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WOODLAND
TRUST

Green Castle Woods

**Management Plan
2013-2018**

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Green Castle Woods
Location:	Llangain, Near Carmarthen
Grid reference:	SN391167, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 159
Area:	50.51 hectares (124.81 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This mix of ancient and newly created woodlands, botanically rich meadows and hedgerows provides a haven for wildlife. The Carmarthenshire Coast Long Distance Footpath is routed through the site and fine views can be had over the Afon Tywi and towards Carmarthen.

2.2 Extended Description

Green Castle Woods includes three separate semi natural ancient woodlands and the meadows and areas of recently planted native woodland which separate them. Two of the woodlands are principally oak, the third is very variable containing stands dominated by birch or ash, or alder and willow. The B4312 Carmarthen to Llansteffan road bisects the site. The Afon Tywi forms part of the northern boundary and is part of the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries a Site of Special Scientific Interest (it is now also designated as a Special Area of Conservation and a European Marine Site).

The surrounding landscape is made up of similar rolling countryside, mostly relatively small hedged fields of permanent pasture and small widely separated woods.

The five key features of the site are; ancient semi natural woodland, botanically rich meadows, newly created woodland, the hedgerow network and public access.

Approximately 7 hectares of the less interesting of the meadows were planted by the Trust in 1996 with native species and a further 0.8 hectares are due to be planted in 2013. Local varieties of fruit trees were also introduced to the paddock south of the B4312 along with beehives, managed by the Green Castle Woodlanders, a local volunteer group. Another 14 hectares of grassland has been retained and is managed by grazing and mowing. Thick hedges border the road and some fields and this mixture of habitats, the undulating topography, and the patchwork of small hedged fields create a very attractive landscape. Some fine views are available eastwards over the Afon Tywi and towards Carmarthen. A car park has been constructed by the Trust, and there is an extensive network of paths. In 1998 the Carmarthenshire Coast Long Distance Footpath was routed through the site. It is one of only a few areas of woodland or countryside with open public access within a few miles of Carmarthen, and is very well used, especially by dog walkers. The Green Castle Woodlanders have been assisting with the care of Green Castle woods since 1994 and have done much of the path development work.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

By bus: The nearest bus stop is at Llangain Cross about one mile away along a busy B road without pavements.

By train: The nearest train station is at Carmarthen, three and a half miles away.

For further information on public transport, contact Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit traveline.org.uk

By car: When approaching Carmarthen from the A40, take the exit to Johnstown on the B4312/Llansteffan Rd, located a quarter of a mile west of the junction with the A48. Follow this through Johnstown towards Llansteffan and continue for a further two and a half miles where you will find a car park on your right with space for around 16 cars.

Grid Ref. SN391167; OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 159

3.2 Access / Walks

There are three ways into the woods from the car park, all of which are signposted. Look out for a special route to the left for the less able and those in wheelchairs, and a diversion to the right for dog-walkers that connects with the main trail 220 yards further on. The main Wild about Woods circular trail is straight ahead but isn't suitable for wheelchair users or pushchairs. And there are some wet bits so sensible shoes are a must in wet weather. It takes about an hour to walk round, while the surfaced route take approximately twenty minutes.

The wide kissing gate on the left of the car park leads to a short, circular, easy path through an area that's almost a perfect miniature of Green Castle Woods. There are also a couple of lay byes with short benches and pull-in spaces for wheelchairs.

Two other entrances can be found off the B4321, and a further entrance where the Carmarthen Coast Path enters the site at the South East corner - all accessed by stiles.

In addition to the Wild about Woods circular train, there is an extensive network of footpaths through the 125 acre (50 ha) woods, including the Carmarthenshire Coast Long Distance Footpath which crosses the site. These footpaths may include steps, footbridges and boardwalks, and some of the paths on the east side of the road go through fields which are grazed by cattle.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Green Castle Woods will continue to be a diverse mixture ancient woodland, new woodland, open ground habitats and hedgerows.

The blocks of ancient woodland will have a mostly mature canopy with small gaps arising from natural wind damage periodically allowing young trees to establish from natural regeneration. Deadwood will be abundant from the same processes. Coppicing of the alder and other traditionally coppiced woodland of Allt y Ci will not recommence because of wet ground conditions, landscape considerations, and the absence of any local craft market for coppice timber.

The botanical interest of some of the meadows will be maintained as grassland habitat, subject to the continued availability of a suitable grazer, preferably by the grazing of cattle and/or cutting for hay, for which the availability of viable grazing systems will be critical. Additional new native woodland established from 2013 on grassland not of significant botanical interest will increase valuable woodland edges and further complement the new woodland planted in 1996-7 and will be well established. Parkland trees planted on pasture to increase in the fields' diversity whilst maintaining open aspects and the hedgerow network maintain will be well grown. The hedgerow network, including woodland edge hedges will be maintained by annual cutting and/or by periodic layering. Mature trees grown out of some lengths of hedge long lost as working boundaries will be retained.

The site is open for public access on foot in both the woods and the fields apart from two old quarries with the car park and one route maintained to a standard suitable for less able visitors. The section of the Carmarthenshire Coast Long Distance Footpath that passes through the site is a public right of way and is maintained by Carmarthen County Council. The site is heavily used and is in the Trust's top public access category.

The site will continue to be very well used and popular, with public access on foot available in both the woods and the fields. The car park and one route from it will continue to be maintained to a standard suitable for less able visitors. A section of the Carmarthenshire Coast Long Distance Footpath passes through Green Castle Woods.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Allt Morfa Howell and Allt Cwarre Coch. Ancient semi natural oak dominated woodland on heavy and wet clay soil. Allt Morfa Howell is the larger block and occupies moderately steep northerly facing slopes and running down to the bank of the Afon Tywi. Includes an east flowing stream running through deep valley, the banks of which support mosses of interest.

Allt Cwarre Coch is a small block of oak woodland on level ground alongside the B4312. The two blocks are linked by a narrow band of secondary woodland.

Allt y Ci is a separate block of ancient woodland to the north west of Allt Morfa Howell and separated from it by the B4312 Carmarthen to Llangain road. It is a very variable block of ancient woodland containing stands of oak coppice, birch, ash, alder and willow. Part is on a moderately sloping north and west facing slope, the remainder is on wet level ground.

Significance

Ancient semi natural woodland that borders the Afon Tywi SSSI and is part of the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which in turn is part of the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Parts are very steeply sloping and effectively inaccessible for active management. Soils are wet and clayey. Moss flora in stream valley is vulnerable to loss of shade humidity. Long road boundary. Wind damage has occurred in the past.

Allt y Ci is partly permanently wet, and partly a major landscape feature

Factors Causing Change

Invasive Sycamore, Occasional cattle incursion, Frequent wind damage, Disturbance of river edge wildlife by visitors and dogs

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the health and vigour of all existing ASNW areas and to protect these from any loss of biodiversity or any other degradation in habitat quality.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Because these areas are ASNW, no work is planned to take place in them and they will be managed largely on a minimal intervention basis. The only works that will be carried out are tree safety, if and when required to protect the public, and work to control the regeneration of non-native species, if this becomes a problem. Boundary fences will be inspected and maintained to keep the woodland ungrazed.

5.2 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description

Grazing fields and hay meadows, mostly not ploughed in living memory, and managed for many years with no or low fertiliser input

Significance

High botanical interest, and long continuity of management. Locally important to landscape value and for species relying on botanically rich areas.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity to create sustainable grazing system including diversifying non-botanically rich fields on site by creation of woodland pasture and or parkland trees. Fencing has to be maintained to make grazing viable.

Factors Causing Change

Soil compaction/poaching if grazing pressure too high. Scrub encroachment

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain as grassland, areas of botanical interest and enhance less diverse areas with tree cover to develop a woodland pasture habitat over the next 20 years.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Maintain the current extent and diversity of grassland through programme of cutting and grazing as well as control of encroaching scrub within this plan period. Ensure the continued establishment of introduced parkland trees by protection from grazing and mechanical damage to facilitate the development a woodland pasture landscape.

5.3 Field Margins and Boundaries

Description

Extensive network of property boundary and internal hedges, with map evidence of those present in 1779

Significance

Wildlife habitat, habitat continuity contributing to woodland networks and landscape

Opportunities & Constraints

Roadside hedges must be trimmed annually. Extensive network of hedges makes this an expensive maintenance cost.

Factors Causing Change

Lack of maintenance leading to deterioration.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Ensure the preservation of the existing network of established, dense hedgerows, valuable for wildlife and stock control.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Maintain existing network of hedges through annual trimming or laying on rotation and interplanting if necessary, within this plan period.

5.4 Informal Public Access

Description

Permissive pedestrian access throughout the site with extensive network of footpaths. Car parking for about 15 cars. Smooth surfaced path leading off from car park to small woodland and stream area near by, waymarking and seats.

Way marked long distance path, with high standard of construction. Seat and information board also on site. Constructed by Carmarthenshire County Council in 1998, and declared Public Right of Way. Visitor surveys undertaken between Nov 2003 and Dec 2004 estimated 21,000 visits in a 12 month period.

Significance

One of largest open access areas near Carmarthen. Long distance footpath connects Gower to Pembrokeshire Coast Long Distance Path. Site is possibly one of the most visited in the Carmarthen area on a daily basis for activities such as dog walking.

Opportunities & Constraints

Regular maintenance required. Dog mess is a problem, attempts have been made to establish dog free area by providing a designated dog walkers entrance and this appears to have helped reduce the problem. Seasonal grazing of lower fields may be an issue with conflict between dogs and livestock however this may be managed by signage and separation of dog walkers and livestock. Grazing would only be for a short period during late summer and is away from walking 'hot spot'.

Factors Causing Change

Increasing levels of use, Fly tipping, Use for dog walking.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain the current level of permissive and public access provision, including maintenance of footpaths and the car park. Formal permissive footpaths will be kept open for walkers and where appropriate, surfaces maintained. Informal permissive paths (ie. desire lines, etc) will be allowed to come and go over time and will not be maintained.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Maintain as category 'A' high public usage site. The car park and short path leading from it will be maintained in a condition suitable for less able visitors. Public footpaths, the main track and other formal permissive paths will be kept clear of encroaching vegetation by cutting back vegetation at least once a year to provide walkers with free unobstructed access. Entrances, steps, bridges and other access furniture will be inspected periodically by the woodland officer and maintained in a safe and serviceable condition by carrying out repairs/replacements as required. Woodland Trust welcome signs will be erected and maintained at all formal entrances and visitor safety will be protected by carrying out periodic tree safety surveys along the wood's boundaries adjacent to the B4312 and along paths inside the woods.

5.5 New Native Woodland

Description

Native broadleaved woodland planted in 1995 on pasture fields of limited botanical interest. Small area of natural regeneration.

Significance

Extends existing semi natural ancient woodlands

Opportunities & Constraints

Additional natural regeneration. Bramble growth in some areas. Opportunity to create additional new woodland areas by margin planting around existing woodland compartments and creation of woodland pasture/parkland pasture through planting of parkland trees to diversify landscape.

Factors Causing Change

Vulnerable age for squirrel damage.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To ensure that native high forest broadleaved woodland is successfully established and to ensure this remains healthy and vigorous so that, over the long-term, the wood becomes self-perpetuating through natural regeneration, ensuring its existence in perpetuity.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Increase new woodland cover where possible to buffer existing woodland edges and planted areas.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
2013	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Weeding of newly planted hedges in 2012 alongside post and rail fence at car park.	30/05/13
2014	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Maintenance of Glastir planting in 2013 including weeding and beat-up.	30/11/14
2014	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Maintenance of Glastir planting in 2013 - beat-up.	30/12/14
2015	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Weeding of newly planted hedges in 2012 alongside post and rail fence at car park.	30/05/15
2016	WC - Tree Weeding / Fertilising	Maintenance of Glastir planting in 2013 including weeding and beat-up.	30/11/16
2018	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter pick of car parking area including surrounding brambles and ditched embankments. (one litter pick per month at equal intervals with minimum of 15 days between collections)	12/02/18
2018	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter pick of car parking area including surrounding brambles and ditched embankments. (one litter pick per month at equal intervals with minimum of 15 days between collections)	12/02/18
2018	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter pick of car parking area including surrounding brambles and ditched embankments. (one litter pick per month at equal intervals with minimum of 15 days between collections)	28/02/18
2018	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Tree Safety works along B4313 - Phase 2	28/02/18
2018	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Tree Safety works along B4313 - Phase 2	28/02/18
2018	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Litter pick of car parking area including surrounding brambles and ditched embankments. (one litter pick per month at equal intervals with minimum of 15 days between collections)	28/02/18
2018	WC - Tree / Seed Supply	Supply of replacement field trees	02/03/18
2018	WC - Tree / Seed Supply	Supply of replacement field trees	02/03/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	(Whole of Site Maintenance)	31/03/18

Maintenance of car park area: Mowing of embankments and grassed areas and to include strimming around information panel, kissing gates and wood carvings. Hedge to be cut in front of site welcome sign and to adjacent side of entrance which was layed in 2013 to make sign visible from road. Hedge height to be level with bottom rail of welcome sign. Sign to be wiped clean to remove debris and algae build up. Carry out litter pick and remove from site.

Maintenance of entire footpath network around site (approx. 6500m): Paths navigate through open grasslands and within woodlands of approximately equal proportions in terms of length. Maintenance to comply with woodland trust specifications with care taken to cut vegetation at all entrances, way markers, benches and physical barriers such as kissing gates and stiles. Hedges and verges to be cut back at 2 road crossing points up to 5 metres in either direction to maintain visual splay for pedestrians crossing the road. Grassland maintenance will require cutting of grass footpaths and 1 metre either side of all ability footpath close to car parking area. Maintenance within woodland will include cutting back of verges to the side of the footpath where vegetation is protruding onto footpath or not maintaining a minimum width as outlined in the specification. All overhanging branches and fallen trees are to be cut and stacked at least 3 metres away from footpath edges. Contractor to report of any site defects such as broken gates or damaged tread boards. Assumptions: It will be assumed that contractor will carry out minor repairs such as securing broken gates, removing obstructions and hazards, carrying out minor repairs to

		<p>site furniture and footpath surfaces where hazards occur such as on boardwalks to the value of £150. Report repairs and associated costs to site manager who will issue any additional Purchase Orders for works carried out.</p>	
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	<p>(Whole of Site Maintenance)</p> <p>Maintenance of car park area: Mowing of embankments and grassed areas and to include strimming around information panel, kissing gates and wood carvings. Hedge to be cut in front of site welcome sign and to adjacent side of entrance which was layed in 2013 to make sign visible from road. Hedge height to be level with bottom rail of welcome sign. Sign to be wiped clean to remove debris and algae build up. Carry out litter pick and remove from site.</p> <p>Maintenance of entire footpath network around site (approx. 6500m): Paths navigate through open grasslands and within woodlands of approximately equal proportions in terms of length. Maintenance to comply with woodland trust specifications with care taken to cut vegetation at all entrances, way markers, benches and physical barriers such as kissing gates and stiles. Hedges and verges to be cut back at 2 road crossing points up to 5 metres in either direction to maintain visual splay for pedestrians crossing the road. Grassland maintenance will require cutting of grass footpaths and 1 metre either side of all ability footpath close to car parking area. Maintenance within woodland will include cutting back of verges to the side of the footpath where vegetation is protruding onto footpath or not maintaining a minimum width as outlined in the specification. All overhanging branches and fallen trees are to be cut and stacked at least 3</p>	31/03/18

		metres away from footpath edges. Contractor to report of any site defects such as broken gates or damaged tread boards. Assumptions: It will be assumed that contractor will carry out minor repairs such as securing broken gates, removing obstructions and hazards, carrying out minor repairs to site furniture and footpath surfaces where hazards occur such as on boardwalks to the value of £150. Report repairs and associated costs to site manager who will issue any additional Purchase Orders for works carried out.	
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Supply of 3 tons of bagged stone (type 1) for volunteer path repairs, to include delivery to site and placement at stepped area above Parc Gwyn Bach field.	13/04/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintenance of car park area: Mowing of embankments and grassed areas and to include strimming around information panel, kissing gates and wood carvings. Hedge to be cut in front of site welcome sign and to adjacent side of entrance which was layed in 2013 to make sign visible from road. Hedge height to be level with bottom rail of welcome sign. Sign to be wiped clean to remove debris and algae build up. Carry out litter pick and remove from site.	15/04/18
2018	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Supported Volunteer Task - Tree planting medium sized trees (3 to 4m) in field near car park and repairing tree guards	30/04/18

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	14.43	other oak spp	1880	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation
<p>Allt Morfa Howell: Oak dominated woodland on N and W facing slope, sloping down to the River Tywi (SSSI and SAC) on the N W boundary. This wood is bisected by the steep sided valley of an east flowing small tributary stream. It was thinned by the previous owner, circa 1985.</p> <p>Part of former pasture field planted with native broadleaves in 1996. Lies between Allt Morfa Howell (cpt 1) and the fields of cpt 2a. A further 0.3ha will be incorporated from cpt 2a and planted with mixed broadleaf in 2013.</p>							
2a	5.40	Blackthorn		Non-wood habitat	Management factors (eg grazing etc), Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	
<p>Six small fields managed as permanent pasture and grazed with cattle. They have not been ploughed in living memory, and are of botanical interest. The three fields alongside the B4132 are gently sloping, but those to the south rise steeply. The fields are crossed by several streams and ditches and are very wet in places. Bramble and scrub are encroaching around the edges. In 2012 parkland planting of local varieties of fruit trees, to create wood pasture in the less-botanically interesting easternmost fields, was undertaken and beehives introduced. In 2013 a small area of infill planting of native woodland will take place, adjacent to the original woodland creation in subcompartment 2b.</p>							
2b	0.90	Oak (pedunculate)	1996	Wood establishment		Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	

Part of former pasture field planted with native broadleaves in 1996. Lies between Allt Morfa Howell (cpt 1) and the fields of cpt 2a. A further 0.3ha will be incorporated from cpt 2a and planted with mixed broadleaf in 2013.							
3a	1.70	Oak (sessile)	1880	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	
Woodland named Allt Cware Coch, running on the southern side of the B4312: South western end principally mature oak woodland, probably ancient, but too small to feature on the Register. Northern end comprises a small area of secondary woodland on abandoned fields. A stream passes through this part of the compartment							
4a	1.60	Ash	1995	Min-intervention	Services & wayleaves	Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	
Former pasture field planted as oak - ash woodland in 1995. The outlying western field. Open area maintained over underground gas main.							
4b	2.90	Sessile oak	1995	Wood establishment		Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	
Former pasture field planted as oak - ash woodland in 1995. Upper part of the field above the meadow land above the car park. A further 0.1 ha of mixed broadleaf to be planted in 2013.							
4c	0.50	Ash	1998	Wood establishment		Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	
Areas of former pasture fields alongside the southern boundary of Allt y Ci (Compartment 5 A). Being managed since 1995 to encourage natural regeneration and colonisation from the woodland edge. (Combines cmpts 4c and 4h in original compartment schedule and 1995 WGS)							

4d	0.20	Sessile oak	1995	Wood establishment		Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	
Part of former pasture field planted as oak - ash woodland in 1995. The western corner of the moderately steep slope of the field immediately above the car park area							
4e	5.30	Blackthorn	2010	Non-wood habitat	Landscape factors, Management factors (eg grazing etc)	Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	
Permanent pasture fields managed for hay, or by grazing. Not of special botanical interest, but kept unplanted for landscaping reasons and to retain feel of open space. (Combines cmpts 4e and 4i shown in original compartment schedule and 1995 WGS.) Tree cover was increased in 2012 through the planting of 'parkland trees'. Further planting of boundary with sub cpt 4f will increase woodland margins whilst retaining landscape character.							
4f	1.20	Birch (downy/silver)	1995	Wood establishment		Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	
Part of former pasture field planted as oak - ash woodland in 1995. The upper part of the field to the east of the planting block of Cpt 4B, and to the south of the woodland Allt y Ci (Cpt 5A). A further 0.1 ha of mixed broadleaf incorporated from sub cpt 4e to be planted in 2013.							
4g	0.60	Birch (downy/silver)	1995	Wood establishment		Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	
Part of former pasture field planted as oak - birch woodland.in 1995. Adjacent to cmpt 4F and the southern boundary of the woodland Allt y Ci (cmpt 5A).							
4h	0.40	Woody shrubs	1995	Wood establishment		Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	
Southern corner of pasture field closest to Green Castle Farm. Planted with mixed native shrubs in 1995 to thicken up hedgerows. (Cpt 4j in the original schedule and 1995 WGS).							

4i	0.50	Ash	1900	Wood establishment	People issues (+tve & -tve)	Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	
<p>The area around the car park, including the car park, grass area with bench and small copse of trees to the east. (not delineated as a separate sub-compartment in the original schedule and 1995 WGS). Part of the area by the information panel was planted in memory of one of the original volunteers (Mr Vessay) and includes whitebeams, rowan and walnut.</p>							
5a	9.16	other oak spp	1880	Min-intervention	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>Allt y Ci: Ancient woodland containing stands of oak coppice, birch, ash and alder and willow. Varies from flat and wet on the northern side, to a dry, moderately steeply sloping, north facing slope on the southern side. (sub-cmpt 5B in original schedule and 1995 WGS)</p>							
5b	4.50			Non-wood habitat	Management factors (eg grazing etc), Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Field Margins and Boundaries, Informal Public Access	
<p>Large hay field surrounded on 3 sides by Allt y Ci (cmpt 5A), and on 4th side running along B4312, and long narrow old hay field running north alongside B4312. Mostly gently sloping, wet in places. Of botanical interest, confirmed by resurvey in 2011. (Sub-cpt 5a in original schedule and 1995 WGS). The cpt is subjected to low density grazing/grass cutting regime to maintain botanical interest. Field not to be improved other than the application of farm yard manure during limited grazing period by livestock present. Field known as 'wet meadow' alongside B4312 to be cut annually on maintenance regime. Small ara of scrub in south-easterly corner planted with native broadleaf in 2012.</p>							

GLOSSARY

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.