



COED CADW  
WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Coed Dolyronnen

**Management Plan  
2014-2019**

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
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 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
<b>MAPS</b>	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk)) to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

---

## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

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

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

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

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

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

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

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

---

## SUMMARY

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

## 1.0 SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Coed Dolyronnen
<b>Location:</b>	Tal y Wern, Machynlleth
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SH830000, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 135
<b>Area:</b>	3.13 hectares (7.73 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Environmentally Sensitive Area

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Coed Dolyronnen lies on the steep sides of a narrow valley through which runs a fast flowing stream. Due to the steepness of the site, there is little public access, but it is possible to walk along the stream side and enter the north west section of the wood.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Typical of the area, the predominantly oak wood Coed Dolyronnen is on the steep sides of a narrow valley through which runs a fast flowing stream. Ash and sycamore are also present. Land around the wood is improved and semi improved pasture and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites. There is a good network of semi natural habitats in the area.

Some stonework and ironwork remains associated with a small cottage indicate that the stream was once used as a source of power for small workshops alongside the wood. A few other dwellings are situated at Tal-y-Wern, and it is likely that the main visitors to Dolyronnen are from this very local area.

A narrow council adopted lane crosses the stream and traverses the wood, ending at a farmstead. Land in the valley floor and on the top of the valley sides is used for mixed livestock rearing predominately sheep. Adjacent to the site is a plantation on an ancient woodland site. If it is ever restored Coed Dolyronnen will act as a reservoir of native species that can gradually recolonise it.

There is little opportunity for public access due to the steepness of the site but it is possible to gain access to the stream side and walk a little way into the north west section of the wood. An easier walk is obtained simply along the tarmac road and some fine old oaks can be appreciated from the road. At the top of the lane the woodland changes to a larch plantation which is privately owned.

In the winter the wood rarely receives much direct sunlight and so the lane can be icy.

In the storms of October 2002 several large oaks were blown down across the road. More trees were blown down over across the stream in early 2009. Their uprooted stumps have been left in the wood along with some large oak logs, these will provide excellent deadwood habitats in the years to come.

Ancient Semi Natural Woodland is a key feature but public access is not because visitor levels are very low and the main access is the public road which is not managed by the Trust.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Public access is from the single track public road which runs through the site. A short unmaintained path runs along the stream at the north-western end of the site to a memorial bench.

The wood is very steep and the road through it is quite steep as well. There is no car park at the site but it is possible to park one car beside the entrance at the bottom of the hill next to the bridge.

There is no public transport within walking distance of the village of Tal-y-Wern.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The woodland will be allowed to develop naturally with due regard for tree safety alongside the road. Thinning is happening naturally as trees fall on the steep slopes and natural regeneration is abundant. A variation in the age structure is clear with a good representation of over mature and young trees. The site will be kept as stock proof as possible, although the road through the site is unfenced and stray sheep from time to time may well get into the wood. It is unlikely that this small amount of grazing would cause any damage.

This is a minimum intervention site with a small provision of public access.

## 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

Steep native upland oak woodland with some mature specimen oaks. It is not mapped as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland in the national inventory but has the characteristics of ancient woodland and is so steep that it is unlikely to have been converted to other uses. As well as being steep, the slopes are unstable in places. The larger trees here are prone to wind throw. Bluebells are common on the higher slopes; alongside the stream mosses, liverworts and ferns predominate. Hazel and hawthorn form the understorey.

#### Significance

This upland oakwood is part of a mosaic of semi-natural habitats in the area. It is the typical land use of the steep sided valleys where agriculture has never been viable. Unlike the rest of the woodland in this valley however, Coed Dolyronnen was never converted to conifers.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The site could never be actively managed for timber due to the steep slopes and no internal access apart from a very narrow lane. The road passing through the site also means that monitoring the roadside trees and managing them for safety reasons may have some limited impact on the conservation value.

#### Factors Causing Change

Frequent wind damage, ash dieback.

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

A mixed age structure will develop through natural loss of large canopy trees and their replacement with natural regeneration. Large mature trees, both standing and fallen will provide valuable habitat. The wood is valued locally, especially for its birdsong.

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

No silvicultural work will be undertaken other than for safety reasons. The decline of mature ash trees due to the progression of ash dieback will likely form a constituent of any tree safety work. Trees likely to damage or block the road may need to be reduced. The wood will be allowed to develop naturally.



---

## 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	3.12	Oak (sessile)	1800	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Environmentally Sensitive Area

Sub compartment 1a is the whole site. Although not officially ancient woodland according to the inventory, the evidence on the ground suggests that it is.

The wood is on a steep north east facing slope rising from small tributary stream, of the Afon Dyfi. Canopy of mature oak and occasional ash with shrub layer of hazel and hawthorn. Area along side stream rich in ferns liverworts and mosses. Ground flora is reasonably diverse and includes foxgloves, dogs mercury, wood anemones, bilberry, wood sorrel and honeysuckle.

There are small bracken dominated glades near the SW boundary.

Some of the oaks are likely to be in excess of 200 years old and are fine specimens, unfortunately several were came down in the October winds of 2002 and more have come down since then leaving some parts of the wood quite sparse and open. However these large oak trunks now provide excellent deadwood habitat.

The soils are thin over shale in the area above the road, consequently the trees are shallow rooting.

Springs emerge in places to form base rich flushes. The area alongside the stream tends to be water logged.

Due to its northerly aspect and position in the valley bottom the sun rarely shines on the wood during the winter.

## 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.