COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed Allt Beili Coch

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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 Allt Beili Coch
Location:	Cwmann
Grid reference:	SN580468, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 146
Area:	3.28 hectares (8.11 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Coed Allt Beili Coch lies on a steep north-west facing slope overlooking Lampeter and the upper Teifi Valley. Featuring mature coppice oak woodland, younger woodland and wildflowers including bluebells, wood sorrel and wood avens, there is plenty to explore.

2.2 Extended Description

Coed Allt Beili Coch is located on a steep north-west facing slope overlooking Lampeter and the upper Teifi Valley and is part of a larger semi-natural broadleaved woodland which extends to the southwest. Open pasture borders the site to the East and houses border it to the West and North..

The key features present are semi-natural ancient woodland, mixed habitat mosaic including open ground (adjacent to a residential area) and informal public access.

The eastern part of the woodland is dominated by mature coppice oak woodland with patchy ash, downy birch, beech and sycamore over a shrub layer with holly, hazel, rowan and hawthorn. The western part is a younger ash dominated stand (circa 45 yrs) that has been thinned in the past. Bramble, bluebells, broad buckler fern, wood sorrel and wood avens are in the field layer throughout.

The area of semi improved grassland below the woodland is kept open by mowing. Although not very diverse itself, the mosaic of open grass, large stands of dense bracken and bramble with planted native broadleaves and mature woodland increases the visual and wildlife interest of the site, particularly for insects such as butterflies. The area of grassland backs onto residential gardens. A small quarry lies below the woodland at the south-western end. Dense scrub with blackthorn, elder, holly, ash, hawthorn and downy birch has developed here.

There are a number of paths through the woodland for public access.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General Location
Coed Allt Beili Coch is adjacent to the A495 approximately one mile from Lampeter on the edge of the village of Cwmann. There are three Forestry Commission sites and one other Woodland Trust site within 3 miles of Lampeter to the north but no other access land closer.

Entrances and paths
There is a pedestrian gate at the entrance. The paths are unmade and very steep in places. There is a circular path through grassland and woodland. There is an open grassy area which is close to the entrance.

Public Transport
The nearest bus stops are in Cwmann at the War Memorial and the Ram Inn, the bus runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays into Lampeter. For more information please call Traveline 0870 6082608 or see www.traveline.org.uk. (Information from Traveline March 2007).

Parking
The nearest car park is approximately 1 mile away in Lampeter along a flat, busy A road with pavements most but not all the way. It is possible to park on the street in Cwmann.

Toilets
There are public toliets at the various car parks in Lampeter and all have a RADAR key controlled disabled toilet.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The wooded areas will be allowed to develop naturally into mature woodland dominated by native species providing an attractive local woodland walk with bluebells and big old trees. The area of semi-improved grassland will be kept open as an amenity area, also providing open views across the valley. The patches of bracken and bramble will be retained but controlled so they do not take over the open ground.

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 oak woodland of coppice origin in the north eastern half and young ash (circa 45yrs) in the south western half. Mature beech, sycamore and downy birch are also present. The shrub layer is variable across the woodland, increasing its cover in cpt 2a. Holly, hazel, hawthorn and rowan are common. The field layer typically supports bramble, bluebells, broad buckler fern, wood avens and wood sorrel. Mosses Rhytidiadelphus loreus and Thuidium tamariscinum are common.

Significance

Mature native woodland is sparse in the upper Teifi valley.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:1 Natural fall of mature trees in 2a has led to the creation of canopy gaps and there are areas dominated by either birch, ash or oak coppice and groups of mature maiden oak, beech and sycamore; a natural structure has therefore developed.

Factors Causing Change

Rabbit damage, Natural gaps - structural diversity, Spread of syc/beech into gaps

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Extend area of mature woodland dominated by sessile oak and ash. This will be achieved as the young ash stand and the planted areas gradually mature. Structural diversity will increase through tree falls caused by windthrow. The field layer is unlikely to be species-diverse, but species typical of NVC W10 woodland such as bramble, bluebells, wood avens, wood sorrel, red campion and broad buckler fern should be present.

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

Minimum intervention other than tree safety and excluding stock.

5.2 Mixed Habitat Mosaic

Description

Area of semi improved grassland with areas of planted native trees and of bracken and bramble on the upper part of the slope. The grassland is of low floristic interest but the varied habitat is attractive to butterflies and other invertebrates.

Significance

Maintain open ground adjacent to the gardens and village hall. Semi improved grassland and controlled patches of bracken and regenerating scrub grading into young planted native woodland and mature woodland provides a diverse habitat mosaic that can be of high conservation value, particularly for invertebrates.

Opportunities & Constraints

Annual management by mowing or grazing to retain open grassland and to control the spread of bracken. The area of grassland is reasonably large so there may be opportunities for further tree planting or other community uses of part of it.

Factors Causing Change

Non native spp may spread from residential gardens/ encroachment

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The area of semi improved grassland will be maintained by annual mowing. Bracken and scrub will be retained on the steepest part of the slope below the stand of new planting. The mosaic of open grassland, scrub and woodland will contribute to the wildlife interest of the site.

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

Maintain open grass area and promote species diversity by mowing. Retain current stands of bracken and developing scrub on upper bank.

5.3 Informal Public Access

Description

The site is adjacent to an area of residential housing. Permissive access routes and an information board are maintained for general use. The open grassy area is used for recreation.

Significance

The site backs onto a residential area and fine views of the upper Teifi floodplain can be seen from the lower woodland edge. Although small, the site is a valuable public access resource in the local community and is literally on people's doorsteps.

Opportunities & Constraints

The circular path provides good access to all of the site. Areas of open bracken scrub in cpt1 may pose a fire hazard during dry periods.

Factors Causing Change

Increased use as more houses are built may impact on paths

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A permissive path through the woodland and meadow will provide a short but attractive local woodland walk.

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

Maintain a permissive path through the site and an interpretation board at the entrance.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	1.50	Ash	2000	Wood establishment	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Management factors (eg grazing etc), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	
Area of semi improved grassland at the back of residential housing. Large stands of bracken and bramble on the upper part of the slope with planted native broadleaves and naturally regenerating scrub. A small quarry on the south-western boundary supports dense scrub with blackthorn, elder, holly, ash, hawthorn and downy birch. An overgrown hedgerow of willow, hazel and blackthorn occurs along the eastern boundary. Adjoining land is mature woodland to the SE, and residential housing to NW.							
2a	1.78	Oak (sessile)	1920	Min-intervention	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/ mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

This sub compartment combines the previous 2A and 3A being an area of mature oak dominated woodland and a smaller area of younger ash respectively. The previous 2A is 1.29 ha of mature coppice oak woodland with patchy ash, downy birch, beech and sycamore. Mature maiden oaks occur along the internal boundary bank and across the lower slope. Sycamore and beech are regenerating freely. Holly is widespread in the shrub layer with hazel , rowan and hawthorn. The field layer typically supports bluebells, bramble, wood sorrel, wood avens and broad buckler fern. Mosses are widespread.
The previous 3A (mid slope) is a relatively young 0.5 ha stand of ash. Beech and ash are regenerating beneath and hazel, hawthorn and holly occur in a sparse shrub layer. Bramble, bluebells and broad buckler fern are common in the field layer. Mosses are widespread, mainly Rhytidiadelphus loreus and Thuidium tamariscinum.
The soils are well drained loams over palaeozoic slaty mudstones and siltstones.
Boundaries: Mature woodland to South West, open fields on East and a new housing development on the North boundary, new broadleaved planting/grassland to West.

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.