

## LCA 9: Marloes



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



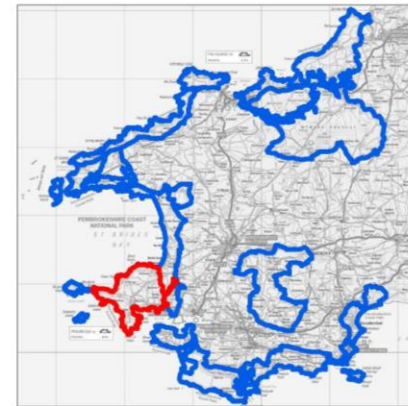
### LCA 9 location and existing woodland coverage

- LCA 9: Marloes
- Neighbouring LCA

#### Existing Woodland

- Ancient woodland
- National Forest Inventory woodland\*

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



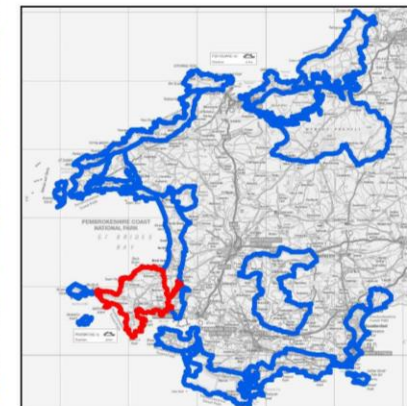
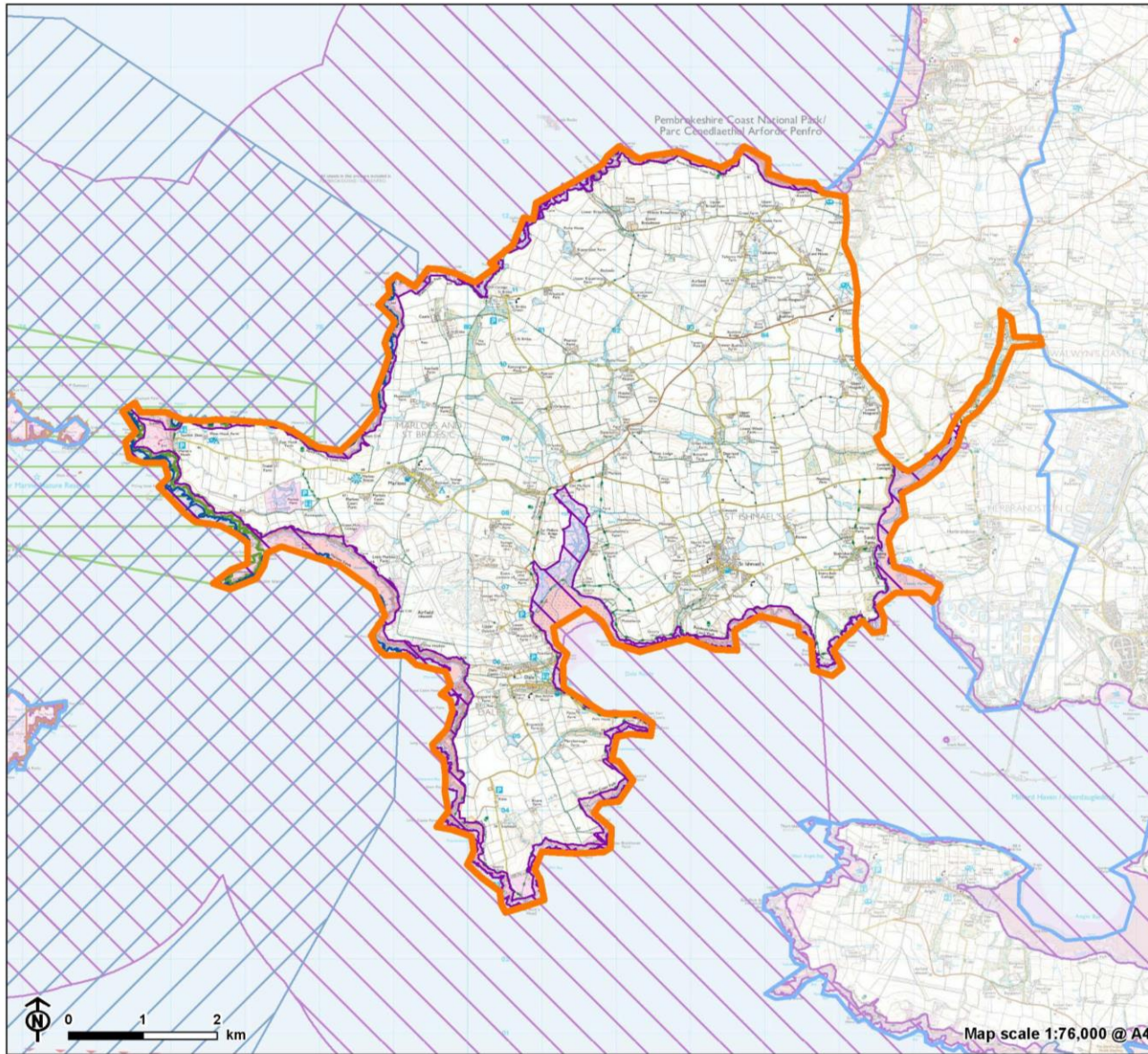
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Source: OS, FC, NRW



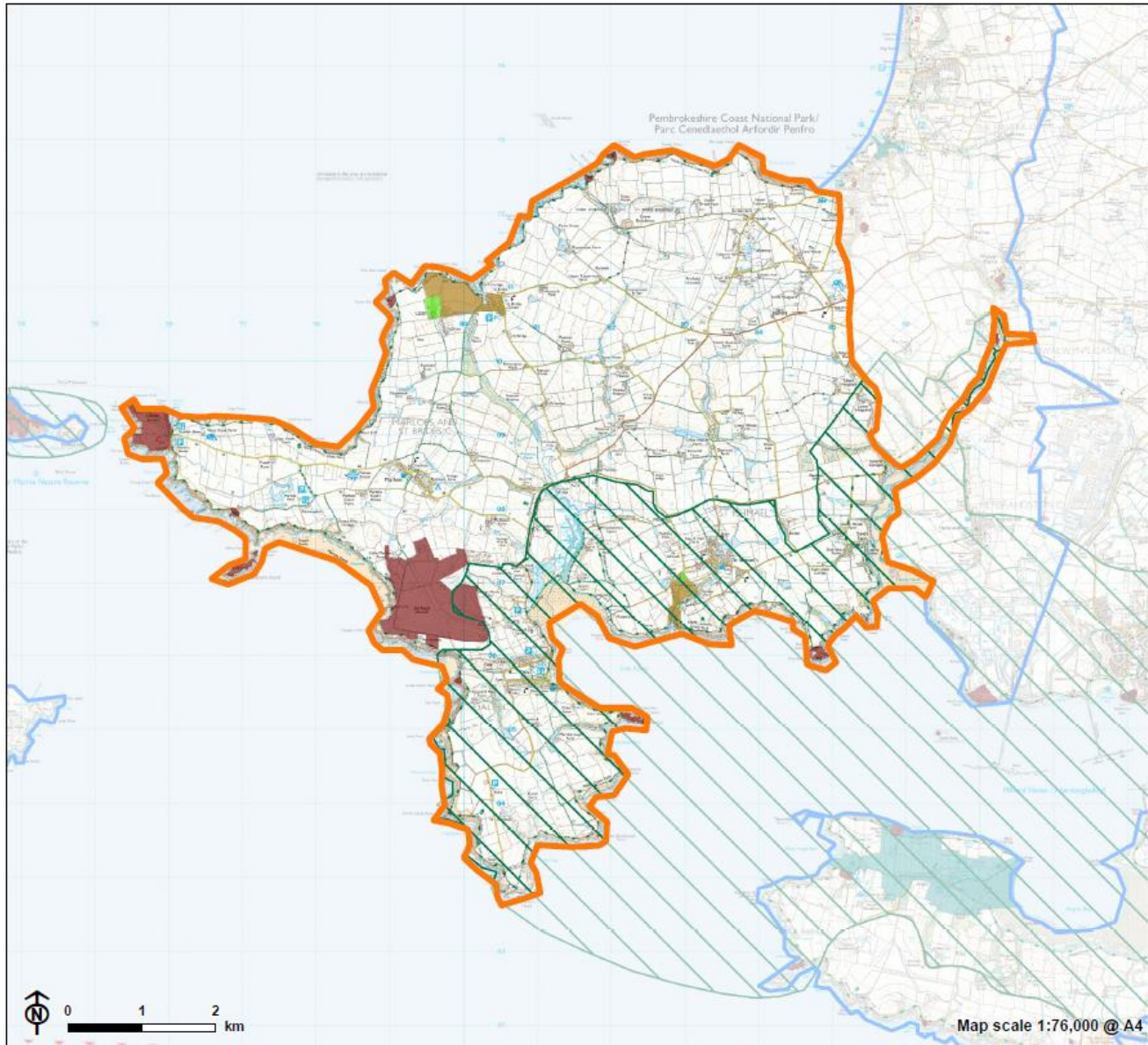
LCA 9 Nature Conservation Designations

-  LCA 9: Marloes
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  National Nature Reserve
-  Special Protection Area
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest
-  Marine Conservation Zone



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 Source: OS, NRW



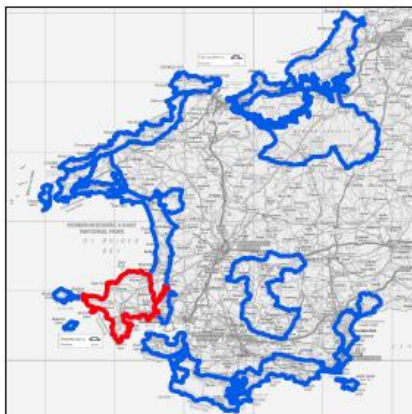
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LCA 9 Historic Environment Designations

-  LCA 9: Marloes
-  Neighbouring LCA
-  Outstanding Historic Landscape
-  Gardens and Kitchen Gardens
-  Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Conservation Area



## Existing woodland coverage within the LCA



View east from Marloes Beacon to the village of Marloes, with views extending across the pastoral landscape bound by low and in places gappy hedgerows.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is characterised by extensive rolling lowland farmland with coast located to the north, west and south. Woodland comprises only 3.9% of the total land cover, with most (77.5%) being broadleaved. Woodlands are small-medium scale (generally less than 15 hectares), with occasional linear tracts of trees following minor streams and watercourses or hugging the steep cliffs, such as the ancient sessile oak woodlands at Goulthrop Roads (the most extensive in West Wales outside the Milton Haven Waterway) and the partial stack at Musselwick Bay. At Dale, lowland deciduous woodland is located along the sheltered coastal valley sides. The valley to the north-east of Sandy Haven is also characterised by broadleaved woodland. Coastal woodland species include sycamore, elm, oak, sweet chestnut, ash, hawthorn, and maritime pine. Trees are often associated with coastal settlements (e.g. St Ishmael's and Marloes) and farmsteads, providing shelter from the exposed conditions. Within the agricultural landscape, field boundaries are dominated by low cut hedgerows supplemented with post and wire fencing. Hedgerow species include blackthorn, hawthorn, elm and grey willow. Trees are not a notable feature along hedges. Where trees within field boundaries occur, they are often wind-sculpted specimens which have been 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.*

Natural heritage	SAC, SPA, SSSI NNR, LNR (including Wildlife Trust/ RSPB reserves) Ancient woodland / RIGS	The Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire SPA covers an area of 56.4ha (1.1%) of the LCA. Two SACs collectively cover 771.5ha (14.9%) of the LCA and four SSSI cover 611ha (11.8%) of the LCA. Ancient woodland amounts to 54.1ha (1%). There are 11 RIGS covering 134.9ha (2.6%) of the LCA.
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Cultural heritage	National Park Register of Historic Landscapes  Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and HER data	Milford Haven Waterway is a Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales and covers 1731.4ha (33.5%) of the LCA.  There are 60 listed buildings in the LCA. There are 22 Scheduled Monuments, which cover 178.3ha (3.4%) of the LCA.  St Brides Castle and Trewarren are Registered Historic Park and Gardens and cover 54.6ha (1.1%) of the LCA.  The LCA includes 919 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.
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### Landscape sensitivity to new woodland planting

<b>Key sensitivities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The rolling lowland landform which is strongly associated with the cliffs and bays of the surrounding coast.</li> <li>■ The expansive character of the landscape due to the low hedgerows and limited trees and structures.</li> <li>■ Heathland and shoreline habitats of international importance (SAC) and nationally important (SSSI-designated) wetland habitats at Marloes Mere and Milford Haven Waterway.</li> <li>■ The rare sea cliff oak woodlands (designated as part of the St Bride's Bay South SSSI) at Goulthrop Roads and Musselwick Bay.</li> <li>■ Farmland habitats (including hedgerows, field margins and fallow plots) which support scarce arable flora and declining farmland or coastal birds (e.g. clough which forage on open grasslands).</li> <li>■ Tracts of ancient woodland located along small stream valleys which run to the coast.</li> <li>■ The patchwork of small to medium scale regular shaped fields divided by low cut hedgerows.</li> <li>■ Important historic features and cultural landscapes, including the prehistoric sites and monuments, medieval features, Monk Haven parkland and the features specifically associated with The Milford Haven Waterway Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest.</li> <li>■ Coastal views, including to Skomer and Skokholm islands, as well as views back to this section of coast from Skomer and Skokholm.</li> <li>■ The expansive views across the surrounding landscape from the viewpoint at Marloes Beacon.</li> <li>■ The naturalistic character of the coastal edge which is open and exposed and strongly influenced by the sea.</li> </ul>
<b>Overview</b>	<p>Much of the coastline is highly sensitive to any scale of woodland creation as this would detract from its distinctive open character and expansive views along the coast and out to the sea. Areas of other nationally/internationally designated semi-natural habitats are also highly sensitive to the impacts of woodland creation.</p> <p>There are opportunities to enhance and expand coastal woodland in more sheltered areas with small-scale planting. The inland area of the Marloes peninsula is able to accommodate creation of up to medium-scale woodlands – particularly along stream valleys to the east of the village of Marloes (including extending existing woodlands). There are opportunities to create a mosaic of habitats in the landscape (e.g. linking to areas of non-woodland designated habitats such as Milford Haven Waterway SSSI.) 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>

### Landscape Sensitivity Scores

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

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

- Opportunities for woodland creation in the coastal areas of the LCA are limited due to extensive semi-natural habitats, distinctive open character and expansive views. However, existing sea-cliff woodlands could be enhanced and extended through small-scale planting in more sheltered areas along the coast.
- New small to medium-scale woodlands and woodland copses should sit within the traditional field pattern, adjoining existing hedgebanks, in order to avoid masking the landscape structure of the pastoral landscape.
- There are opportunities for the creation of wood pasture to integrate more trees into the agricultural landscape.
- Site new small-scale woodland to screen farm-based development such as large-scale animal sheds (e.g. near Sandy Haven) or small-scale tourism developments/infrastructure (such as car parks) and integrate within the existing pattern of woodland distribution and land-use.
- Small-scale woodland creation could provide opportunities to increase the connectivity of existing broadleaved woodlands and extend the linear woodlands located along the minor stream valleys.
- 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.
- Consider opportunities to restore hedgerow boundaries that were historically lost such as those at the site of the disused airfields at upper Dale and Talbenny to provide greater habitat connectivity.
- Replace lengths of post and wire fencing with new hedgerows.
- 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 masking the distinctive coastal landforms, including the rocky cliffs punctuated by sheltered bays and coves. Prominent open headlands (including Martin's Haven) and the tidal island of Gateholm should be kept open and free from tree/woodland cover.
- Design new woodland to align along existing contours and undulations of the landscape, such as the enclosed stream valleys running to the coast.

### Landcover (including semi-natural habitats)

- Avoid adversely affecting existing areas of non-woodland semi-natural habitats, directly or indirectly, and encourage diversity of habitat networks. This includes coastal habitats, areas of heathland (internationally designated as SAC), wetland habitats at Marloes Mere and Milford Haven Waterway (designated as SSSI) and open grassland habitats of value (e.g. at Dale Airfield).
- Consider the importance of unimproved grasslands, uncultivated field margins or fallow plots in the farmed landscape.

### Field pattern

- Restore and reinforce the existing field pattern by conserving and regenerating hedgerow boundaries and hedgebanks.
- Restore hedgerows/hedgebanks where they have been lost or replaced by post and wire fencing. Plant occasional hedgerow trees in keeping with the existing character of hedgerows.
- Consider allowing hedgerows to grow out (where not obscuring public highways/rights of way) through reduced coppicing/flailing cycles, to enhance biodiversity.

### Existing tree and woodland character

- Protect the ancient sea cliff woodlands at Goulthrop Roads and Musselwick Bay and extend these woodlands in more sheltered areas along the coast.
- Conserve and restore existing semi-natural broadleaved woodlands and trees in the landscape, including field boundaries, to improve connectivity and strengthen the landscape framework.

- Conserve and enhance existing woodland within the landscape through coppicing to ensure a mixed age and diversity of native tree species.
- Protect areas of ancient woodland along stream valleys and in small pockets within the agricultural landscape and extend these woodlands to improve connectivity.
- Buffer ancient woodland by establishing fringing areas and encourage natural regeneration to extend 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*, *Chalara* (ash dieback), acute oak decline.

#### Historic character

- Avoid adversely affecting, directly or indirectly, the archaeological features within the area including prehistoric sites and monuments, medieval features and Monk Haven parkland. Buried features should be kept open, and scrub/secondary woodland removed.
- Consider the impact of woodland creation on the character of the southern and eastern part of the LCA which forms part of the Milford Haven Waterway Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest, particularly on the coastal forts which are a distinct feature of the designated area.

#### Visual character

- Conserve the extensive views along the coast and out to the sea, particularly from the coastal footpaths (including the Pembrokeshire Coast Path). The views to Skomer and Skokholm islands are particularly distinctive and important.
- Conserve the panoramic views from the Marloes Beacon viewpoint.

#### Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Conserve the open and exposed character of the coast and avoid new tree/woodland planting in coastal locations.
- Locate new woodland so that it does not detract from the enjoyment of the remote and exposed quality of the landscape.
- Enhance the experience for recreational users, ensuring public access is maintained across the network of public rights of way and along the coastal path. Explore new opportunities for access as part of woodland creation.
- Have regard to the cumulative impact of woodland creation and tree planting, ensuring it does not lead to a change of landscape character.



View along Blue Anchor Way in Dale Village with broadleaved woodland on the slopes behind the coastal houses.



View east from the Lookout Station across large scale coastal pasture fields to the rocky shore of Martin's Haven.