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WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed Creuddyn

Management Plan 2014-2019

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 Creuddyn
Location:	Falcondale
Grid reference:	SN564494, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 146
Area:	3.94 hectares (9.74 acres)
Designations:	Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

One of the 'Woods on Your Doorstep' Millennium Woods, Coed Creuddyn occupies a south west facing valley slope above the Nant Creuddyn, a tributary of the Teifi. It was originally part of the formal landscaped grounds leading up to the Falcondale Mansion. It has a small network of footpaths leading down from the A482 Lampeter to Aberaeron road that pass through the semi natural ancient woodland and the newly planted woodland areas and also crosses the Nant Creuddyn stream by two footbridges.

2.2 Extended Description

Coed Creuddyn was originally part of the formal landscaped grounds leading up to the Falcondale Mansion. Various exotic species were planted at that time, including wellingtonias, yew, beech and sweet chestnut with ornamental shrubby under-storey of laurels and rhododendron. Many of these trees were felled when the wood was converted to a spruce plantation in the 1960s. This spruce was being clear felled when the site was brought to the attention of the Woodland Trust by the local residents. The whole site is covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

With their help the Trust succeeded in purchasing the clear felled site as a 'Woods on your Doorstep' Millennium Wood. Following a public consultation meetings the site has been replanted with a mix of native broad leaves and some Wellingtonia and yew, to reflect its heritage. The Millennium Feature is a hand built footbridge made by Bob Shaw from a fallen tree from nearby farm land.

The wood occupies a south west facing valley slope above the Nant Creuddyn, a tributary of the Teifi. The key features of the wood are that it is newly replanted community woodland, and informal public access. The Nant Creuddyn stream provides an attractive and important habitat, and flows between two nearby freshwater SSSIs, Falcondale Lake and the River Teifi.

The wood lies below the A482 Lampeter to Aberaeron road, and there is a large regularly used lay-by off this road that provides ready access. Paths lead into the wood from here and connect with a minor road that runs to the Falcondale Hotel. The wood is not a particularly visible landscape feature but is one of a number of small woodlands interspersed with meadowland in attractive rolling countryside and within walking distance of Lampeter. It is very important backdrop and for the group of houses on Falcondale Drive and screens them from the main road. A much larger block of Forestry Commission managed woodland lies across the main road although recent clear felling there has reduced the recreational opportunities for the immediate future.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General Location: Coed Creuddyn is adjacent to the A482 about one and a half miles from Lampeter. Access on foot from Lampeter is best along B road towards Cribyn and then after 1 mile turn right along public footpath through another woodland as the A482 is a busy road with no pavement.

Paths and entrances: There are three entrances along the A482 which are connected by a wide grass verge beside the main road but no path, and three along the Falcondale Hotel Drive which is a private road but with public access. The entrances are all either completely open or are squeeze gaps. There is also a public footpath which crosses the wood linking the A482 and Falcondale Drive. There is a network of paths around the site and two footbridges over the river but the paths are uneven and muddy in places and there are steps and steep slopes.

Parking: There is a large public layby beside one of the entrances on the A482 where up to ten cars could park.

Public Transport: There are bus stops in Lampeter, telephone Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 (the Traveline website does not cover this area as of December 8th 2006)

Public toilets: The nearest public toilets are in Lampeter at Rookery Lane, St. Thomas St. and at the rear of the Town Hall. There are disabled (RADAR key) toilets at all of these and baby changing facilities at the Town Hall toilets. (Information from Ceredigion County Council December 2006)

Information gathered by personal visit November 19 2006.

3.2 Access / Walks

It has a small network of footpaths leading down from the A482 Lampeter to Aberaeron road that pass through the semi natural ancient woodland and the newly planted woodland areas and also crosses the Nant Creuddyn stream by two footbridges.

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The wood will be allowed to develop into a mature, predominantly native broadleaved woodland, but retaining specimen trees including sweet chestnut, yew and wellingtonia. Open areas along the stream will be retained to allow sunlight to reach the water. A network of paths, entrances and stream crossings will be provided to make the site accessible to walkers.

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

Public and permissive footpaths criss cross the site linking a busy lay-by on the A482 with Falcondale Drive. There is a view point and information board adjacent to the lay-by. Two timber footbridges are provided crossing the stream, the unique log bridge is the Millennium Feature

Significance

Increasing native woodland is a Woodland Trust objective, as is providing local accessible woodlands for people to enjoy. It is also an important landscape feature.

Opportunities & Constraints

1. Falcondale Drive is a private road providing access to houses and the Falcondale Country Hotel.
2. Litter and fly tipping dumped from the adjoining lay-by is a persistent problem.

Factors Causing Change

Birch regeneration competing with planted native and specimen trees, Fly tipping

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A network of attractive paths, entrances and stream crossings allow visitors to enjoy exploring this small, and otherwise steep woodland.

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

Paths are open. Litter and fly tipping are cleared regularly and reduced over time as the blackthorn hedge along the lay-by develops.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

Replanted community woodland. Felled conifer plantation replanted with native broadleaves as part of the Woodland Trust 'Woods on your Doorstep' Millennium woodland project. Narrow brook "Nant Creuddyn" runs through the site and has interesting margins and narrow flood plain with associated vegetation

Significance

Developing as attractive broadleaved woodland backdrop to Falcondale and the A482. Stream is an important component habitat and links two freshwater SSSIs - Falcondale Lake and the River Teifi

Opportunities & Constraints

Steeply sloping site, wet in places
 Otters may move along the stream
 Erosion of the river bank by the houses on the southern corner of the site has led to bank reinforcements in the form of a nicospan membrane backfilled with stone to be installed on the bend in 2013. Future work to maintain this may be required.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive rhododendron, Invasive knotweed, growth of young trees

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A mature principally broadleaved woodland, with scattered specimen exotic trees including sweet chestnut, yew and wellingtonia. The stream passing through areas of sunlight and dappled shade.

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

Rhododendron and knotweed are prevented from spreading. Conifers have been thinned in 2013 to allowing a smaller number of remaining stems to develop into specimen trees and natural regeneration of native species to replace them, monitor this. Maintain bank reinforcements.

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	0.64	Alder species	1960	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Tree Preservation Order
<p>Wet strip of land running alongside the stream. Canopy species include beech in a line alongside the road and alder and poplar beside the stream. Sycamore and ash appear to be regenerating well. Several windthrown trees are also present. Ground flora is generally abundant and species include bluebell, bracken, bramble, honeysuckle, nettle, ivy, moss, lesser celandine, forget-me-not, rush and wood anemone.</p>							
1b	3.27	Ash	1999	PAWS restoration	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	Tree Preservation Order
<p>Recently felled and replanted sub compartment that was previously conifer, with much of the brash still present on site. A block of mature sitka spruce is also present towards the centre and was thinned in 2013. Natural regeneration, mainly of birch, is occurring in between the planted trees. Ground flora is abundant and species include bramble, willow herb, foxglove, grasses, gorse, rhododendron, rush, wood violet, bluebell and primrose. The sub compartment is moderately sloping with a westerly aspect.</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.