

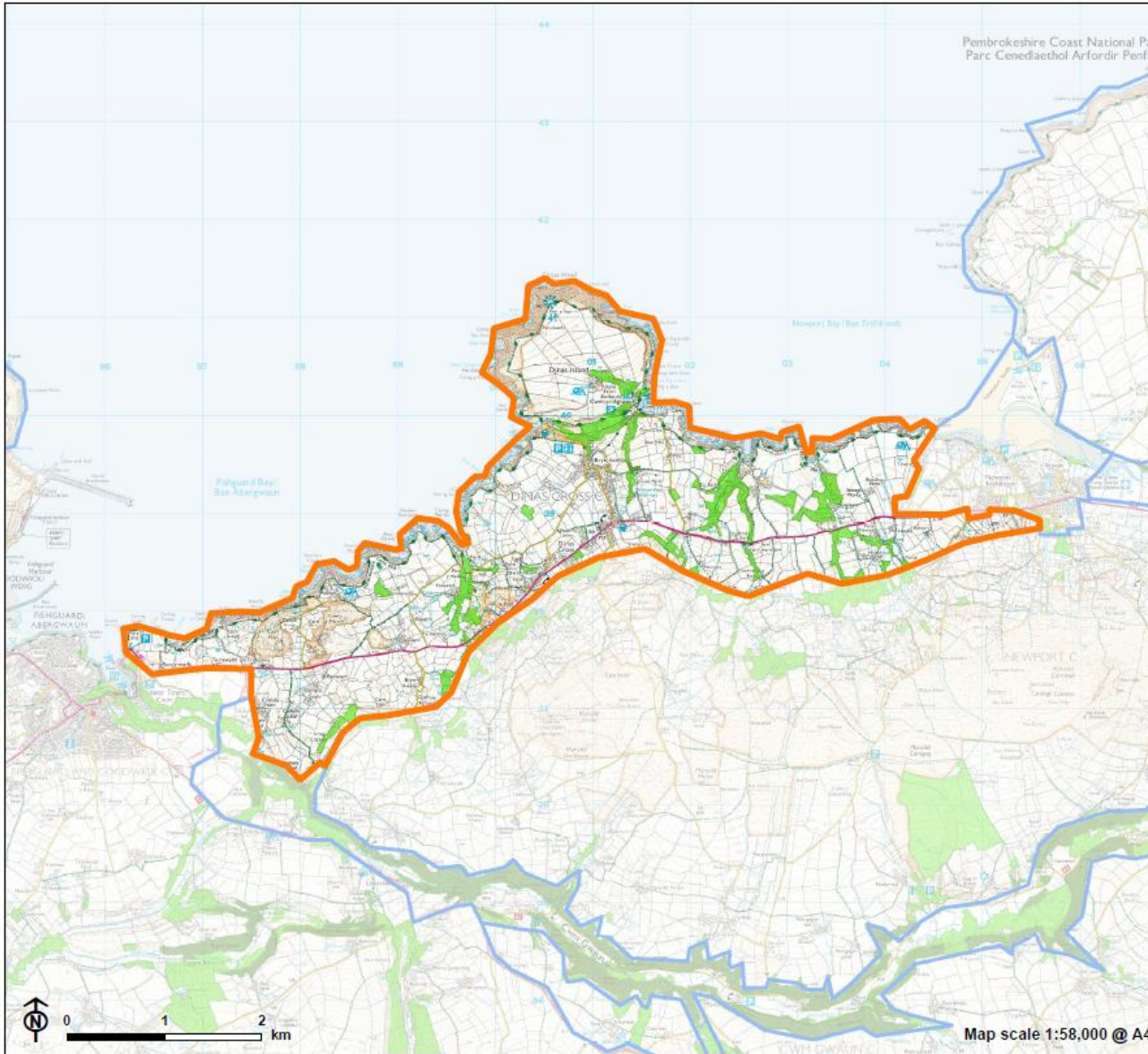
# LCA 24: Dinas Head

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

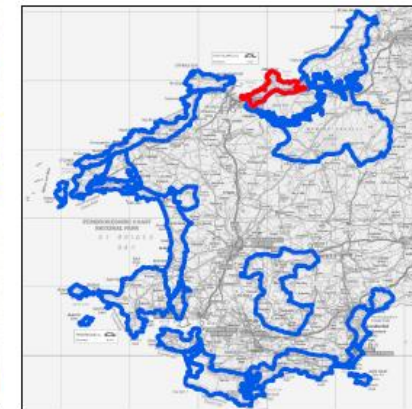


## LCA 24 location and existing woodland coverage

- LCA 24: Dinas Head
- Neighbouring LCA
- Existing Woodland**
- Ancient woodland
- National Forest Inventory woodland\*



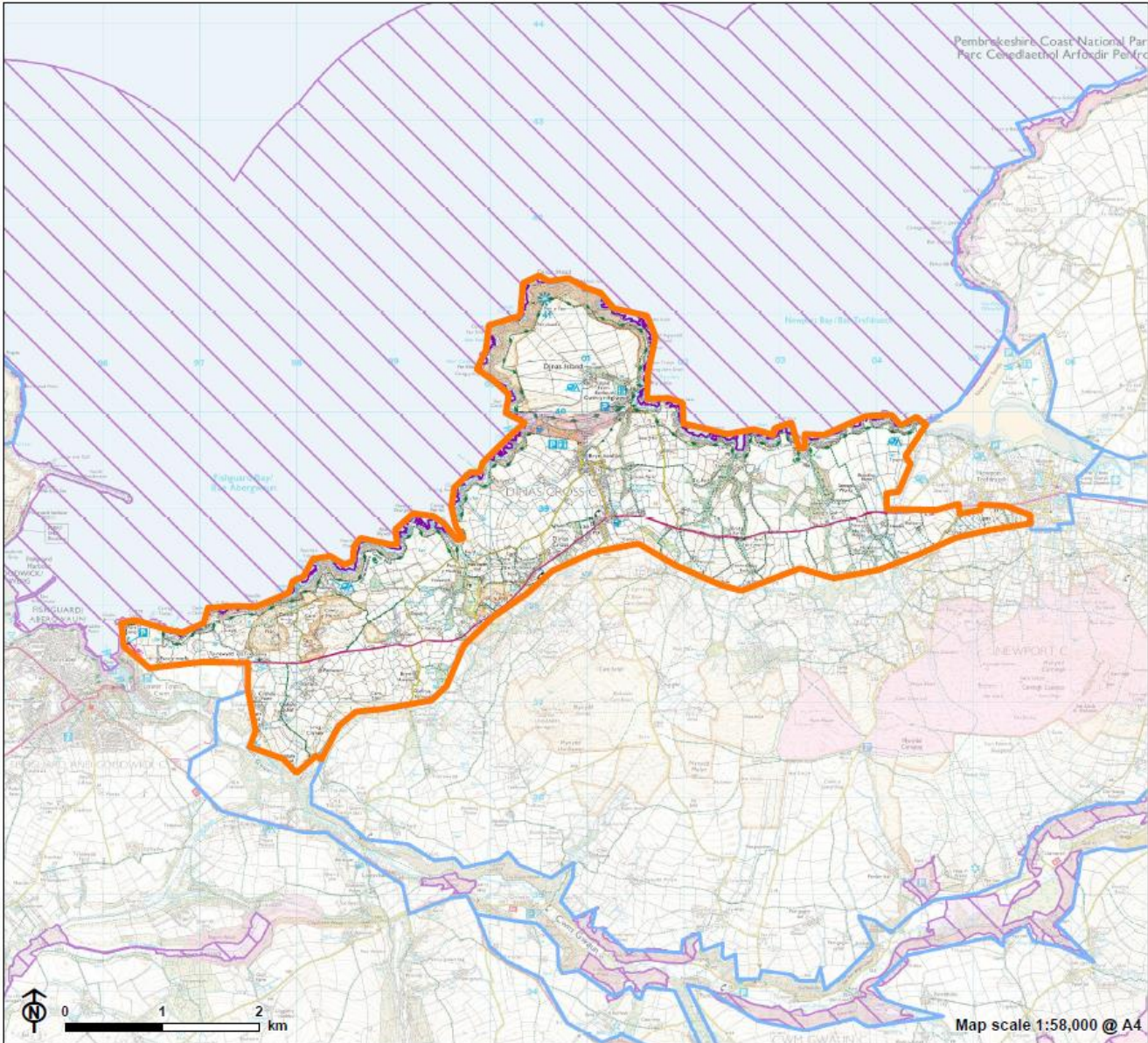
\*The NFI definition of woodland is a minimum area of 0.5 hectares







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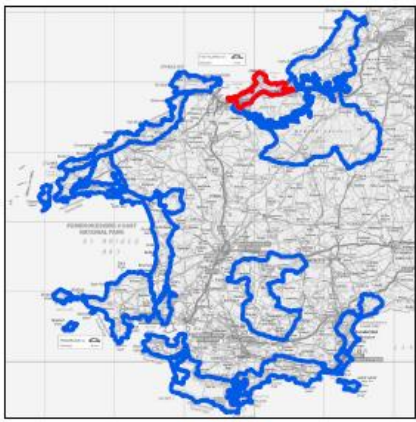
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 Source: OS, FC, NRW





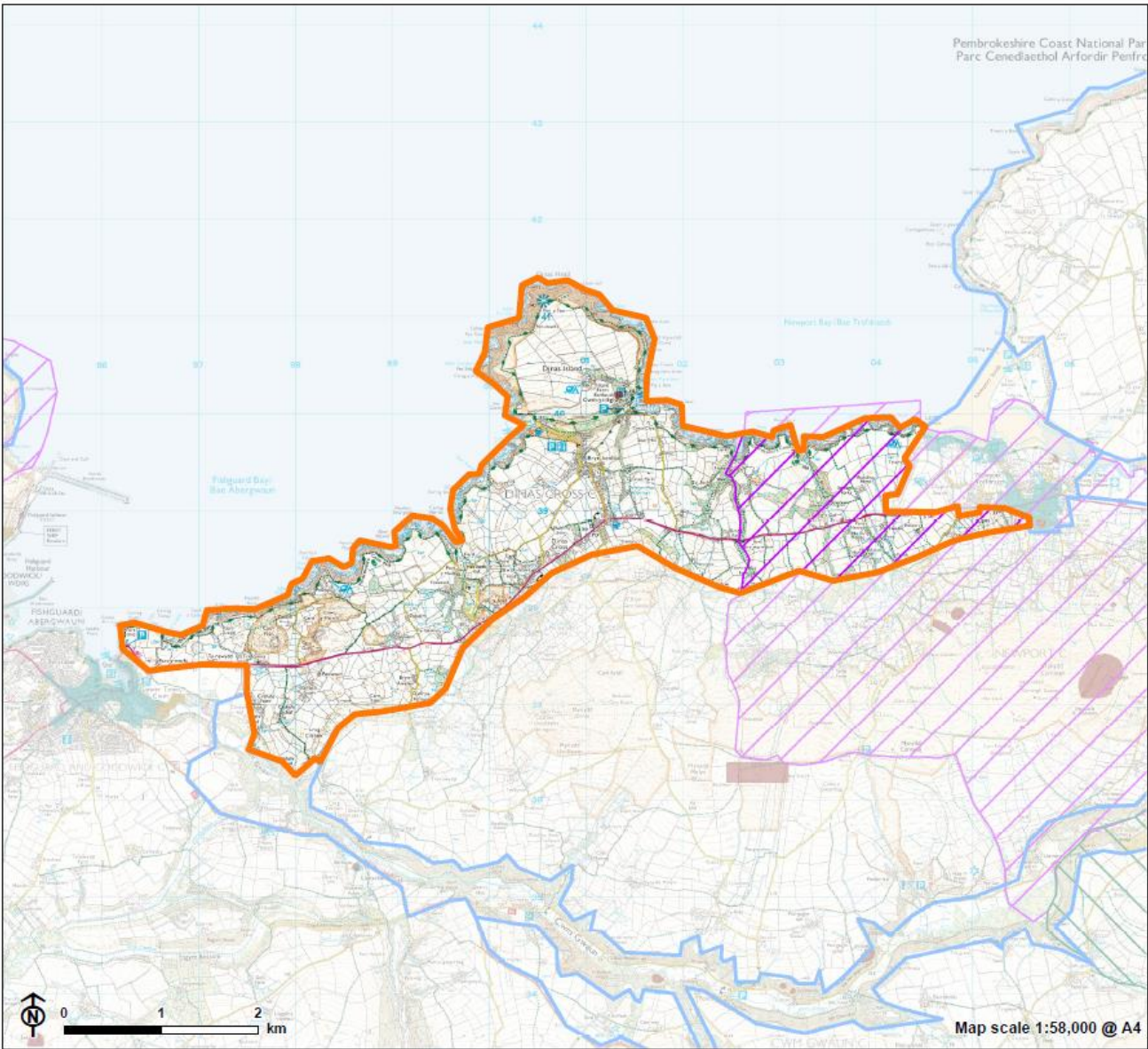
LCA 24 nature conservation designations

-  LCA 24: Dinas Head
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest



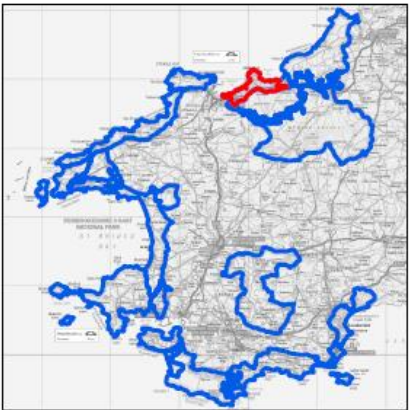
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 Source: OS, NRW





LCA 24 Historic Environment Designations

- LCA 24: Dinas Head
- 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 hedgerow-bound grassland fields towards Dinas Head.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is characterised by gently rolling agricultural farmland lying along the north Pembrokeshire coast, with a prominent headland at Dinas Head. Woodland comprises 6.4% of the total land cover, the majority of which (92.5%) is broadleaved species. Linear woodlands characterise the sheltered stream valleys running to coastal inlets as well as the Cwm-yr-Eglwys valley (a former glacial meltwater channel which is designated as the Cwm Dewi SSSI) which separates Dinas Island from the mainland. The stream valley woodlands are small-medium in size (under 15 hectares). Away from the coast, the improved pasture fields are enclosed by traditional hedgebanks with some mature hedgerow trees (predominantly sycamore, willow and ash) and tree clumps, resulting in a well-wooded landscape. Small woodland clumps mark springs in the open farmland and surround farmhouses and the scattered settlements.

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 Trust/ RSPB reserves) Ancient woodland	The West Wales Marine SAC covers 40ha (2.9% of the LCA). There are two SSSI in the LCA which cover 22.9 ha (1.6%). Ancient woodland amounts to just 0.78ha (0.06%)..
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Cultural heritage	National Park Register of Historic Landscapes  Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	The Newport and Carningli Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales covers 21.3% of the LCA.  LCA 24 Dinas Head includes 278 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 steep-sided stream valleys, including the wooded Cwm-yr-Eglwys valley (designated as an SSSI for its geological qualities) which incise the rolling farmland.</li> <li>■ The distinctive coastal landforms including rugged cliffs and pebble beaches, which provide a strong sense of place.</li> <li>■ The naturalistic character along the coastal strip, with coastal grassland and lowland heathland.</li> <li>■ The predominantly pastoral character of the agricultural landscape interspersed with unenclosed hilltops (such as at Carn Fran and Carn Gelli) with heathland, purple moor grass meadows, and scrub.</li> <li>■ The small-medium scale fields enclosed by traditional hedgebanks, and mature hedgerow trees that are important in creating landscape pattern.</li> <li>■ The area's strong historic and cultural sense of place which is reflected its inclusion within the Newport and Carningli Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest, with prehistoric remains of national importance, such as the burial tomb at Cerrig-y-Gof and the Ty-Meini standing stone.</li> <li>■ Long views along the coast to Newport Bay and Fishguard Bay and south to the distinctive form of Mynydd Carningli.</li> <li>■ The landscape's open and rural character, with perceptual qualities influenced by conditions at sea. The strong sense of place and history, particularly at Dinas Head.</li> </ul>
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<b>Overview</b>	<p>The coastal area is highly sensitive to woodland creation as this would detract from the intricate coastline of cliffs and bays, valued open coastal habitats and long views. The open areas of common land, on hills found amongst the farmed landscape also have higher sensitivity to woodland planting due to their concentration of semi-natural habitats.</p> <p>The eastern part of the LCA lies within the Newport and Carningli Registered Landscape of Special Historic 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>Existing woodland in the LCA is concentrated in the incised valleys and these areas would be less sensitive to smaller scale woodland creation (up to small-medium) which could extend existing woodlands into the agricultural landscape to form a mosaic of pastoral farmland and woodland habitats.</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</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

- Small and small-medium scale woodland creation could also provide opportunities to increase the connectivity of existing broadleaved woodlands in the steep-sided stream valleys and reinforce their enclosed wooded character.
- Extend existing woodland and establish new planting (up to and including small-medium scale woodlands) around the numerous springs and watercourses that flow to the coast. This would benefit water quality downstream, reduce agricultural run-off and to help prevent soil erosion.
- This is well settled landscape and there are also opportunities to plant woodlands of up to small-medium scale to screen existing or proposed development to minimise their visual impact.
- Small scale woodlands offer the opportunity to create a habitat mosaic within the farmed landscape – linking to other valued areas of semi-natural habitat such as coastal grassland and heathland.
- There are opportunities for the creation of wood pasture to integrate more trees into the agricultural landscape.
- There are opportunities to plant small scale woodlands to screen car parks, caravan parks and campsites to minimise their visual impact.
- There are opportunities to regenerate traditional hedgebanks and plant new hedgerow trees 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.
- Provide links to woodland in adjacent landscapes (e.g. LCA 12: Mynydd Carningli) to improve habitat connectivity and contribute to Nature Recovery Networks.
- 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 of steep rugged cliffs around the exposed headland at Dinas Head.
- Avoid the loss or damage of significant geological or geomorphological features, particularly the Cwm Dewi SSSI.
- 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.

### Landcover (including semi-natural habitats)

- Avoid adversely affecting existing areas of non-woodland semi-natural habitats, directly or indirectly, and consider new woodland in the context of other opportunities for nature recovery. This includes coastal grassland, lowland heath and dense scrub along the coast, open heathland located on open hills and lowland fens and reedbeds in the stream valleys.

### Field pattern

- Restore and reinforce the existing pattern of small pastoral fields by conserving and regenerating existing hedgerow boundaries and traditional hedgebanks. Promote less intensive management of traditional hedgebanks.
- There is opportunity to recreate field boundaries which have been lost through intensification in the past century, particularly on Dinas Head.
- Conserve existing mature hedgerow trees and encourage the planting of further (climate-resilient) specimens, to ensure the future presence of these valued landscape features.

### 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, to provide habitat networks and ecosystem services including flood prevention and reducing agricultural run-off.

- 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 cultural heritage of the area, which is designated as part of the Newport and Carningli Registered Historic Landscape, for its numerous archaeological remains (including the Ty-Meini standing stone and the Neolithic tomb at Cerrig y Gof) and the Medieval church on Dinas Island. Consider the impact of woodland creation on the setting and legibility of these historic features.

#### Visual Character

- Conserve the extensive coastal views, particularly from the Wales Coast Path/Pembrokeshire Coast Path to Newport Bay and Fishguard Bay. When designing and siting woodland, ensure that it does not obscure these important views which provide a distinct sense of place.

#### Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Preserve the distinctive open character of the coastal areas of the LCA.
- 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 and exposed parts of the LCA along the coast.



Wooded coastal slopes in the valley at Pwllgwaelod



Woodland clothes the valley slopes, meeting the sea at Cwm-yr-Egwlys beach.