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WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed Collfryn

Management Plan 2015-2020

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 Collfryn
Location:	Dol y Wern, nr. Chirk
Grid reference:	SJ218369, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 126
Area:	7.01 hectares (17.32 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value, Important Wildlife Site, Special Landscape Area

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This ancient woodland is dominated by oak with ash, sycamore, silver birch, larch and cherry complements a carpet of bluebells, honeysuckle, wood anemone and bramble. Good public access and paths make this an enjoyable wood to visit.

2.2 Extended Description

Coed Collfryn is a 7ha ancient woodland occupying a north-easterly facing hill slope immediately adjacent to the village of Dolywern. The woodland forms a highly visible backdrop to the village. The site supports ancient semi-natural woodland dominated by oak with occasional to locally frequent ash, sycamore, wild cherry, silver birch, rowan and larch. Shrubs include frequent hazel with occasional elder, rowan and holly. Sycamore regeneration is locally abundant and ash, oak and wild cherry regeneration is also present. The field layer is dominated by bluebell, wood anemone, bramble, honeysuckle and creeping soft-grass. Other species present include wood sorrel, pignut, ivy and greater stitchwort. Dog's mercury and ransoms occur around the site margins and the ridge top supports abundant wavy hair-grass, common cow-wheat, wood sage and bracken. Two public footpaths cross the site with other permissive paths and a bench also provided. A local waymarked circular walk promoted by the Chirk and Ceiriog Valley Partnership passes through the site using the existing rights of way. The woodland is well used by local residents.

Key features are:

Semi-natural ancient woodland;

Public access.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Coed Collfryn is situated on a hillside close to the village of Dol y Wern. There are four public entrances into the wood which are accessed via the local footpath network across pastureland. The entrance which is closest to the village has a kissing gate. The remaining three have stiles. Informal parking for up to 8 cars is available just off the B4500 to the west of the village. This is accessed off the lane to Llwynmawr. The short walk along the footpath from this car parking area (via a stile) to the wood is flat. The paths within the site are all unsurfaced and relatively steep in places.

Public transport: the nearest bus stop is situated on the B4500 adjacent to the parking area described above. For further information contact Wrexham Busline on (01978) 266166 or contact Traveline on their website www.traveline.org.uk or 'phone (0870) 6082608

Nearest public toilets are in Glyn Ceiriog opposite the Glyn Valley Hotel 2km from the site. There is no disabled toilet. For further details contact the Wrexham County Borough Council website at www.wrexham.gov.uk.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The main objective at this site is to maintain the ancient semi-natural woodland habitat. This will be achieved through minimal intervention in line with the Trust's management policy outline on page 3 of this plan. Natural regeneration and succession will be sufficient to ensure the continuation of woodland at the site.

The paths will be maintained to allow continued public access through the woodland.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

All the woodland at the site is considered to be ancient and semi-natural with almost all included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory. The canopy is dominated by Sessile and hybrid oak. In many parts, for example on the upper slopes, Oak is overwhelmingly dominant with Silver birch and other species no more than occasional. However, elsewhere, for example over the northern half of the site, oak is accompanied by frequent to locally abundant Ash, Wild cherry, Sycamore and Silver birch. Rowan and Larch are occasional.

Shrubs include frequent Hazel and occasional Elder, Rowan and Holly. Sycamore regeneration is locally abundant and ash, oak and Wild cherry regeneration is also present.

The field layer is dominated by Bluebell, Wood anemone, Bramble, Honeysuckle and Creeping soft-grass. Other species present include Wood sorrel, Pignut, Ivy, Lesser celandine, Red campion and Greater stitchwort. (W10b/e NVC sub-community). Dog's mercury and Ransoms occur around the site margins (W8e/f) and the ridge top supports abundant Wavy hair-grass, Cow-wheat, Wood sage and Bracken (W16a).

Significance

The woodland is ancient and semi-natural and comprises mainly upland oakwood, a priority habitat in the UK BAP.

Opportunities & Constraints

The woodland is prominent in the landscape, clearly visible from Dolywern, therefore any management should take into account the external appearance of the woodland and maintain continuous cover.

The abundant natural regeneration will ensure the continuity of woodland at the site.

Factors Causing Change

Locally abundant natural regeneration of sycamore. At the south-eastern corner of the site garden and other tipping has occurred downslope of Bryn Awelon and several garden plants have been planted (or established from tippings).

Long term Objective (50 years+)

ASNW dominated by predominantly site-native tree species. The shrub layer will be diverse and well developed and also predominantly of site-native shrubs/regeneration. The field layer will be characteristic of the W10 NVC community with small areas more typical of the W8 NVC community (site margins) and W16 NVC community (ridge top).

The abundance of deadwood will naturally increase through retention of fallen timber where it does not compromise public access.

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

No operations deemed to be necessary during this plan period.

5.2 Informal Public Access

Description

There are several points of access around the site boundary and several paths cross the site, two of which are definitive public footpaths. A bench is also provided.

A local waymarked circular route passes through the site using the existing rights of way. This is promoted by the Chirk and Ceiriog Valley Partnership with waymarking maintained by the Groundwork Trust (Wrexham).

There is an informal car park on the B4500 immediately to the north of the wood with a public path leading from this to the northern boundary of the wood.

Significance

The woodland is located immediately adjacent to the village of Dolywern and is therefore well used by local residents. The waymarked circular walk is one of a number in the Ceiriog Valley with the aim of encouraging tourism and leisure in the area.

Opportunities & Constraints

The current paths (established through usage prior to acquisition) do not follow exactly the definitive route of one of the public footpaths. However, an almost identical route is currently provided and it is not considered necessary to re-instate the exact former route.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Continued maintenance of the existing paths and bench to facilitate informal public access through the site.

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

Existing paths and the bench will be maintained in good condition.

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	7.00	Oak (sessile)	1950	High forest	Landscape factors	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value, Special Landscape Area

The whole site comprises a single sub-compartment. Woodland is present throughout. Dominated by oak with occasional to locally frequent ash, sycamore, wild cherry, silver birch, rowan and larch. Shrubs include frequent hazel with occasional elder, rowan and holly. The woodland is fenced and surrounded by pasture.

Two public footpaths cross the site with other permissive paths and a bench also present.

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.