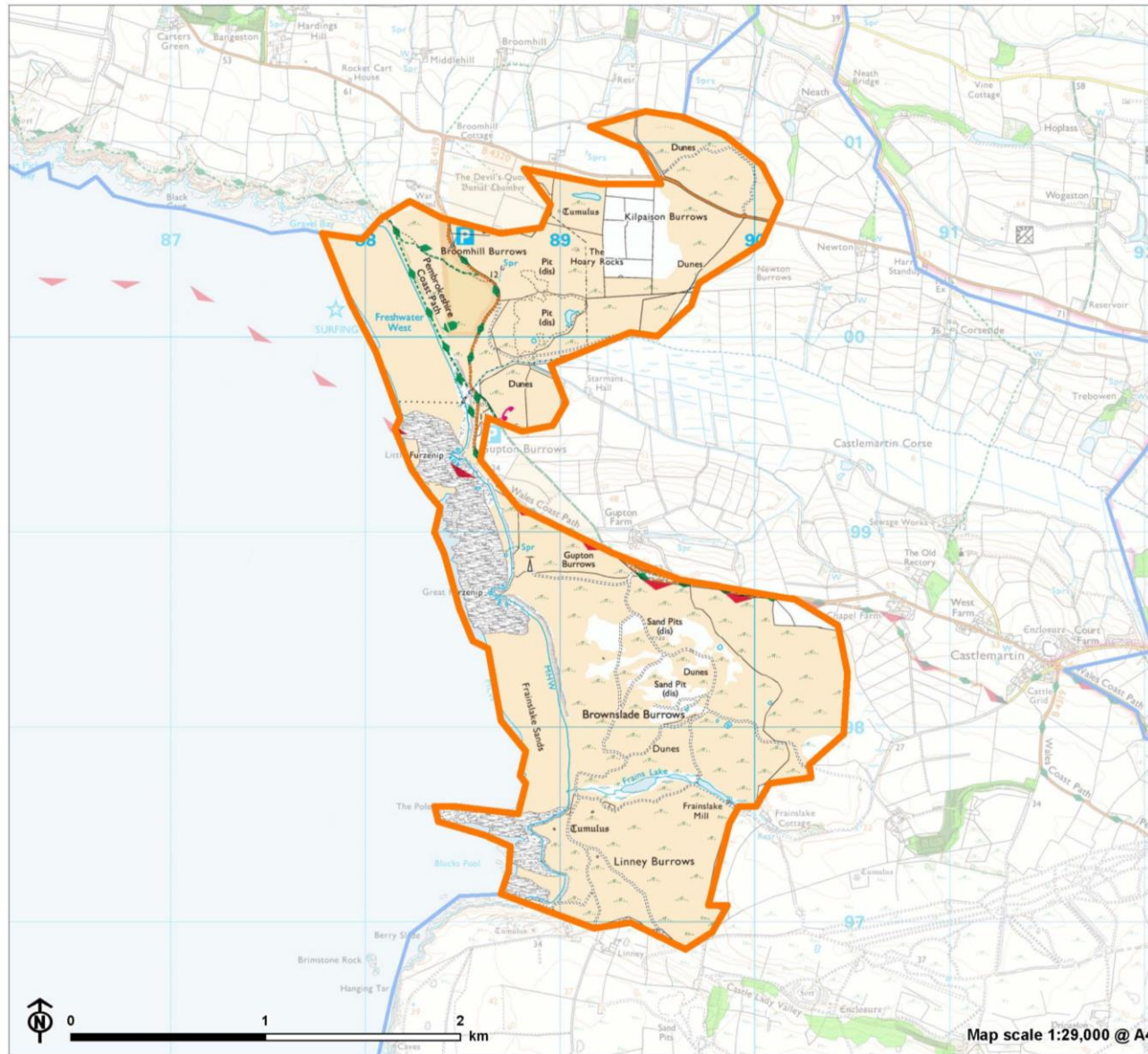


## LCA 8: Freshwater West/Brownslade Burrows



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



LCA 8 location and existing woodland coverage

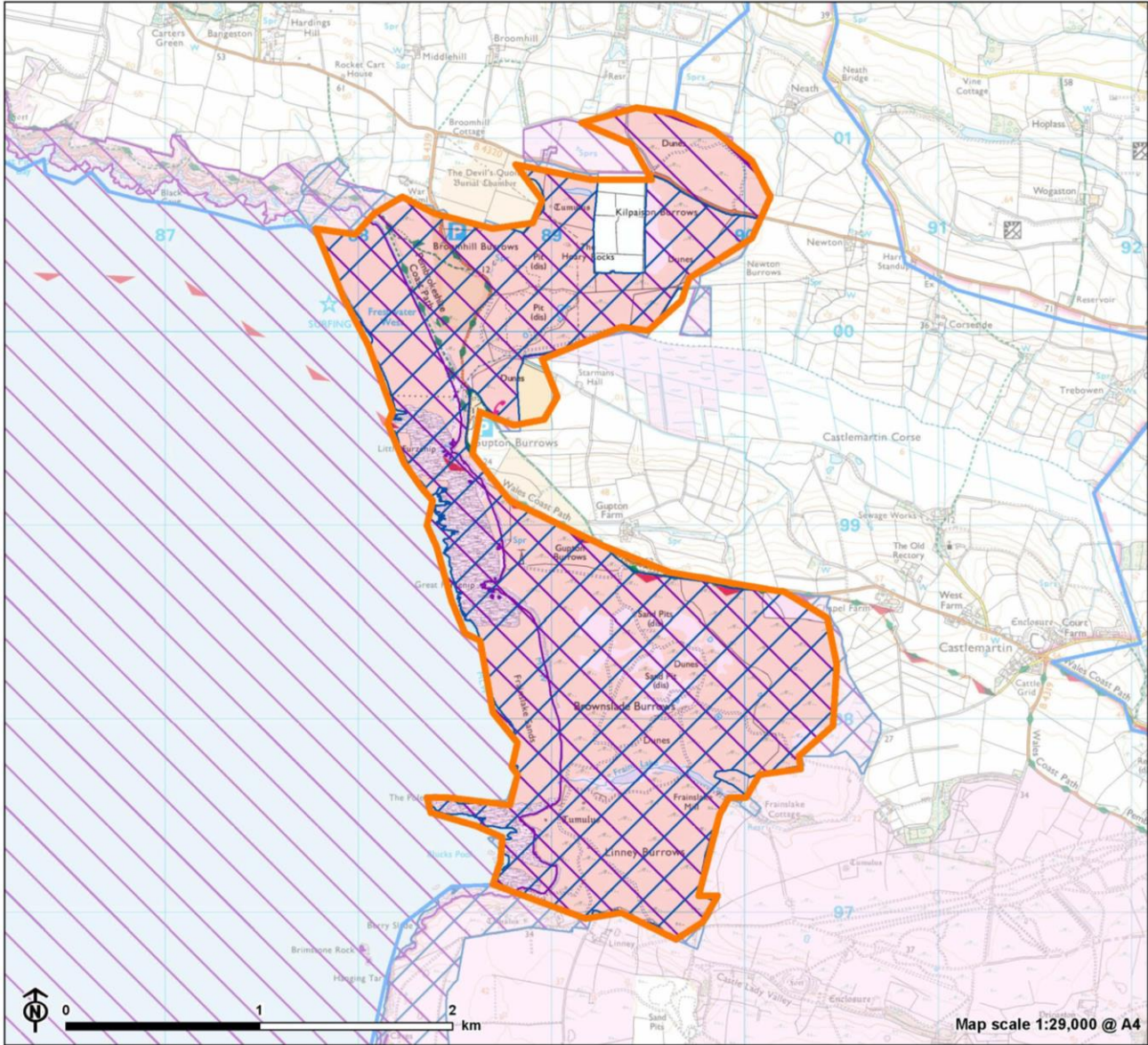
- LCA 8: Freshwater West/Brownslade Burrow
- Neighbouring LCA
- Existing Woodland**
- Ancient woodland
- National Forest Inventory woodland\*

\*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

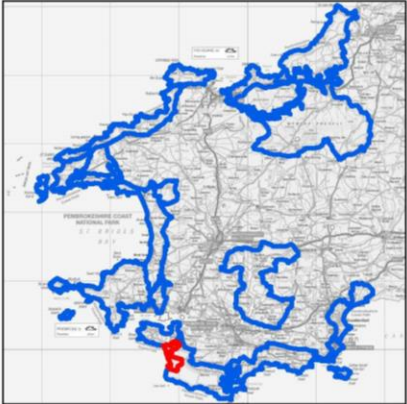


Trees and Woodland Siting and Design Guidance  
 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority



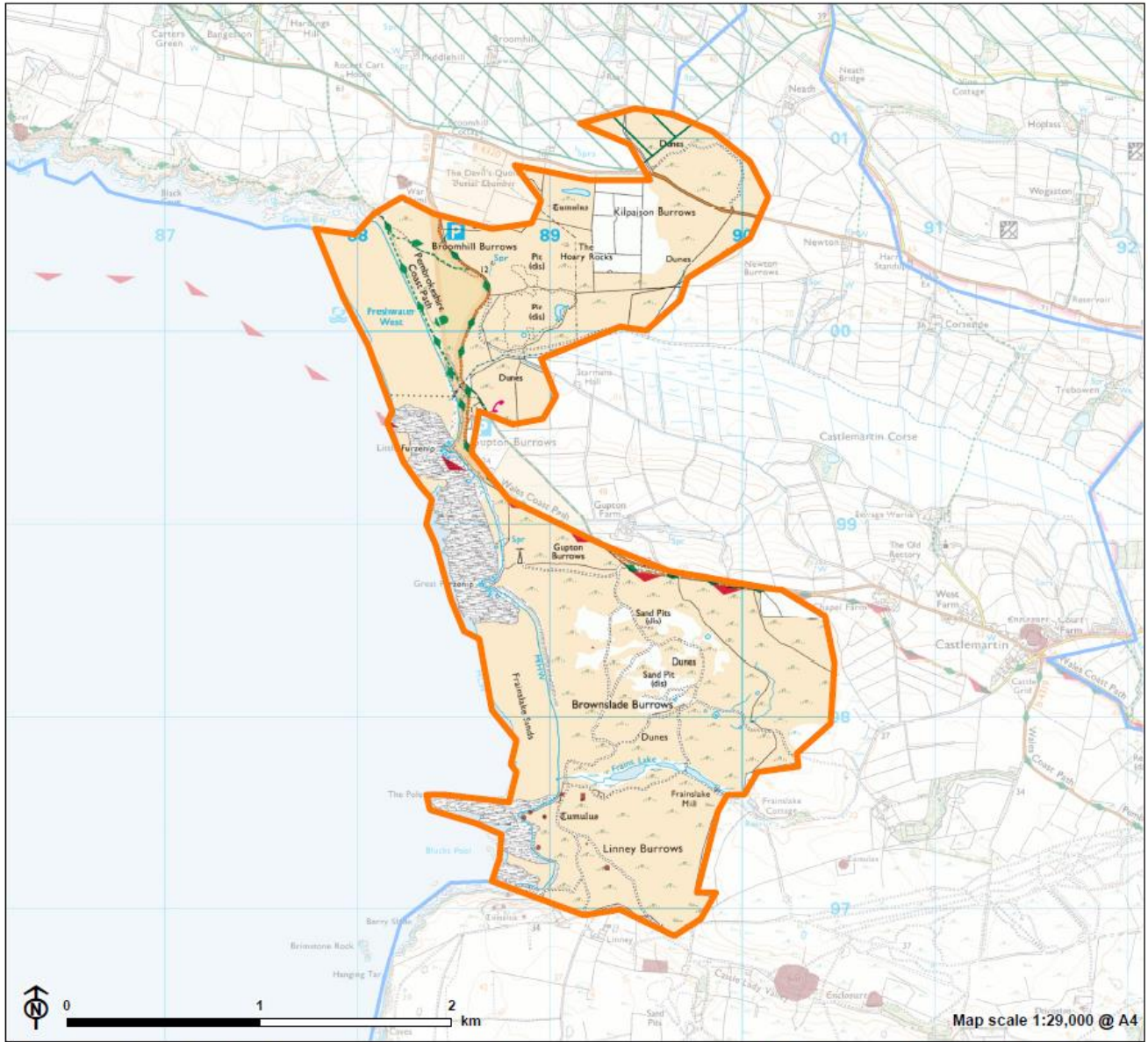
LCA 8 nature conservation designations

-  LCA 8: Freshwater West/Brownslade Burrow
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  Special Protection Area
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest



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 Source: OS, NRW



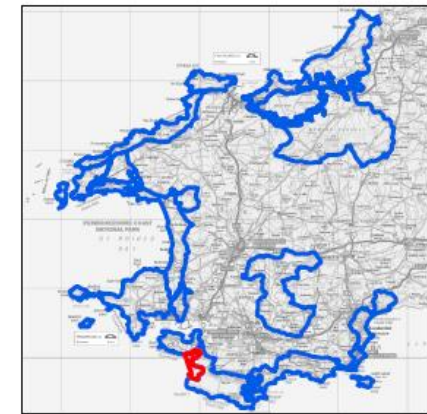
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CB:AHB EB:Hardie-Brown\_A\_LUC FIGX\_11664\_r0\_CulturalHeritageDesignations\_A4L 30/06/2022  
Source: OS, Cadw



LCA 8 Historic Environment Designations

-  LCA 8: Freshwater West/Brownslade Burrows
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  Outstanding Historic Landscape
-  Scheduled Monument



Existing woodland coverage within the LCA



View north from Gupton Burrows showing views across Freshwater West Beach and the Broomhill Burrows sand dunes.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is characterised by extensive sand dunes, low sea cliffs and sandy bays. Habitats include coastal sand dunes, fens, reedbeds, purple moor grass and rush pastures, lowland calcareous grassland and maritime cliffs. The area is devoid of trees and woodland. Field boundaries, where present, are marked by post and wire fencing.

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 NNR, LNR (including Wildlife Trust/ RSPB reserves)</p>	<p>There are three SACs which collectively cover 488.8ha (96.3%) of the LCA. There are 3 SSSI in the LCA which cover 473.8ha (93.4%) of the LCA.</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>National Park Register of Historic Landscapes Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data</p>	<p>The Milford Haven Waterway is a Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales, which covers 7.9ha (1.6%) of the LCA. There are 2 Listed Buildings in the LCA. There are two Scheduled Monuments which cover 0.4ha (1.1%) of the LCA. The LCA includes 116 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.</p>

**Landscape sensitivity to new woodland planting**

<b>Key sensitivities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Distinctive landform of sand dunes with associated wetland and grassland habitats. The landscape is unenclosed (excepting several fields at Kilpaison Burrows, enclosed by post and wire fencing) resulting a large-scale and expansive character.</li> <li>■ Diverse semi-natural habitats supporting a range of important plant and animal species. Much of the LCA is internationally/nationally designated as a Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest.</li> <li>■ The lack of existing woodland/tall features within the landscape.</li> <li>■ Important historic and archaeological sites, including nationally significant Iron Age hillforts in the south of the LCA.</li> <li>■ The expansive views across the dunes out to sea which are also a landmark in views from the sea. The form of dunes create distinct undeveloped skylines.</li> </ul> <p>The remote, exposed and open character of the landscape which is largely devoid of settlement and built features.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The relationship between land and sea, with perceptual qualities strongly influenced by the weather and conditions at sea.</li> </ul>
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<b>Overview</b>	<p>The dynamic system of internationally and nationally significant sand dunes and related coastal habitats are highly sensitive to change from woodland creation due to their distinctive landform, visual prominence and valued semi-natural habitats.</p> <p>The inland edge on the east of the LCA when the dune system meets the adjacent pastoral farmland may be able to accommodate some small-scale woodland. This would need to be carefully planned and designed successional woodland and would need careful management to ensure that the important non-woodland habitats are not lost to woodland encroachment. The existing scrub habitats on the dunes should be carefully managed to maintain the distinctive mosaic of semi-natural 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 or mixed woodlands (≤5ha)</b>				<b>Moderate-high</b>	
<b>Small-medium scale broadleaved or mixed woodlands (&gt;5- 15ha)</b>					<b>High</b>
<b>Medium-scale broadleaved or mixed woodlands (&gt;15-30ha)</b>					<b>High</b>
<b>Large-scale broadleaved or mixed woodlands (&gt;30ha)</b>					<b>High</b>



View north-east from Gupton Burrows across the sand dunes.



View south-west across a small area of semi-improved enclosed pasture fields at Kilpaison Burrows in the north of the LCA.

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

Due to the extensive coverage of internationally and nationally important non-woodland semi-natural habitats, woodland planting opportunities are limited.

Small-scale successional woodlands on the landward side of the dunes could help to stabilise the dunes and provide resilience to more frequent extreme weather events expected to occur due to climate change.

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 naturalistic character which complements the adjacent sand dune landscape.

## Strategic guidance for new woodland / tree planting

### Landform and scale

- Avoid masking the distinctive hummocky landform of the sand dunes.
- Design woodland to align along the edges of the dunes. Limit planting to small-scale woodlands that would not form focal features in the distinctively remote and open landscape.

### Landcover (including semi-natural habitats)

- Avoid adversely affecting existing areas of internationally and nationally designated non-woodland semi-natural habitats, directly or indirectly, and encourage diversity of habitat networks. This includes coastal sand dunes, fens, reedbeds, purple moor grass and rush pastures, lowland calcareous grassland, maritime cliffs, littoral and sub-littoral zones.

### Field pattern

- Conserve the unenclosed character of the landscape. Avoid planting woodland along the boundaries of existing fields at Kilpaison Burrows (currently enclosed by post and wire fencing), which would make these incongruous features within the semi-natural landscape more conspicuous.

### Existing tree and woodland character

- Ensure that scrub/bracken spread are monitored and subject to appropriate control measures as necessary to prevent colonisation of dunes and coastal grassland.

### Historic character

- Avoid adversely affecting, directly or indirectly, the rich cultural heritage of the area, particularly the numerous archaeological features, including Iron Age forts and military remains. These features should be kept open, and scrub removed – ideally through grazing at appropriate levels.

### Visual character

- Conserve the extensive views to the coast, particularly from the Wales Coast Path/Pembrokeshire Coast Path. When designing and siting woodland, ensure that it does not obscure these important views.
- Ensure that new woodland on the edges of the dunes does not detract from views to the rugged and open skylines of this area which form a landmark feature within the wider landscape.

### Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Retain and conserve the sense of remoteness and the naturalistic wilderness qualities of the landscape, with little human influence.
- Conserve the overall open character of the dunes. Locate new woodland so that it does not detract from the enjoyment of the exposed and remote quality experienced by recreational users of the landscape.
- Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting, ensuring it does not lead to a change of landscape character.