

# Llwyn

(Plan period – 2022 to 2027)



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](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

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2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
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5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Llwyn

Location:	Llanrhaeadr, nr Denbigh Grid reference: SJ084639 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 116
Area:	3.64 hectares (8.99 acres)
External Designations:	Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation, Special Landscape Area
Internal Designations:	N/A

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Llwyn is situated in the flood plain of the River Clywedog and forms the southern end of a larger 35 acre Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), notified for its botanical interest as wet woodland. Such alder woodland was once widespread in the lowland valleys of NE Wales, and this SSSI is the most significant remaining example. It has also been designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which reflects the site's importance in the European context. The area in Woodland Trust ownership has developed naturally into ash/alder woodland with some sycamore, with little evidence of management other than the casual coppicing of alder in the past. Natural processes have resulted in a woodland of diverse age range, structure and species composition with a large amount of dead wood habitat. It has a particularly rich shrub layer with bird cherry and guelder rose being common. The ground flora is diverse and includes opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, remote sedge, moschatel, hemlock water dropwort with yellow iris and marsh marigold in wetter areas. A small open glade, dominated by herbaceous vegetation and which has considerably reduced in area over the years through scrub encroachment, adds to the site's biodiversity. An internal ditch, still functional, drains into the stream which forms part of the eastern boundary. The surrounding land use is predominately arable. The key feature of the site is Secondary Woodland, as the wood was not mapped on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, however its species diversity and ground flora are of notable value.

Prior to acquisition by the Woodland Trust there was no formal access to Llwyn, although a public right of way passes along the northern boundary of the wood. A circular path was created around the site with boardwalks in particularly wet sections, although this has enjoyed relatively little usage and in 2021 it was decided to close off the internal paths to the public to allow ash dieback to run its course through the many mature and regenerating ash within the woodland. Formal vehicular management access is limited to use of a private track which runs in close proximity to the site. Informal Public Access was therefore a key feature of the site, although at present there is no maintained access. This situation will be reviewed every 4-5 years.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

The woodland will be managed with minimum intervention allowing it to continue its natural succession, where natural processes of windblow and natural regeneration will maintain structural and species diversity. The assumption was that the wood would transition toward damp ash woodland, although there may be significant loss of ash due to the impacts of ash dieback in the medium term, creating canopy gaps. Open glades with tall herbaceous vegetation and a shrubby woodland edge will contribute to the wood's biodiversity. Pressures such as invasive species will be minimised.

If demand for reinstatement of public access becomes apparent and tree health permits at a later date, the decision to suspend access infrastructure provision will be reviewed.

## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 Secondary Woodland

<b>Description</b>
Area of structurally diverse mature woodland There are four different woodland communities present (three being wet woodland) reflecting the changing topography and hydrology across the site. Comprised predominately of ash and alder with some sycamore and occasional wild cherry and rowan. It has a particularly rich shrub layer: bird cherry and guelder rose being common together with hawthorn, hazel, holly, willow and elder. Good ash regeneration present. Large amount of dead wood habitat. Diverse ground flora includes opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, moschatel, remote sedge and hemlock water dropwort with yellow iris and marsh marigold in wetter areas. Open glade dominated by tall herbaceous vegetation.
<b>Significance</b>
Forms part of Llwyn SSSI which extends to some 35 acres in total. Notified for its botanical interest: an area of Alder Woodland in the valley of the River Clywedog which represents a type of wetland habitat once widespread in the lowland valleys of the former county of Clwyd. This complex of woods is the most significant remaining example of the type. Areas of W5/W6/W7 wet woodland which is a priority habitat in both the UK and European context. European Designation as Special Area of Conservation (SAC) confirmed early 2005.
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
Majority of the ground is permanently wet therefore internal vehicular access is not possible. Management access for activities such as coppicing, tree felling or mowing is available but limited in practice.  SSSI/ SAC designation offers opportunities for support from Natural Resources Wales and the potential for coordinated action across the wider SAC site.  The Trust has little control over the wider hydrology of the surrounding landscape.
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
With no adjacent semi natural habitat acting as a buffer zone a lowering of natural water levels may occur through management of adjacent farmland/ water abstraction. This is therefore a threat to the overall biodiversity of the woodland.  Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed are possible threats to the site's biodiversity. Although neither are present within the site boundary, Himalayan balsam is present along watercourses in nearby fields.



Surrounding land management: pheasants appear to be reared in the surrounding area and feeders have in the past been placed within the wood. This species may have a negative impact of ground flora as well as insects and other small wildlife. While there is currently no sign of livestock ingress, changes in land use in neighbouring fields may put pressure on porous external fencing.

Squirrel damage to sycamore appears to be a constraint on the spread of this species.

Ash dieback is currently causing significant decline in a large number of mature and regenerating ash, this may impact the species composition of the wood in the medium term.

#### **Long term Objective (50 years+)**

Maintain natural structure and species composition of the woodland through minimum intervention allowing the natural process of wind blow and regeneration of canopy gaps to operate. Negative factors such as invasive non-native species will be monitored and controlled where necessary to preserve the distinctive features of the woodland. The woodland will remain largely undisturbed for the benefit of wildlife.

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

Allow ash dieback to create natural canopy gaps and build deadwood volumes in the absence of maintained public access. Monitor factors such as invasives and pheasant-rearing impacts that may negatively impact the special features of the wood.

### **4.2 f2 Informal Public Access**

#### **Description**

Pedestrian access point in northern boundary to link in with Public Footpath No. 9 which runs outside of this boundary. A circular path was created around the site avoiding areas of particular botanical interest, with boardwalks in the wettest areas and footbridge across stream, although this infrastructure had reached the end of its life in 2021 when the decision was made to close the path due to the number of severely impacted ash trees with dieback along the route and to allow ADB to run its course. Present and historical levels of use were low.

#### **Significance**

The wood is just 0.5km from Llanrhaeadr and represented one of few locally accessible woods, however, it never attracted significant levels of public usage. Given that no response was received to the consultation on the path closure plans, it is likely that the site was not, even during the Covid 19 lockdowns, a key local recreational resource.

#### **Opportunities & Constraints**

Wet nature of the site requires infrastructure to remain passable in all but the driest seasons. Public Footpath from A525 to site is poorly maintained and restricts access to the site, particularly during summer months due to vegetation/crops overgrowing path.

Impacts of ash dieback would necessitate significant felling in order to retain the route in safe condition which could be damaging to the site's ecology. Site is a SSSI/ SAC designated for its biological importance.

**Factors Causing Change**

Deterioration of visitor access furniture in a wet environment.

Visitors may attempt to use the paths despite safety signage and physical exclusion measures. Changes in local populations/ recreational demands.

**Long term Objective (50 years+)**

The need for and feasibility of reinstatement of maintained public access will be periodically reviewed, subject to local demand and safety considerations, which must be balanced against protecting the special ecology of the wood.

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

Internal public access has been suspended for safety reasons following consultation and exclusion should be maintained, subject to review every 4-5 years. Manage trees along adjacent public right of way in line with Trust tree safety guidance.

## 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	3.72	Alder species	1910	Min-intervention	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, Special Area of Conservation, Special Landscape Area

Ash/Alder woodland predominately NVC W6/W8 with diverse age range, structure and species composition. The northern end is dominated by Alder whilst the drier southern end is dominated by Ash with some impressively large trees ( P1910).It has a particularly rich shrub layer with Bird Cherry and Guelder Rose being common together with Hazel, Hawthorn, Sallow and Elder. Alongside drains, wet depressions and small pools the ground flora is particularly diverse with vegetation typical of the wettest woodland conditions (NVC W5/W7) and includes Hemlock Water Dropwort, Yellow Flag, Marsh Marigold and Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage, Remote Sedge, Mochatel, Hemlock Water Dropwort with Yellow Iris in wetter areas. A glade supports tall herb vegetation where common nettle and meadowsweet abundant together with great willowherb, wild angelica, hogweed and bittersweet. Shrubs, mainly Willow and Blackthorn form the perimeter, some of which have been coppiced in the past.

### **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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