

# LCA 20: Trefin

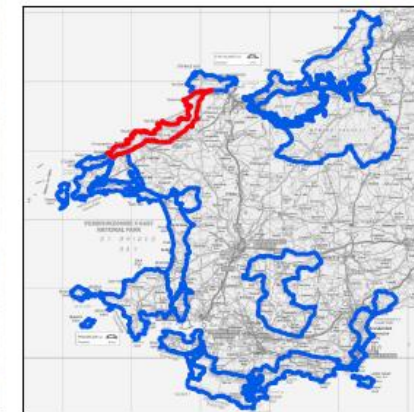
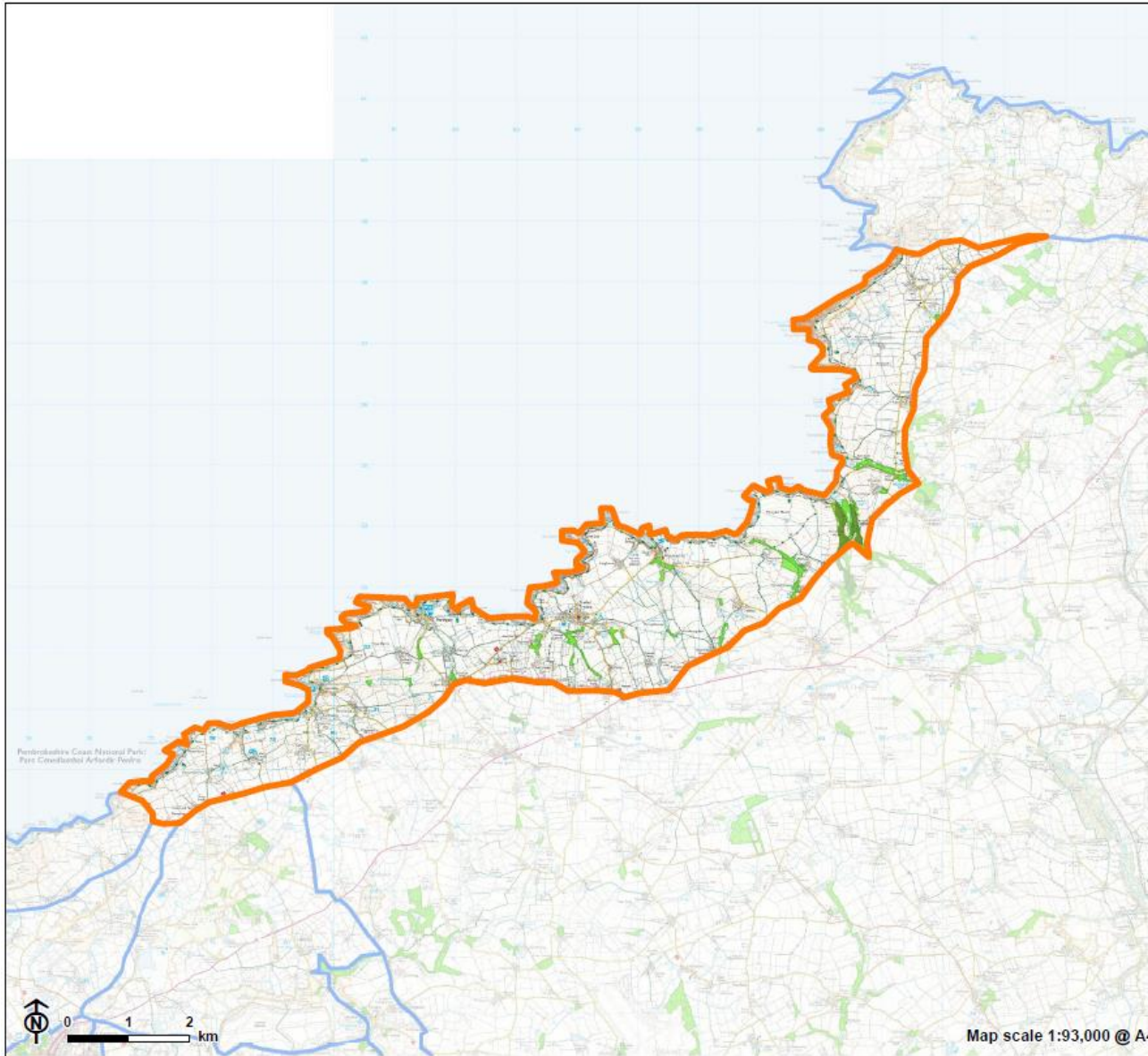
Trees and Woodland Siting and Design Guidance  
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority



## LCA 20 location and existing woodland coverage

- LCA 20: Trefin
- Neighbouring LCA
- Existing Woodland**
  - Ancient woodland
  - National Forest Inventory woodland\*

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



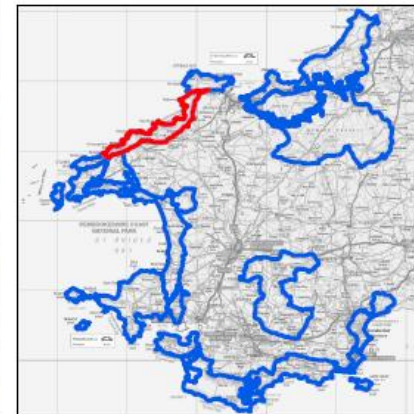
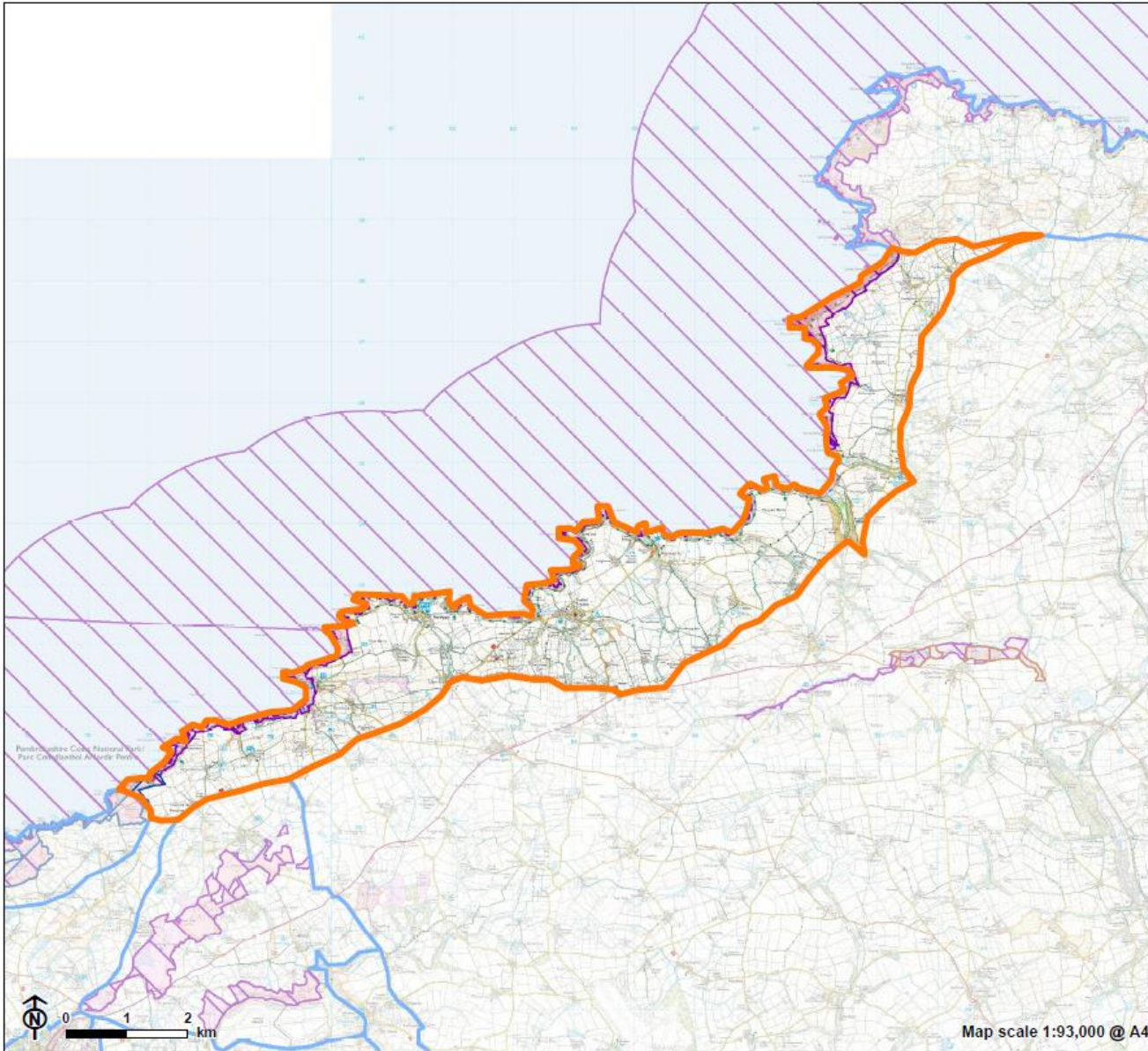
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Source: OS, FC, NRW



LCA 20 nature conservation designations

- LCA 20: Trefin
- Neighbouring LCA
- National Nature Reserve
- Special Protection Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Site of Special Scientific Interest



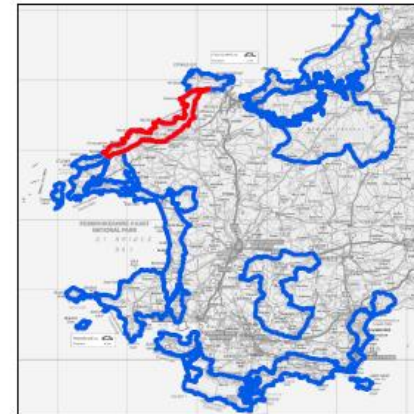
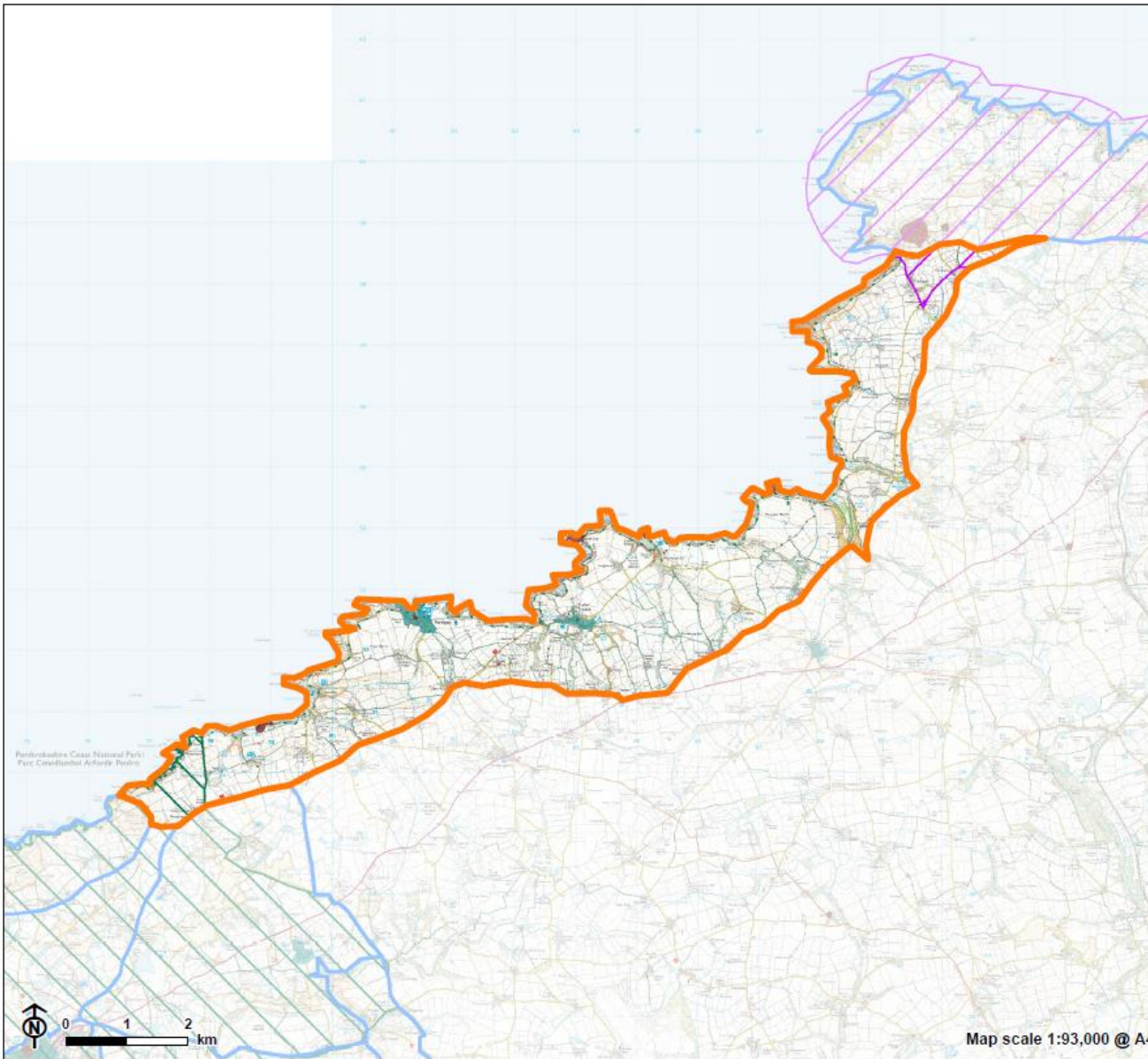
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Source: OS, NRW



### LCA 20 Historic Environment Designations

- LCA 20: Trefin
- Neighbouring LCA
- Outstanding Historic Landscape
- Special Historic Landscape
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area



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Source: OS, Cadw

## Existing woodland coverage within the LCA



View north-east across large-scale pastoral fields towards the sea. Tree cover is limited to occasional low shrubby trees, typically within hedgerows.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is an exposed coastal landscape characterised by open rolling lowland farmland, punctuated by small dispersed woodland clumps. Woodland is limited, particularly along the coast, and comprises only 2.5% of the total land cover, most being broadleaved (91%). Woodlands are generally small scale (less than 5 hectares) with some small-medium woodlands (extending to 15 hectares). Linear woodlands trace the minor stream valleys extending to the coast at Morfa, Abercastle, Trefin and Porthgain. Woodlands are more extensive in the sheltered valleys draining to Aber Bach and Aber Mawr, including the ancient woodland at Pen-yr-allt Wood. The pastoral and arable fields are enclosed by low hedgebanks with bracken and gorse or dry stone walls, with a notable absence of hedgerow trees. Trees are often wind-sculpted and stunted by the exposed coastal conditions.

### 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.*

SAC, SPA, SSSI NNR, LNR (including Wildlife Trust/ RSPB reserves) RIGS Ancient woodland	There are three SAC in the LCA which cover 220 ha (8.2% of the LCA). There are five SSSI in the LCA which cover 160.8 ha (6% of the LCA). There are two RIGS in the LCA which cover 49.7 ha. Ancient woodland amounts to 17.8ha (0.66%).
National Park Register of Historic Landscapes	The 'Pen Caer: Garn Fawr and Stumble Head' and 'St Davids Peninsula and Ramsey Head' Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales cover 6.8% of the LCA.



Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	LCA 20 Trefin includes 333 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.
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**Landscape sensitivity to new woodland planting**

<b>Key sensitivities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The distinctive coastal landforms, including high sea cliffs and inlets.</li> <li>■ The exposed character of the open agricultural landscape, due to the limited woodland and low hedgerows, particularly along the coast.</li> <li>■ Ancient woodland located along the stream valleys, including Pen-yr-allt Wood.</li> <li>■ The coastal habitats of international importance, and nationally important networks of coastal grassland and heathland (including the SSSI at Strumble Head to Llechdafad Cliffs, Arfordir Aberiddi, Aber Mawr and St David's Peninsular).</li> <li>■ Nationally important wetland habitats at Porthydd Moor (SSSI designated for its marshy grassland).</li> <li>■ The pattern of irregular medium-scale fields defined by hedgebanks and dry-stone walls which provide a strong texture to the landscape.</li> <li>■ The outstanding historical value of much of this landscape which includes archaeological sites, (prehistoric and early Christian monuments) and extensive remains relating to the industrial history of the area (lime kilns, stone quarries, workers' cottages, tramways and jetties).</li> <li>■ Small parts of the LCA are within Pen Caer: Garn Fawr and Stumble Head, and St David's Peninsula and Ramsey Head Registered historic landscapes.</li> <li>■ The character and appearance of the Conservation Areas at Porthgain and Trefin.</li> <li>■ The open and exposed character of the landscape along the coast, resulting in extensive views along the coast and out to sea.</li> <li>■ The strong sense of remoteness, particularly along the coast, which is strongly influenced by conditions at sea.</li> </ul>
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<b>Overview</b>	<p>The coastline is highly sensitive to change from any scale of woodland creation, as this would detract from its distinctive landform of dramatic cliffs, and extensive views along the coast and out to sea. Areas of nationally/internationally designated semi-natural habitats are also highly sensitive the impacts of woodland creation.</p> <p>The pastoral farmland would have a lower sensitivity to small or small-medium scale woodland creation - particularly along the stream valleys. Carefully sited broadleaved woodlands of this size could reinforce the existing field pattern and provide an opportunity to extend valley woodlands within the LCA and link to the more extensive woodlands further inland. Medium or large-scale woodlands would be out of keeping with the scale of the existing land cover pattern and are likely to appear incongruous in the mostly open and expansive 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>High</b>
<b>Large-scale broadleaved woodland (&gt;30ha )</b>				<b>High</b>

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

- There are opportunities for small scale woodland clumps and small-medium scale woodlands to create a habitat mosaic within the farmed landscape (linking to valued semi-natural habitats including open marshy grassland, coastal grassland and lowland heathland).
- Small to small-medium scale woodlands and copses should sit within the traditional field pattern, adjoining existing field boundaries in order to avoid masking the irregular field patterns defined by hedgebanks and dry stone walls.
- There are opportunities for the creation of wood pasture to integrate more trees into the agricultural landscape.
- Woodland creation (up to small-medium size) could provide opportunities to increase the connectivity of existing broadleaved woodlands and extend linear woodlands located along the stream valleys at Morfa, Abercastle, Trefin and Porthgain and the more extensive woodlands above Aber Bach and Aber Mawr.
- Woodland planting (up to small-medium size) could also provide increased connectivity with woodland in adjacent inland landscapes (e.g. Granston and Gilfach Wood north of Mathry) to improve habitat connectivity and contribute to nature recovery networks.
- 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.
- Site new small-scale woodlands to screen small-scale tourism developments, such as the Pwll Caerog Caravan site or tourist infrastructure (such as car parks) and integrate these within the existing pattern of woodland distribution and land-use.
- There are opportunities to regenerate traditional hedgebanks and plant new hedgerow trees in more sheltered locations, to increase habitat connectivity across the farmed landscape and reinforce the landscape pattern.
- 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

- Avoid obscuring the distinctive landforms along the coastline with its rocky cliffs and occasional jagged rocky outcrops, punctuated by sheltered inlets and coves.
- Design woodland to align along existing contours and undulations of the landscape, such as the enclosed stream valleys running to the coast at Morfa, Abercastle, Trefin and Porthgain.

### Landcover (including semi-natural habitats)

- Avoid adversely affecting existing areas of non-woodland semi-natural habitats, directly or indirectly, and encourage a diversity of habitat networks. This includes the grassland and heathland habitats along the coastal strip (including the SSSI at Strumble Head to Llechdafad Cliffs, Arfordir Aberidddi, Aber Mawr and St David's Peninsular) and smaller areas of wetland habitats (marshy grassland and fens) in the stream valleys.

### Field pattern

- Conserve and regenerate existing hedgebank and hedgerow field boundaries. Avoid masking dry-stone wall boundaries that are a characteristic feature of this LCA.
- Plant hedgerow trees in more sheltered locations. Spacing between trees should be irregular.

### Existing tree and woodland character

- Conserve and enhance existing semi-natural broadleaved woodlands and trees in the agricultural landscape, including field boundaries, to improve connectivity and strengthen the landscape framework.
- Conserve and enhance existing woodlands through coppicing to ensure a mixed age and diversity of native tree species.
- Protect, and where appropriate, extend and link existing woodland along the minor watercourses.
- Protect areas of ancient woodland at Pen-yr-allt Wood. 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), acute oak decline, bronze birch borer.

#### Historic character

- Avoid adversely affecting, directly or indirectly, the numerous archaeological remains, including a chambered tomb, Bronze Age round barrows, Iron Age hill forts, and Early Christian monuments. These features should be kept open, and scrub/secondary woodland removed.
- Avoid adversely affecting the rich industrial heritage of the area, particularly the lime kilns, Pilots House and harbour at the small commercial port of Porthgain, as well as earlier slate quarrying related structures.

#### Visual character

- Conserve the extensive views from the tall cliff tops along the coast and out to sea, including from the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. When designing and siting woodland, ensure that it does not detract from these views or views to the coast from the adjoining farmland.

#### Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Conserve the open and exposed character of the coastal landscape by avoiding new tree and woodland planting in this area.
- Explore potential for new access opportunities linked to new woodland creation.



View west across rolling farmland towards Trefin, with woodland at Commins Mawr to the south-east of the settlement.



Woodland associated with Tregwynt Farm, with fields on the coastal plateau visible beyond.