

Coed Friog

(Plan period – 2021 to 2026)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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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 Natural Secondary Woodland
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Coed Friog

Location:	Fairbourne	Grid reference:	SH619129	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	124
Area:	2.97 hectares (7.34 acres)							
External Designations:	National Park							
Internal Designations:	N/A							

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Coed Friog is characterised by gnarled and windswept oaks and occupies a steep rocky knoll with a western aspect overlooking the Mawddach estuary, being exposed to strong westerlies from the Irish Sea. It is a prominent component of the local landscape and is a part of the southernmost section of the south Mawddach woodland complex/continuum before the landscape opens out to the hillside and sea cliffs beyond. The topography of the woodland does not facilitate public access and Coed Cadw provides no formal public access infrastructure, although there is evidently some usage by neighbouring properties.

Coed Friog comprises a total of 3ha and is divided into 2 separate woodland blocks by a minor private lane, Ffordd y Bryn, which provides access to a number of residential properties. The smaller of the two woodland blocks is situated between Ffordd y Bryn and the A493. From the western boundary the ground rises steeply from a retaining wall to the A493. The gnarled scrub oaks on the rocky slopes are stunted by the sea winds. The slopes below Ffordd y Bryn are more open with bracken and bramble and scattered young sessile oak and thickets of blackthorn. Larger mature oaks are situated in the sheltered southern corner behind the adjacent properties. The larger woodland block to the east of Ffordd y Bryn is relatively inaccessible, bounded by steep rocky crags adjacent to the narrow lane. The southernmost tip extends to the A493 and is bounded by a low stone retaining wall. Mature sessile oak is the dominant canopy species among the rocks and crags with the occasional sycamore and a large mature beech on the level ground close to the road and entrance to the lane. At the top of the slopes the oaks are very gnarled and windswept. Within this second block is a grilled chamber and bricked-up chamber, possibly a remnant of previous buildings on the site.

The woodland is a typical upland oakwood, predominantly secondary in origin but adjoining ancient woodlands and including a small area mapped as ancient on the 2011 inventory (secondary woodland is the sole key feature of the site). It supports vegetation associated with W17b/c NVC types on the thin acid soils. Sessile oak is the dominant canopy species with occasional sycamore, birch, beech, rowan, hazel, blackthorn and ash are also represented. Holly is locally dominant in the shrub layer. Gorse is prominent at the top of the rocky slopes. The field layer supports abundant bramble, honeysuckle and ivy with moss species, some bluebell, wavy hair grass and sweet vernal grass. Heather is present on drier crags. There are significant numbers of young oak and the woodland is expanding into open patches of bracken.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The existing upland oakwood habitat will be maintained and primarily comprise locally native species with sessile oak as the dominant canopy species. There will be a diverse woodland structure (favouring a range of woodland birds and animals) with a full range of locally native species and age classes, including veteran trees. Dead wood habitat will be abundant and standing or fallen timber will be retained in situ.

The woodland area will extend naturally with regeneration into open areas of bracken but areas of gorse and scrub and canopy gaps will be maintained through natural processes and by management operations along wayleaves adjacent to houses and property boundaries. Rhododendron is present in some of the neighbouring gardens, however, spread of invasive plants into the woodland will not be tolerated. The lack of management access or defined boundaries makes limited intervention the most appropriate strategy.

Tree safety obligations along the A493, Ffordd y Bryn and along boundaries with neighbouring properties will be met. As formal public access is limited by the topography of the site, tree safety work will be limited and there is the opportunity to retain trees with storm damage/structural defects for invertebrates and as potential bird nesting and bat roost sites. The grilled chamber and the bricked-up adit will be maintained to provide a potential bat roost site.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Natural Secondary Woodland

Description
<p>An upland oak woodland with sessile oak the dominant species, Coed Friog is thought largely to be secondary woodland, although the 2011 inventory identified the southernmost tip as RAWs and the site adjoins other patches of ancient semi-natural woodland. The oaks, particularly on the upper slopes are stunted by salt winds and are prone to die back as they increase in height. Sycamore is present and some beech has regenerated from a mature specimen close to the entrance to Ffordd y Bryn, along with some sweet chestnut. Birch and rowan are also represented with infrequent ash, holly locally dominant in the understorey (cpt 1), thickets of blackthorn and the occasional hazel. Gorse is a prominent component (with occasional broom) on the upper slopes. Bracken and bramble dominate the field layer, honeysuckle is dense in places and with ivy is dominant over rocky crags. NVC types W17b/c are represented and field layer species include wavy hair grass, sweet vernal grass, a typical limited variety of moss species, male fern and common polypody, heather spp., occasional bilberry, wood sage, cleavers, herb Robert and pennywort common on rocky crags. Oak regeneration is establishing in open areas dominated by bracken and has been prolific forming dense thickets with gorse.</p>
Significance
<p>Upland oakwood is a UK and SNP Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and European priority woodland habitat. Locally native woodland species are represented. It is likely that the woodland is of value to a variety of fauna species; woodland bird species, evidence of badger noted, potential bat roost sites (tree cavities and grilled chamber/adit), suitable habitat for foraging bats (lesser horseshoe bats, a BAP species, recorded locally). The woodland is a prominent component of the local landscape.</p>
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Steep and rocky terrain with limited access for management. Scrub oak and trees with structural defects (cavities, cracks) provide opportunities for invertebrates, woodland birds and bats). Electricity cables - trees and shrubs are managed in proximity to the cables (lv service line) – but this provides opportunities for coppice management and glades. Open areas of bracken, gorse and blackthorn scrub increase diversity. Neighbouring properties imply concerns regarding safety, garden escapes (e. g. <i>Crocospia montbretia</i>), TV aerials etc.</p> <p>Coed Friog adjoins other ancient woodlands so there is good potential for species colonisation and gene flow.</p>
Factors Causing Change
<p>Gardens escapes such as <i>Crocospia</i> and <i>Rhododendron</i> will continue to be a threat to the semi-natural composition of field and shrub layers. Browsing may occur in the event of local deer population increases. Encroachment from neighbouring properties may be an issue. Slope stability above adjacent properties and roads may influence management decisions.</p>

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The upland oakwood habitat will be maintained. Sessile oak will continue to be the dominant canopy species with a diverse mix of locally native trees and shrubs. Structural diversity will increase with a range of age classes including a significant proportion of old/veteran trees. Dead wood habitat both standing and fallen will be abundant. Natural regeneration will establish and gradually extend the woodland area but open glades will continue to exist where trees have fallen or where open habitats are maintained beneath overhead cables. The field layer will improve with a varied structure (bramble, honeysuckle and shrub species and typical mosses and vascular plants) reflecting W17 sub-communities. Invasive non-native species (especially rhododendron) will be eradicated promptly if they spread into the site.

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

There will be a regime of limited intervention other than where work is required to maintain safety or to control invasive species, the need for which will be monitored on an on-going basis. Under-storey regeneration especially oak will start to be recruited into the sub-canopy.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2021	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2023	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	December

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	0.7	Oak (sessile)	1900	Min-intervention	Landscape factors, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	National Park
<p>The compartment is sandwiched in between the A493 to the west and Ffordd y Bryn to the east with the gardens to adjacent properties on the north-east and south-west boundaries. The northern boundary is fenced alongside steep cliffs to a disused open quarry. In the northern corner the oaks on rock outcrops are gnarled and stunted. Holly is the dominant understorey species. Honeysuckle is dense in places with ivy and pennywort on the rocky crags. Ground flora includes wavy hair grass, woodrush, moss species, fern species such as common polypody, bluebell and wood sage. Alongside the north eastern boundary garden refuse has been dumped and garden escapes (<i>Crocsmia montbretia</i>) are present. An overhead LV electricity service line crosses the compartment west to east. Bramble is dense in the clearing beneath the line. Further south the ground is still steep but it is less rocky. Mature oaks are the dominant species but sycamore and ash are also represented. A large old mature ash on the lower slopes is fairly close to the road. The central slopes below Ffordd y Bryn are bracken dominated with scattered young and semi-mature oak, the occasional hazel and thickets of blackthorn and some gorse. Nettle is abundant at the top of the slope, probably as a result of compost dumping. In the sheltered southern corner is a group of large mature oaks. There is no formal public access.</p>						
2a	2.3	Oak (sessile)	1900	Min-intervention	Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	National Park
<p>The compartment to the east of Ffordd y Bryn is characterised by steep sloping ground with rocky crags and outcrops. Sessile oak is the dominant canopy species with some sycamore. The larger trees are on the more</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>sheltered and lower slopes to the south. Beech, birch and rowan are represented, with occasional sweet chestnut. Near the top of the slope and in the north- eastern corner the oaks are generally stunted and gnarled in character. Patches of dense oak regeneration and scrub interspersed with gorse create an impenetrable thicket. On level ground at the top of the slope are the remains of a stone building, partly overgrown with blackthorn scrub and gorse. There is some heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>) and there are several anthills. Bramble and honeysuckle are dominant components of the field layer. The ground flora includes wavy hair grass and sweet vernal grass, wood sage, ivy, moss species and some bluebell. Natural regeneration includes sessile oak, rowan, birch, beech, sycamore, holly and the occasional Corsican pine.</p> <p>There is no formal access. At the top of the slope several TV aerials from neighbouring properties have been attached to trees and there is evidence of occasional informal access. The area to the rear of properties along the north-western boundary is evidently utilised by the residents -vegetation has been cut back and daffodil planted. There is evidence of badger use. A concrete covered chamber has been grilled from above (to allow bat access) and access into it via an adit in the rock face above Ffordd y Bryn has been blocked.</p> <p>The majority of the eastern Coed Cadw boundary is not easily discerned on the ground but generally it extends along the top edge of the rocky knoll. The eastern facing slope of the knoll is very steep and comprises woodland and private gardens not within the ownership of Coed Cadw. A substantial stone wall forms the north-eastern woodland boundary with a neighbouring garden. The site slopes down to gardens and Ffordd y Bryn to the west.</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:

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