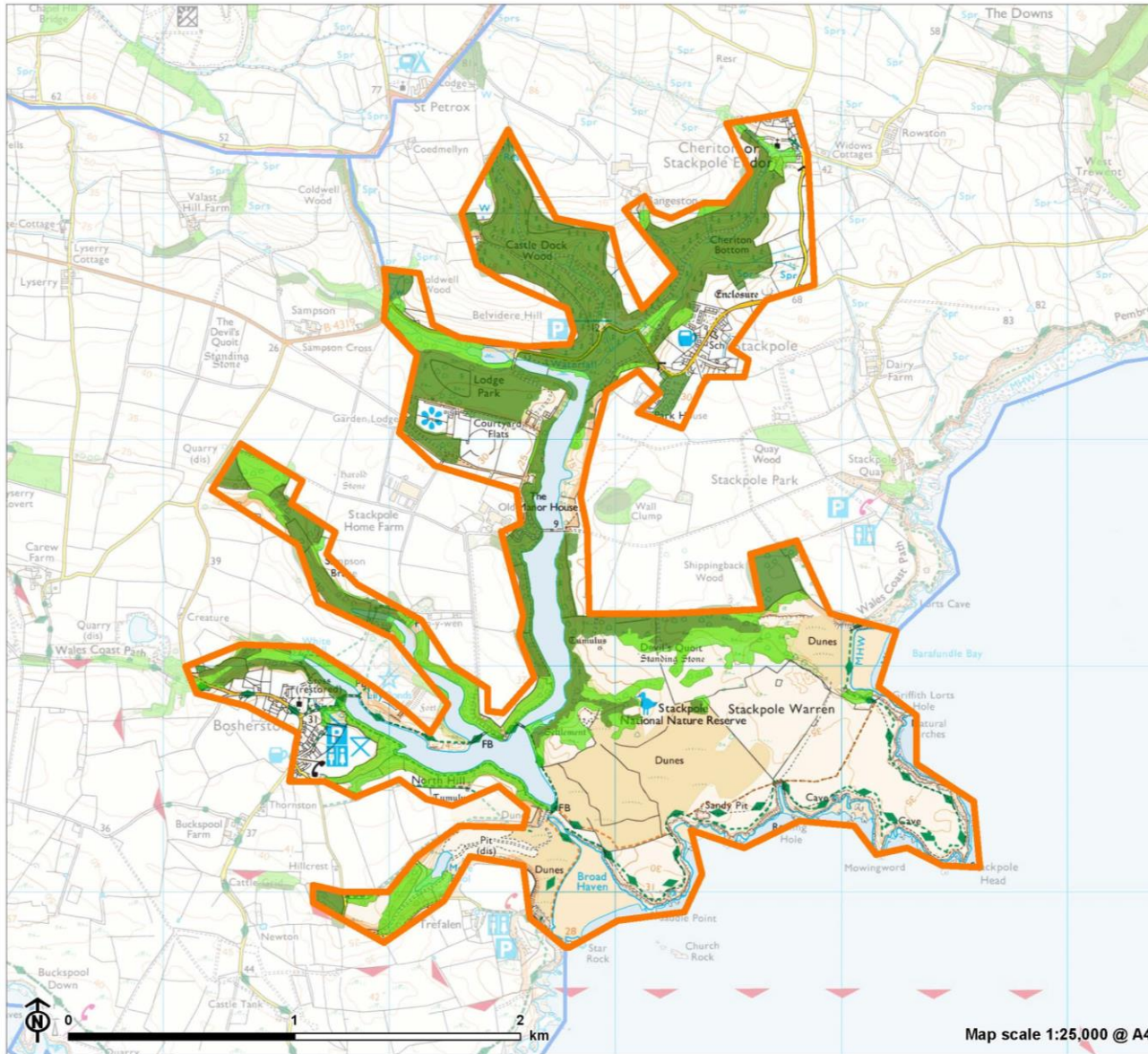


# LCA 5: Stackpole



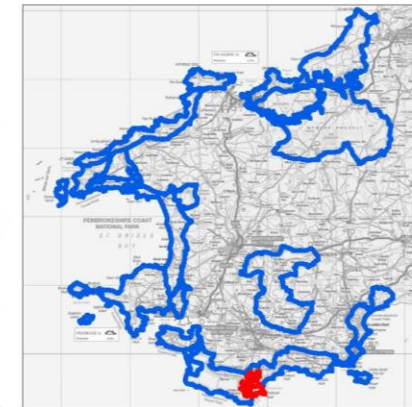
Trees and Woodland Siting and Design Guidance  
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority



LCA 5 location and existing woodland coverage

- LCA 5: Stackpole
- Neighbouring LCA
- Existing Woodland**
- Ancient woodland
- National Forest Inventory woodland\*

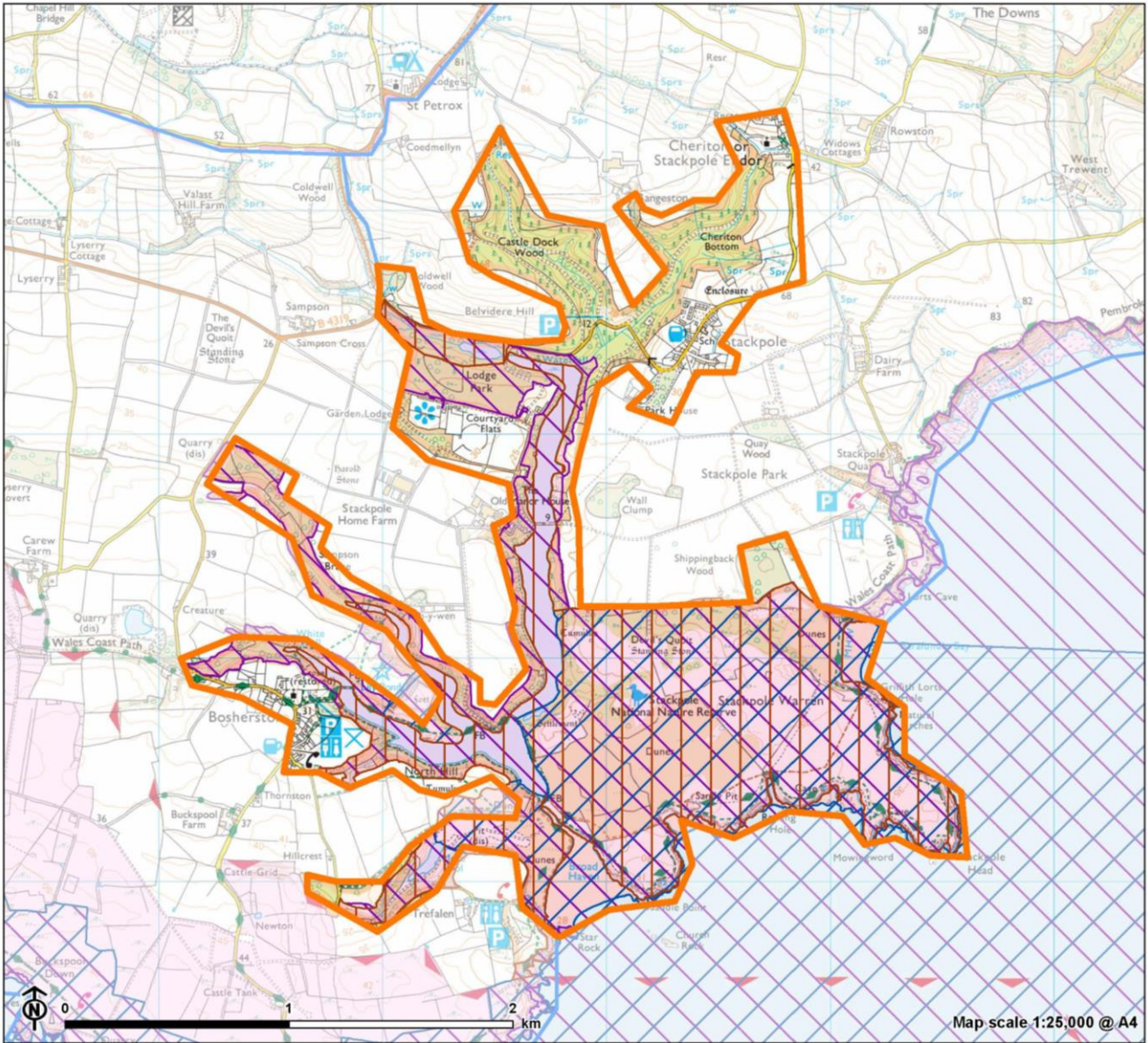
\*The NFI definition of woodland is a minimum area of 0.5 hectares



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Source: OS, FC, NRW





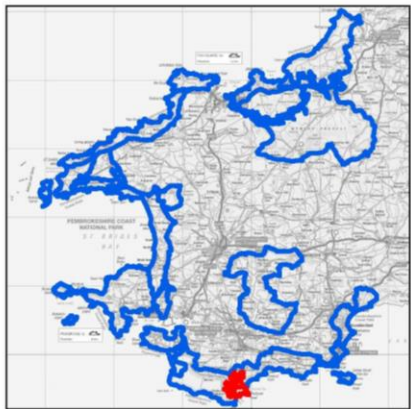
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 Source: OS, NRW

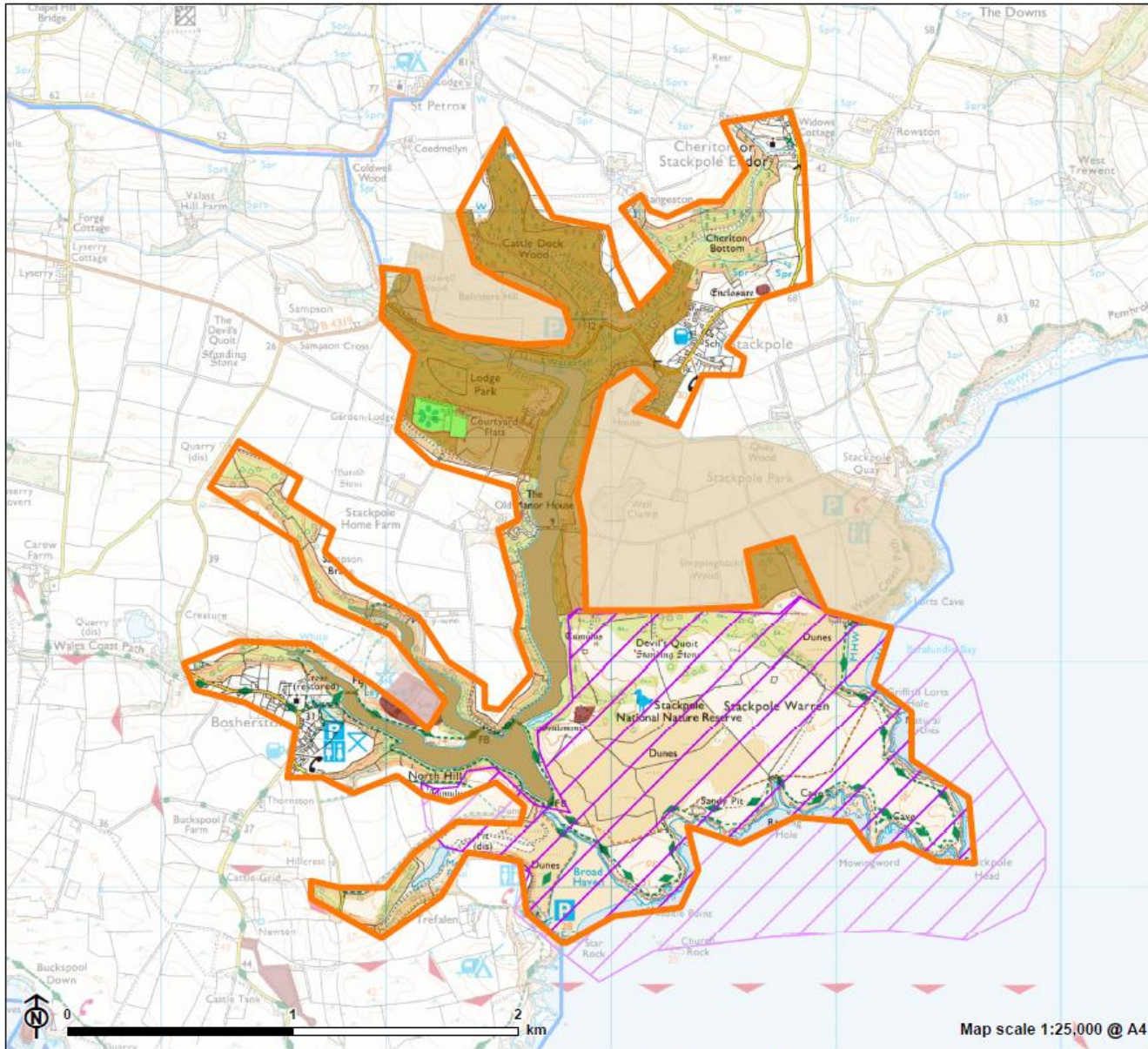


LCA 5 nature conservation designations

-  LCA 5: Stackpole
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  National Nature Reserve
-  Special Protection Area
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest





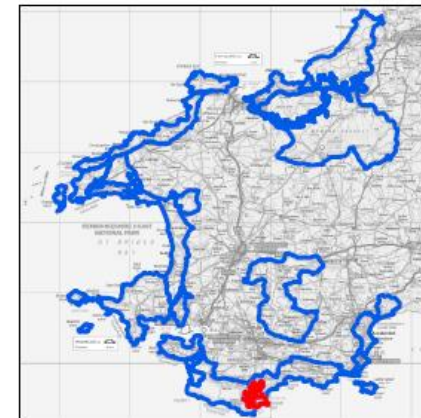


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**LCA 5 Historic Environment Designations**

- LCA 5: Stackpole
- Neighbouring LCA
- Special Historic Landscape
- Gardens and Kitchen Gardens
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monument



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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



View across the Lily Ponds with broadleaved woodland enclosing the valley slopes.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is characterised by a branching lowland river valley with associated lagoons, coastal dunes, sandy beaches and low sea cliffs as it meets the coast. Woodland comprises 34% of the total land cover, the majority of which (74%) is broadleaved. 19.6% of the woodland is coniferous. Coniferous woodland occurs in the northern valleys of the LCA at Castle Dock Wood and Cheriton Bottom including the remains of western hemlock plantations. These plantations are often on the site of ancient woodland and in places contain regenerating broadleaved species. The valleys closer to the coast and Lodge Park are dominated by lowland deciduous woodland which frames the lagoons. Much of the woodland within the valleys is ancient. Dominant species include beech, oak, ash, horse chestnut and sycamore, whilst some alder and willow line inland streams. Woodland and trees are less frequent in the southern parts of the LCA around Stackpole Warren and the coast. There is some successional woodland located to the north of the dunes. The LCA contains small amounts of pastoral agricultural land with fields enclosed by a mix of low hedges, post and wire fences and walls. Hedgerow species include hawthorn, blackthorn, sycamore and ash. There are occasional wind-sculpted hedgerow trees within the boundaries (mostly ash).

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	<p>SAC, SPA, SSSI</p> <p>NNR, LNR (including Wildlife Trust/ RSPB reserves)</p> <p>Ancient woodland</p>	<p>The Limestone Coast of South West Wales SAC covers 308.6ha (63.8% of the LCA). There are also 9.3ha of SPA designated land (1.9%).</p> <p>There are five SSSI in the LCA which cover 298.3ha (61.7%).</p> <p>Stackpole NNR covers 225.8ha (46.7%) of the LCA.</p> <p>Ancient woodland amounts to 113.6ha (0.2%).</p>

		There are two RIGS sites covering 42.8ha (8.9%) of the LCA.
Cultural heritage	National Park Register of Historic Landscapes Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	Stackpole Warren is a Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales and covers 196.5ha (40.6%) of the LCA. There are 23 listed buildings in the LCA. There are four Scheduled Monuments, which cover 2.2ha (0.5% of the LCA) Stackpole Court is a Registered Park and Garden, which covers 111.8ha (23.1%) of the LCA. LCA Stackpole includes 305 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

<b>Key sensitivities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The enclosed, intimate valley landscape which opens out as it reaches the sand dunes and coast in the south of the LCA.</li> <li>■ A mosaic of habitats demonstrating succession from the coast to inland. Significant areas of the landscape are internationally/nationally designated as SAC/SSSI/NNR for nature conservation.</li> <li>■ The upper reaches of the valleys are clothed in woodland with a large amount of ancient woodland.</li> <li>■ The nationally important historic and archaeological features including prehistoric forts and hut circles. Much of the valley system is part of the Grade I Registered Park and Garden of Stackpole Court.</li> <li>■ Stackpole Warren Special Historic Landscape includes the southern part of the LCA.</li> <li>■ Scenic beaches with distinctive coastal views. Undeveloped skylines which are open and expansive at the coast, transitioning to wooded in the valleys.</li> <li>■ The tranquil and naturalistic qualities of the area and the strong historic sense of place.</li> </ul>
<b>Overview</b>	<p>Stackpole Warren has high sensitivity to woodland creation due to the internationally important semi-natural sand dune habitats and the well-preserved nationally important archaeological remains. Opportunities in this part of the LCA are limited to extending the existing successional woodland, although this would need to be carefully managed so that it is not detrimental to other special qualities of the landscape.</p> <p>Sensitivity to woodland planting within the valleys is reduced due to the extensive woodland cover already present in these parts of the LCA. There are opportunities to extend or restructure these woodlands, however this would need to respect the historic character of the landscape and its past alteration, particularly those areas within the Stackpole Court Registered Park and Garden (Grade I) and/or Stackpole Warren Special Historic Landscape.</p> <p>Landscape sensitivity to all scales of mixed woodland for this LCA is high.</p>

### Landscape Sensitivity Scores

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

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

- There are opportunities for the restructuring of existing woodlands to improve climate change resilience by increasing age and species diversity. This includes the conifer plantations at Castle Dock Wood and Cheriton Bottom which would be gradually reverted to mixed woodland through the removal of overmature remnant plantation trees. This would allow the regeneration of areas of former ancient woodland.
- The existing successional woodland at Stackpole Warren could be extended through natural regeneration. However, this potential is limited and would need to be carefully managed to ensure that new areas of successional woodland do not adversely affect the special qualities of this part of the LCA, including the internationally important successional sand dune habitats (designated SAC/SSSI/NNR) and preserved archaeological remains.
- New small or small-medium woodland planting linking the extensive areas of ancient woodland in the LCA to woodlands in adjacent LCAs could provide improved connectivity for the benefit of landscape structure and the provision of ecosystem services including flood management, water quality and biodiversity.
- There are opportunities to improve the scenic quality of woodlands (e.g. valleys to the north of Bosherton) and access in order to attract visitors away from the delicate dune system.
- Site new woodland to ensure that the risk of water pollution incidents is kept to a minimum and conserve the sandy beaches at Broad Haven and Barafundle Bay.
- 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 form of the sand dunes at Stackpole Warren.
- Design woodland to reflect the small-scale and intimate valley landform.

### 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 internationally and nationally designated rocky and sandy shores, sand dunes, dune grassland and a small amount of heathland.
- Successional habitats (including secondary woodland) on the sand dunes should be conserved and potentially extended if natural and cultural heritage constraints allow.

### Field pattern

- Restore and reinforce the existing pattern of small pastoral fields in the fringing agricultural land by conserving and regenerating existing hedgerow boundaries and hedgebanks.
- 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 mature ash trees in hedgerows, replacing the mature trees with other locally distinctive species such as oak.

### Existing tree and woodland character

- Explore the restructuring of existing woodlands, particularly regenerating broadleaved woodland on the plantations at Castle Dock Wood and Cheriton Bottom, to increase the species and age diversity and increase resilience of the woodlands to climate change.
- Conserve and restore existing semi-natural broadleaved woodlands and trees in the landscape, including wind-sculpted trees within field boundaries, to improve connectivity and strengthen the landscape framework.
- Protect the extensive areas of ancient woodland on the valley sides. Explore opportunities to link these to woodlands in adjacent landscapes to improve habitat connectivity. 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.



### Historic character

- Avoid adversely affecting, directly or indirectly, the rich cultural heritage of the area, including archaeological remains (e.g. on Stackpole Warren and the prehistoric earthwork to the north of Stackpole). These features should be kept open, and scrub/secondary woodland removed.
- Avoid adversely affecting designated historic landscapes directly or indirectly including the Stackpole Court Grade I Registered Park and Garden and Stackpole Warren Special Historic Landscape which encompasses a large part of the LCA. Views of the lakes and woodland from the Manor House (Grade II listed) are noted as a feature of Stackpole Court.

### Visual character

- Conserve the extensive coastal views in the southern part of the LCA, particularly from the Wales Coast Path/Pembrokeshire Coast Path. When designing and siting woodland, ensure that it does not obscure these important views.

### Perceptual and scenic qualities

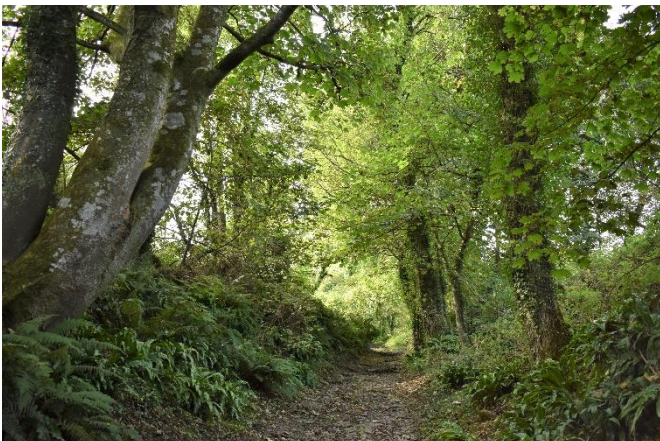
- Conserve the distinctive character of Stackpole Warren and its strong sense of place.
- Enhance the experience for recreational users, ensuring public access is maintained across the network of public rights of way throughout the valley. Explore the potential for new access within woodlands to reduce recreation pressure on the sand dunes.



View south across pastoral fields enclosed by woodland to the south of Stackpole.



View south through Caroline Grove, an area of mixed woodland on the site of ancient semi-natural woodland, situated in the north of the LCA.



View east down an incised footpath connection Bosherton to the Lily Ponds.



View north across pasture fields near Stackpole, showing conifer plantation in the valley following Cheriton Bottom.