Coed Tanybryn

(Plan period – 2021 to 2026)

Management Plan Content Page

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

Coed Tanybryn

Location:	Garndolbenmaen Grid reference: SH497443 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 123
Area:	1.17 hectares (2.89 acres)
External Designations:	National Park
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Coed Tanybryn comprises a flat field which, in the absence of grazing management, is succeeding from marshy grassland to scrub and woodland. The area is enclosed by stone walls with additional fencing and is almost entirely surrounded by open drainage ditches. The site is characteristically wet with goat willow the predominant coloniser. Alder is also represented with some birch, sycamore and rowan. Oak, ash and birch were planted in 1988 but with the exception of a few oak and some ash at the drier southern end of the site, most of these trees have not thrived. Where the land is beginning to dry out, birch seedlings are beginning to establish, with some bramble. Open areas are dominated by bramble and gorse scrub.

There is pond, which was excavated at the site of a former well in 1987/88, and towards the centre of the site an area of wetland is a notable feature. The wetland is Molinia dominated and supports species such as Cross-leaved heath, Juncus spp., Marsh violet, Tormentil and clumps of Polytricum commune. Marsh/heath spotted orchid has been recorded. There is also believed to be a population of water vole in the locality. Ferns (broad buckler fern and lady fern) are prolific at the edge of the wetland to the north of the footpath.

The site is within the Snowdonia National Park and access to the site is from a minor road in the village of Garndolbenmaen. A short circular walk leads from the entrance up to the pond. Adjacent farmland comprises fields used for grazing and on the western boundary there are two residential properties. There are few trees in the immediate locality although a number of marshes/ bogs occur nearby on the edge of the ffridd, including Cors Graianog SSSI, part of the Eifionydd Fens SAC which is designated for its mire/ bog habitats and supports the Marsh fritillary butterfly.

The key features of Coed Tanybryn are:

- Wet woodland

- Watercourses (wetland, pond and ditches)

- Informal public access

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Secondary woodland will continue to develop slowly by natural succession, comprising predominantly of locally native species: typically with a mix of willow and alder with downy birch, with occasional oak, ash, rowan or hawthorn on drier ground. Fallen and standing deadwood will increase over time. For the foreseeable future, the woodland will remain scrubby in character and be dotted with more open areas where Molinia mire, gorse or bramble occur. The pond and ditch network will be maintained by periodic clearance of woody and aquatic vegetation to increase habitat diversity and reduce the risk of water overflowing onto neighbouring fields (the establishment of tree cover should also help with this). Invasive species will be absent.

Public assess will be maintained on the existing path network. The Trust would support approaches from community groups interested in management of the wood as a local asset.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Wet Woodland

Description
Wet woodland is an aspirational key feature. It is developing naturally with Goat willow the primary coloniser. Common alder is also present with downy birch. Some of the sessile oak and ash planted on the drier soils have established. Holly is also present with rowan, sycamore, hawthorn, hazel and guelder rose. Downy birch seedlings are beginning to colonise an open area of wet grassland.
Significance
Wet woodlands are a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and European priority woodland habitat. Wet woodlands typically support a diverse range of wildlife including birds, invertebrate species and water vole. Willow spp. support a diversity of invertebrates. There are few trees or woodlands locally.
Opportunities & Constraints
Native tree species are colonising naturally. Ditches require maintenance to prevent flooding on neighbouring farmland (may also affect hydrology within the woodland area). Water vole may be present. Relative isolation within an open farmed landscape may restrict colonisation and gene flow.
Factors Causing Change
Natural increase and development of woodland. Changes in hydrology. Rhododendron.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Natural succession will continue slowly, with the woodland dominated by predominantly locally native species, mostly those that tolerate moist and waterlogged soils. For the foreseeable future, the woodland will be relatively scrubby in character, although where conditions permit, a few trees may reach a significant girth and maturity. Dead wood habitat, including standing dead trees, will increase naturally over time. Rhododendron (and any other invasive spp. if they occur) will be eradicated. The woodland habitat will provide favourable conditions for a diverse range of plant, animal, bird and invertebrate species, with more open wet areas and watercourses providing variety within the habitat mosaic.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

The woodland area will continue to increase and develop naturally with a regime of limited intervention. Species composition and structure of the developing woodland will be monitored. The presence of invasive alien species on the site will be monitored and control undertaken as necessary.

4.2 f2 Watercourses

Description

Drainage ditches around the periphery of the site were re-established in 1987/88 in order to alleviate flooding on surrounding farmland. A pond with a small island was also created at the site of a former well. The ditches are fairly deep, water is still or slow moving, and they support species such as water forget-me-not, ivy-leaved crowfoot, fools watercress and amphibious bisort. The steep sided banks support grass spp., with bramble, ferns (broad buckler and hard fern), Juncus spp., goat willow and on the dry raised banks gorse has established. The ditches were cleared out in 1996 and on the north-west boundary in 2002. Willow and gorse on the edges was coppiced/cut. The pond has an inlet stream from a ditch and the well in the north-west corner and an outlet with a sluice gate in the south-west corner. In 1996 it was re-profiled (shallow sides were created) in response to local concerns in relation to safety and in 1997 the pond dam was raised slightly. In 2002 the pond was again de-silted. Pond vegetation includes Juncus and grass spp., with water forget-me-knot, marsh St. John's wort and amphibious bisort, The small island is dominated by Juncus spp. with some heather. Goat willow and gorse dominate the north bank of the pond and to the west a high bank with a rock outcrop and surrounded on three sides by ditches comprises goat willow (coppiced adjacent to the pond and ditches in 2002) with gorse, bramble and Juncus spp. The southern grassy bank is maintained in conjunction with the footpath. Access to the pond is from the footpath at the south-east corner. A Molinia dominated wetland area is situated to the north of the footpath, between the pond and the ditch along the eastern edge of the site. Gaps within the Molinia grassland support species such as Polytrichum commune with Pleurozium schreberi and Festuca spp., Juncus spp., marsh violet and birdsfoot trefoil. Heather and cross-leaved heath are also represented. Marsh/heath spotted orchid has been recorded. The area is tending to dry out and birch seedlings, sycamore and bramble are establishing. Ferns (broad buckler fern and lady fern) are prolific at the edge of the wetland area. There is evidence that the area supports a population of water vole (probably also in association with the ditch close to the eastern boundary).

Significance

The wetland, pond and ditches increase habitat diversity and will likely support a range of wildlife including potentially Water vole, a UK and Snowdonia National Park BAP species. Occasional maintenance of the drainage may be required to prevent issues on neighbouring land.

Opportunities & Constraints

A water vole population has been noted in the locality - however, the wood is a very small and sub-optimal location for them so is unlikely to be the core area supporting the population. American mink is also present nearby, which is likely to be a major threat.

Ponds and ditches remain valuable habitats throughout the various stages of natural succession and ecologically speaking, regular interventions are not ideal, however there is a presumption toward management of the pond and ditches to reduce the chance of flooding on neighbouring farmland. The neighbouring farmer has consent, on application, to maintain ditches within the south-east section of the site. Without maintenance, the ditches and pond will eventually be lost as features and at present the likelihood to their replacement by habitat creation on the surrounding land is low.

There may be public concern in relation to the safety of the pond, although no incidents have been recorded.

Factors Causing Change

The wetland area is tending to dry out and in the absence of grazing or pro-active management will likely succeed to birch/willow. The ditches are liable to silt up and become clogged with vegetation, including goat willow. The pond requires regular management to maintain an area of open/ un-shaded water and prevent silting up. Invasive species may arrive.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The ditches and pond will retain some open water and be in functional condition in terms of the local drainage. Blockages and silt will periodically be removed from the ditches and pond, with bankside vegetation occasionally coppiced to reduce shading. There will be a range of aquatic and bankside vegetation associated with these damp areas, such as Molinia, rushes, water forget-me-knot, St. John's wort, amphibious bisort, violets and cross-leaved heath. If water voles continue to be recorded, they will be protected from harm during operations.

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

A third of the ditch network and pond/ pond edge will be cleared and banksides coppiced at least once in every 5 year period to order to maintain drainage and some open water areas. Prior to these operations, a field sign survey will check for signs of occupation by water vole and measures will be put in place to avoid harm if signs are recorded.

4.3 f3 Informal Public Access

Description

A wide footpath leads from the entrance to the pond and returns via an alternative short loop. A further path extends with a short circular walk from the pond around the perimeter of the western corner of the site. A public footpath from neighbouring properties to the west of the site appears to be blocked and unused. There is no convenient parking so most visitors are likely to be from the village and arriving on foot. The site occasionally attracts groups of children from the local primary school who play and make dens after school.

Significance

Opportunity for short and easy circular walk. Potential for wildlife watching. Local visitors have used the site for blackberry picking and other quiet recreation.

Opportunities & Constraints

There has in the past been a minor issue of litter and vandalism but this is rare. The pond is both a draw and a potential safety concern for unaccompanied children. Dog walking could disturb water vole but is mainly restricted to the path network as the wetter areas of the site are fairly inaccessibly to a casual walker.

The small size and local interest of this wood would make it very appropriate for community management by a suitable group.

Factors Causing Change

Wet winters mean that the footpath is often waterlogged. On-going maintenance is required to keep the paths open.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Public access and the footpath will be maintained but at a relatively 'low key' level, suitable for a small number of local visitors, who would be expected to be equipped with wellies or suitable footwear. Features of interest such as the pond and the abundant bramble (blackberries) will be retained.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
The permissive footpath will be regularly maintained for public access and enjoyment of the site but no changes to the surface are envisaged.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2023	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	November

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1.15	Goat willow	1988	Wood establishment	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	National Park

The woodland is defined within a single compartment. The area is roughly triangular in shape and is on level ground. Apart from a short section of roadside fencing all of the boundaries are defined by dry stone walls with additional fencing on top to exclude livestock. Drainage ditches alongside the north and west boundaries and from the east boundary diagonally south across the site are maintained in order to prevent flooding on neighbouring farmland. A pond has also been created (1987/88) at the site of a former well on the west side of the site. A footpath from the site entrance to the pond provides a short circular walk. At the south-east corner of the site the soils appear to be drier and oak and a few ash (planted 1988) have established. There is also a young beech tree close to the entrance. Bramble is abundant and gorse is established in these open areas particularly on the dry raised banks to the ditch. Birch, holly, hawthorn, alder, goat willow, rowan, sycamore and guelder rose are also represented. Rhododendron ponticum occasionally occurs. The field layer includes heath bedstraw, common sorrel, Birdsfoot trefoil, Tormentil, Juncus spp. with grass, bracken, fern and moss and Sphagna species. Goat willow is dominant on the wetter soils and is the only tree species at the northern apex and in the western corner of the site. Between the pond and the ditch along the eastern edge of the site a wetland area is Molinia dominated. Gaps within the Molinia grassland support species such as Polytrichum commune with Pleurozium schreberi and Festuca spp., Juncus spp., marsh violet and Birdsfoot trefoil. Heather and cross-leaved heath are also represented. The area is tending to dry out and birch seedlings, sycamore and bramble are establishing. Ferns (broad buckler fern and lady fern) are prolific particularly to the north of the footpath at the edge of the wetland. The water filled ditches support species such as Water forget-me-knot, Ivy-leaved crowfoot and Amphibious bisort. The pond is fairly shallow and has a small island. The north edge is surrounded by Goat willow and Gorse with Juncus and grass spp. encroaching into the pond. A grassy bank is maintained at the eastern edge, at the end of the footpath.

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.

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