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WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed Tyddyn Du

Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 Tyddyn Du
Location:	Cenarth
Grid reference:	SN271425, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 145
Area:	18.69 hectares (46.18 acres)
Designations:	Site of Special Scientific Interest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Dominated by ash and birch, this quiet, undisturbed woodland and abundant ground flora provide excellent wildlife habitats. There are some wet glades that have flourishing meadowsweet and rich insect life in the summer.

2.2 Extended Description

This site is the largest level natural secondary woodland in Ceredigion and as such is designated as a SSSI. It is on the edge of a popular visitor area but due to difficult parking, uncertain access and the undisturbed value of the site public access is not actively encouraged.

This site is an excellent example of secondary woodland, predominantly ash and birch with some mature oaks that has developed naturally from enclosed pastures or arable fields. One section of the site, recorded as woodland in 1841, was clear felled around 1910- 1920 but is now developing as woodland again.

Since that time there is little evidence of human intervention, the site possibly abandoned due to heavy clay soils, poor drainage and difficulty of access. Once part of the Blaenpant Estate, the developing woodland provides a unique opportunity to explore the species composition and ecology of a lowland broadleaved woodland as it matures. An uncommon species of bramble, *Rubus sprengeii*, (rare in Wales) occurs here as a primary colonizer of birch woodland. The woodland ground flora supports a variety of typical woodland plants including sanicle, twayblade, broad-leaved helleborine and wood-sorrel. Mature trees present on earth banks are likely to be relics of old hedgerow enclosures and as such are amongst the oldest trees in the woodland. Many of these are oak. The steep stony bank in the south-western corner (Allt-gôch) is believed to have supported primary woodland, predominately oak, ash, cherry and birch. Coed Tyddyn Du is connected to the rich gorge woodlands of the Teifi valley via the adjacent woodland corridor Allt Gudd.

The neighbouring land consists of other woodland and pasture, making this whole area very important for wildlife. The adjacent land acts as a buffer for Coed Tyddyn Du.

There are some wet glades that are being actively managed to prevent scrub invasion. They are alive with insects in the summer feeding on the meadowsweet and other flowers.

The centre of the site was retained by the previous owner. When the site was acquired this was mainly a glade but has since become secondary woodland similar to that on the Trust's land. It is on low flat land and therefore does not form a very important feature in the landscape.

Key Features include Secondary Woodland, Open ground, informal public access and semi natural ancient woodland.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General Location

Coed Tyddyn Du is 1 mile from the village of Cenarth along a short stretch of a flat busy A road without a pavement, then along a quiet B road which is uphill and has no pavement. Finally a farm track links the site to the public road. Public access is via a farm track from a minor B road to the north of the site starting opposite a caravan on a corner. This negotiated route must be kept clear at all times for agricultural access. Other local Access land includes the Forestry Commission wood, Allt Ceiliog, two miles to the south.

Entrances and paths

There are two stiles along the farm track (with dog gates) but there is no barrier at the entrance to the woodland. The track into the wood can get very wet and muddy. It is quite level. In the wood there are two paths including a circular one. The paths are very flat but unmade up and can get quite wet in winter.

Parking

There is no parking at the site. The nearest car park is in Cenarth by the river.

Public Transport

There is a bus stop in Cenarth by Glanyrafon with regular buses every day to Newcastle Emlyn and Cardigan. Contact Traveline Cymru for the most up to date public transport information:

www.traveline-cymru.info or telephone 0871 989 1353.

Public Toilets

The nearest toilets are in Cenarth and these include a disabled toilet which requires a RADAR key.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To retain the semi natural ancient woodland in sub compt 2a as continuous cover with a canopy of oak ash cherry and birch, and with an understorey of hazel.

To allow the secondary woodland to develop naturally, free from grazing. This is a key feature of the site because it is of such a significant size and is also designated as an SSSI. The affect of ash dieback will have an impact on the wood's long term development.

Large vehicular access is impossible within the site and so it shall be left as long term retention or minimum intervention area. Some limited rideside thinning may be carried out to increase light levels along the track providing a more diverse habitat including for the plants and invertebrates which use the glades.

Public access will be maintained at the current minimal level.

Glades will be kept open and are a key feature due to the mosaic of habitats they provide alongside 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

Low public use but regular local visitors. Limited footpath network with one loop through woodland and a glade on the east of the site. Also a further there and back route (leading to a fence) across the west of the site and another glade.

Significance

One of WT objectives, and on this occasion provides place to walk in peace, in an area of little public access to the countryside.

Opportunities & Constraints

No desire to extend network. Ideal to leave some areas of woodland undisturbed. Centre of site not owned by trust so important to let visitors know where WT land ends.

Factors Causing Change

Natural regeneration of scrub and herbs

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Retain existing network of footpaths for local use, providing low key access to a peaceful undisturbed site.

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

Maintain safe open access on existing paths.

5.2 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description

Following the abandonment of the land in early 20th century, secondary woodland has developed including ash, birch and alder. The old field boundaries are still present and contain mature trees mainly oak, these boundary banks provide a source for colonisation of the more recent woodland by plants and animals. NVC types include W8d, W6e and W14 (NVC Survey of Woods 1989)

Significance

Historical and anecdotal evidence for the abandonment of this land in the early 20th century. Thus we have a continuous record of the development of a natural secondary woodland with little intervention. The old hedgerow trees may be good seed trees and are an important mature habitat in their own right.

Opportunities & Constraints

Good opportunity to study natural succession of woodland. Prevent vehicular access within the site.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Allow to naturally develop into mature mixed broadleaved woodland.

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

Maintain stock proof fenced boundary

5.3 Open Ground Habitat

Description

Areas of pasture that have not been totally colonised by scrub, partly due to time and more recently annual cutting but also due to waterlogged nature of site

Significance

Provides excellent habitat mosaic. Many species depend on several semi natural habitats in their lifecycle.

Opportunities & Constraints

Biodiversity improved through mowing of glades.

Factors Causing Change

Natural succession to woodland

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Retain as open glades

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

Mow annually to prevent encroachment of scrub

5.4 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Steep woodland. Oak dominated, but includes ash, cherry and birch. NVC Type W11a

Significance

The protection of Ancient semi natural woodland is a Trust objective.

Opportunities & Constraints

This is clearly being buffered by the secondary woodland and itself provides a seed/animal source for the development of the secondary woodland.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback disease

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain continuous canopy of oak ash cherry and birch

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

Minimum intervention, maintain stockproof boundary

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	16.91	Ash	1920	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access	Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Mixed secondary woodland which has grown up on abandoned agricultural fields. The old hedge boundaries are still visible. The dominant species varies across the site according to soil and water conditions and the site is very wet in places. Ash, downy birch and oak are most common. Ash and now sycamore are regenerating well. Ground flora is generally abundant and includes bramble, honeysuckle, primrose, wild rose, sedges, lords and ladies, ivy, wild strawberry, rushes, lesser celandine, foxglove, forget me not, ferns and mosses. In the area adjacent to the ancient woodland that is cpt 2a there are more species associated with ancient woodland including bluebells, wood sorrel and dog's mercury,</p> <p>There are three open glades which are being kept open by cutting and mowing. These are in the northern end of the site. There are already a few windthrown trees creating space for younger trees. There is a small pond in the central eastern half of the cpt 1a</p>							
2a	1.78	Birch (downy/silver)	1920	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access	Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Moderately sloping, north west facing sub compartment at the southern end of the site. Unlike the rest of the site, this sub compartment was not cleared for agriculture and is designated as ancient woodland. Birch and oak are the most common canopy species, with sycamore and ash also present. Ground flora is generally abundant and species include bramble, bracken, sedge, ivy, moss, honeysuckle and fern. Several badger setts appear to be present near the centre of the sub compartment.</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.