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WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed Tyddyn Halen

**Management Plan
2017-2022**

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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: | Coed Tyddyn Halen |
| Location: | Ysceifiog, Mold |
| Grid reference: | SJ154725, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 116 |
| Area: | 2.81 hectares (6.94 acres) |
| Designations: | Ancient Semi Natural Woodland |

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Lying in a quiet valley, Coed Tyddyn Halen is a secluded area of ancient semi-natural woodland of mainly oak, with some ash and sycamore and a scatter of planted mature Scot's pine and European larch.

2.2 Extended Description

Coed Tyddyn Halen is an attractive ancient semi-natural woodland of predominately oak with some ash and sycamore and a scatter of planted mature Scot's pine and European larch. The understorey is primarily of hazel but also holly and hawthorn and natural regeneration of ash and sycamore. The wood lies on the steep north-western side of a small river valley and is well-drained although the valley bottom contains a number of springs which cause water-logging. Ground flora is diverse, reflecting the changing ground conditions down the slope. Lying in a quiet valley surrounded by pasture, the site is secluded from the casual visitor, with access being via the local footpath network. A linear permissive path runs along the length of the site parallel with the river. Management access to the site is restricted due to ground conditions.

Key features at the site are:

- ancient semi -natural woodland - structurally diverse with vegetation communities which reflect the range of ground conditions present on site.
- public access - the site is of amenity value to local residents.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Public access from the track (unclassified road) adjoining the southern tip, where a permissive footpath runs along the length of the wood to the northern boundary.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

An ancient semi natural woodland with a diverse structure and species composition together with a diverse ground flora and abundant dead wood habitat. The natural processes of windblow, senescence of mature trees and natural regeneration are operating to facilitate continuing development. Planted conifers will be retained for their lifetime.

The existing path will be maintained in a safe condition providing access for a low level of usage.

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

A structurally diverse ancient semi natural woodland where sessile oak is the dominant canopy species with ash and sycamore, and a scatter of Wych elm and planted mature Scot's pine and European larch. An abundant understorey, dominated by ash, is present with sycamore and hazel coppice also present in quantity together with holly and hawthorn. Trees fallen as a result of windblow has resulted in an abundant dead wood habitat. The site is well drained, although the valley bottom contains a number of springs which cause water-logging and where alder predominates. Ground flora is rich and abundant and reflects the changing ground conditions down the slope, with bluebell dominating the upper slopes and ransoms dominating the permanently wet ground near to the river. Other ground flora species include wood anemone, fern, grasses, dog's mercury, lesser celandine, moss, ivy, honeysuckle, wood sorrel, bramble, lords & ladies, common nettle, lesser stitchwort, cleavers, early purple orchid, yellow archangel, water avens, water crowfoot and herb paris.

Significance

Two UK Habitat Action Plans apply to the site. Wet woodland and Lowland mixed deciduous woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity at this secluded site to allow natural processes to operate in order to maintain the existing structural diversity.

Factors Causing Change

Windblow, Natural regeneration, Senescence of mature trees

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Ancient semi-natural woodland with a diverse structure and species composition together with a diverse ground flora and abundant dead wood habitat where the natural processes of windblow, senescence of mature trees and natural regeneration are operating. Planted conifers will be retained for their lifetime.

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

Natural regeneration is developing in gaps created by windblow/senescence of mature trees. Minimal intervention apart from that determined by the needs of tree safety along the footpath and boundaries.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

An unclassified public road adjoins the southern tip of the site which is very wet underfoot. Informal public access exists within the site in the form of a linear permissive path which runs parallel with the river. The site has a low level of usage by local people.

Significance

The site is used to a small degree by local residents and the local badger group.

Opportunities & Constraints

The access path which leads from the road to the site is outside Trust ownership and is not managed sufficiently to allow easy access.

Factors Causing Change

Windthrow., Localised slumping

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To provide safe public access for low key, low level usage.

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

Maintain the existing path through the wood through an Estates Maintenance Contract in order to provide safe public access in line with usage.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

| Year | Type of Work | Description | Due By |
|------|--------------|-------------|--------|
|------|--------------|-------------|--------|

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

| Cpt No. | Area (ha) | Main Species | Year | Management Regime | Major Management Constraints | Key Features Present | Designations |
|---------|-----------|---------------|------|-------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 1a | 2.85 | Oak (sessile) | 1960 | Min-intervention | No/poor vehicular access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc | Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access | Ancient Semi Natural Woodland |

Moderate to steeply sloping, south east facing Sub-Compartment (the whole site) which slopes down to a small river which forms the eastern boundary. Comprised of semi natural ancient woodland where sessile oak is the dominant canopy species with ash and sycamore, and a scatter of Wych elm and planted mature Scot's pine and European larch. An abundant understorey, dominated by ash, is present with sycamore and hazel coppice also present in quantity together with holly and hawthorn. Trees, fallen as a result of windblow, has resulted in an abundant dead wood habitat. The site is well drained, although the valley bottom contains a number of springs which cause water-logging and where alder predominates. Ground flora is rich and abundant and reflects the changing ground conditions down the slope, with bluebell dominating the upper slopes and ransoms dominating the permanently wet ground near to the river. Other ground flora species include wood anemone, fern, grasses, Dog's mercury, Lesser celandine, moss, ivy, honeysuckle, Wood sorrel, bramble, Lords & ladies, Common nettle, Lesser stitchwort, Cleavers, Early purple orchid, Yellow archangel, Water avens, Water crowsfoot and Herb paris.

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.