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WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed Pibwr

Management Plan 2018-2023

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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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 Pibwr |
| Location: | Capel Dewi |
| Grid reference: | SN474192, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 159 |
| Area: | 5.02 hectares (12.40 acres) |
| Designations: | |

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Coed Pibwr is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. A wet woodland, it was planted with ash, oak alder, rowan, cherry, birch, hazel and alder buckthorn in 2001.

2.2 Extended Description

Coed Pibwr gently slopes down to the stream, Nant Pibwr, that forms the northern boundary. The land is poorly drained but relatively fertile with occasional springs, and rushes are abundant on the site.

Coed Pibwr is split into two fields; the larger field was improved pasture which was planted with ash, oak alder, rowan, cherry, birch, hazel and alder buckthorn during 2000 as part of the Woods on your Doorstep project. The other field appears to have been a recently felled alder wet wood and is now made up of dense rushes and willow and alder coppice re-growth. This smaller field was not replanted but there is some natural regeneration and coppice regrowth as well as dense bramble.

The field boundaries, other than the stream are tall hedgerows of mainly hawthorn, blackthorn and ash and oak. Most of the neighbouring land is improved pasture with the exception of the willow scrub and wet land on the other side of the lane that forms the western boundary. There is one striking veteran oak in the field alongside the stream, the area around this has been left unplanted.

Some of the very wet land to the northern end was left unplanted. The site tends to be cold and the ground often waterlogged, this has meant slow tree growth rate. Deer are an occasional problem on this site but not considered a threat to the site itself.

The Key Features of this site are the newly planted native woodland and informal public access

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General Location

Coed Pibwr is on a very quiet road about one mile from Capel Dewi to the East of Carmarthen. There is very little other public access land close but there are some footpaths. To reach the site, turn up the hill off the B4300 in Capel Dewi (right if you are travelling from Carmarthen). Go up the steep lane, which is quiet but has no pavements, and take the first turning right followed by the first turning left. Cross a bridge over Nant Pibwr and the entrance is on your left after 250m.

Entrances and paths

There is a gate at the entrance. There is a circular path around the site which is grassy and can get very wet and muddy in winter. The site is gently sloping.

Public transport

There is a bus stop in Capel Dewi with buses 6 times daily to Carmarthen and less often to Abergorlech, Nantgaredig and the Botanic Gardens. Buses are run by First Cymru 01267 222709 or www.firstgroup.com and Silcox Coaches 01464 683143 or www.silcoxcoaches.co.uk. (Information from personal visit May 2007)

Parking

There is room for one or two cars to park in the entrance to the site. The site is very quiet so parking is not usually a problem.

Toilets

There are public toilets 3 miles from the site, at Pont Ffinant picnic site two miles east of Capel Dewi on the B4300. There is no disabled toilet there.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

This new woodland will be allowed to develop into a secondary woodland of mixed broadleaves with areas of natural succession allowed to develop along with areas of wet woodland. Occasional intervention will take place across the site to develop a well structured broadleaf woodland.

Public access will be maintained along with areas of open space along path and ride sides.

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

The site was planted as part of Woods on Your Doorstep project and has a small number of local, regular visitors. The project was created a number of new woodlands with the aim of creating new space in which local people would be able to access woodland.

This new woodland includes a series of pathways across the site which are grassed surface, forming a circular walk on relatively level to shallow sloping grounds. Some sections of the path are very wet throughout the year.

The main access point to the site is via a small wooden pedestrian gateway which sits approximately 5 metres away from the unclassified highway with enough space for a small vehicle to park.

Significance

The site is isolated from the local urban areas of Carmarthen but is relatively easily accessed from the town as a place to explore with few other site visitors and provides a place of quiet informal recreation for the local residents living close by with little to no access to woodland within a predominantly dairy grassland area.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints include wet ground conditions throughout the year and Lack of off-road car parking facilities. Difficulty to find the woodland can also be a constrain given its location off an unclassified minor country road which leads to a dead end.

Factors Causing Change

Natural regeneration of semi natural habitat encroaching from the former field boundaries restricting accessibility and preventing some sections of path from drying out.

Damage to the site caused by off road vehicles and horse riders are a possibility and have occurred previously.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain access for quiet and informal recreation for pedestrians with annual maintenance regimes in place.

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

Paths and entrances will not be allowed to become overgrown and will be cut annually.

Entrance furniture will be to a good standard and prevent access for horse riders and off-road vehicles and include a welcome sign to identify the woodland.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

Coed Pibwr lies within a shallow valley between the villages of Nantycaws and Capel Dewi alongside the Nant Pibwr.

This north facing site was first planted in 2000 as part of the woods on your doorstep project and provides a link between areas of wet woodland and scrub in an area of predominantly improved grassland used for dairy farming purposes. The site lies wet though most of the year and is bordered by tall hedges along 3 sides with broadleaf planting consisting of Ash, Oak, Field maple, Hazel and Alder.

The site is little used but for a few local residents and provides an attractive secondary woodland in the region.

Significance

The woodland site links other areas of semi natural habitat including a stream and two areas of scrub woodland providing enhanced connectivity within a woodland deprived area with local land uses including dairy farming and sheep holdings. Coed pibwr is the only permissive and free on entry woodland within a 5 kilometre radius of the site.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity to develop a mixed broad leaf woodland within a poorly wooded landscape improving connectivity of surrounding areas of woodland and scrub.

Constraints include accessing the site during winter months due to the ground conditions of the site and the small scale of the woodland meaning its primary purposes are for the benefit of nature conservation and public amenity.

Factors Causing Change

Natural succession to secondary woodland from nearby former field boundaries

Deer damage from wild Fallow herds found locally and previous deer browsing have constrained tree growth in places.

Natural regeneration of wet woodland along river corridor.

Changes to canopy composition with onset of tree diseases such as Ash dieback.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

This site will develop as a secondary woodland with areas of wet woodland, naturally colonised areas of willow and alder woodland and include a network of paths and areas of open space and rides.

Occasional intervention will be carried out to develop a diverse woodland structure and maintain public access across the site.

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

The site will remain stock proof and the new woodland and semi-natural habitats will continue to grow & develop along the river corridors and former field boundaries

Woodland management will take place annually alongside the public access paths to maintain permissive access and structure and diversify the woodland age class and woodland edges.

Improvements to the main planted canopy will be carried out to ensure a diverse canopy structure through the releasing of over-topped major broadleaves and deadwood content will be increased as a result of this process.

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 | 4.90 | Oak (sessile) | 2001 | Wood establishment | Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site | Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland | |

Compartment 1A is the whole site, and is made up of two former field parcels. The larger western field was improved pasture which was poorly drained. The smaller field to the east was waterlogged with soft rush, bramble and occasional alder coppice. Most of the site was planted in 2001 with ash, oak, alder, hazel, birch and willow with 0.5 ha to the eastern end left un-planted. The northern boundary is the stream, Nant Pibwr, the other boundaries are mature mixed native hedgerows with improved pasture in adjacent fields To the west is the narrow lane that brings you to the site and beyond this is willow and scrub woodland.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

| Forecast Year | Cpt | Operation Type | Work Area (ha) | Estimated vol/ha | Estimated total vol. |
|---------------|-----|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 2019 | 1a | Selective Fell | 1.00 | 5 | 5 |

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.