



Coed Ceunant

Management Plan
2016-2021

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 Ceunant
Location:	Llanbedr, Dyffryn Clwyd
Grid reference:	SJ152602, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 116
Area:	17.22 hectares (42.55 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Environmentally Sensitive Area

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A mix of semi-natural ancient woodland and new native woodland including ash, oak, birch and beech. A stream and pond are present at the site and areas of gorse and bracken add biodiversity to the woodland here.

2.2 Extended Description

Coed Ceunant occupies a southwest-facing valley of the Clwydian Range AONB south of Moel Famau.

There are three distinct landscape and ecological elements to this site:

- 1 Long established semi-natural ancient woodland occupying the lower valley.
- 2 Recently established broadleaved woodland on the western flanks of the valley.
- 3 Parkland grazed by sheep in the upper part of the site.

The established woodland dominates the steep valley sides for a large proportion of the site. It has a wide age class and is structurally diverse. The dominant canopy species are Oak, Sycamore, Ash and Birch whilst Sallow, Rowan, Hazel and Holly make up the sub-canopy. Ash forms the dominant regeneration. The upper section of the woodland has a higher proportion of Alder. The ground flora is diverse and reflects the wet nature of the site. The wood was both coppiced and grazed up until 1999 but has recovered well and now displays all the elements of a semi-natural ancient woodland.

The north and south flanks of the valley are made up of comparatively recently established woodland. The southern flank was planted in the 80s with Cherry, Ash, Sycamore and Larch. As a consequence of only partial establishment this section is structurally diverse and has a number of areas of semi-open habitat colonised by bracken and gorse. Since acquisition by the Trust and the fencing of the site to exclude stock this section has established a maturing canopy with a well developed sub-canopy and ground layer. The northern flank of the valley is made up of three small sections. The western-most which was former woodland cleared to establish pasture in the 1960s but planted in parts and the rest of the area left as semi-open to create a more diverse habitat.

These semi-open areas are now mostly Gorse, Bracken with Birch and Rowan. The middle section although planted comparatively recently has many of the characteristics of the ancient semi-natural woodland of the lower valley. The eastern section of the north flank was planted in 1999 with Oak, Sallow, Hazel, Cherry and Rowan and is maturing rapidly.

The Parkland which occupies the eastern end of the valley forms an attractive transitional zone between the dense woodland of the lower valley and the ruggedness of the open hillside of Moel Famau. Within this section are a lightly wooded stream valley and pond together with large copses on the southern flank. The parkland aspect is maintained by the grazing of sheep.

There is a well established pattern of footpaths which provide the walker with both circular routes and links to Llanbedr to the SW and the Car Park/View point on the Offa's Dyke path at the top of the valley to the east.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Coed Ceunant is situated on the lower slopes of the Clwydian Range AONB below Moel Famau Country Park. It is surrounded by moorland/pastureland and is only accessible via the local public rights of way network. There are 6 public access points. The two entrances on the western boundary are kissing gates. The remaining four on the north and eastern boundaries are stiles. All of the paths within the wood are unsurfaced with bare earth/grass which can be slippery when wet.

Nearest parking is at the Iron Gate Car Park at Bwlch Penbarras, Moel Famau Country Park, which is located at the head of the valley. There is then a 0.5km walk (waymarked public footpath) down a steep hillside to a stile on the eastern boundary.

The nearest public toilets are situated at the Forestry Commission car park to the east of Bwlch Penbarra. These do not have facilities for the disabled. The nearest toilets for the disabled are at Loggerheads Country Park or Ruthin town centre (4km and 3km respectively). For further information visit Denbighshire Council's website at www.denbighshire.gov.uk.

Public transport: A bus stop is situated outside the Griffin Pub on the A470 at Llanbedr. From here there is a 1km gradual uphill walk to the wood along public highways (mostly country lane with no pavement) and a public footpath. For further details contact Traveline by visiting their website at www.traveline.org.uk or call them on (0870) 6082608

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The woodland elements, both established ancient semi-natural and more recently established woodland, will be allowed to develop naturally in accordance with the Trust's management principles detailed on page 3 of this plan. This implies minimal intervention.

The parkland will be maintained by grazing.

Public enjoyment of the woodland will be achieved by:

- maintaining all existing footpaths, stock fences and entrances,
- maintaining features which enhance the internal and external landscape of the site (path side glades, view points, parkland and pond)

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 complex mosaic of ancient semi natural woodland, scattered trees over grassland, and non-woodland habitat dominated by bracken and gorse. Much of the woodland is not characteristic of any NVC community due to the history of grazing and past management prior to Woodland Trust ownership. Existing roundel is a feature in the parkland landscape. The field layers and shrub layers are now developing rapidly after many years of grazing. Flushed areas present with characteristic wetland flora.

Significance

Wet Woodland, Upland Mixed Ashwoods and Upland Oakwoods are all priority habitats in UK BAP. Important feature in local landscape -few areas of broadleaved woodland along lower slopes of the Clwydian range

Opportunities & Constraints

Rapid development of ground flora and regeneration, particularly Ash, after the exclusion of stock.

Factors Causing Change

Natural succession to High forest of areas thinned or grazed., Dominance of Ash in the process of regeneration, Windblow

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain as a feature in the landscape and enhance the woodland habitat by allowing the natural development of a structurally and species diverse broadleaved woodland with a characteristic woodland ground flora and understorey.

Open areas currently dominated by bracken, gorse and grasses will succeed to woodland. The area of wet woodland will be maintained through minimum intervention allowing the natural processes of winblow, coppice collapse and natural regeneration to operate.

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

Progression to high forest. No management intervention required.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

Area of new native woodland created in 1999. Planting comprised of native broadleaves (Ash 25%, Sessile oak 20%, Cherry 15%, Birch 14%, Rowan 14%, Hazel 4%, Hawthorn 2%, Elder 2%, Goat willow 2%. Hornbeam (2%) planted around edge of glade to west of compartment as a feature to add visual interest. Proportions of tree species varied across the site according to altitude, greater proportion of ash/oak on lower slopes with birch/rowan greater on the upper slopes.

Significance

Provides link between existing woodland and open moorland above.
Ease of the migration and re-colonisation by fauna/flora from adjacent SNAW.
Contributes to external landscape value.

Opportunities & Constraints

Integration into the broader habits and landscape.

Factors Causing Change

Natural colonisation of woodland ground flora species.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Continue the creation of new native broadleaved woodland into which ground flora species from adjacent semi natural ancient woodland can colonise

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

Remove all remaining tree guards. Progression to high forest.

5.3 Informal Public Access

Description

Immediately adjacent land to north and east is part of Moel Famau Country Park. A popular car park and the Offa's Dyke Long Distance Footpath are located at Bwlch Penbarras 500m to the east. A public footpath runs from this point down to and through Coed Ceunant, which is waymarked. Internal tracks are also used by the public. Three additional entrance points from the Country Park are available along the northern and eastern boundary extending the opportunities for visitors to the car park to visit the site. The site is also well used by locals from Llanbedr D.C. Llanbedr D.C. village hall is promoted in Offa's Dyke LDF literature as overnight accommodation for groups. The public footpath bisecting this site is therefore used as way of dropping off route for accommodation. Site frequently incorporated into Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions.

Upper slopes to east of site retained as improved pasture in order to create a transitional zone between the woodland in the lower valley and the open hillside.

There are two grassy glades alongside northern boundary of Cpt 1b maintained to create picnic sites.

Attractive artificial pond created though construction of earth dam across erosive stream in area of retained parkland. Popular spot within site for public to rest and visible from Moel Famau Country Park above.

Spectacular views across the Vale of Clwyd are gained form the upper slopes of the site. and also from the management access track in Cpt 1c. Views across to Moel Famau from large open glade dominated by bracken between main track bisecting Cpt 1B.

Significance

Occasional reports of unauthorised camping and fishing over the years.

Grazing of retained pasture is limited to grazing by sheep by neighbouring farmer. Maximising wildlife value of pond has enhanced public enjoyment of the site.

Stream provides domestic water for a number of properties downstream. Duty of care to ensure that water supply not interrupted, reduction in water quality and dam maintained. Management access track also crosses dam providing access to northern side of site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Occasional reports of unauthorised camping and fishing over the years.

Grazing of retained pasture is limited to grazing by sheep by neighbouring farmer. Maximising wildlife value of pond has enhanced public enjoyment of the site.

Stream provides domestic water for a number of properties downstream. Duty of care to ensure that water supply not interrupted, reduction in water quality and dam maintained. Management access track also crosses dam providing access to northern side of site.

Factors Causing Change

Increase in visitor numbers., Degradation of wooden estate works., Natural succession/bracken invasion of glades/viewpoints, Natural succession of pond through siltation.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Current facilities for public access will be maintained in a good and safe condition.

Internal and external landscape to be maintained.

- two small path edge glades to be maintained as grassland,
- the pond to be maintained as an open water amenity feature of wildlife value with characteristic marginal and aquatic vegetation.

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

Access provision is in keeping with access guidelines and site access coding maintained within the EMC. Path and entrance network appropriate to level of use. Footpath network developed and promoted with Denbighshire Council community miles project route maps and added on interpretation board.

5.4 Continuity of Open Ground

Description

In terms of the historical geography of the site this represents the remnant of the improved grassland created in the 1960s but retained as parkland grazed by sheep. The other areas on the northern flank of the site were planted with new native woodland on acquisition by the Trust.

Significance

It forms a transitional zone between the dense woodland of the core of the site and the open mountainside of the upper valley.

It places the woodland in to the agricultural landscape and mimics the surrounding pattern of land-usage.

It allows the public to see the smaller-scale landscape features, the lightly-wooded stream valleys and the pond and thus enhances the aesthetic quality of the site.

It enhances the overall biodiversity of the site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Provides an open aspect to the site when viewed from the upper valley. In order to maintain the integrity of the feature it will have to be permanently grazed by sheep under licence.

Provided stocking levels are appropriate it may provide for increasing floral diversity not exhibited within the rest of the site.

Factors Causing Change

Stocking levels.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Retained as parkland grazed by sheep with minor landscape features including lightly wooded stream valleys, pond and marginal aquatic habitats.

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

Establish the ownership of water extraction points and associated pipe work. Maintain existing grazing licence arrangements and stocking levels.

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	2.82	Oak (sessile)	1999	Wood establishment	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Environmentally Sensitive Area
<p>Former woodland and moorland edge on steep slopes above the woodland to the north and east. Converted to improved pasture in 1963 by previous owner and grazed. Grazing continued under Woodland Trust ownership until 1999 when the sub-compartment (which is comprised of three separate areas) was fenced to exclude stock and planted with native broadleaves. Proportion of open ground (1E) retained for landscape and habitat diversity</p>							
1b	5.70	Sycamore	1900	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Environmentally Sensitive Area
<p>Comprised predominately of Sycamore, Oak, Ash, Birch and occasional Beech, Hornbeam. Many of the tree show signs of being coppiced in the past. The roundel within the parkland 1e is incorporated into this sub-compartment.</p> <p>The sub-canopy is comprised of Hazel, Hawthorn, Holly and Rowan. The field layer dominated by grasses but with frequent Bluebell, Nettle, Wood sorrel, Bramble, Wood avens, Dog's mercury and Dog violet. Natural regeneration of predominately Ash locally abundant with Holly, Rowan, Hawthorn following the exclusion of stock in 1990. The sub-compartment occupies the valley of fast flowing stream which is steeply gullied in the west. A Large open glade with incursions of bracken extends between main track bisecting compartment and the stream. Wet flushes occur where there is natural ground seepage or where broken field drains are present. These support species typical of wet woodland such as remote sedge and opposite leaved golden saxifrage.</p>							
1c	3.23	Mixed native broadleaves	1980	Min-intervention	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Environmentally Sensitive Area

Majority of trees felled and area replanted in 1980's by previous owner. Scattered mature trees remain: Sycamore, Beech, Wild cherry, Oak, Rowan with occasional Hornbeam, Larch and lime. Replanting, predominately Oak, Ash and Hazel, was poorly maintained with consequent significant losses. The woodland has subsequently regenerated well under Woodland Trust ownership through planting and natural regeneration following the exclusion of stock. The remaining semi-open areas are largely dominated by bracken and gorse. A small area of rhododendron has been cleared. There is a quarry with a 15 foot crag face at the eastern end of the sub-compartment.

1d	0.64	Alder species	1980	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Environmentally Sensitive Area
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Wet Alder and Birch dominated woodland with Ash, Goat Willow and Holly alongside the upper reaches of stream where ground permanently wet through ground seepage. Much of Alder has been coppiced in the past. Area grazed until 1990 when internal fencing erected to exclude stock. The woodland and associated ground flora has responded well since exclusion of stock.

1e	5.03	Open ground		Wood pasture	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Environmentally Sensitive Area
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Parkland transitional zone between woodland and open hillside.

Retained improved pasture of little botanical interest on upper slopes of site. Steeply sloping ground from river up to northern and southern boundaries. Tributary of stream has created small valley on slope to north. Grazed by sheep under licence. Narrow strip of wet woodland following stream which is open to grazing. Small pond behind earth dam on top of which runs a track. The two stream valleys have scattered trees and shrubs.

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.