

Woodland Trust Management Plan

Coed Cilgelynnen

(Plan period – 2021 to 2026)



WOODLAND
TRUST

Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, 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. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our 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 natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities 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 encourage our woods to be used for 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. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
 - 4.2 f3 Informal Public Access
 - 4.3 f4 Open Ground Habitat
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Coed Cilgelynnen

Location:	Llanychaer Grid reference: SM979347 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 157
Area:	14.46 hectares (35.73 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Environmentally Sensitive Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The woodland forms the eastern end of a strip of broadleaved woodland which runs along the Gwaun Valley and occupies a steep north-facing slope, descending down to level streamside land. The valley is hidden from view except from immediately adjacent properties. Alder and willow dominate the eastern half of the flat land, but at the eastern end it opens out into raised peat bog. The peat bog is known as Esgyrn Bottom and extends westwards and northwards onto other landowners' land in the valley. The bog appears to be gradually becoming drier and is becoming colonised at the eastern end by bracken and scrub.

The hillside woodland is predominantly oak, but with a substantial amount of large singled sycamore of coppice origin, and smaller amounts of beech and ash. Two regeneration coupes with retained seed trees were cut between 1993 and 1996 but survival of planted and regenerated trees has been patchy due to vigorous growth of bramble. In 2006 small groups of ash were planted in the most open areas and the bramble around them controlled annually.

Several streams cut gullies down the hillside and contribute to the wetness of the valley floor. Glades along the central track help to provide an attractive walk, which links with another public footpath at the western boundary of the site.

Key features of the site are the ancient semi natural woodland, the raised peat bog which is part of Esgyrn Bottom Site of Special Scientific Interest and the public access facilities available on site.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The wood will continue to develop with natural regeneration replacing trees that fall or die. Canopy species will include oak, ash, alder, willow and sycamore. Canopy gaps with ash saplings and hazel coppice regrowth will be managed to ensure that bramble does not prevent them from growing. The wood will be varied in composition with oak, ash and sycamore on the slopes and a wetter woodland habitat on the valley bottom, large amounts of standing and fallen deadwood covered in mosses will be seen.

In the open part of the site which forms the end of the raised peat bog, rhododendron will be controlled but the purple moor grass, bracken and scrub will not be controlled as the ground is inaccessible for machinery and grazing is unlikely to be possible due to ground conditions. The aspiration is to raise the water table to restore the wetter conditions which created the peat bog if this can be done together with other land owners and with Natural Resources Wales. In the absence of such a project the bog area is likely to gradually dry out and become scrubby wet woodland.

The tracks and footpaths will be kept open and an informal parking area maintained at the entrance.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description
All of the woodland other than the extreme eastern part of the site (subcompartment 1a) has been identified as ancient semi natural woodland. Woodland types appear to be a mosaic of Upland Oak wood and Upland Mixed Ash wood, although no formal NVC survey has been carried out. Oak and ash appear to be the most common native broadleaved species within this area, along with sycamore, which is now an integral part of the canopy. Ground flora is quite varied within these areas, probably due to the steepness of the valley side and mosaic of communities present. The areas which are not ASNW also have ancient woodland characteristics and for this reason are combined in this key feature.
Significance
The woodland has developed naturally and therefore will be genetically well suited to site conditions. In addition to this, conserving the woodland in its semi-natural state will have a positive effect on site biodiversity.
Opportunities & Constraints
The sycamore has shaded out other regeneration in the past but was heavily thinned in the late 1990's and will not now be further reduced. Bramble grows so vigorously in canopy gaps that it is not advisable to open up new regeneration areas.
Factors Causing Change
Bramble growth in felled areas, Natural regeneration of ash and chalara. Natural regeneration of sycamore
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The woodland continues to naturally develop as mostly ancient semi natural woodland with a diversity of native tree species in the canopy and plenty of fallen and standing deadwood.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Undertake invasive species assessment within 5 year management plan period. The woodland will be managed under minimal intervention principles, with work limited to tree safety operations. Stock will be excluded from the site.

4.2 f3 Informal Public Access

Description
A public footpath allows access along the entire length of the site, running in an east-west direction. This links up with another footpath just outside the western boundary. In addition to this, there is a small track running in a south easterly direction from the footpath to the southern boundary through sub compartment 1b. A parking area just within

the main entrance of the site has room for several cars. It is from this parking area that the public footpath runs through the site.
Significance
The site is used by local residents and links in with the wider public footpath network.
Opportunities & Constraints
Public access over the entire site is constrained by the bramble and steepness of the southern slope and permanently wet and very rough ground in the north both on the bog and in the wood. Opportunity to explain peatland restoration works on Esgyrn bog to enhance public understanding.
Factors Causing Change
Falling trees from unstable slope blocking route.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The present level of public access will be retained within the site, with footpaths kept open and the parking area prevented from scrubbing over. There are very attractive walks around the site with open views, mature woodland and mossy wet woodland. Entrances to the site and estate furniture are also maintained.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Control vegetation and clear fallen trees along public footpath and in parking area annually. Keep culverts clear to prevent the track from flooding. If use increases it may be necessary to improve the parking area and / or the wettest parts of the path. Work with NRW to inform visitors about any upcoming works on Esgyrn Bottom peatland.

4.3 f4 Open Ground Habitat

Description
The most south-westerly raised bog in Britain, and the only example in 'Pembrokeshire' retaining any of its central dome comprising of peat associated Sphagnum species and heather with drier areas of Molina grasses and bracken/birch scrub.
Significance
The most south-westerly raised bog in Britain, and the only example in 'Pembrokeshire' retaining any of its central dome. It occupies the floor of the sub-glacial melt-water channel, Esgyrn Bottom is a representative part of the classic Gwaun-Jordanston melt-water channel system. The channel was originally interpreted as an overflow feature from a

glacially impounded lake, but is now believed to have been cut by melt-water flowing sub-glacially. It is particularly noted for its large size and extent, and may have been occupied by melt-waters on more than one occasion. In addition to being an outstanding geomorphological feature, the channel at Esgyrn also contains thick peat sequences with important pollen records.

The Esgyrn valley includes steep sides which support semi-natural ancient woodland. Several scarce plants and insects occur including hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum*, oblong-leaved sundew *Drosera intermedia*, white sedge *Carex curta*, narrow buckler-fern *Dryopteris carthusiana* and royal fern *Osmunda regalis*. The pollution-sensitive beard lichen *Usnea articulata* grows on the edge of the woodland. Butterflies recorded include marsh fritillary *Eurodryas aurinia*, dark green fritillary *Argynnis aglaia*, small pearl-bordered fritillary *Boloria selene* and green hairstreak *Callophrys rubi*. Glow worms *Lampyris noctiluca* also occur, and an extremely rare money spider, *Glyphesis servulus*, has been recorded. Otters are known to use the valley, presumably feeding on eels.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity to maintain the sites rich diversity through periodic intervention to reduce dominance of coarse vegetation species including bramble and bracken scrub and successional species such as Downy Birch which contribute to the drying of the Peat.

Factors Causing Change

Expansion of secondary woodland including colonisation of Birch and Willow advancing the drying of the raised bog

Drainage to the entire SSSI and SAC peat bog systems from historical drainage channels to aid peat cutting.

Risk of pollution from nearby agricultural holdings through possible pollution to watercourses transecting the site

Expansion of Rhododendron and other invasive species on site.

Fire, although no recent incidents, the high levels of Molina grass and Bracken pose a risk to a wild fire establishing which would be difficult to control given the sites location.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Gradually reduce levels of scrub and secondary woodland expansion across the site and on holdings adjacent to Coed Cilgelynnen to manage the raised Peat Bog through joint land ownership practices including re-wetting through blockage of drainage channels. The site will be free of invasive species including Rhododendron meaning it is not longer a factor causing change.

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

Undertake mapping assessment to determine extent of colonisation of scrub encroachment onto raised bog and map drainage channels.

Subject to SSSI Consent: undertake some small-scale cutting of successional tree and shrub species and use brush to impede drainage.

Control rhododendron.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2021	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	October
2021	SL - Safety / Legal Obligation Work (SODS)	Works associated with specific Health and Safety legislation or associated legal requirements such as – safety fencing of quarries, safety requirements stipulated in planning consent for car parks or entrance points etc	October
2022	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	June
2022	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the initial phase of invasive plant control – such as rhododendron felling and mulching	August
2022	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	August
2022	NWH - Initial Restoration Work	Works associated with the initial restoration or significant reinvestment works of existing non-woodland habitats to improve or protect their conservation value	September
2022	NWH - Initial Restoration Work	Works associated with the initial restoration or significant reinvestment works of existing non-woodland habitats to improve or protect their conservation value	December
2023	SL - Routine Safety Work	Works associated with undertaking planned visitor and structure safety orientated actions, such as erection/creation or maintenance of safety features such as fencing, rails, re-pointing of retaining walls etc	March
2023	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	June
2023	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the initial phase of invasive plant control – such as rhododendron felling and mulching	August
2023	NWH - Initial Restoration Work	Works associated with the initial restoration or significant reinvestment works of existing non-woodland habitats to improve or protect their conservation value	December
2024	SL - Routine Safety Work	Works associated with undertaking planned visitor and structure safety orientated actions, such as erection/creation or maintenance of safety features such as fencing, rails, re-pointing of retaining walls etc	March

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	June
2024	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the initial phase of invasive plant control – such as rhododendron felling and mulching	August
2024	NWH - Initial Restoration Work	Works associated with the initial restoration or significant reinvestment works of existing non-woodland habitats to improve or protect their conservation value	December
2025	SL - Routine Safety Work	Works associated with undertaking planned visitor and structure safety orientated actions, such as erection/creation or maintenance of safety features such as fencing, rails, re-pointing of retaining walls etc	March
2025	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	June
2025	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the initial phase of invasive plant control – such as rhododendron felling and mulching	August
2025	NWH - Initial Restoration Work	Works associated with the initial restoration or significant reinvestment works of existing non-woodland habitats to improve or protect their conservation value	December
2026	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	June

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1.06	other oak spp	1900	Min-intervention		
<p>Oak dominated sub compartment on the eastern side of the site. Other canopy species include ash and alder, which is mostly found in the vicinity of the stream. The southern quarter of the sub compartment has been used as a stacking and conversion area, around which several ash trees have been planted. Sycamore is regenerating freely and a bramble and bracken dominated glade is present on the northern side. Ground flora is patchy and species include fern, bluebell, ivy, honeysuckle, bramble, moss, grasses, dog's mercury, bracken and nettle. This compartment is not shown as Ancient Woodland on the inventory.</p>						
1b	7.02	Sycamore	1920	Min-intervention	Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Moderately sloping, north facing strip of land that forms the southern side of the site. Almost the whole of this subcompartment is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory. Oak, sycamore and ash are the most common canopy species and vary in dominance along the strip. A small proportion of the canopy trees are of coppice origin. Two areas were felled between 1993 and 1996 in order to create regeneration coupes, with seed trees retained, while thinning has taken place in other areas. Natural regeneration has been patchy due to bramble growth in felled areas but there are some areas of good ash regeneration and also coppice regrowth of sycamore and hazel. In 2006 some additional groups of ash were planted to meet WGS restocking requirements and the bramble is cut annually in these areas. Ground flora species include wood sorrel, bracken, ivy, bluebell, fern, bramble, honeysuckle, nettle, forget-me-not, moss, dog's mercury, lesser celandine, willow herb, grasses, buttercup, wood arum and pennywort. Several streams flow northwards through this sub compartment, towards the stream which forms the northern boundary of the site. A public footpath provides visitor access along the northern boundary of this sub compartment and two glades have been cut to provide visual and biodiversity interest. A permissive footpath also exists and runs through the easternmost regeneration coupe. The western half has been included within the boundary of the Esgryn Bottom SSSI.</p>						
1c	2.18	other willows	1960	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>Thin strip of ash, alder and willow woodland running along the stream that forms the northern boundary on the eastern half of the site. Most of the ground is waterlogged and several streams flow northwards through the sub compartment. Ground flora is generally abundant and species include bramble, nettle, buttercup, fern, moss, ivy</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>and dock. A public footpath forms the southern boundary of this sub compartment. Most of it is included on the Ancient Woodland Inventory except for a short section in the middle of the compartment.</p>						
2a	4.12	NULL		Non-wood habitat	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>The most south-westerly raised bog in Britain, and the only example in 'Pembrokeshire' retaining any of its central dome. It occupies the floor of the sub-glacial melt-water channel, whilst the steep sides support semi-natural ancient woodland. Several scarce plants and insects occur. Overall the compartment is an area of raised peat bog with SSSI designation (Esgryn Bottom) at the north western end of the site. Mature birch trees form a line along the public footpath that forms the southern boundary of this sub compartment. Occasional rhododendron are present and bracken, alder, ash, sycamore and willow are encroaching on the eastern edge. Ground flora is abundant and is dominated by purple moor grass. Other species include bramble, fern, sphagnum mosses, ivy, buttercup, rush, bracken, heather and cotton grass.</p>						

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.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.

Registered Office:

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

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