



COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

Coed Pencwm

Management Plan 2019-2024

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM	Page No.
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 New Native Woodland	
5.2 Informal Public Access	
5.3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)	
Glossary	
MAPS	
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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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 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 Pencwm
Location:	Rhos-hill / Eglwysrwr
Grid reference:	SN161402, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 145
Area:	3.45 hectares (8.53 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This relatively new wood provides good valley views over more established woodland on a steep slope above the valley floor. Access is on foot only. There is no car park. A bridleway runs along the bottom of the valley and there is a branch into Coed Pencwm.

2.2 Extended Description

The site is typical of the area's landscape, being level pasture on top of a valley side, suddenly dropping down steeply to a fast flowing stream (Afon Pilau). This site is located off the beaten track within the curtilage of a small village comprising of a number of houses, a chapel and a farm at its centre.

The site was initially created upon purchase in the year 2000 and forms part of the UK wide 'woods on your doorstep' project with new native broadleaf woodlands being created across the country to mark the millennium.

With a network of permissive footpaths throughout the site, this woodland provides a stop off point along the adjacent bridleway network which cross north Pembrokeshire into Ceredigion. The footpaths navigate through the newly planted woodlands and include a short section within the much older section of woodland along the northern boundary with views down to the river below which features signs of industry from the 19th century with a derelict hydraulic ram in the stream and numerous pieces of stonework forming sturdy banks to the stream, which may once have been for a mill downstream.

At the centre of the new woodland is the Millennium Feature which is a circular tree seat in steel with an oak tree planted in the middle.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

General Location

Public access is available via a public bridleway that runs past the site entrance via private farm yard. Coed Pencwm is close to the Ebenezer chapel and approximately 1 mile from the village of Eglwysrw along a quiet B road and then along the bust A487, there are no pavements and the road is mainly flat with a few small hills.

Entrances and paths

There are three entrances, a pedestrian gate at the main entrance and stiles at the other two entrances. There is a circular path around the site which is flat and grassy except for a very short stretch where it enters the ancient woodland where there are two short flights of steps. The bridleway that runs along the edge of the site and provides the access to the site can also be used to make an alternative circular walk but it tends to get very rough and muddy especially in winter.

Public Transport

The nearest bus stop is in Eglwysrw, 1 mile away, there are buses to Cardigan and Newport several times a day. For more information please call Traveline on 0870 6082608 or see www.traveline.org.uk.

There is no parking close to the site.

Toilets

The nearest public toilets are at Felindre Farchog three miles south west along the A487 and there is a disabled toilet that requires a RADAR key.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To establish a diverse native broad leaf woodland to enhance and connect with surrounding woodlands alongside the Cwm Afon Piliau. The broad leaf woodland will eventually create a high canopy woodland accessible to local people with ancient woodland characteristics gradually transitioning from the surrounding hedgerows and adjacent woodlands.

The new woodland will be allowed to develop naturally with minimal intervention beyond establishment and intervention to develop a diverse broadleaf canopy structure through the haloing of major broadleaf species. The older parts of the site, although not listed as ancient woodland, will be managed in line with the Woodland Trust approach to ancient woodland management due to the indicators and ancient woodland characteristics present

The network of permissive paths will be managed annually and provide a stop off point along the adjacent public bridleway and as a quiet place for recreation for local people with entrance furniture maintained and the millennium feature preserved.

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 New Native Woodland

Description

Planted in 2000 on two small pasture fields, the new woodland lies on a flat to gently sloping north facing aspect, accessed by a field entrance from the public bridleway which runs along the entirety of the eastern boundary with a small pony paddock to the south and steep wooded valley along the west and northern boundaries. The woodland boundaries are lined with tall hedges comprising of blackthorn and hawthorn, occasional cherry and Ash species.

The main planted broadleaf component consists of Ash and bird Cherry along with Oak and Hazel.

A series of permissive paths network across the compartment which has a metal circular bench at its centre.

Significance

The significance of the site is the site's locality, bordering areas of interesting and diverse broadleaf woodland along the steep sides of the Afon Piliau which have characteristics of ancient woodland although not currently listed under the 2011 ancient woodland inventory for Wales. This new woodland allows better access to woodland in the area for local people, which is ordinarily lining steep valley sides.

The site is also significant as being planted as part of the UK wide 'woods on your doorstep' millennium woods project, one of over 200 planted.

Opportunities & Constraints

Accessing the site and visitor car parking is difficult and confined to roadside, with limited access. The site forms a good stop off point along the much longer public footpath which extends the entire boundary of the eastern boundary and connects north Pembrokeshire with Ceredigion.

Factors Causing Change

Changes in woodland composition will take place over time as the new woodland develops with successional scrub forming consisting of blackthorn species encroaching from the former field boundary hedges and coarse vegetation from the adjacent pre-existing woodland upon purchase along the northern boundary.

Tree disease from the onset of Ash die back within the county changing the canopy composition from Ash dominated to likely scrub species including Blackthorn where natural regeneration of major broad leaf species has not yet taken place.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To establish a diverse native broad leaf woodland to enhance and connect with surrounding woodlands alongside the Cwm Afon Piliau.

The new woodland will be allowed to develop naturally with minimal intervention beyond establishment and minor intervention to develop a diverse broad leaf canopy structure

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

Continue to control encroaching blackthorn scrub limiting it to outer boundaries through annual path maintenance regime.

Release over-topped Oak and Cherry broad leaf species which are in threat of damage or dying back through over-topping Ash species to diversify canopy structure as progression of Ash die back takes place.

5.2 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. Although no public rights of way exist, the whole site is open to free public access. To facilitate this, a circular route is maintained across compartment 1. An interpretation board is also present at the main entrance and a millenium feature bench in 1A.

Significance

Providing public access to woods is a cornerstone of the Trust's management approach to its properties and is encapsulated in its corporate objective of increasing enjoyment and understanding of woodland. Although it is not very well used there are a number of regular locals who continue to enjoy the site.

Opportunities & Constraints

The site links to a public bridleway, increasing access opportunities but also facillitating horse tresspass.

Factors Causing Change

Natural regeneration of semi-natural habitat.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To ensure free public access on foot to the wood continues to be available in the future by maintaining the three entrances currently in use and by keeping all permissive paths free of obstruction for walkers.

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

Both entrances to the wood, signs, information board and the seat will be inspected at least once a year to ensure they are maintained in a safe and serviceable condition for public use. The permissive paths and will be kept open for walkers by annual mowing and litter collection. Public safety will be protected by carrying out periodic tree safety surveys.

5.3 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Although not included on the ancient woodland inventory, compartment 1b contains ancient woodland features and for this reason will be treated as such. Steep oak dominated woodland, occasional rowan, some ash and alder at the bottom along side the stream. Shrub layer includes blackthorn, hawthorn, elderberry, hazel and holly. Other species include brambles, ferns, mosses and honey suckle. The slope is very difficult to walk through. Only public access is a short stretch of footpath along the top of the slope. Currently very undisturbed providing a well established habitat and refuge.

Significance

Small piece of woodland that forms part of an extensively wooded valley. Provides excellent species source for newly planted woodland with characteristics of Ancient woodland and well structured native broadleaf woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Land for the most is inaccessible and steep with environmental constraints below by way of a water course.

Factors Causing Change

Ash dieback will impact upon the woodland but this area of the site should be resilient being connected to a wider woodland network along the valley sides. Possible changes may occur with over sized trees uprooting over time on steep and potentially unstable valley sides creating new canopy gaps to aid restructuring.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Minimal intervention beyond control of invasive species where appropriate and possible to do so.

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

Maintain tree safety close to the short linking path along the southern edge of this feature.

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	2.83	Ash	2001	Wood establishment	No/poor vehicular access to the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site		
<p>Planted in 2000 on two small pasture fields, the new woodland lies on a flat to gently sloping north facing aspect, accessed by a field entrance from the public bridleway which runs along the entirety of the eastern boundary in the form of a sunken lane with a small pony paddock to the south and steep wooded valley along the west and northern boundaries. The woodland boundaries are lined with tall hedges comprising of blackthorn and hawthorn, obsessional cherry and Ash species.</p>							
1b	0.61	Oak (sessile)	1900	Min-intervention	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc		
<p>Very steep oak woodland on a north east facing aspect sloping down to the Afon Piliau. The compartment is boarded by the stream to the north east and new woodland planting (cpt 1a) above on the south side, marked by a former woodland edge and hedgerow with a narrow path transecting this boundary east west.</p> <p>The compartment contains some veteran oak trees, areas of rocky outcrops which can be found protruding from a bramble field layer which can be deceivingly tall. Other understorey include hazel, beech, blackthorn and hawthorn. Flora includes ferns, honeysuckle, bluebells and other ancient woodland indicators although at present isn't listed under the 2011 Ancient Woodland Inventory. The ground is very damp and supports lush vegetation in this sheltered location. Ferns, mosses, lichens and liverworts are common.</p>							

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.26	2	0.5
2021	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.26	2	0.5
2022	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.26	2	0.5
2023	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.26	2	0.5
2024	1a	Ride edge Coppice	0.26	2	0.5

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.