

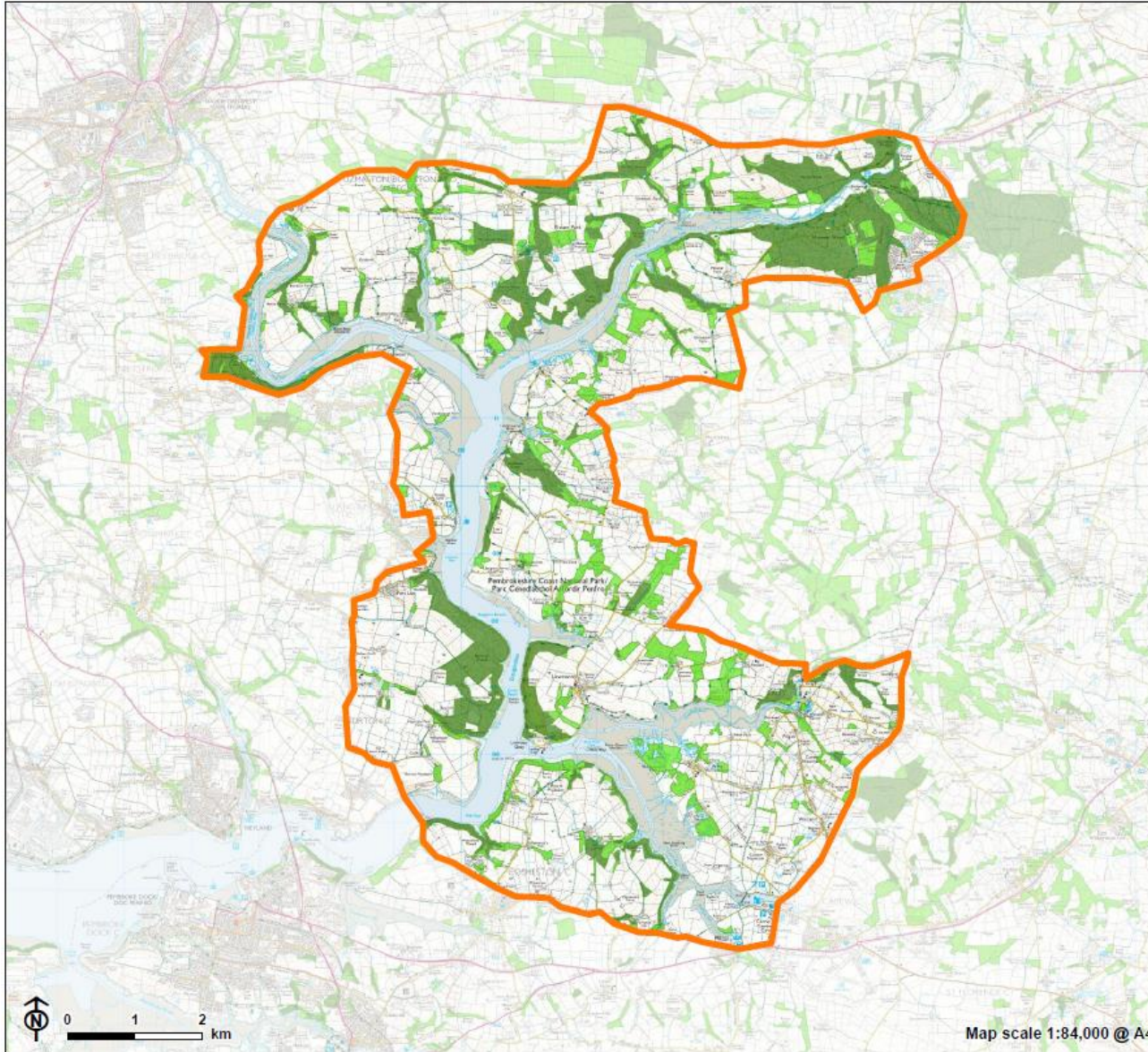
LCA 28: Daugleddau

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

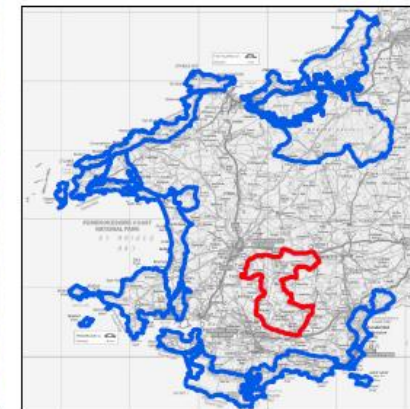


LCA 28 location and existing woodland coverage

- LCA 28: Daugleddau
- Neighbouring LCA
- Existing Woodland**
- Ancient woodland
- National Forest Inventory woodland*

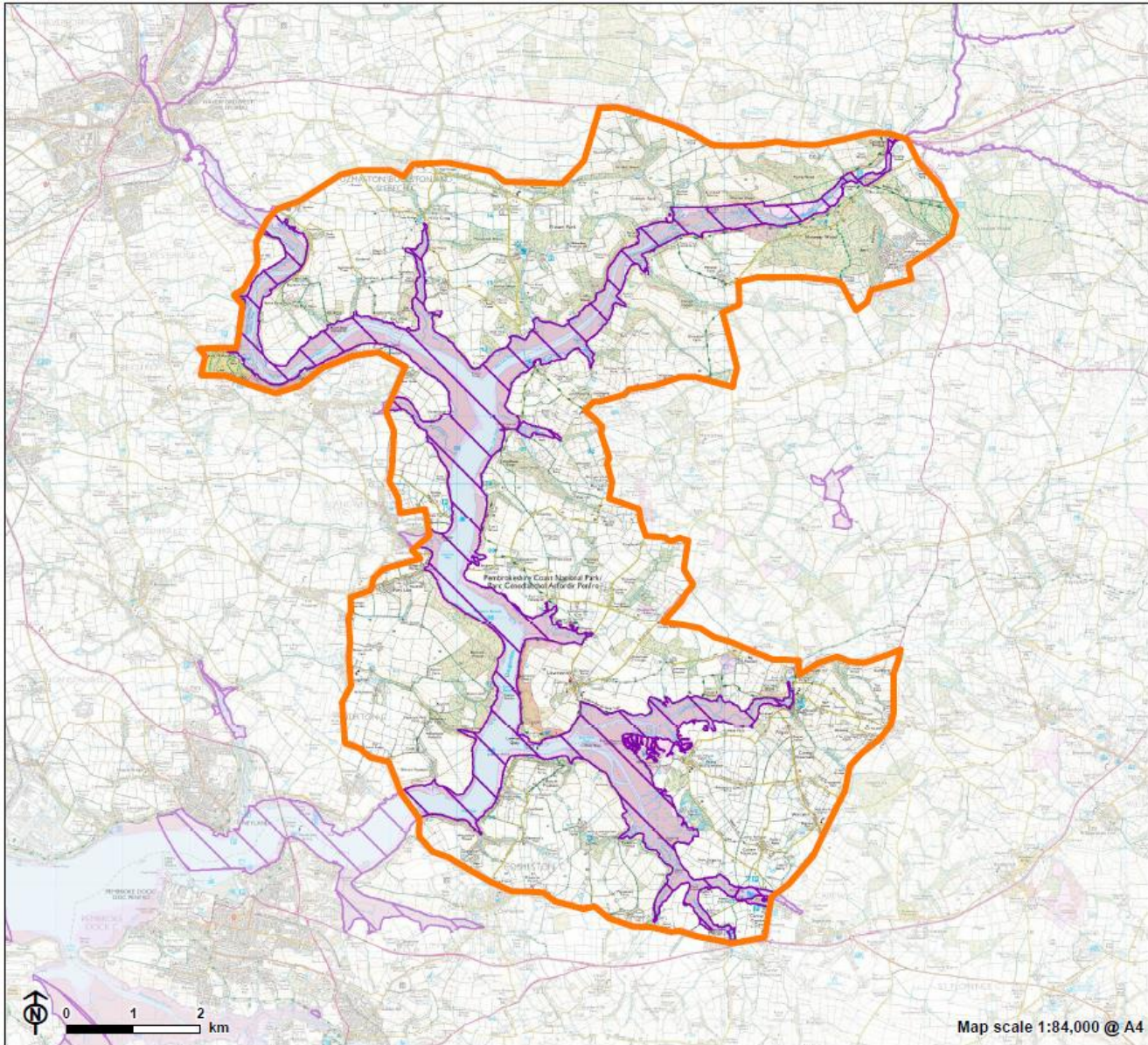


*The NFI definition of woodland is a minimum area of 0.5 hectares



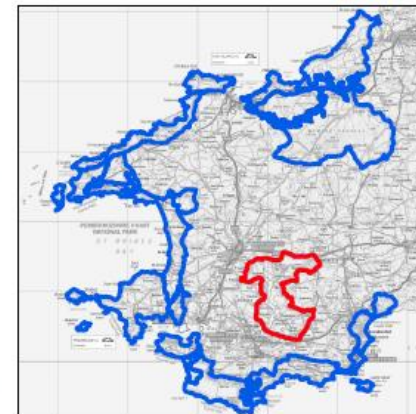
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Source: OS, FC, NRW



LCA 28 nature conservation designations

-  LCA 28: Daugleddau
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest



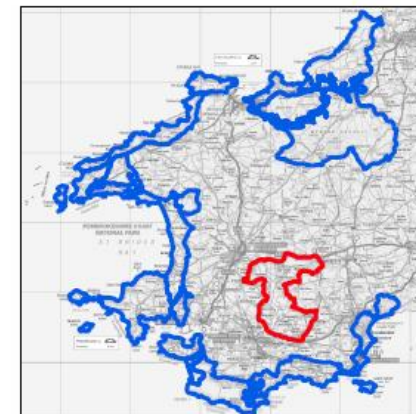
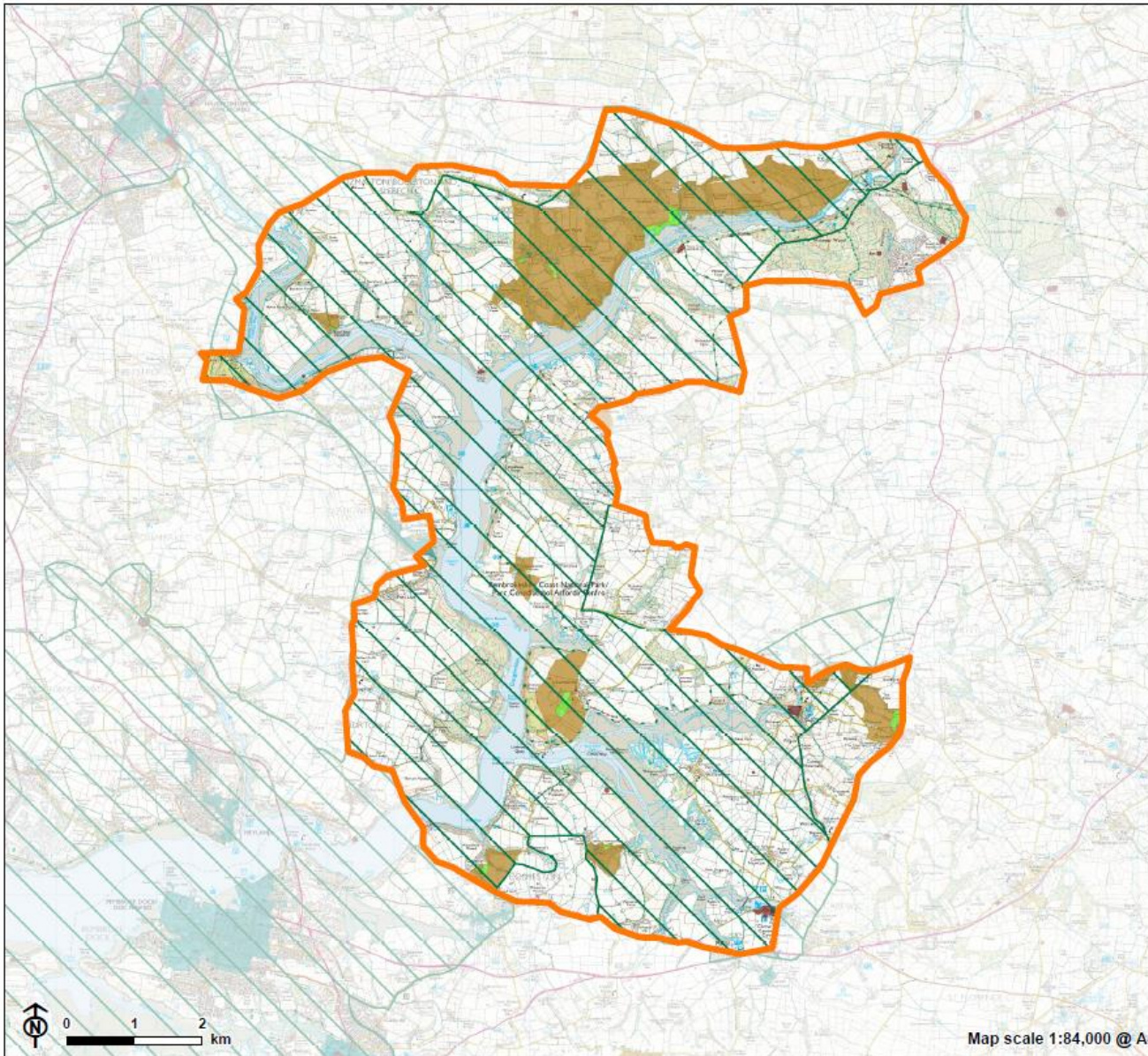
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 Source: OS, NRW

Map scale 1:84,000 @ A4

LCA 28 Historic Environment Designations

- LCA 28: Daugleddau
- Neighbouring LCA
- Outstanding Historic Landscape
- Gardens and Kitchen Gardens
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area



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Source: OS, Cadw

Existing woodland coverage within the LCA



Wooded stream valley and Moorlands Wood, south of Millin Cross.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) consists of the upper reaches of the Daugleddau Estuary, framed by steep wooded banks and surrounded by gently rolling farmland. Woodland comprises 19.7% of the total land cover, the majority of which (62.9%) is broadleaved but with 31.6% mixed or coniferous woodland. Woodlands (mostly deciduous oak woodland) extend along the steep banks of the main estuary and the network of rivers, pills and creeks which branch off it. Woodlands vary in size across the LCA, from small, scattered copses to large mixed plantations. Some plantations are extensive, such as Benton Wood on the Daugleddau River, or Minwear Wood and Pickle Wood on the Eastern Cleddau River, all of which are over 50 hectares. These plantations are often softened by deciduous woodland on their boundaries. The farmland is characterised by pastoral fields enclosed by overgrown hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees (often oaks) and small, wooded copses. Historic riverside parklands, such as Picton Castle, are also well wooded with veteran specimen trees (including conifers).

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) RIGs Ancient woodland	There are three SAC within the LCA which cover 1303.8 ha (18.2% of the LCA). There are seven SSSI in the LCA which cover 1044.1 ha (14.6%). There are 11 RIGs which cover 2.9 ha. Ancient woodland amounts to 898 ha (12.5%).
Cultural heritage	National Park Register of Historic Landscapes Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	The Milford Haven Waterway Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales covers 86.8% of the LCA. There are eight Registered Historic Parks and Gardens within the LCA (Boulston Old Hall, Coedcanlas, Cosheston Hall, Cresselly, Lawrenny, Picton Castle, Slebech Park, Upton Castle) which collectively cover 344.56 ha (4.8%) of the LCA.

		LCA 28 Daugleddau includes 1016 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

Key sensitivities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An intimate scale landscape of gently rolling farmland and woodland incised by the meandering tributaries, numerous pills and creeks which branch off the main estuary channel. ■ The strong landscape mosaic of parkland and wooded pastoral farmland with irregularly shaped, often small, fields. ■ Nationally important estuarine habitats, including intertidal mudflats, marshes and reed beds. designated as the Milford Haven Waterway SSSI and Pembrokeshire Marine SAC. ■ The landscape’s valued semi-natural oak woodlands and small areas of wet woodland (especially in the upper reaches of the estuary), much of which is ancient in origin. ■ Nationally significant historic features spanning from prehistory to modern times (including Bronze Age barrows, Iron Age promontory forts, standing stones, historic riverside parklands, industrial archaeology and defensive features) designated as part of the Milford Haven Waterway Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest. ■ The views across and along the rivers which open up in the wooded landscape, particularly from shorelines villages and hamlets. ■ The strong sense of place in this tranquil and well cared-for wooded farmland and parkland landscape.
Overview	<p>The scale and extent of existing woodland cover means that sensitivity to broadleaf woodland planting (up to medium scale) is low or low-moderate, particularly along the steep banks above the estuary and its tributaries or within the agricultural landscape. However, the special qualities of this estuarine landscape, including its intimate scale, extensive semi-natural habitats and its historic character are all sensitive to change from woodland planting and this means that the design and location of woodland should be carefully considered, and the capacity of the landscape to accommodate further woodland is likely to be limited.</p> <p>Woodland creation at a large scale would need to be carefully managed so that it is not detrimental to the special qualities of the landscape and to avoid cumulative change to the baseline character with its mosaic of wooded farmland, parkland and open estuarine habitats.</p> <p>Large-scale broadleaved woodland creation would not be out of keeping with the existing landscape character if planted as part of the long-term restructuring of existing coniferous plantations. Mixed woodland planting (up to small-medium-scale) may be appropriate in the short term to restructure the visual and species diversity of these forests, although native riparian woodland should be concentrated along tributary valleys.</p> <p>Areas of semi-natural estuarine habitats (designated as the Milford Haven Waterway SSSI and Pembrokeshire Marine SAC) are highly sensitive to the impacts of woodland creation of any scale. The historic parkland landscapes are also highly sensitivity to change from medium or large-scale woodland creation which could alter the character of these designed landscapes.</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)			Moderate		

Mixed woodland					
Small-scale mixed woodlands (≤5ha)			Moderate		
Small-medium scale mixed woodlands (>5-15ha)			Moderate		
Medium-scale mixed woodlands (>15-30ha)				Moderate-high	
Large-scale mixed woodlands (>30ha)					High

Opportunities for future tree and woodland coverage within the LCA

- There are opportunities for the restructuring of existing woodlands, where the naturalistic character has been altered through conifer planting, to woodlands that contain a higher broadleaf content,
- A gradual reversion to broadleaved woodland (up to and including large scale woodlands) is particularly important where woodlands occupy visually prominent positions on the valley sides (e.g. Benton Wood, Pickle Wood).
- Native woodland conversion should be prioritised for coniferous plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWs) as they often retain ancient woodland remnants and consequently produce more diverse native woodland when restored. (e.g. Benton Wood, Minwear Wood, Pickle Wood and Canaston Wood).
- Woodland planting (up to and including medium scale woodland) could strengthen existing landscape character if designed as linear woodlands located along the contours of slopes above the estuary and main river valleys.
- Smaller scale woodlands (up to small-medium scale) could increase connectivity along the smaller tributary valleys, extending existing riparian woodlands.
- Consider the potential for semi-natural woodland and scrub extending along the courses of rivers and tributaries in order to enhance flood management, water quality, biodiversity and to help prevent soil erosion.
- Small to medium scale woodland planting could increase woodland coverage in the agricultural land but should adjoin existing woodland and/or hedges in order to avoid masking historic field patterns.
- There are opportunities for the creation of wood pasture to integrate more trees into the agricultural landscape.
- There are opportunities to regenerate traditional hedgerows and plant new (climate resistant) hedgerow trees to increase habitat connectivity across the farmed landscape and reinforce the landscape pattern.
- Maintain the character of historic parkland through systematic re-planting of woodland and specimen trees to ensure continuity of tree cover.
- Consider the opportunities for the regeneration and extension of traditional orchards using heritage varieties.
- There are opportunities to use woodlands (up to and including medium-scale) to screen development within or outside the boundaries of the National Park (such as the Oakwood Theme Park or development extending from Pembroke Dock). This would also benefit the setting of heritage features in the landscape and views across and along the rivers and estuary.
- 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 estuary/ river valleys and narrow tributary valleys.

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 habitat restoration, such as valued estuarine habitats

which are designated as part of the Milford Haven Waterway SSSI and Pembrokeshire Marine SAC.

Field pattern

- Restore and reinforce the historic pattern of small irregular fields by conserving and reinstating traditional hedgerow field boundaries. Promote less intensive management of traditional hedgerows.
- Conserve existing hedgerow trees and plant new ones where absent or to avoid senescence. Spacing between trees should be irregular.

Existing tree and woodland character

- Protect and enhance the extensive areas of ancient woodland across the character area, and buffer ancient woodland by establishing fringing areas and encourage natural regeneration.
- Facilitate restorations of Plantations on Ancient Woodlands (PAWs), planting with locally native species.
- Actively manage existing semi-natural broadleaved woodlands and trees in the landscape, including field boundaries, to maintain canopy cover and the wooded character of the landscape.
- Encourage natural regeneration to extend woodland coverage along the valleys, enhancing their roles in flood management and reducing diffuse pollution from agriculture.
- Encourage a diverse range of native species to build resilience to the impact of pathogens, pests and diseases, e.g. *Phytophthora* (sudden larch death), *Chalara* (ash dieback), acute oak decline, bronze birch borer.

Historic character

- Avoid adversely affecting, directly or indirectly, the rich cultural heritage of the area, which is designated as the Milford Haven Waterway Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest, for its numerous archaeological remains (including Bronze Age barrows, Iron Age promontory forts, standing stones), its historic riverside parklands, industrial archaeology and defensive features.

Visual character

- Conserve existing views from the shoreline across and along the rivers. When designing and siting woodland, ensure that it does not obscure these important views.

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- The extensive woodlands along the Daugleddau Estuary represent a substantial recreational resource within the National Park. Explore potential for new access opportunities linked to new woodland creation or restoration, ensuring public access is maintained across the network of forest roads and public rights of way along the estuary.
- 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 estuarine landscapes.



Wooded valley slopes of the River Cresswell at Creswell Quay.



Many of the lanes within the LCA are enclosed by mature trees on either side, creating a 'tunnel' effect.