



COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed y Garth

Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 y Garth
Location:	Ffynngroew, Mostyn
Grid reference:	SJ134814, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 116
Area:	6.06 hectares (14.97 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

An ancient semi-natural woodland with a good path network make this a popular wood with locals and visitors from further afield. Sycamore is the predominant tree species and ash and oak are also present.

2.2 Extended Description

Coed y Garth, which is ancient semi natural woodland, occupies the northern slope of one of the many typical well-wooded "dingles" which cut deeply into the hillside above the narrow coastal strip along the Dee estuary. The southern slope of the valley is also wooded and the woodland extends beyond the Trust boundary upstream to the west. Pastureland separates the woodland and the nearby village of Pen y Ffordd to the north. The woodland to the east is damp (with numerous springs) and comprises of predominately sycamore, ash and oak with a diverse understorey and ground layer whilst to the west it grades into much drier, more uniformly oak woodland where the understorey and ground layer is more sparse. Many trees are the result of coppice regrowth from a timber extraction in the 1960s, although numerous mature standards also persist. The wood is secluded and not visible in the wider landscape.

Key features at the site are:

- Ancient semi natural woodland with two NVC woodland communities present: Upland Mixed Ashwood (W8) and Upland Oakwood and part of a larger complex of ancient semi natural woodland,
- Informal public access: the woodland contains several paths which are well used by locals and attracts visitors from further afield through its promotion by the local authority in a wider circular walk leaflet.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Coed y Garth is situated close to the villages of Pen-y-ffordd and Ffynnongroyw and is accessible from both via the local public footpath network. Access from Pen y Ffordd is across pasture land with a stile access point into the wood. The main access point from the parking area has a metal motorcycle barrier but is accessible to pedestrians on foot but not suitable for pushchairs/wheelchairs. There are two further entrance points into the wood on public footpaths. Both of these are via narrow pedestrian footbridges across streams. All of the paths within the wood are unsurfaced and slippery when wet. The main path traversing the top of the dingle is relatively flat for the most part with boardwalks in wetter parts. Paths linking with it are fairly steep. The main paths through the wood are also included in a local circular walk promoted by Flintshire County Council Countryside Service. Contact Wepre Park Visitor Centre on (01352) 814931

Parking is available for approximately 4 cars before you cross the stream at Garth Mill (Public House) which is situated .25km along an unmade track off the public highway. Do not park in the Public House Car Park unless you are a patron. Cross the stream via the narrow footbridge and continue up a track which is very steep in parts.

Nearest Public toilets: there are no public toilets within 5 km of the site. For details of the nearest facilities, located at Prestatyn Nova Centre and Talacre, visit www.denbighshire.gov.uk and flintshire.gov.uk respectively.

Public Transport: the nearest bus stop is on the Penyfordd road off the A548 approximately 3/4 km from the site. From the highway walk along the unmade track to the car parking area and then to the site as described. Contact Flintshire County Council Busline for further details on (01352) 704035 or contact www.traveline.org.uk or call them on (0870) 6082608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

This ancient semi-natural wood will be allowed to develop naturally and although Sycamore is present both within the canopy and sub-canopy its effect upon ground flora and regeneration of other broadleaved species is not considered significant enough to necessitate remedial action. Paths will be maintained and improved where necessary in order to take into account the numbers of visitors to the site.

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

The whole site has been listed in a Ancient Woodland Inventory as Semi Natural Ancient Woodland. The eastern end of the site is described as Upland Mixed Ashwood (W8) where Sycamore, Ash and Oak dominate the canopy. The western end which is predominately oak is described as Upland Oakwood (W11). Present in small numbers are Beech, Downy birch Wild cherry and Sweet chestnut. Much of the oak across the site has been coppiced in the past. The understorey is dense with natural regeneration of Ash and Sycamore. Hazel, Holly and Hawthorn are present throughout along with oak regeneration to the west. The ground flora is diverse reflecting the differing ground conditions across the site.

Significance

Two UK Habitat Action Plans apply to the site. The site forms part of a larger ancient woodland complex.

Opportunities & Constraints

The development of entirely semi-natural woodland is constrained by the presence of sycamore in the canopy. However it is not considered significant enough to necessitate remedial action.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the semi natural ancient woodland as high forest comprised of predominately site native trees and shrubs with a diverse ground layer.

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

Monitor for ash dieback.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

Several public footpaths run to and through the site providing access for the nearby communities of Ffynnongroew and Pen y Ffordd to the north. The site also features in a circular walk leaflet promoted by Flintshire County Council. This, together with a number of improvements which were undertaken by the local authority including steps/board-walking during the last plan period have done much to increase access demand. An information board is also present near to the main entrance at the eastern end of the site.

Significance

A popular woodland walk which is well used is promoted locally by Flintshire County Council in their Ffynnongroyw Circular Walk leaflet.

Opportunities & Constraints

Two public footpaths (5 and 5a) which are shown on the Definitive Map as entering the northern boundary were not formalised during the last plan period. However due to the increase in site usage this situation will be remedied during the current plan period.

Factors Causing Change

Increase in usage

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site continues to offer informal public access with all public footpaths being maintained and improved as necessary in line with increased usage.

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

Maintain public and permissive footpaths as part of EMC contract.
 Improve the entrance ways at all sides of the wood.
 Continue to monitor the boardwalk of which sections where replaced in 2016.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	4.18	Sycamore	1962	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>Moderately to steeply sloping sub compartment, occupying the sunny south facing slope of a dingle, which has numerous springs. Sycamore is significant within the canopy, but Ash and Oak also present in quantity. Several other species are present in small numbers, including Beech, Downy birch, Wild cherry and Sweet chestnut. Much of the Oak is situated on the northern side and has been coppiced in the past. An abundant and rich understorey is present, with Ash as the most prevalent regeneration species. Some of this regeneration is also mature and approaching canopy height. Other species include Hazel, Holly, Hawthorn, Wild cherry and Beech. The ground flora is also very rich particularly in damper parts and species include Lesser celandine, Ivy, Nettle, Grasses, Male fern, Mosses, Bramble, Dog rose, Bluebell, Honeysuckle, Wood sorrel, Opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, Bracken, Lords & ladies, Hart's tongue fern, Dog's mercury and Woodruff.</p>							
1b	1.85	Oak (sessile)	1952	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>Moderately to steeply sloping, south facing Sub-Compartment of mostly Mature oak coppice. Downy birch, Sycamore, Wild cherry and Ash are also present in the canopy. Hazel and Holly are the most common species in the understorey, along with Sycamore, Holly, Ash and Oak regeneration. Ground flora is dominated by Bluebell and grasses, with Wood anemone, Ivy, Dog rose, Lords & ladies, Bramble, Mosses, Lesser celandine, Bracken. The ground in this sub compartment is much drier than that of Sub-Compartment 1a and the woodland type appears to be Upland Oakwood. A public footpath forms the eastern boundary of this Sub-Compartment and no other paths are present, although several desire lines may be found.</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.