COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed y Crychydd

Management Plan
2015-2020

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

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MAPS

THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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

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

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland.

Our strategic aims are to:

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

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

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

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

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

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

SUMMARY

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

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Coed y Crychydd
Location:	Llanilar
Grid reference:	SN640741, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 135
Area:	9.53 hectares (23.55 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Coed y Crychydd is a moderately steep, north facing wood, featuring mainly ancient semi-natural woodland overlooking the Ystwyth Valley. The site is a haven for birds, including red kites, buzzards, ravens and herons.

2.2 Extended Description

Coed y Crychydd is a moderately steep, north facing wood, mainly ancient semi-natural woodland overlooking the Ystwyth Valley. The soils are well drained loams over Palaeozoic slate like mudstone and siltstone. The site comprises two blocks of woodland separated by open pasture and it, and a small stand of grazed oak woodland in separate ownership, is designated as a SSSI for the wide range of birds that breed here.

Mature oak, ash, beech, sycamore and sweet chestnut standards are present, some of which have been planted. There are also areas of planted larch in the western block, many of these have died and fallen creating large canopy gaps that have naturally regenerated with broadleaves. A stand of more recent secondary ash dominated woodland occurs on the upper slope at the eastern end. The under storey is well developed throughout, mainly hazel, hawthorn and elder with patchy dense holly. Beech, ash and sycamore are regenerating freely. The field layer is dominated by bramble, honeysuckle, broad buckler fern and bluebell.

The key features are ancient semi natural woodland and the breeding bird assemblage which has included red kite, buzzard, raven and herons although the latter have declined from 21 nests to just a couple since 1979.

Adjacent land use is a mixture of pasture, pasture woodland, native woodland and a conifer plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS). To the north there are also the gardens of Llidiardau Hall.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Maintain the site as an undisturbed mature woodland dominated by oak, ash and other native species including many large old trees, standing and fallen deadwood and abundant natural regeneration. When the large trees fall the gaps they create are filled with a range of seedlings and saplings. The larch are retained for as long as possible as they add diversity and are particularly favoured by the herons for nest sites. Invasive exotic species such as rhododendron are controlled although permanent elimination is unlikely due to its presence in adjacent garden.
The site is not available for public access for legal access reasons and to protect the high ornithological interest.

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

Mature woodland dominated by tall maiden sessile oak on the lower slope and ash on the upper slope. Larch, sycamore, beech, alder and sweet chestnut standards are also present. Some of the mature larches in the SE corner of cpt 1 are dying. The well-developed understory contains hazel, hawthorn, elder. Holly is dense in patches. Beech, ash and sycamore saplings are abundant, particularly in large canopy gaps created by windthrow. Fallen deadwood is plentiful. A large bramble dominated glade at the western end of cpt 2 is regenerating with ash and sycamore. The field layer is dominated by bramble, honeysuckle and broad buckler fern with abundant bluebells in early summer (National Vegetation Classification W10). Mosses are widespread, mainly Thuidium tamariscinum, Eurynchium striatum and Rhytidiadelphus loreus.
The site was designated as a SSSI for its breeding birds. Red kite, raven and buzzard have all been recorded breeding at the site. There is also a heronry in the larch trees in cpt 1. The woodland also supports a wider assemblage of woodland breeding birds. The whole site is a SSSI.

Significance

The site has been designated as a SSSI primarily for the ornithological interest. Kites have nested here in recent years including in 2008. The site included the largest heronry in Ceredigion at time of SSSI notification. The woodland has a large number of very tall, large diameter mature standards of high conservation value. The structure of the wood is very good with plentiful deadwood, natural regeneration, young and old trees. The woodland is not known to support any rare plant species.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:1. The site is not open to the general public. Disturbance to the breeding birds is therefore minimised. The larch which have historically supported the heronry are beginning to die and fall. Herons may utilise other mature tree species that are present in the wood but their numbers have reduced from 21 nests in 1979 to just 1-3 in 2008. Some larch replanting has been tried in the past but failed, probably due to low light levels. There is no space in the wood to plant replacement larch and the area around the existing larch contains some of the largest oak trees on WT sites in Mid Wales so felling them to plant larch is not an option. The red kites have failed to breed successfully in some recent years. Site management is constrained by the breeding season for notable bird species, red kite and herons in particular.
2. Beech and sycamore are regenerating freely into canopy gaps and will alter the species composition of the canopy over time. Where ash, oak and larch have been tubed in gaps, the majority have died.
3 A small amount of Rhododendron ponticum occurs in cpts 1 and 2 and in the adjacent garden.
Opportunities: Natural fall of mature trees has led to the creation of canopy gaps in recent years; a natural structure has therefore developed with limited intervention. Natural regeneration of canopy species has occurred in gaps.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive rhododendron - very little present. Windthrow creates gaps - structural diversity. Larch is dying off and both beech and sycamore are regenerating best - leading to a change in canopy species over time

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Mature woodland habitat which supports notable bird species will be maintained. Maintain mature woodland dominated by sessile oak and ash with scattered beech, sweet chestnut, downy birch, alder, sycamore and larch. Recruitment of canopy species will be by natural regeneration. Woodland in cpt 3 will be allowed to progress to mature ash dominated woodland. Flowering rhododendron should not be present in the shrub layer. Management to directly benefit any of the assemblage species is not appropriate or practical for key species. However any management carried out should be undertaken outside the breeding season (i.e. Sept-Dec). The policy of no public access will be continued to prevent disturbance. Management intervention in the areas of mature woodland in cpts 1 & 2 is unnecessary as the woodland exhibits a high degree of structural diversity resulting from natural tree fall and small scale selective felling/thinning during the early 1990's.

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

All rhododendron should be removed from the stand. Regeneration in gaps will be monitored to ensure a diversity of species including oak and ash reach the canopy. Fences maintained to exclude grazing.

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	2.75	Oak (pedunculate)		Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
This compartment sits behind and to the south of Llidiardau Hall. Mature stand of ancient semi-natural woodland dominated by oak on the lower slope and ash on the upper slope, with frequent beech, sweet chestnut, larch and sycamore standards. Large canopy gaps created by wind throw contain plenty of natural regeneration although planting in these gaps was unsuccessful. Hazel, hawthorn and elder are common in the shrub layer. Holly is locally dominant. Dead wood and large old trees are abundant. The field layer supports abundant bramble and broad buckler fern.							
2a	5.11	Oak (pedunculate)		Min-intervention	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
This Compartment is to the south east of Llidiardau Hall. Mature stand of ancient semi-natural woodland dominated by oak with ash growing on the damper soils bordering issues. Beech is also present. Occasional large canopy gaps created by wind throw have been restocked by natural regeneration. Sycamore is widespread in the sub-canopy. Hazel, hawthorn and elder are common in the shrub layer. Holly is widespread on the lower part of the slope. A large glade dominated by dense bramble occurs at the western end and is now regenerating with hazel, rowan, oak, birch, elder, ash and sycamore. The field layer supports abundant bramble, bluebells and broad buckler fern.							

3a	1.91	Ash		Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site		Site of Special Scientific Interest
A small even-aged stand of pole stage woodland above Cpt. 2a. dominated by ash coppice with scattered ash maidens. Downy birch is widespread at the eastern end of the stand and alder occurs locally along a small stream here. Oak, sweet chestnut, beech and sycamore are occasional. Hazel and honeysuckle are widespread in the dense shrub layer beneath the ash coppice. The heavily shaded field layer appears to be species-poor although mosses are common. Occasional ash trees in tubes under canopy. Where ash has been thinned in the past it has coppiced and now forms an understorey.							

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.