



COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed Allt Cefn Maesllan

Management Plan
2014-2019

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 Allt Cefn Maesllan |
| Location: | Llanarth |
| Grid reference: | SN426581, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 146 |
| Area: | 10.66 hectares (26.34 acres) |
| Designations: | Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area |

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This site is made up of two areas of woodland, Allt Cefn Maes Llan and Coed Perthneidr. Allt Cefn Maes Llan is a long thin woodland occupying one side of a very steep, almost gorge like river valley. The southern part is east facing and is almost pure sessile oak. The northern part has a narrow area of flat land alongside the river supporting alder and ash, and a diverse wet woodland flora. A public right of way footpath runs through the wood just above the river, and provides a very attractive walk. A public footpath through a section of privately owned woodland links Coed Perthneidr. A moderately steep north and west facing spur slope covered by secondary woodland and scrub. The site is an important local landscape feature, rising above a road which is a well-used holiday route. There is a short circular footpath, with glades and a bench providing good views out to the sea to the east.

2.2 Extended Description

This site is made up of two areas of much larger woodland, Allt Cefn Maes Llan and Coed Perthneidr. They are separated by a section of privately owned woodland.

Allt Cefn Maes Llan

A long thin woodland occupying one side of a very steep, almost gorge like river valley. The southern part is east facing and is almost pure sessile oak, last cut as coppice circa 1950. The trees are smaller higher up the slope due to exposure and increasingly thin soils. The northern part is north facing and has a narrow area of flat land alongside the river supporting alder and ash, and a diverse wet woodland flora. The slope here is less steep, wetter and more sheltered and ash, elm and sycamore are frequent. A public right of way footpath runs through the wood just above the river, and provides a very attractive walk. This path is little used, as access onto it outside the wood is not easy and there are no parking points convenient for visitors.

At one end of the woodland is a chalet site and the other end is Llanarth village. Local residents of the village of Llanarth and visitors to the chalet park are probably the most common users of the site.

The land on the tops of the valley sides outside the site are mainly improved pasture and are grazed by mixed livestock. The valley however is wooded for most of its length, and it is this continuity of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland that forms a Key Feature of the site.

Coed Perthneidr

A moderately steep north and west facing spur slope covered by secondary woodland and scrub developed since circa 1940. The site is an important local landscape feature, rising above a road which is a well-used holiday route. The oldest woodland is on the northern side and is principally ash, sycamore and oak. Young ash woodland, and hawthorn and blackthorn scrub cover the central area, and bracken is dominant near the southern boundary, it is this developing secondary woodland that is the first key feature.

There is a short circular footpath, with glades and a bench providing good views out to the sea to the east. Allt Cefn Maesllan is a short walk along a public right of way adjacent the entrance to Coed Perthneidr.

The land to the north is developed as a chalet holiday complex and is separated from the site by strip of mixed broadleaved woodland. To the south is a sloping field of bracken and gorse whilst to the east are improved fields grazed by mixed livestock.

The key features of the site are ancient semi natural woodland, natural secondary woodland and informal public access.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

The site is made up of two Woodland Trust sites which form part of a larger woodland - Allt Cefn Maes Llan and Coed Perthneidr.

General location:

The woods are on the southern side of the Afon Llethi valley between Llanarth and Newquay, they are separated by a section of privately owned woodland in the middle but a public right of way links the two. Allt Cefn Maes Llan is approximately 300m from the Post Office in Llanarth via a steep residential road leading off the A487 opposite the post office then along the public footpath signposted off the road.

Coed Perthneidr is approximately 1 mile from the village via the footpath or by road. Access from the road is just above the Woodlands Holiday Park on the B4342 to Newquay from Llanarth. Alternatively it can be reached from Llanarth along the footpath through Coed Allt Cefn Maes Llan. There is a good network of public rights of way in the surrounding countryside but no other open access land nearby.

General overview of paths and entrances

The entrance to Allt Cefn Maes Llan is not very easy to find as the footpath passes in front of a house and then behind the garage but it is sign posted off the road, is passable and is kept open - the path from this end is narrow and steep in places with steps but it becomes wider and flatter at the Western end. In Coed Perthneidr there is a circular path with a bench and good views out to sea, the path is steep in places and has steps.

Parking

It is possible to park in the village of Llanarth but there is no Woodland Trust parking at the site.

Public transport

There is a bus stop in Llanarth with hourly buses to Newquay, Aberystwyth and Cardigan. See www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0870 608 2608 for details of services. (Information from Traveline website Jan 19 2007)

Toilets

There are 24 hour public toilets with disabled toilets requiring a RADAR key in Newquay which is 3 miles away.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The site will be made up of a variety of habitats and native woodland types with natural processes of succession resulting in gradual development of the scrub areas into high forest. The wood will have a good mix of native tree species and a rich ground flora which is protected from grazing animals, including bluebells, wood anemone and early purple orchids. The tree species composition of the wood is expected to change gradually over time as pioneer species such as birch and blackthorn in Coed Perthneidr are replaced by less light demanding species. Minimum intervention management has been chosen to allow natural succession to resulting in gradual development of the scrub areas into high forest.

The public will continue to be welcome to walk in these woods and also to enjoy the view from the bench in Coed Perthneidr.

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 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

Historic maps show Coed Perthneidr to have been a mixture of woodland and scrub in the northeast corner with the remaining area as pasture. Over the last few decades the site has naturally developed into secondary woodland, with a small area of scrub, mainly bracken and gorse, at the southern end. Colonising species include oak, ash, hawthorn, blackthorn and sycamore. Coed Perthneidr is linked to the nearby site, Allt Cefn Maesllan, by privately owned woodland.

Significance

The variety of stages of development on site provide a variety of habitats for wildlife, varying from open ground to mature woodland cover. The developing woodland also buffers the existing native woodland, increasing its area and reducing edge effects.

Opportunities & Constraints

The development of scrub into woodland at the southern end of the site has been constrained in the past by fire, due to the large amount of bracken present.

Factors Causing Change

Natural Succession To Woodland

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site continues to develop naturally into secondary woodland, with open areas becoming gradually colonised with native broadleaves. Glades will be maintained as open ground habitats.

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

Mow glades annually in order to maintain open ground areas.

5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Allt Cefn Maes Llan is Semi Natural Ancient Woodland, the steep slope probably accounting for the lack of major disturbance. The site appears to consist of two woodland types, with W8 upland mixed ashwood in the northern section grading into W17 upland oakwood in the southern section. The woodland appears to be in fairly good condition, with ground flora and canopy typical of the woodland types. Sycamore is present in the northern section, but is not compromising the development of other species. A small amount of rhododendron is present in the southern section.

Significance

As Ancient Semi Natural Woodland the site is important in its own right but the Avon Llethi is almost entirely wooded from source to mouth, Allt Cefn Maes Llan forms the central section. Small leaved lime is also present in the wood

Opportunities & Constraints

The woodland could be constrained by the growth of rhododendron if it is allowed to develop freely. The species diversity of trees may be affected by expansion of sycamore in the long term.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive Rhododendron, Natural regeneration of tree species

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site is maintained as native broadleaved high forest. Sycamore will not be a dominant component of the canopy. Rhododendron is eradicated.

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

Natural regeneration will continue to develop in areas where over mature trees fall or die back, allowing in more light. In areas of natural regeneration the proportion of sycamore to other native growth will be observed to ensure that ash and oak are also recruited.
Control rhododendron in southern section and eradicate if possible.

5.3 Informal Public Access

Description

A public footpath runs the length of Allt Cefn Maes Llan. The level of use at this end is generally low, due to the lack of parking and difficulty accessing the site from Llanarth, although visitor levels are higher in the summer season as a result of the proximity of the site to the Woodlands Holiday Park. In Coed Perthneidr there is a circular permissive path, with glades, viewpoints and a bench along the route. Early purple and common spotted orchids are found in good numbers along the path and glades. An information board is also present at the Coed Perthneidr entrance and there is a bench with good views out to sea. Coed Perthneidr is fairly well used, as it is adjacent to the Holiday Park.

Significance

The site is situated very close to the village of Llanarth and the Woodlands Holiday Park.

Opportunities & Constraints

Informal public access is constrained by the steepness of the site, the lack of nearby parking and the difficulty in accessing the site from Llanarth. The two sites Allt Cefn Maesllan and Perthneidr are separated by private woodland although a public footpath connects the two.

Factors Causing Change

Natural succession to woodland around viewpoint.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The site continues to offer attractive informal public access, with the public footpath and permissive paths kept open and regularly maintained.

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

Paths will be kept accessible within and to the wood (especially from Llanarth). Entrance and access furniture will be maintained and the viewpoint kept open.

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 | 4.60 | Ash | 1960 | Min-intervention | Landscape factors, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc | Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland | Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area |
| <p>Moderately to very steeply sloping compartment in the northern half of Coed Allt Cefn Maesllan. North facing, consisting of mature ash-dominated woodland, sloping down to Afon Llethi. Sycamore and sessile oak are also present in the canopy. The frequent understorey consists of natural regeneration of ash and sycamore, and hazel coppice. Ground flora is rich and abundant and species include grasses, bramble, bracken, bluebell, wood sorrel, moss, ivy, honeysuckle, dog's mercury, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, wood anemone, cleavers, hart's tongue fern, lichen, gorse and bilberry. A public footpath runs the length of the Sub-Compartment.</p> | | | | | | | |
| 1b | 6.00 | Oak (sessile) | 1960 | Min-intervention | Landscape factors, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc | Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland | Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area |
| <p>Steeply sloping sub compartment in the south of Coed Allt Cefn Maesllan. East facing, it slopes down to Afon Llethi. The canopy consists of almost pure sessile oak, with small amounts of sycamore, ash and beech also present. Much of the sessile oak and sycamore is of coppice origin, indicating past management. Natural regeneration is fairly sparse, with sessile oak, holly and rowan present, along with hazel coppice. Ground flora is fairly sparse and typical of W17 upland oakwood, with bracken, moss, bilberry, honeysuckle, foxglove and heather present. A public footpath runs the length of the sub compartment.</p> | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------|------------------|------|------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| 2a | 0.00 | Oak (sessile) | 1960 | Min-intervention | No/poor vehicular access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site | Informal Public Access, Natural Secondary Woodland | Area of Landscape Value |
|----|------|------------------|------|------------------|---|--|----------------------------|

Gently to steeply sloping, mostly south facing compartment that occupies the whole site and forms the brow of a hill. This compartment is known as Coed Perthneidr and is separated from the other compartments by a privately owned area of the same woodland. The north eastern end of the compartment comprises more mature woodland, grading into scrub at the steeper southern end. A band of dense hawthorn and blackthorn scrub separates the wooded and more open areas. Sessile oak and ash are the most common species in the woodland areas, with sycamore and downy birch also present. Most of the canopy species in the woodland are fairly young (c1960-70), although more mature specimens are present. Several mature yew trees are also present along the path at the north western end. Ash appears to be regenerating well under the woodland canopy, with sycamore and rowan also present. In the open areas sessile oak, sycamore and hawthorn are becoming established. There is a diverse ground flora is present under the canopy which is abundant at the more open southern end. Bracken is the most common species in the open areas. Other ground flora species include grasses, bramble, ivy, honeysuckle, bluebell, moss, hart's tongue fern, enchanter's nightshade, lords & ladies, early purple orchid, willow herb and gorse. A circular permissive footpath also runs through the compartment and several glades and a viewpoint have been cut along its route.

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.