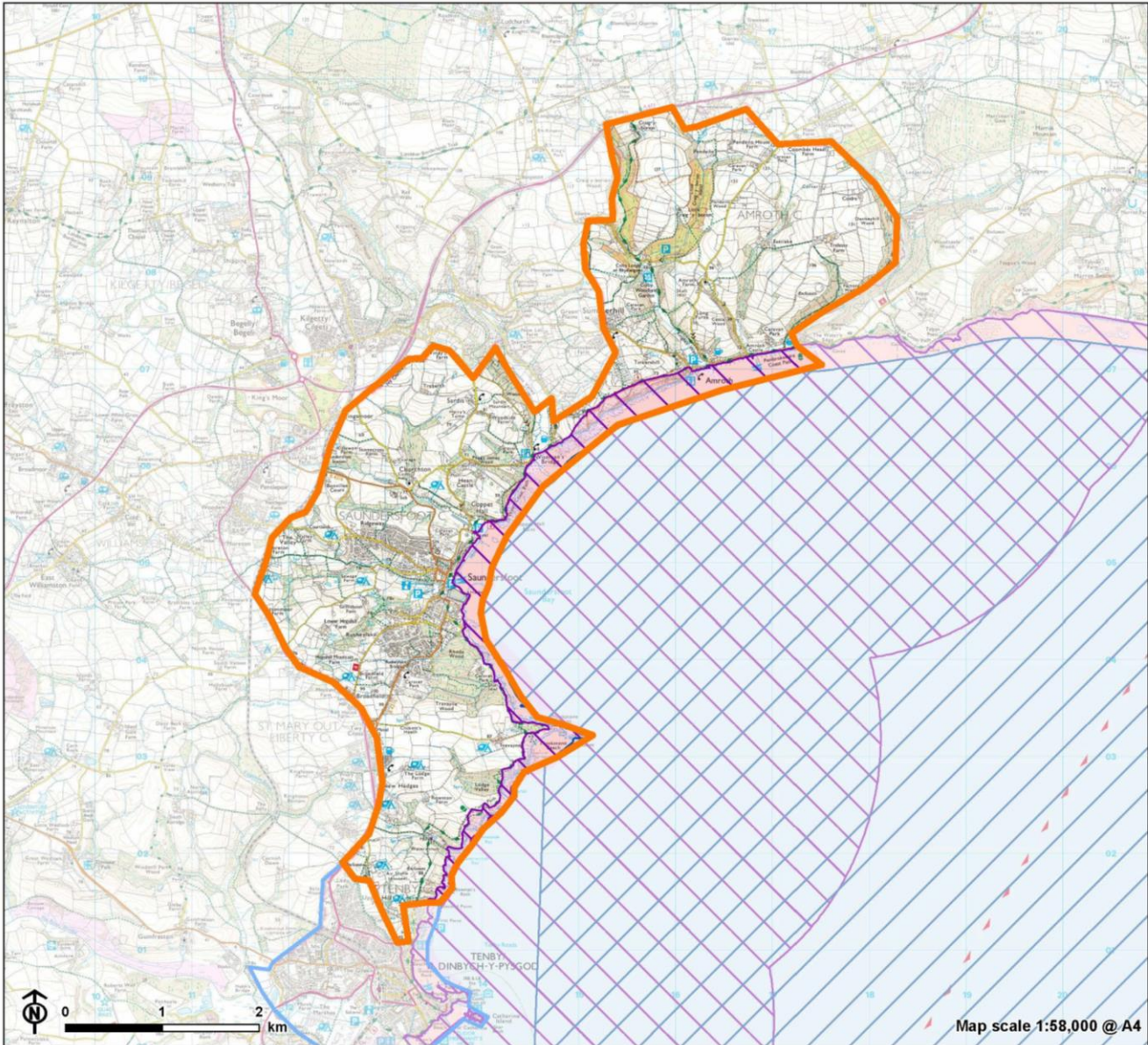
National Forest Inventory woodland*

*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

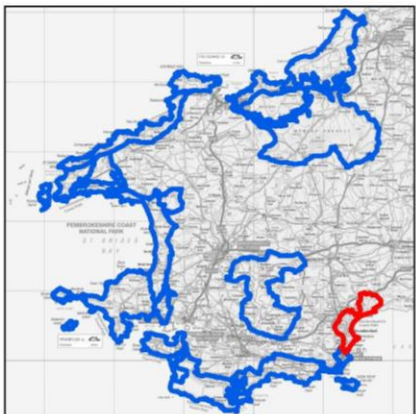


Trees and Woodland Siting and Design Guidance
 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority



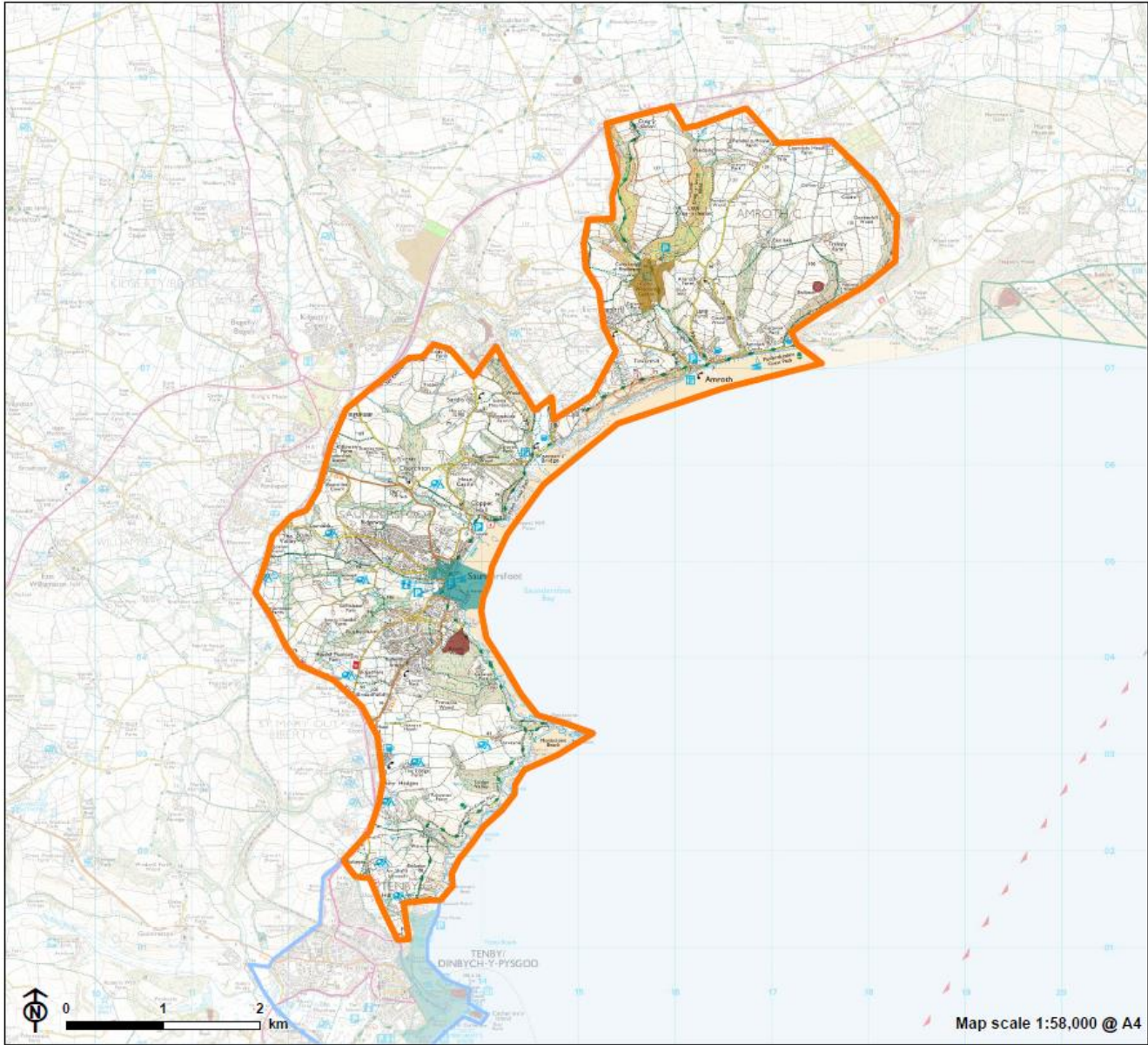
LCA 1 nature conservation designations

-  LCA 1: Saundersfoot settled coast
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  Special Protection Area
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest



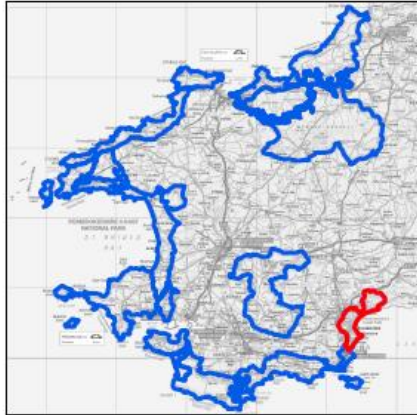
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 Source: OS, NRW



LCA 1 Historic Environment Designations

-  LCA 1: Saundersfoot settled coast
-  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_11864_r0_CulturalHeritageDesignations_A4L 30/06/2022
 Source: OS, Cadw

Existing woodland coverage within the LCA



View north along coastline towards Amroth from the permitted footpath at Trewayne.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is characterised by rolling lowland incised by valleys with settlement which surrounds the broad Saundersfoot Bay. Woodland comprises 20.6% of the total land cover, of which 56.6% comprises broadleaved species. Woodland tends to be associated with stream valleys which flow to the coast. Woodland composition varies between the stream valleys, with some comprised of plantation woodland, while others are a mix of coniferous and broadleaved species (often including ancient woodland). Common broadleaved species include oak, ash, birch, beech, hazel, horse chestnut and sycamore. Plantation woodland has been felled in some areas (some in response to ramorum blight, *Phytophthora Ramorum*, in larch plantations) and is recolonising with broadleaved species (e.g. Rhode/Trewayne Wood and Hean Castle Estate). Hean Castle Estate is located to the north-east of Saundersfoot and is surrounded by a mix of broadleaved and coniferous woods, with mature parkland trees forming a distinct feature of the estate. Scrub habitat is located atop some of the sea cliffs, whilst some coastal areas such as near Amroth support stunted broadleaved woodland. The pasture fields located on the undulating land between the stream valleys are enclosed by hedges or hedgebanks (with diverse hedgerows including hawthorn, hazel, ash, sycamore and grey willow) with frequent mature hedgerow trees (predominantly oak and ash, with many of the ash trees showing signs of ash dieback). Coniferous woodland planting is frequently used to visually screen holiday parks, although near Monkstone there are areas of young mixed broadleaved woodland.

Natural and cultural heritage designations and records

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.

Natural heritage	SAC, SPA, SSSI NNR, LNR (including Wildlife	The Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC covers 204.7ha of the LCA (11.4%), there is also 8.6ha of SPA designated land (0.5%). There are four SSSI in the LCA which cover 189.3ha (10.5%). There
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	Trust/ RSPB reserves) Ancient woodland	are no NNR or LNRs in the LCA. There are 2 RIGS, covering 4.3ha (0.2%). Ancient woodland amounts to 151.3ha (8.4%)
Cultural heritage	National Park Register of Historic Landscapes Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	There are 36 listed buildings in the LCA. The three Scheduled Monuments collectively cover 6.3ha (0.3% of the LCA). Saundersfoot is a Conservation Area which covers 20.8ha (1.2%) of the LCA. Colby Lodge is a Registered Park and Garden, which covers 14.7ha (0.8%) of the LCA. LCA 1 Saundersfoot settled coast includes 436 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	
Key sensitivities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The enclosed and intimate wooded valleys which are incised into the rolling lowland. To the north-east of Amroth, the landform rises to form rounded hills. ■ The ecological value of the semi-natural coastal habitats, with large tracts of the coast internationally and nationally designated as SAC/SSSI. ■ Ancient woodland which traces the stream valleys as they flow to the coast. ■ The irregular field pattern with some areas of small-scale enclosures. ■ The intimate character of the pastoral landscape which is enclosed by mature hedgerow trees and tall hedgebanks lining lanes. ■ The rich archaeological heritage, including prehistoric defensive enclosures within fields and industrial remains within the stream valleys. ■ The historic value of the parkland / estate around Hean Castle and Coppet Hall. Colby Lodge is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden, nestled amongst woodland in the stream valley to the east of Summerhill. ■ The character and appearance of the Saundersfoot Conservation Area. ■ Attractive views along the coast, including views towards Tenby with the prominent church spire forming a landmark feature. ■ The enclosed and intimate character of the wooded valleys which contrasts with the open, expansive character experienced on the coast.
Overview	<p>Areas characterised by (non-woodland) semi-natural habitats have high sensitivity to tree planting of any scale, especially areas which are designated for nature conservation. Areas which contribute to the setting of important heritage features including Saundersfoot Conservation Area and Colby Lodge Registered Park and Garden will also be more sensitive to woodland creation.</p> <p>Much of the farmland would be sensitive to large-scale woodland creation which would be out of keeping with the existing scale of small-medium scale woodlands and fields. There are opportunities for creation of up to small-medium broadleaved woodlands within the farmed landscape which would contribute to the pastoral/woodland mosaic and landscape structure.</p> <p>The stream valleys within the LCA are already densely wooded and some are characterised by plantation woodlands. They therefore have lower sensitivity to woodland planting, including the long-term restructuring of existing plantations to woodlands and/or creation of new broadleaved woodlands (up to medium scale). Sensitivity to new mixed woodland would be higher, although carefully sited small or small-medium woodlands may be appropriate in the short term to restructure the visual and species diversity of these forests.</p>

Landscape Sensitivity Scores					
Broadleaved woodland					
Small-scale broadleaved woodlands (≤5ha)	Low				
Small-medium scale broadleaved woodlands (>5- 15ha)	Low				
Medium-scale broadleaved woodlands (>15-30ha)		Low-moderate			
Large-scale broadleaved woodlands (>30ha)					High
Mixed woodland					
Small-scale mixed woodlands (≤5ha)				Moderate-high	
Small-medium scale mixed woodlands (>5-15ha)				Moderate-high	
Medium-scale mixed woodlands (>15-30ha)					High
Large-scale mixed woodland (>30ha)					High



View across a caravan park to wooded valley slopes near Amroth Castle



View north-east along coast from Wiseman's Bridge, showing mixed woodland and scrub along coastal cliffs.

Opportunities for future tree and woodland coverage within the LCA

- There are opportunities for the restructuring of existing conifer plantations, removing incongruous blocks and working towards a gradual reversion to a woodland with a high broadleaved content (up to and including medium-scale woodlands).
- Small or small-medium scale broadleaved woodland planting could increase woodland coverage in agricultural land but should adjoin existing woodland and/or hedges in order to avoid masking the irregular field patterns of the pastoral landscape.
- Small-scale broadleaved woodland creation could provide opportunities to increase the connectivity of existing broadleaved woodlands and linear riparian woodland belts in the smaller-scale stream valleys and reinforce their enclosed wooded character.
- Consider the potential for natural regeneration of semi-natural woodland and scrub extending along the watercourses to enhance flood management, water quality, biodiversity and to help prevent soil erosion.
- There are opportunities for new woodland creation/restructuring of existing screening woodland to help integrate camping and caravan sites into the landscape including to the east of Twycross and west of Saundersfoot.
- Consider planting other locally distinctive tree species such as oak in hedgerows to replace diseased mature ash trees.
- Consider the opportunities for the regeneration and extension of traditional orchards using heritage varieties.
- Explore opportunities to restore lengths of hedgerow which have been lost to past agricultural intensification (e.g. east of Summerhill).
- 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.
- Manage invasive species such as rhododendron, particularly around estates where planted specimens have begun colonising surrounding woodlands.

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 stream valleys extending 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 extensive tracts of valued coastal habitats which are internationally/nationally designated as SAC/SSSI.

Field pattern

- Restore and reinforce the pattern of irregular 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.
- 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

- Preserve the agricultural and woodland mosaic character, especially that of the estate landscape and parkland around Hean Castle and Coppet Hall.
- 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 which mostly occur within the valleys of the LCA. 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), and *Phytophthora Ramorum* in larch plantations.

Historic character

- Avoid adversely affecting, directly or indirectly, archaeological features within the landscape including prehistoric enclosures within fields and industrial remains within the stream valleys.
- Protect the character and setting of designated heritage assets including Saundersfoot Conservation Area and Colby Lodge Registered Park and Garden (Grade II).

Visual character

- Conserve the extensive coastal views, particularly from the Wales Coast Path.

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Retain the open character of the agricultural land to the west of Saundersfoot which divides the two sections of the built area and contributes strongly to the local sense of place.
- Enhance the experience for recreational users, ensuring public access is maintained across the network of public rights of way linking the farmland and woodland. Explore new access opportunities as part of woodland creation.



Young planted broadleaved woodland west of Trevayne.



Mixed woodland surrounding the grade II* listed St Issell's Church.