



COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed y Foel

Management Plan 2017-2022

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 y Foel
Location:	Llandysul
Grid reference:	SN428425, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 146
Area:	64.72 hectares (159.93 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

A good network of paths and the attractive nature of this broadleaf, oak dominated woodland make this a popular site with visitors. There is a small stream and footbridge running through the area as well as spots of ancient woodland.

2.2 Extended Description

Coed y Foel is a prominent south east facing upland sessile oak woodland. Felled during the First World War all the oak trees are growing from coppice stools. Since grazing was stopped in 1987, when the wood was purchased and fenced by the Trust, bilberries, grasses other flora have become widespread, along with holly as an under storey species. The woodland is obliquely viewed from the town of Llandysul some 2 miles to the south, thus forming an important landscape feature. The site is attractive and well used. There is a car park and a good network of public and permissive footpaths including a circular walk.

The main block, Compartment 1, is hillside oak coppice which underwent some thinning in the last plan period. Compartment 2 was rough meadow which is now dominated by scrub, bracken and bramble. Compartment 3, (the Blaen Cwm extension) and Compartment 4 is also oak coppice but have not been thinned. There is a small stream, Gwenffrwd, running alongside the car park, crossed by a substantial culvert and foot bridge.

In 2015 the trust bought another substantial extension of compartments 5 and 6. This land was previously used for pasture and the trust aims for it to become broadleaf woodland through a mixture of natural regeneration and planting which began in 2016. This newly created woodland is part of NRW's Plant! scheme to plant a tree for every child born in Wales. Improving access to the new planting by the creation of an extended circular path, which will take visitors through the Plant! site up the sunken green lane to the top field of the newly planted area.

The key features of this site are ancient semi natural woodland, woodland creation, a mixed habitat mosaic and informal public access.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General Location:

Coed y Foel is approximately 1.5 miles from Llandysul along the B4476 then via a quiet lane towards Capel Dewi and a Woollen Mill. The road is not very busy but there is no pavement and it is steep in places. There is also a public footpath to the wood from Prengwyn which is about 0.5 miles away. There are a few local public footpaths to the North of the site but no other land with open access nearby.

Overview of paths and entrances:

The entrances are via gates with the main entrance being from the car park on the road between Capel Dewi and Llandysul. The paths are unsurfaced and vary from wide and flat to steep and narrow with steps and a narrow un bridged stream crossing at the north end of the site. At the main entrance there is a footbridge with steps but there is also a track culvert which is usable except in very wet conditions.

There is a good network of permissive paths including a circular route.

Parking:

There is Woodland Trust car park at the site with space for up to 8 cars.

Public transport:

The nearest bus stops are in Pren-Gwyn and Llandysul - information from Traveline on 0870 6082608

Toilets:

The nearest public toilets are at the main car park in Llandysul and there is a disabled toilet there which needs a RADAR key.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

Predominately non-intervention in the high forest. Maintain a predominately sessile oak canopy but encourage diversity by maintaining ash where it occurs and by retaining small number of non-native trees present (beech and larch). Prevent grazing by maintaining boundary fences. Regeneration is occurring in compartments 2 and 4 and is not currently a priority elsewhere. The existing footpath network will be maintained.

With the addition of the new extension, a vision to double the area of broadleaf woodland of Coed Y Foel is being worked towards. The newly planted areas will have grown up to complement the existing woodland, a high proportion of fast growing trees to establish a woodland floor to allow the ecosystem to develop towards a more predominantly oak based canopy in the future. The wet field is kept open by cutting or grazing for its wetland flora and its two ponds will diversify the habitats. An unplanted strip alongside the old woodland edge along the river will have scattered natural regeneration of trees and shrubs. Public access will be maintained with a new circular walk taking in the sunken green lane and the woodland creation compartments being monitored for suitability of use.

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 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Following the installation of a small car park (3-4 cars) and pathway improvements visitor numbers on this site have increased in the past. It is picturesque semi ancient natural woodland, providing an expanding network of walk options and is near to the small town of Llandysul which has thriving community groups and organisations. Predominantly upland oak woodland with a bilberry understory, great display of bluebells in the spring.

More recently the extension in 2015 has widened the potential for public access, and new paths have been created in the newly planted woodland. A wetland field has been retained and the habitat improved with new ponds. The new extension has also added great views across the local area from the top of the sunken lane. Due to the steep nature of the site all paths would be categorised as strenuous. However there is potential to establish a small easy loop through the Agincourt planted trees and back by minor road to the car park.

There are 3 public access points. Two in the north are on the public footpath and link the wood with wider networks. The one in the south is the main access point next to the car park. The car park is small with space for 3-4 cars. A new ladder board can only be seen once you pull into the car park. Brown signs are required to sign post the site. There is an issue with the new extension an area of flat land we have kept for management, it is being seen as a overflow car park and private road signs have been ordered to try and rectify this. A interpretation panel located just after the car park has been removed as it had fallen into disrepair and a new one depicting the new paths is in early stages of design.

A small stream runs through the site and this is crossed at two points by footbridges, with the recent addition of stepping stones through a boggy area.

Events. A Plant! event was held in 2017 with local school children a further event is also in the pipeline. Minibuses where required to drop groups off due to limited parking. There is a local walking festival in September every year and it would be nice to run a walk for this, perhaps develop volunteers to help out with this. It would be good to look into the possibility of a major donner thank you event.

Significance

This wood is an important local facility, being accessed regularly by walkers and community groups. This large block of upland oak woodland is quite rare in this landscape and opportunity to double its extent with the woodland creation extension is a significant environmental project. We have left areas for natural regeneration by the stream and this needs to be highlighted in interpretation. Historical links through the nearby hill fort and a local historical group has linked the site with a heritage trail and an information panel about the Llyndsual collar artefact is present in our woods. There is plenty of tourism to this part of Wales and there is potential to advertise this wood to a wider audience through bnb's etc.

Opportunities & Constraints

There is an established good circular walk through Cpt 1. There is a PROW through the site which links to the local network. The paths also connect to a wider public footpath network beyond the wood.

The new extension creates a new walking loop - through the Agincourt planted trees, up the sunken lane to good views on top and then zig zags down a steep slope on a newly planted field to cross the access track and continue across the lower fields via some steps and bridge back into the existing wood. This needs to be way marked and mapped.

There is plenty of scope for events and school and community engagement here but we are constrained by number of events allowed to be run in Wales and engagement officer time.

We may wish to develop local interest in the PPP plots, which the new extension surrounds.

Factors Causing Change

Increased usage partially created by the new extension. Car parking will be an issue and interpretation needs to be developed quickly.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Once a low key but well used local site with well maintained path network and on site car parking. There is now a higher profile site with the woodland creation and Plant! scheme. We hope to see increased local usage with addition of the new circular walk and improved interpretation and events with the local community established.

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

Maintain path network and car park area to safe and easy to use standard. Ensure steps and palisades are kept in good state of repair. Create, grade and way mark new circular walk throughout woodland creation compartments. Brown signs installed. Deliver Plant! event. Tie in with Llandysul walking weekend September 2018.

5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

An upland sessile oak coppice woodland. With an understorey of holly and some hazel. Ground flora is dominated by grasses, bilberry and bramble. Thinning was carried out on the lower slopes of Compartment 1 in 2001 and timber extraction was difficult and damaging..

Significance

Important Woodland trust objective and Coed y Foel is a large example for the area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The slopes are steep and extraction has proved difficult on this site so it will be left to self thin, with the option of some thinning to waste to increase fallen deadwood habitat in the future.

Factors Causing Change

Tree diseases

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A maturing oak dominated woodland with pockets of ash, beech and shrub species, gradually self thinning. Understorey of holly, rowan, hazel. Gradually increasing standing and fallen deadwood component. Natural regeneration in any wind throw areas.

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

No operations envisaged during this plan period other than those made necessary by aspects of tree safety.

5.3 New Native Woodland

Description

With the new extension of pasture land in 2015 the aim is to double the amount of broadleaf woodland at Coed Y Foel by natural regeneration and planting in 2016. New planting comprised: Alder, Crab apple, Wild Cherry, Sessile Oak, Downy birch, Wych elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Goat willow, Rowan and Holly.

Significance

Working towards Trust objectives of increased woodland creation in a landscape where broadleaf woodland is becoming increasingly rare. The new woodland significantly increases the core area of woodland habitat.

Opportunities & Constraints

Gorse will need to be managed with rotational cutting and steep slopes in compartments 6.

Factors Causing Change

Increased public access.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In 50 years the NNW will have established to mirror the existing woodland at Coed y Foel, providing habitat for woodland species to have spread successfully across the valley, and creating a substantial wooded landscape.

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

Planting with a Glastir scheme will be in 2016 and 2017 with streamside areas left clear for natural regeneration. Young woodland fully established by the end of the plan period.

5.4 Mixed Habitat Mosaic

Description

The field lies on the lower boundary adjacent to the stream and wooded slope of Coed y Foel. The lower third of the field (approximately 0.8ha) is poorly drained and as a result, an interesting mosaic of mire habitats have developed that add to the biodiversity interest of the site. Mire vegetation communities -Field 9 (NRW sensitive habitat).

A spring arising from the upper drier part of the field near the north boundary of the field flows along a ditch which diagonally traverses the site. Although covering a small area the micro topography with hollows and small mounds of drier ground tucked between ditches and minor issues creates a botanically interesting area. The outer edge at the margin of the dry grassland above exhibits the lowest botanical interest due mainly to agricultural enrichment by drainage from fields above. Soft rush dominates the tall sward with frequent nettle, Yorkshire fog and common sorrel. Water mint *Mentha aquatic* appears along the edges of this rush pasture close to the ditch.

However, the remaining sward sweeping across the wetter ground between the soft rush stand and stream has a diverse range of plants. Soft rush declines in frequency and is replaced by sharp flowered rush, bog stitchwort *Silene alsine*, water forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpiodes*, marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre*, greater birdsfoot trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*, cuckoo flower, opposite leaved golden saxifrage, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and lady fern. The hummocks of slightly drier land support purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea*, field wood-rush, lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*, sweet vernal grass, tormentil, bluebell and lesser celandine.

Blue-green leaved sedges (non-flowering -possibly *Carex flacca*) and notably several spikes of orchid (not flowering at the time of survey but most likely to be common-spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsia*). Small stands of scrubby woodland, mainly grey willow, hazel and hawthorn occur along the ditches and stream, extending along the southern boundary of the field. This botanically diverse habitat is restricted onsite and should not be planted with woodland but maintained as open, well-lit ground.

The dry bank above the marshy grassland was not floristically notable, displaying the same suite of grassland species recorded elsewhere on the site. Native hedgerows border the field on the east and south boundaries. Wet woodland dominated by alder occurs on privately owned land to the north.

Significance

Mire vegetation communities -Field 9 (NRW sensitive habitat).

Opportunities & Constraints

Grazing opportunities

Factors Causing Change

Water table fluctuations. Scrub invasion if not cut/grazed.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Maintain the mire vegetation community and monitor the flora with the pond creation.

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

Management of open ground through grazing or cutting.

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	14.18	Oak (sessile)	1920	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
Main block of steep hillside sessile oak coppice. Uniform age, mostly unmanaged since last felling in the First war. Small area in the Southern end thinned. Ground flora either dominated by grasses, or bramble or bilberry							
2a	2.08	Woody shrubs	1985	Min-intervention	Management factors (eg grazing etc), No/poor vehicular access to the site	Connecting People with woods & trees	
Originally wet rough pasture. Now colonised by hawthorn, blackthorn bramble and bracken. The grassland habitat has largely been lost but the scrub provides good habitat for birds and mammals. Wet areas with Juncus spp. adjacent to stream.							
3a	3.21	Oak (sessile)	1920	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
Hillside coppice, similar to C1 but with a greater diversity of ground flora including bluebell.							
4a	4.04	Oak (sessile)	1920	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
Predominantly hillside sessile oak coppice similar to C1 but including bracken dominated glades, stands of young 25-35 yrs old oak and ash along wet flush lines. Small stand of Larch at southern end of sub-compartment. No regeneration so can be left until senescence.							
5a	8.60	Mixed native broadleaves	2016	Wood establishment		Connecting People with woods & trees	

Flat areas of grassland that have been previously managed under a mixed livestock grazing of sheep and cattle. First trees planted by the Woodland Trust in February 2016 to commemorate the anniversary of the battle of Agincourt. Bordering the stream and the existing ancient woodland. Second set of planting was in December 2016 with Glastir and Plant! funding. Half of the field has been left open for natural regeneration from the existing woodland. Contains the 2nd half of the new access path and a bridge to link this path with the existing woodland path.

5b	1.88	Open ground	2015	Non-wood habitat	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Connecting People with woods & trees	
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The field lies on the lower boundary adjacent to the stream and wooded slope of Coed y Foel. The lower third of the field (approximately 0.8ha) is poorly drained and as a result, an interesting mosaic of mire habitats have developed that add to the biodiversity interest of the site. Mire vegetation communities -Field 9 (NRW sensitive habitat).

A spring arising from the upper drier part of the field near the north boundary of the field flows along a ditch which diagonally traverses the site. Although covering a small area the micro topography with hollows and small mounds of drier ground tucked between ditches and minor issues creates a botanically interesting area. The outer edge at the margin of the dry grassland above exhibits the lowest botanical interest due mainly to agricultural enrichment by drainage from fields above. Soft rush dominates the tall sward with frequent nettle, Yorkshire fog and common sorrel. Water mint *Mentha aquatic* appears along the edges of this rush pasture close to the ditch.

However, the remaining sward sweeping across the wetter ground between the soft rush stand and stream has a diverse range of plants. Soft rush declines in frequency and is replaced by sharp flowered rush, bog stitchwort *Silene alsine*, water forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpiodes*, marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre*, greater birdsfoot trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*, cuckoo flower, opposite leaved golden saxifrage, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and lady fern. The hummocks of slightly drier land support purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea*, field wood-rush, lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*, sweet vernal grass, tormentil, bluebell and lesser celandine.

Blue-green leaved sedges (non-flowering -possibly *Carex flacca*) and notably several spikes of orchid (not flowering at the time of survey but most likely to be common-spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsia*). Small stands of scrubby woodland, mainly grey willow, hazel and hawthorn occur along the ditches and stream, extending along the southern boundary of the field. This botanically diverse habitat is restricted onsite and should not be planted with woodland but maintained as open, well-lit ground.

The dry bank above the marshy grassland was not floristically notable, displaying the same suite of grassland species recorded elsewhere on the site. Native hedgerows border the field on the east and south boundaries. Wet woodland dominated by alder occurs on privately owned land to the north.

Two ponds have been dug in 2016 into the less botanically diverse areas next to the wetland. These ponds rapidly filled up with ground water from springs and rain fed run off. Hedgerow planting will occur here and the ground will be kept open by cutting or grazing.

6a	6.22	Mixed native broadleaves	2016	Wood establishment	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Connecting People with woods & trees	
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Situated across the upper part of the east facing bank, these fields are on the steepest ground, although they tend to level off towards the top hedgerow boundary.

Common gorse *Ulex europaeus* has spread over the steepest part, this species has become quite widespread in areas to form a dense scrub. Small tracts of acid grassland occur within the gorse stands where sheep have made headway.

Where acid grassland skirts the edges of the gorse, bracken has become established and by mid summer the cover will increase. The turf beneath the developing bracken is reasonably species rich with frequent common dog violet *Viola riviniana*, barren strawberry *Potentilla sterilis*, heath bedstraw *Galium aparine*, field vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, lesser celandine, lesser birds foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, thyme leaved speedwell, germander speedwell *V. chaemaedrys*, tormentil and localised pignut, all occurring in a short grazed sward of sweet vernal grass, sheeps fescue and creeping bent with frequent moss cover mainly represented by *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* and occasional patches of *Atrichum undulatum*.

This grassland extended above the gorse to the upper boundary where bluebell becomes very frequent in the turf. Typical acid grassland sward with bluebell.

Planted in December 2016 with mixed native broadleaves through Glastir and Plant! funding. The gorse was cleared in strips down the hillside to allow planting in between them. There is a small area of scrubby vegetation and young natural regenerated trees in the Northern corner. This compartment includes the sunken green lane which runs from the start of the track North East point of the site at the top of the hill which is the start of the new public access path then a new path has been created in February 2017 down the steep slope to join 5a.

7a	5.27	Mixed native broadleaves	2015	Wood establishment		Connecting People with woods & trees	
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The access track to Blaen-Cwm-Cadifor passes along the edge and through these fields which are the most gently sloping grasslands on the site. Possibly because of this fact, they were ploughed in recent years and an arable crop was sown. Cultivated oats are still present in the amongst other species.

A trimmed hedgerow, exhibiting reasonable species diversity dominated by hawthorn, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* with less hazel *Corylus avellana*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and dog rose *Rosa canina*, grows along the lower edge of the fields. The upper boundary of field 4 is formed by a green lane which runs up the slope.

The base of the hedgerows supports a woodland flora with abundant bluebell, greater stichwort *Stellaria holostea*, cleavers *Galium aparine*, red campion *Silene dioica*, male fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*, broad buckler fern *Dryopteris dilatata* and herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*. These species should spread out into the field below if planted with native woodland.

The grasslands are similar to those seen in 5a with a mixture of sweet vernal grass, Yorkshire fog and both common and creeping bent contributing the greatest cover. Other grasses include rough meadow grass *Poa trivialis*, annual meadow grass *Poa annua*, sheeps fescue *Festuca ovina* and localised crested dogs tail *Cynosaurus cristatus*. The appearance occasional rye grass *Lolium perenne* alongside cultivated oats is indicative of past ploughing and reseeded.

(EX PPP (compartment 1B) moved from NED)

8a	5.27	Mixed native broadleaves	2015	Wood establishment		Connecting People with woods & trees	
<p>The access track to Blaen-Cwm-Cadifor passes along the edge and through these fields which are the most gently sloping grasslands on the site. Possibly because of this fact, they were ploughed in recent years and an arable crop was sown. Cultivated oats are still present in the amongst other species.</p> <p>A trimmed hedgerow, exhibiting reasonable species diversity dominated by hawthorn, blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> with less hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>, elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>, rowan <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>, sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> and dog rose <i>Rosa canina</i>, grows along the lower edge of the fields. The upper boundary of field 4 is formed by a green lane which runs up the slope.</p> <p>The base of the hedgerows supports a woodland flora with abundant bluebell, greater stictwort <i>Stellaria holostea</i>, cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i>, red campion <i>Silene dioica</i>, male fern <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>, broad buckler fern <i>Dryopteris dilatata</i> and herb Robert <i>Geranium robertianum</i>. These species should spread out into the field below if planted with native woodland.</p> <p>The grasslands are similar to those seen in 5a with a mixture of sweet vernal grass, Yorkshire fog and both common and creeping bent contributing the greatest cover. Other grasses include rough meadow grass <i>Poa trivialis</i>, annual meadow grass <i>Poa annua</i>, sheeps fescue <i>Festuca ovina</i> and localised crested dogs tail <i>Cynosaurus cristatus</i>. The appearance occasional rye grass <i>Lolium perenne</i> alongside cultivated oats is indicative of past ploughing and reseeded.</p> <p>Situated across the upper part of the east facing bank, these fields are on the steepest ground, although they tend to level off towards the top hedgerow boundary.</p> <p>Common gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i> has spread over the steepest part, this species has become quite widespread in areas to form a dense scrub. Small tracts of acid grassland occur within the gorse stands where sheep have made headway.</p> <p>(Ex PPP (Compartment 1C) moved from NED)</p>							
9a	13.80	Open ground	2017	Wood establishment		Connecting People with woods & trees	

The five fields that form one large block of land to the east of the green lane are on a west-southwest facing, moderately steep bank. A small conifer wood occurs on the south eastern boundary. The fields exhibit the same assemblage of grasses and flowering plants as the fields to the west of the green lane. The steepness of the bank may have limited any intervention such as ploughing in the past and although rye grass occurs in the sward it is at a relatively low level and may have self-seeded. Sweet vernal grass, creeping bent and Yorkshire fog are the most abundant species with less fescue and crested dogs tail. Plants that indicate a degree of enrichment from a sheep-cattle grazing regime are quite widespread, mainly common mouse-ear, nettle, creeping thistle and creeping buttercup.

Bluebells also occur along the southern edge.

The integrity of the hedgerows along the field boundaries is variable with those along the upper boundaries of fields showing the greatest amount of gap. Some are double fenced on the lower slopes but not those on the upper boundaries. A large number of oak standards are growing along the green lane bordering these fields and along the boundary between the lower fields.

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.