



COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed y Graig

Management Plan 2016-2021

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM	Page No.
Introduction	
Plan review and updating	
Woodland Management Approach	
Summary	
1.0 Site details	
2.0 Site description	
2.1 Summary Description	
2.2 Extended Description	
3.0 Public access information	
3.1 Getting there	
3.2 Access / Walks	
4.0 Long term policy	
5.0 Key Features	
5.1 New Native Woodland	
5.2 Informal Public Access	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
MAPS	
Access	
Conservation Features	
Management	

THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Coed y Graig
Location:	Newtown
Grid reference:	SO117925, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 136
Area:	6.30 hectares (15.57 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A newly planted native broadleaf wood, incorporating an open land area to provide good views over Newtown. Adjacent land includes ancient trees and habitats. A simple network of grass paths can become wet in winter.

2.2 Extended Description

Coed y Graig is one of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods on your Doorstep' Millennium community woodlands. It was created from a block of three fields of improved permanent pasture purchased by the Trust in 1998, and mostly planted with native broadleaves in 1999. The entrance is off a narrow road (Lonesome Lane) about 1 mile from the centre of Newtown.

The land is moderately steeply sloping and includes the crest of the hill, from which fine views are available over Newtown. Fields are separated by derelict hedges, which have been retained to form the edges of the planting blocks. A swathe of open land has been retained to keep open views to the south west over Newtown. The fields border onto other improved pasture grazing land and to the south east to Rock Wood, semi natural ancient woodland, which extends for some distance to the north west and separates Coed y Graig from the village of Llanlwchairan. The key features present are new native woodland and informal public access. There are a large number of small blocks of ancient woodland in this part of mid Wales, which collectively form one of the major concentrations of ancient woodland in Wales.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General Location:

Coed y Graig is set on a hill close to Newtown on the North East side of the town. It is accessed via a very quiet but steep single track road called Lonesome Lane with no pavement or via a public footpath which leads to the Hospital. There are few other public access areas nearby but the long distance Severn Way runs along the bottom of the hill about 0.4 miles away.

Overview of paths and entrances:

There is a gate at the single entrance. There is a simple network of paths which include a couple of circular routes. The paths are grassy and slightly steep in places. They are mown but can be rough and wet in winter.

Public transport:

There are bus stops about 0.4 miles away at Tan y Graig which is at the bottom of Lonesome Lane on Canal Road with services into Newtown and at St Mary's Church which is close to Canal Road and has hourly services. See www.traveline.org.uk or telephone 0870 6082608 for details of services. In Newtown there is a central bus station and a train station with a two hourly service to Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury / Birmingham. (Information from personal visit November 2006)

Parking:

There is a Woodland Trust Car Park at the site with space for up to 5 cars. Beyond this number parking locally is difficult other than at the bottom of the hill on Canal Road. Bicycles could be locked to gate or fence.

Public Toilets:

The nearest Public toilets are 0.7 miles away at Newtown Gravel Car Park. The disabled toilet requires a RADAR key.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

A mixed native broadleaved woodland will have developed over most of the site. There will be a network of paths maintained for public access and selected viewpoints will remain open. Unplanted areas will have scrubbed over naturally except where viewpoints are retained.

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 New Native Woodland

Description

A 'Woods on your Doorstep' site purchased in 1998 and planted in 1999. Local community involvement in design and planting. Unrestricted public access on foot, with grass surfaced path network, and a small parking area at the entrance. The highest point of the site is a ridge, which follows the boundary between cmpts 2 and 3. From here fine views are available to the south overlooking Newtown and the Severn Valley. A swathe of open land has been retained through cmpt 3 to ensure this view remains as the trees mature.

Significance

Provision of public access not previously available. Extends an adjacent semi natural ancient woodland, Rock Wood, although access is not formalised. Fine view, and one of the nearest accessible high points for Newtown

Opportunities & Constraints

Tree growth will restrict and frame the view in time. The retained open land will not be regularly cut and scrub growth may start to interfere with views in time.

Factors Causing Change

growth of trees, Natural regen in cmpt 3 adjacent to Rock Wood, Natural succession of larger open areas to scrub

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Establish native broadleaved woodland and allow larger areas of unplanted land to scrub over by natural colonisation.

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

Use Woodland condition monitoring in early summer 2016 to advise next steps.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

There is an entrance off Lonesome Lane at the northern end of the wood with parking for about two cars, and a network of grass surfaced paths runs from there. Fine views are available to the south overlooking Newtown and the Severn Valley.

Significance

Recreational area close to residential properties and within walking distance of Newtown

Opportunities & Constraints

At present access is not available through the adjoining Rock Wood to the south, but this woodland should be designated as public open space as a condition of planning consent.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

An attractive woodland walk mainly for local walkers, with a basic network of paths. Ideally access on foot from Llanlwchairan via a footpath through Rock Wood will be secured in the future. Keep open ground to retain views.

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

Maintain entrance and paths for light use. Litter problem has improved since Powys County Council installed a litter bin. Occasional vandalism is addressed by contacting the police and asking them to visit the car park periodically. Scrub cutting may be necessary to maintain views.

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	1.30	Oak (sessile)	1999	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	
Former improved permanent pasture field comprising the north western end of the site and planted with native broadleaves in December 1999. Which have become very well established by 2016. Mostly moderately sloping with a westerly aspect. Includes the site entrance. Separated from Compartment 2 by a derelict hedge.							
2a	1.70	Ash	1999	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	
A field of improved permanent pasture planted with native broadleaved trees in December 1999. Which have become very well established by 2016. Mostly moderately sloping with a north westerly aspect. Bounded by hedges, mostly in a derelict condition.							
3a	3.30	Birch (downy/silver)	1999	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	
Former improved pasture field at the southern end of the site planted with native broadleaves in December 1999. Which have become very well established by 2016. Includes the hill crest forming the high point of the site, from which good views are available over Newtown. Adjoins a semi natural ancient woodland, Rock Wood at the lower southern boundary							

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.