COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed Cilgelynnen

Management Plan
2014-2019

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM **Page No.**

MAPS

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 Cilgelynnen
Location:	Llanychaer
Grid reference:	SM979347, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 157
Area:	14.46 hectares (35.73 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Environmentally Sensitive Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Ancient woodland and a peat bog known as Esgyrn Bottom dominate the features of this predominantly oak wood. Gladed areas along the central track provide an attractive walk under the canopies of these ancient trees.

2.2 Extended Description

The woodland forms the eastern end of a strip of broadleaved woodland which runs along the Gwaun Valley and occupies a steep north-facing slope, descending down to level streamside land. The valley is hidden from view except from immediately adjacent properties. Alder and willow dominate the eastern half of the flat land, but at the eastern end it opens out into raised peat bog. The peat bog is known as Esgyrn Bottom and extends westwards and northwards onto other landowners' land in the valley. The bog appears to be gradually becoming drier and is becoming colonised at the eastern end by bracken and scrub.

The hillside woodland is predominantly oak, but with a substantial amount of large singled sycamore of coppice origin, and smaller amounts of beech and ash. Two regeneration coupes with retained seed trees were cut between 1993 and 1996 but survival of planted and regenerated trees has been patchy due to vigorous growth of bramble. In 2006 small groups of ash were planted in the most open areas and the bramble around them controlled annually.

Several streams cut gullies down the hillside and contribute to the wetness of the valley floor. Glades along the central track help to provide an attractive walk, which links with another public footpath at the western boundary of the site.

Key features of the site are the fact the ancient semi natural woodland, the raised peat bog which is part of Esgyrn Bottom Site of Special Scientific Interest and the public access facilities available on site.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General Location:
Cilgelynnen is about half a mile from Llanychaer and 3.2 miles from Fishguard - both are reached along the B4313 which has no pavement. The much larger woods of Cwm Gwaun are nearby and there is a good network of public rights of way in the area.

Overview of paths and entrances:
Access is via a gate from the road at the South East end of the site and via a stile on a public footpath at the Western end. The main footpath is reasonably level for the most part but with steps at the Western end. It is not surfaced and can get very wet in winter. There is a spur track which runs up the side of the hill fairly steeply. The main track is a public footpath and can form a circular route along the Esgryn Bottom although the return route is outside the Woodland Trust property.

Public transport:
The nearest bus stop is by the telephone box in Llanychaer. There are buses to this stop three days a week to and from Fishguard and twice a week to and from Haverfordwest. During office hours call 01437 764551 for details, email public.transport@pembrokeshire.gov.uk or see www.traveline.org.uk, tel: 0870 6082608. (Information from personal visit 11/12/06)

Parking:
There is a flat grassy area at the entrance to site with space for 10 + cars but it is not surfaced and not suitable for use in wet conditions. There is space close to the entrance to park on the road side.

Public Toilets:
There are toilets in Fishguard in the Square and there is a disabled toilet which requires a RADAR key. (Information from Pembrokeshire County Council December 2006).

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The wood will continue to develop with natural regeneration replacing trees that fall or die. Canopy species will include oak, ash, alder, willow and sycamore. Canopy gaps with ash saplings and hazel coppice regrowth will be managed to ensure that bramble does not prevent them from growing. The wood will be varied in composition with oak, ash and sycamore on the slopes and a wetter woodland habitat on the valley bottom, large amounts of standing and fallen deadwood covered in mosses will be seen.
In the open part of the site which forms the end of the raised peat bog, rhododendron will be controlled but the purple moor grass, bracken and scrub will not be controlled as the ground is inaccessible for machinery and grazing is unlikely to be possible due to ground conditions. The aspiration is to raise the water table to restore the wetter conditions which created the peat bog if this can be done together with other land owners and with Natural Resources Wales. In the absence of such a project the bog area is likely to gradually dry out and become scrubby wet woodland.
The tracks and footpaths will be kept open and an informal parking area maintained at the entrance.

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

All of the woodland other than the extreme eastern part of the site (subcompartment 1a) has been identified as ancient semi natural woodland. Woodland types appear to be a mosaic of Upland Oak wood and Upland Mixed Ash wood, although no formal NVC survey has been carried out. Oak and ash appear to be the most common native broadleaved species within this area, along with sycamore, which is now an integral part of the canopy. Ground flora is quite varied within these areas, probably due to the steepness of the valley side and mosaic of communities present. The areas which are not ASNW also have ancient woodland characteristics and for this reason are combined in this key feature.

Significance

The woodland has developed naturally and therefore will be genetically well suited to site conditions. In addition to this, conserving the woodland in its semi-natural state will have a positive effect on site biodiversity.

Opportunities & Constraints

The sycamore has shaded out other regeneration in the past but was heavily thinned in the late 1990's and will not now be further reduced.
Bramble grows so vigorously in canopy gaps that it is not advisable to open up new regeneration areas.

Factors Causing Change

Bramble growth in felled areas, Natural regeneration of ash and chalara. Natural regeneration of sycamore

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The woodland continues to naturally develop as mostly ancient semi natural woodland with a diversity of native tree species in the canopy and plenty of fallen and standing deadwood.

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

The woodland will be managed under minimal intervention principles, with work limited to tree safety operations. Stock will be excluded from the site.

5.2 Open Ground Habitat

Description

The raised bog and mire at the northwestern end of the site, known as Esgryn Bottom has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is the most south westerly raised bog in Britain. The Woodland Trust site is only a small part of the SSSI and this is mainly secondary peat bog and marshy grassland having been cut over for peat in the past and being relatively dry compared with the central bog. It is dominated by bracken reflecting the drier conditions at this end. Purple moor grass (Molinia) is also abundant and scrub, including willow and oak are spreading from the edges and along the main water channel. The SSSI features are the raised bog, its rare mosses and liverworts and the glacial melt water channel with its associated deposits.

Significance

The habitat carries a SSSI designation and UK Habitat Action Plan. It was designated on account of its large size and extent and the fact that it contains scarce mosses, liverworts and insects and has important pollen records trapped within its thick (up to 7 metres) peat sequences.

Opportunities & Constraints

The existence of the bog habitat is currently being threatened by encroaching bracken, shrubs and rhododendron, which may dominate the site over time. This is likely to be due to a gradual drying of the site as a result of historic drainage works and possible a reduction in the amount of water entering the bog from surrounding land.
There is an opportunity to improve the bog habitat by attempting to raise water levels, although this would require cooperation with adjacent landowners and NRW. Grazing is unlikely to be practical because of the very wet conditions and very uneven ground as well as the practical difficulty and visual impact of any fencing.

Factors Causing Change

Rhododendron, Natural Succession To Scrub, Possible Lowering Of Water Levels

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The secondary bog is restored to more natural (wetter) conditions. Water levels are raised to reverse the drying out of the peat which has led to scrub and bracken spreading.

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

Non intervention unless a wider project across other landholdings to raise water table is possible. Control Rhododendron.

5.3 Informal Public Access

Description

A public footpath allows access along the entire length of the site, running in an east-west direction. This links up with another footpath just outside the western boundary. In addition to this, there is a small track running in a south easterly direction from the footpath to the southern boundary through sub compartment 1b. A parking area just within the main entrance of the site has room for several cars. It is from this parking area that the public footpath runs through the site.

Significance

The site is used by local residents and links in with the wider public footpath network.

Opportunities & Constraints

Public access over the entire site is constrained by the bramble and steepness of the southern slope and permanently wet and very rough ground in the north both on the bog and in the wood.

Factors Causing Change

Falling trees from unstable slope blocking route.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The present level of public access will be retained within the site, with footpaths kept open and the parking area prevented from scrubbing over. There are very attractive walks around the site with open views, mature woodland and mossy wet woodland. Entrances to the site and estate furniture are also maintained.

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

Control vegetation and clear fallen trees along public footpath and in parking area annually. Control Japanese knotweed around car park. Keep culverts clear to prevent the track from flooding. If use increases it may be necessary to improve the parking area and / or the wettest parts of the path.

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	1.06	other oak spp	1900	Min-intervention		Informal Public Access	
Oak dominated sub compartment on the eastern side of the site. Other canopy species include ash and alder, which is mostly found in the vicinity of the stream. The southern quarter of the sub compartment has been used as a stacking and conversion area, around which several ash trees have been planted. Sycamore is regenerating freely and a bramble and bracken dominated glade is present on the northern side. Ground flora is patchy and species include fern, bluebell, ivy, honeysuckle, bramble, moss, grasses, dog's mercury, bracken and nettle. This compartment is not shown as Ancient Woodland on the inventory.							
1b	7.02	Sycamore	1920	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Moderately sloping, north facing strip of land that forms the southern side of the site. Almost the whole of this subcompartment is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory. Oak, sycamore and ash are the most common canopy species and vary in dominance along the strip. A small proportion of the canopy trees are of coppice origin. Two areas were felled between 1993 and 1996 in order to create regeneration coupes, with seed trees retained, while thinning has taken place in other areas. Natural regeneration has been patchy due to bramble growth in felled areas but there are some areas of good ash regeneration and also coppice regrowth of sycamore and hazel. In 2006 some additional groups of ash were planted to meet WGS restocking requirements and the bramble is cut annually in these areas. Ground flora species include wood sorrel, bracken, ivy, bluebell, fern, bramble, honeysuckle, nettle, forget-me-not, moss, dog's mercury, lesser celandine, willow herb, grasses, buttercup, wood arum and pennywort. Several streams flow northwards through this sub compartment, towards the stream which forms the northern boundary of the site. A public footpath provides visitor access along the northern boundary of this sub compartment and two glades have been cut to provide visual and biodiversity interest. A permissive footpath also exists and runs through the easternmost regeneration coupe. The western half has been included within the boundary of the Esgryn Bottom SSSI.							
1c	2.18	other willows	1960	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Thin strip of ash, alder and sallow woodland running along the stream that forms the northern boundary on the eastern half of the site. Most of the ground is waterlogged and several streams flow northwards through the sub compartment. Ground flora is generally abundant and species include bramble, nettle, buttercup, fern, moss, ivy and dock. A public footpath forms the southern boundary of this sub compartment. Most of it is included on the Ancient Woodland Inventory except for a short section in the middle of the compartment.							
2a	4.12	NULL		Non-wood habitat	Legal issues, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access	Site of Special Scientific Interest
Area of raised peat bog with SSSI designation (Esgryn Bottom) at the north western end of the site. Mature birch trees form a line along the public footpath that forms the southern boundary of this sub compartment. Occasional rhododendron are present and bracken, alder, ash, sycamore and sallow are encroaching on the eastern edge. Ground flora is abundant and is dominated by purple moor grass. Other species include bramble, fern, sphagnum mosses, ivy, buttercup, rush, bracken, heather and cotton grass.							

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.