



COED CADW  
WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Vicarage Wood & Waun y Fedwen

## Management Plan

# 2019-2024

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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.

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## 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](http://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

<b>Site name:</b>	Vicarage Wood & Waun y Fedwen
<b>Location:</b>	Gelli Aur
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SN587195, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 159
<b>Area:</b>	2.87 hectares (7.09 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Vicarage Wood and Waun y Fedwen are two small woods separated by a minor road and a small privately owned pasture. They are close to the entrance of a council run country park with access to a large estate with paths, a cafe and other facilities.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Vicarage Wood and Waun y Fedwen are two small woods separated by a minor road and a small privately owned pasture. The woodlands are on a north facing aspect on the edge of the estate village of Gelli Aur and provide important setting for the picturesque buildings which were once all owned and managed by the Gelli Aur Estate. This woodland is reminiscent of the former estate and is evident by the trees planted within the site and boundary hedges.

The canopy is predominantly an Oak and Ash mix with Beech, Cherry and Birch. The understory comprises of hazel, holly and hawthorn, the woods are classified as ancient semi natural woodland as indicated by the abundant ground flora and along with public access form the key features of the site. Parts of the site have Yew included in the canopy mix along with occasional Elm.

The villagers of Gelli Aur are likely to be the only visitors and although public access is limited due to steep and wet ground it is possible to explore and enjoy the snowdrops, primroses, wood anemones, ferns and mosses. It is probably the steep and wet terrain which prevented these two blocks from being cleared for grazing historically. Vicarage Wood contains some specimen trees which may have benefitted from protection afforded by estate ownership allowing them to grow to their full potential.

The surrounding countryside is a patchwork of small broadleaved woods and large mixed woodlands and pasture. The estates in the Tywi valley support many parkland trees. Another legacy of the estates are the fallow deer that have escaped from historical deer parks and now roam the valley, sometimes to the detriment of the woodland plants.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

### General Location

These are two small woods on the edge of the hamlet of Gelli Aur / Golden Grove. Vicarage Wood is reached along a flat quiet B road with no pavements.

### Paths and entrances

There is a short steep path into Vicarage Wood accessed via a squeeze gap but there is no circular walk. There is no safe access and no path in Waun y Fedwen.

### Public Transport

There is a bus stop at the junction in the village about 200 m from the entrance to Vicarage Wood. There are buses 3-5 times daily into Ffairfach and twice daily into Nantgaredig and Carmarthen. Telephone 01267 231 817 or see [www.carmathenshire.gov.uk](http://www.carmathenshire.gov.uk) for details. (Information from personal visit Feb 2007).

### Parking

There is no parking at the woods but there is a pay and display car park at the Country Park about 1/2 mile way along a flat quiet driveway.

### Toilets

There are toilets at the Country Park 1/2 mile away and the disabled toilet does not require a RADAR key.

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Allow the continued natural development of the oak and ash dominated canopy, and the native shrub and field layers. Over time, tree growth, windthrow, natural tree fall and regeneration will increase the structural diversity and the amount of deadwood present. Natural regeneration will be monitored due to the browsing pressure exerted by deer.

Access provision, although limited, will be maintained to facilitate peaceful enjoyment of the woodland.

## 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 Informal Public Access

#### Description

Short pathway and entrance to Vicarage wood Compartment 1a which leads to a dead end.

#### Significance

Primarily of importance to the local people of Gelli Aur as occasional walking route to explore woodlands nearby.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

There is just a short path (non circular) into Vicarage Wood and no access route into Waun y Fedwen. The sites are too steep and /or small to develop further access.

#### Factors Causing Change

Periodic tree falls blocking footpath, drainage issues meaning slope of path can become eroded.

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Vicarage wood will remain accessible and continue to provide a local amenity to the residents of Gelli Aur

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

The path and entrances are kept clear, with the furniture maintained in a serviceable state of repair.

## 5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

### Description

In Vicarage Wood the canopy trees are ash, oak, cherry and beech with an understory of holly, hazel, hawthorn and elder. The ground flora includes wood anemone, wood sorrel, primroses, dogs mercury, yellow archangel and ferns. Fly tipping of garden waste from the adjacent houses introduces exotic garden species into the wood.

Waun y Fedwen is on a gently sloping north facing slope with numerous springs. The soil is thin in parts with the shale rock exposed. The canopy is mature oak and ash with alder and birch, sycamore and cherry and an understory of hazel and hawthorn. Ground flora includes ancient woodland indicator species: wood-anemone, wood sorrel, primroses, dogs mercury. Because of the deer some of the ground flora is heavily browsed.

### Significance

Protection of ancient woodland is a Woodland Trust priority. The landscape in the area is a patchwork of woods and small fields and these two woods are a significant part of setting of the hamlet of Gelli Aur both visually and as natural habitat surrounding the houses.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The nature of the terrain with lots of streams on very steep slopes make it difficult undertake any meaningful woodland management beyond control of invasive's.

### Factors Causing Change

Invasive rhododendron and laurel coming from nearby gardens along with discarded debris.

Squirrel damage & Deer damage from Fallow herd locally.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

A naturally developing mature woodland with adequate natural regeneration to replace old trees when they fall.

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

Boundaries will be kept stock proof and invasive shrubs controlled.

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## 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	1.90	Ash	1900	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Landscape factors, Legal issues, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>Compartment 1a is Vicarage Wood and is north of a minor road from Gelli Aur back to the Llandeilo Road. The woodland occupies the steep sided gully's of three northerly flowing streams which join just north of the woodland boundary. The canopy trees are ash, oak, cherry and beech. The understory is primarily holly, hazel, hawthorn and elder.</p> <p>The ground flora indicates that the site is ancient woodland and includes; wood anemone, wood sorrel, primroses, dogs mercury, yellow archangel. Ferns include polypody, harts tongue, buckler, and male ferns. Fallow deer are present in the area and sometimes seen in the wood.</p> <p>The southern boundary is boarded by houses for 50% of the boundary.</p>							
1b	1.00	Ash	1950	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Legal issues, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Services & wayleaves	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>Waun y Fedwen is a little further up the road from compartment 1a (Vicarage Wood) and is separated from it by a minor road and a small pasture. On a gently sloping north facing slope with numerous springs, and small natural ditches. The soil is thin in parts with the shaley rock exposed. The canopy is mature oak and ash with alder and birch. There are also some sycamore and cherry present. The understory is hazel and hawthorn.</p> <p>Ground flora includes ancient woodland indicator species: wood-anemone, wood sorrel, primroses, dogs mercury. Because of the deer some of the ground flora is heavily browsed.</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.