

# Coed y Felin

(Plan period – 2022 to 2027)



WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Management Plan Content Page

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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](http://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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto: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 New Native Woodland
  - 4.2 f4 Informal Public Access
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Coed y Felin

Location:	Cilcain	Grid	reference:	SJ178649	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	116
Area:	1.47 hectares (3.63 acres)								
External Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Environmentally Sensitive Area, Special Landscape Area								
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep								

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Coed y Felin is a 1.6ha Woods On Your Doorstep (WOYD) site, situated c200m from Cilcain village within the Clwydian Range AONB. The site was designed, named and planted with the help of the local community in late 2000 and the trees have established very well and now developed a closed canopy. The key features present are new native woodland and informal public access.

The site is a long, relatively flat enclosure on the edge of a steep valley. Semi natural ancient woodland (Coed Nant Gain) abuts the southern boundary with a small remnant of semi natural ancient woodland adjacent to the northern boundary. Remnant hedgerows form the remainder of the boundary for the most-part, with the roadside boundary hedge having been laid in recent years. The adjacent farmland is improved pasture.

The planted native broadleaved trees now extend and provide a buffer to the existing woodland areas. The new paths which have been created are kept mowed and enhance the local footpath network which is well used. To mark the Millennium a sculptured badger seat was commissioned and as situated in one of the glades.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

As Coed y Felin continues to grow it will be managed mainly by minimal intervention to encourage the development of mature well-structured woodland comprised of species characteristic of the locality, and the associated glade / woodland edge maintained as open habitats.

Dead and dying trees will be retained on site where they do not conflict with public safety. Community involvement is encouraged mainly by maintaining paths and other features associated with public access. Other ideas such as educational use by the local primary school, are encouraged and also opportunist work with forest schools welcome.

## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 New Native Woodland

<b>Description</b>
Mixture of native trees common in the locality planted in November 2000 to form new native woodland on former pasture.
<b>Significance</b>
Both extends and provides a link to adjacent Ancient Semi Natural Woodland within the small valley of Nant Gain.
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
There appear to be no constraints in the rapid progression of the wood to high forest. The attractiveness of the wood contributes considerably to the Trust's major objective of enhancing the visitor experience.
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
Ash dieback is affecting a large proportion of the planted and adjacent trees. Squirrel damage is preferential on other species such as oak and cherry, although the loss of the dominant ash may present opportunities for other species/ NR.
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>
Gradual progression to high forest achieved through minimal intervention.
<b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>
Where work is required for safety reasons (particularly on p2000 ash affected by ADB), take opportunity to enhance ride edges and favour other tree species/ allow some canopy gaps to stimulate ground flora and tree regeneration. Retain deadwood (standing and fallen) where possible, to increase this habitat component.

### 4.2 f4 Informal Public Access

<b>Description</b>
The site is located 400m from Cilcain village centre (population 2270). A small native woodland planted in 2000 as part of the Woods on Your Doorstep programme on the edge of the village of Cilcain in the Clwydian Range AONB, Coed y Felin features on the local Community Miles route and is crossed by a public footpath linking the village with the nearby Leete path to Loggerheads Country Park. There is a well used, unsurfaced permissive path loop featuring three benches and a wooden sculpture. Existing pedestrian points into site have been made more accessible for dog walkers. The wood is well used by local walkers and family visitors from the community on its doorstep. An information panel dating back to the original planting is currently sited at the roadside entrance, which is entered through an easy access kissing gate.

<b>Significance</b>
Provision of local amenity for Cilcain village. Local footpath network enhanced by additional connectivity. Local community were involved in the design, naming and planting of the woodland.
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
Tree growth is restricting the views from the glades.
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
As the woodland matures further desire lines may be initiated. Views are now obstructed by tree growth. Glades naturally succeed to scrub.
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>
The woodland will remain a valued amenity space for local and family visitors, with an accessible path network and open space offering variety and interest.
<b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>
Regular cutting of paths and glade areas to ensure accessible all year round and hopefully generate botanical interest. Maintain safety of paths and visitor infrastructure.

## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
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## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1.56	Oak (sessile)	2000	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Environmentally Sensitive Area
<p>The site is a long, relatively flat enclosure on the edge of a steep valley. Semi natural ancient woodland abuts the southern boundary and a small remnant of semi natural ancient woodland is adjacent to the northern boundary. Remnant hedgerows form the remainder of the boundary for the most part. The planted woodland has grown up into a closed canopy woodland with birch, oak, ash, field maple, holly and hawthorn being the dominant species. Two areas of glades are kept open through regular cutting. one at the entrance of the woodland and one at the North East corner.</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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