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A Local Nature Recovery Plan for Carew Community Council 2026-2028

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A Local Nature Recovery Plan for Carew Community Council Area

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Introduction and Aim

Aim:

To promote nature recovery and resilient ecosystems in The Carew CC area.

Objective of this report:

The main function of a nature recovery plan is to identify and summarise both current and potential nature recovery opportunities within the influence of Carew Community Council (see Figure 1). The plan will produce a list of actions primarily for the Carew Community Council but could include the whole community including:

- residents,
- visitors,
- community groups,
- interested charitable groups,
- landowners/managers;
- businesses and
- local/national authorities.

Carew Parish Council is a mainly rural area which consists of some 817 households. The centre of the area is Carew village which is also home to Carew Castle, a major Welsh tourist attraction managed by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. Next to the castle is the tidal mill pond and historic French mill, all connected to the Cleddau Estuary.

Next door to Carew is the village of Sageston which contains a significant new housing development. There are outlying villages namely Redberth, Milton, Whitehill and West Williamston. West Williamston is situated next to the Cleddau estuary has a nature reserve managed by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales.

The whole area is ecologically connected through the waterway and terrestrially through ribbons of hedgerows, semi natural woodland and larger blocks farmland (mixture of arable, improved/semi-improved grassland).

Part of the parish is in the National Park and the Community Council work closely with our National Park Ranger to promote and enhance biodiversity. The parish is subject to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

Community Council

The Community Council does not own any buildings or land. We have responsibility for maintaining the 2 play areas of Milton and Carew and the small cemetery at Carew Newton and for the land surrounding the Memorial Hall, which we use for our meetings.

We would hope that our future NRAP will provide stimulus to encourage other community members to improve how they manage their land for biodiversity, from a small pond to a field.

Why is Carew Special for Nature?

Carew is part of a special protected landscape including:

- Part of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (Figure 1)

Designated in 1977, it is the only UK National Park primarily designated for its coastal landscape. The functions of the national park include controlling development planning, balancing the needs of recreation and conservation, education, information provision and conservation.

- Identified as an important corridor for invertebrates by Bug-life B-lines (Figure 1);

The area has been identified by Bug-Life as an important invertebrate corridor or pathway which runs through the countryside and towns. Although Carew on falls directly on a small amount of a B-line, it is sandwich between two very important corridor. Creating and enhancing habitat along these lines contributes to a national conservation effort. connecting up existing wildlife areas to help create a network.

- Contains Pembrokeshire Marine Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) (Figure 2)

Pembrokeshire Marine SAC was selected as containing excellent European examples of a wide range of conservation features, including reefs, estuaries, large shallow inlets and bays, mud and sand flats, subtidal sandbanks, Atlantic salt meadow, lagoons, caves, Grey seals, Otters, Sea and River Lamphey, Allis and Twaite Shads, Shore dock.

- Contains 3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (Figure 2)

“Carew Castle” and it’s surrounds lie at the head of the Carew river is designated as a transitory roosting and feeding site for greater horsehoe bats and other bat species. The carboniferous limestone walls also provides for some unique flora.

“Milford Haven Waterway”

Milford Haven Waterway is recognised for its outstanding wildlife value, and Carew contains one of only three saline lagoons within the waterway, supporting rare species such as the nationally scarce tentacle lagoon worm.

“Wyndrush Pastures”

Designated for its species-rich grassland and wet pasture habitats. The site supports a diverse range of plant species associated with traditionally managed pastures, along with associated invertebrates, birds, and other wildlife that depend on unimproved or semi-improved grassland.

- Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve West Williamston

West Williamston is situated next to the Cleddau estuary has a nature reserve managed by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, the reserve is known for its rare butterflies (Brown Hairstreak) and orchids.

- Carew Castle Grounds are managed for conservation with conservation grazing and hay cuts providing a thriving wildflower meadow an invertebrate life.

The whole area is ecologically connected, both aquatically through the Milford Haven Waterway and terrestrially through a network of hedgerows, semi-natural woodland, and larger blocks of farmland, comprising a mixture of arable land and improved and semi-improved grassland. Together, these habitats form an interconnected landscape that supports species movement, feeding, and breeding, and contributes to ecosystem resilience.

Special habitats within the community include: see Figure 3 **and** Figure 4Figure 2

- A mosaic of arable land and pasture
- An extensive network of hedgerows
- Areas of ancient woodland
- Wetland habitats, including ponds, ditches, and seasonally wet ground
- Unique quarry habitats supporting specialised species

Key protected species present include:

- Peregrine falcon
- Bats (multiple species)
- Limestone specialist flora

Threats

The loss of species and degradation of habitats can occur for a variety of reasons: including:

- **Climate change** – Changes in the physical characteristics of an area (e.g. average rainfall, temperature, and frequency of storms) can alter the biological character of habitats.
- **Habitat fragmentation** – The separation of habitats by roads, housing, and other infrastructure can isolate populations, reduce wildlife movement, and weaken ecological resilience. (see Figure 3)
- **Loss of traditional land management** – Declines in practices such as grazing, coppicing, and hedge laying can lead to scrub encroachment or habitat homogenisation, reducing species diversity.
- **Light pollution** – Artificial lighting from settlements, roads, and commercial premises can disturb nocturnal species such as bats, moths, and other invertebrates.
- **Noise disturbance** – Traffic, construction, and recreational activities can disturb sensitive species, particularly birds during the breeding season.
- **Sea level rise** – Where sea levels rise and the coast is protected by anthropogenic structures, the natural inland movement of habitats may be prevented, leading to habitat loss.
- **Recreation pressure** – Increased recreational use, particularly during the summer months, can disturb species and negatively affect growth and reproductive success.
- **Development pressure** – Built development can result in direct habitat loss, fragmentation, and disturbance to species.
- **Inappropriate tree and hedge management** – Over-tidy management, removal of hedgerows, or out-of-season cutting can reduce nesting, foraging, and connectivity for wildlife.
- **Garden and amenity management practices** – The use of pesticides, herbicides, and frequent mowing in gardens, parks, and open spaces can reduce food sources and habitat for pollinators and other species.
- **Water quality** – Discharges and surface run-off from urban areas, along with agricultural pollution, can increase nutrient and phosphate levels in water bodies, leading to reduced biodiversity.
- **Intensive agriculture** – High-intensity farming practices can disrupt natural processes and degrade soils, watercourses, and adjacent habitats.
- I**nvasive non-native species** – These species can outcompete native flora and fauna, disrupting ecological balance and reducing biodiversity.

- **Lack of awareness and engagement** – Limited understanding of biodiversity issues can result in unintentional damage to habitats and missed opportunities for enhancement at a community level.

Opportunities

Opportunities that exist in the Carew Community council area can include:

- **Habitat creation and enhancement** – Creation of wildflower areas, wetland features, ponds, and scrub mosaics on suitable community land, verges, and open spaces.
- **Nature-friendly management of public spaces** – Adopting reduced mowing regimes, leaving grass margins, and managing amenity areas for biodiversity rather than uniform appearance.
- **Hedgerow and boundary improvements** – Planting, restoring, and managing hedgerows, tree lines, and traditional boundaries to improve habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors.
- **Pollinator support** – Establishing pollinator-friendly planting in village greens, churchyards, school grounds, and gardens; reducing pesticide use.
- **Water environment improvements** – Opportunities to enhance water quality and biodiversity along streams, ditches, ponds, and the Carew Mill Pond through buffer strips, planting, and naturalised edges.
- **Invasive species management** – Coordinated community action to control or remove invasive non-native species, protecting native habitats.
- **Community engagement and volunteering** – Involving residents, schools, and local groups in practical conservation activities such as planting days, wildlife surveys, and habitat management.
- **Planning and development gains** – Working with the planning process to secure biodiversity enhancements, wildlife-friendly design, and long-term management through new development.
- **Education and awareness** – Using interpretation boards, walks, talks, and events to raise awareness of local wildlife and promote positive behaviour
- **Village-scale connectivity** – Creating a network of “stepping-stone” habitats (gardens, verges, ponds, hedges) that link larger habitats in and around Carew.
- **Local Farming support schemes** - Further enhancement of land involved in National Park initiative “Conserving the Park” which provides advice on land management for conservation. (see Figure 5)

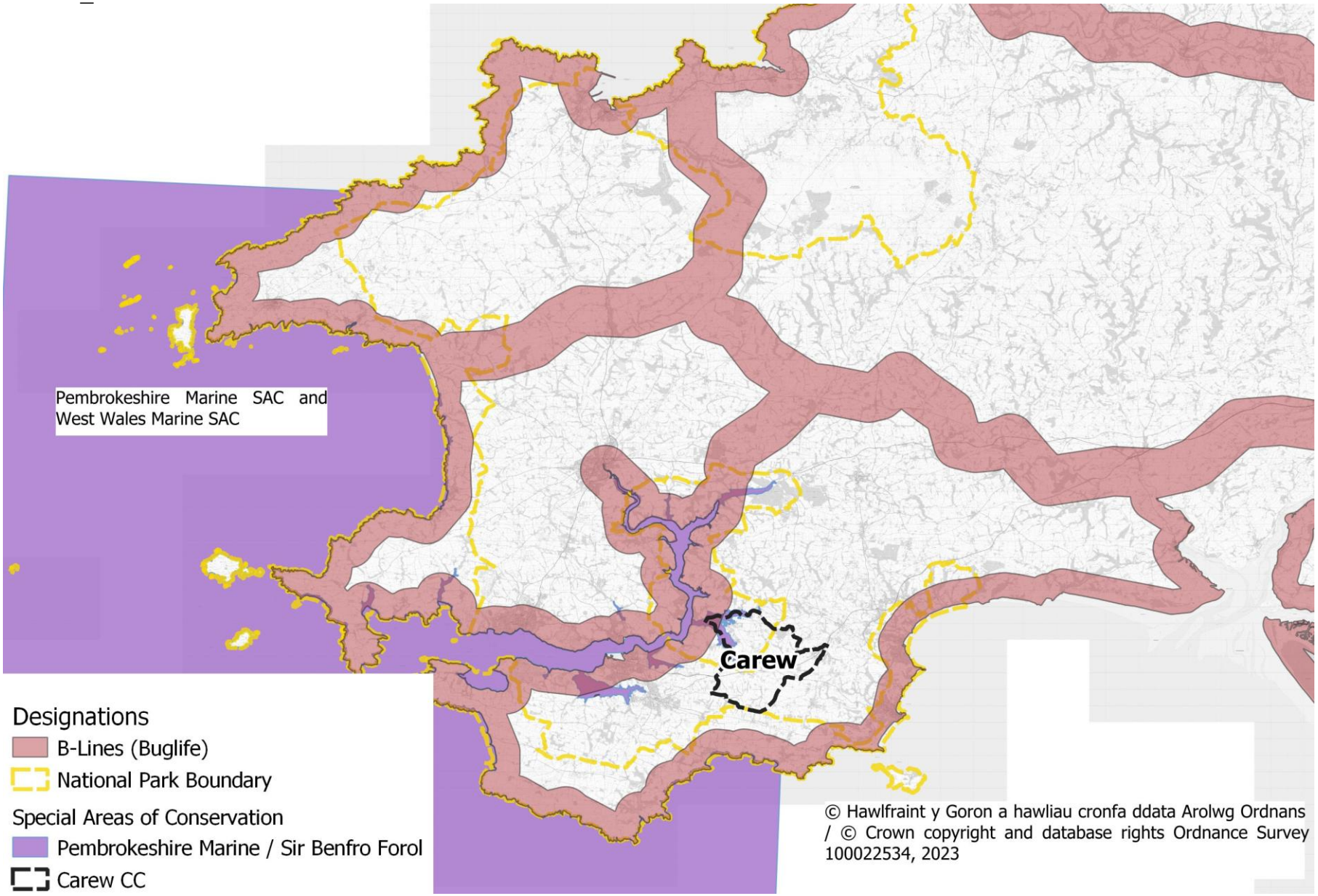

Figure 1 The Havens Community Council in relation to large scale designations (National Park, Pembrokeshire Marine SAC and important invertebrate corridors as Identified by Buglife in their B-Lines project

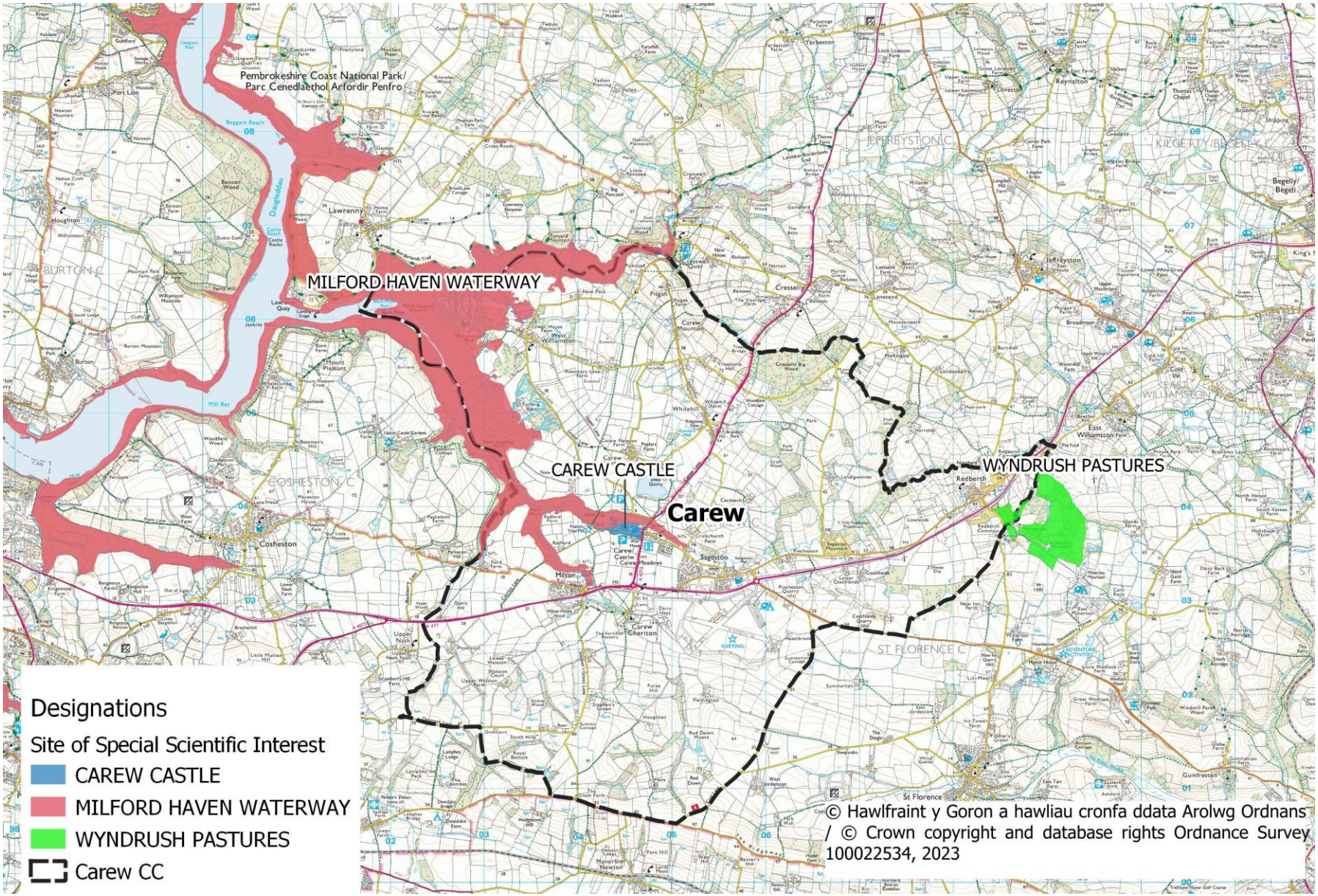

Figure 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in proximity to Carew CC area.

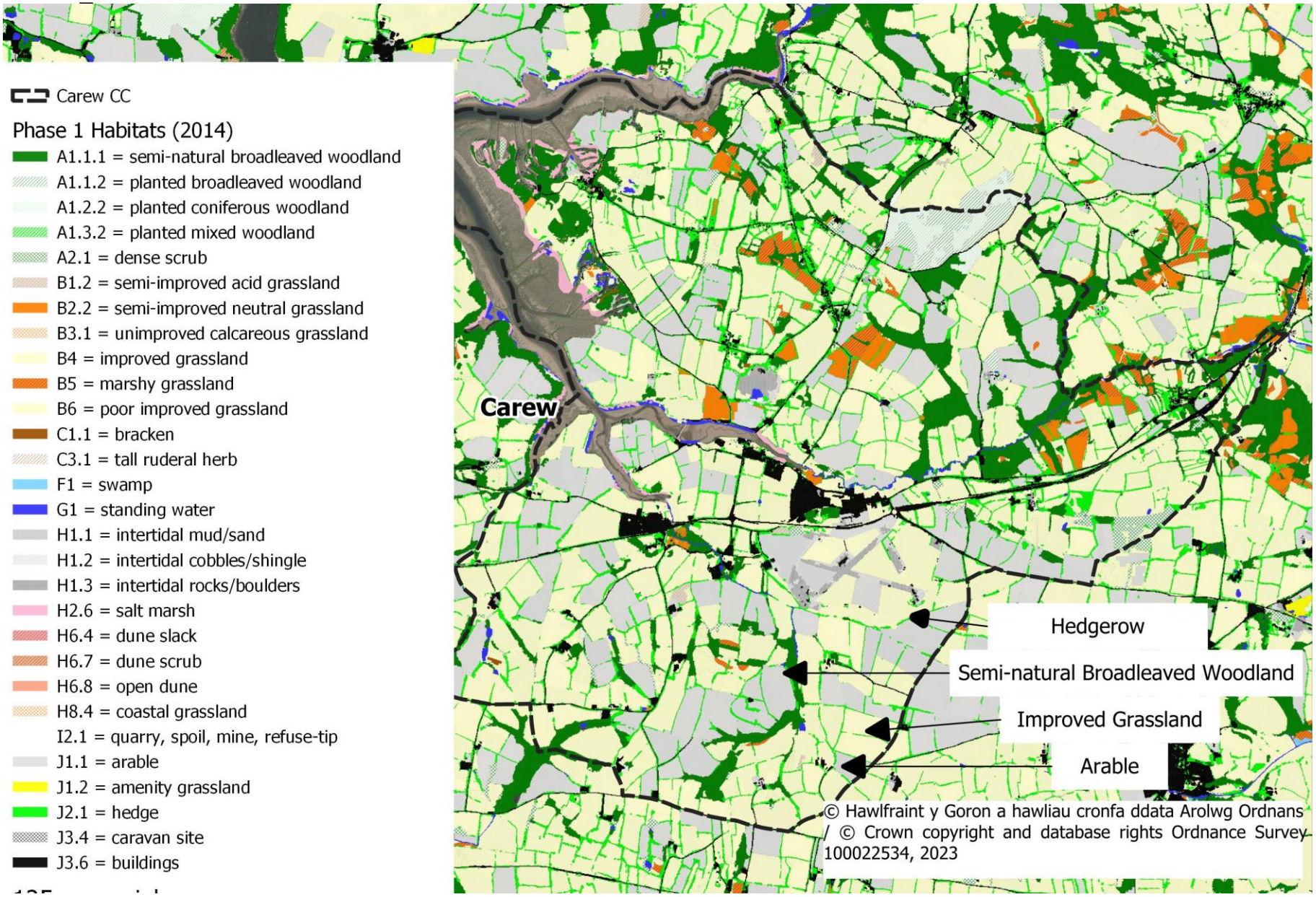

Figure 3 Habitats that can be found in Carew CC area (2014) WWBIC

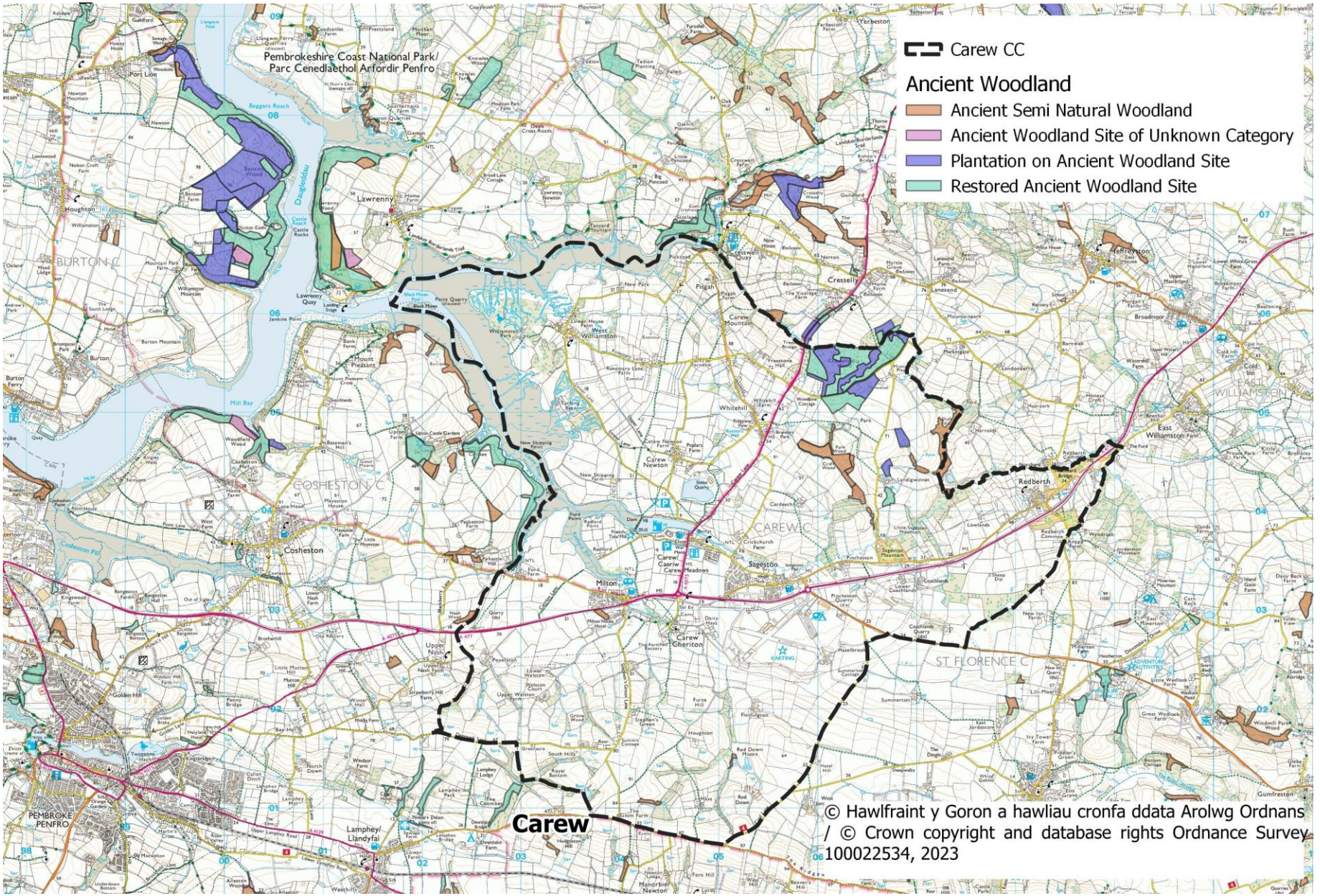

Figure 4 Ancient woodlands of Carew CC area

Figure 5 Landholdings, common land and conserving the park sites involved with Carew CC

NRAP Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels

Carew NRAP objective	Action Planned	Timescale	Monitored by
embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	Biodiversity considered in relation to all planning consultations		
	Consider eco options for any cleaning products procured		
raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	Arrange community events to celebrate the local environment (walks and talks)		
	Establish biodiversity page on Carew Community council website		
	Improve biodiversity awareness in relation to consultations by training from partner organisations such as Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority		

NRAP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

Carew NRAP objective	Action Planned	Timescale	Monitored by
safeguard principal species and habitats	Biodiversity considered in relation to all planning consultations		
	Support measures that improve water quality and habitat condition along watercourses, ponds, ditches, and the Carew Mill Pond.		
	Manage all other land under Carew CC control sensitively		

NRAP Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation

Carew NRAP objective	Action Planned	Timescale	Monitored by

Restore and Create Habitats and Resilient Ecological Networks	Milton play area: continue to manage wildflower corner for conservation through a reduced cutting regime		
	Deliver Swift box nesting project with PCNPA		
	Manage all other land under Carew CC control sensitively		
	Actively seek out and share opportunities for community biodiversity improvements e.g. tree/hedge planting schemes, wildflower meadow creation.		
	Community level ecological mapping to encourage connectivity		

NRAP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

Carew NRAP objective	Action Planned	Timescale	Monitored by
Tackle threats to biodiversity	Promote active participation in removal of Non-native invasive species, e.g. Himalayan Balsam (in partnership with PCNPA)		
	Regular litter picks		
	Pollinator support – Establishing pollinator-friendly planting in village greens, churchyards, school grounds, and gardens; reducing pesticide use		
	Encourage participation of farming community into local conservation schemes		
	Consider developing a light pollution project: to reduce the impacts of light pollution on bats, moths.		

NRAP Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring

Carew NRAP objective	Action Planned	Timescale	Monitored by
Use, improve and share evidence	Carry out biological record training with West Wales Biological Records Centre/PCNPA		
	Maintain good contacts with PCC/PCNPA Ecologist		

	Organise community biological recording sessions with local experts		
	Encourage community monitoring projects (e.g. garden pond survey)		

NRAP Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.

Carew NRAP objective	Action Planned	Timescale	Monitored by
Support Capacity and/or other organisations	Assign biodiversity lead within community council		
	Seek external funding and grants to support biodiversity projects and long-term management.		

Links to other plans/legislation

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Partnership Plan 2025-2029:

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Partnership Plan 2025-2029 is based on action across four themes:

- Conservation;
- Cultural heritage and connection;
- Climate and natural resources and
- Communities.

The themes are explained in Table 1:

Table 1 Four themes of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Partnership Plan and which aspects a Carew Local Nature Recovery Plan could help deliver

Themes	**Could Carew Local Nature Recovery Plan help deliver these**
Conservation: Conserve and enhance landscapes, seascapes, natural beauty and wildlife.	☑
Cultural Heritage and Connection: Conserve and enhance cultural heritage, including promotion of the Welsh language. Enhance equitable access to the National Park and promote the enjoyment, understanding and health benefits of its special qualities for all.	☑
Climate and Natural Resources: Reduce and adapt to the impacts of climate change Manage natural resources sustainably	☑
Communities: Foster the socio-economic well-being of National Park communities in the pursuit of National Park purposes	☑

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Section 6)

The Environment (Wales) Act states that:

“Public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.”

In particular a Local Nature Recovery Plan should fulfil the requirements of the authority to publish a plan. It should set out what you propose to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity – proportionate to your activities/function. This plan will be aligned to the objectives of the Nature Recovery Action plan for Pembrokeshire And Wales (Table 2 Objectives of National and Local Nature Recovery Action Plans and how these can be delivered locallyTable 2).

Table 2 Objectives of National and Local Nature Recovery Action Plans and how these can be delivered locally

Objectives of Wales and Pembrokeshire Nature Recovery Action Plan	**Could Carew Local Nature Recovery Plan help deliver these objectives?**
Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels	☑
Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management	☑
Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation	☑
Tackle key pressures on species and habitats	☑
Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring	☑
Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.	☑

The Environment Wales Act sets out the following attributes of Ecosystem resilience

- **Diversity** - generally speaking, more diverse ecosystems are more resilient to external influences and their impacts. This includes biological, geological and physical diversity

- **Connectivity** within and between ecosystems

- **Scale and Extent** - the bigger the ecosystem extends, without fragmentation, the more resilient it is likely to be

- **Condition** - ecosystems need to be in a healthy condition to function effectively, to deliver a range of important ecosystem services

- **Adaptability** – the ability of ecosystems to adapt to events, understanding that ecosystems are not static and will change over time.

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