

Coed y Graig

(Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



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

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2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Coed y Graig

Location:	Newtown Grid reference: SO117925 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 136
Area:	6.30 hectares (15.57 acres)
External Designations:	N/A
Internal Designations:	Woods on Your Doorstep

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Coed y Graig is one of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods on your Doorstep' Millennium community woodlands. It was created from a block of three fields of improved permanent pasture purchased by the Trust in 1998, and mostly planted with native broadleaves in 1999. The entrance is off a narrow road (Lonesome Lane) about 1 mile from the centre of Newtown.

The land is moderately steeply sloping and includes the crest of the hill, from which fine views are available over Newtown. Fields are separated by derelict hedges, which have been retained to form the edges of the planting blocks. A swathe of open land has been retained to keep open views to the south west over Newtown. The fields border onto other improved pasture grazing land and to the south east to Rock Wood, semi natural ancient woodland, which extends for some distance to the north west and separates Coed y Graig from the village of Llanlwchairan. There are a large number of small blocks of ancient woodland in this part of mid Wales, which collectively form one of the major concentrations of ancient woodland in Wales.

There is an entrance off Lonesome Lane at the northern end of the wood with parking for about two cars, and a network of grass surfaced paths runs from there. The wood is largely visited by locals from the adjacent towns and villages.

The key features present are new native woodland and informal public access.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

A mixed native broadleaved woodland will have developed over most of the site. Unplanted areas will have scrubbed over naturally except where viewpoints are retained.

Ancient hedgerow trees will be protected and retained.

There will be a network of paths maintained for public access and selected viewpoints will remain open. Options will be explored to extend the woodland to allow for links on foot from Newtown and to link the wood with the wider county footpath network.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 New Native Woodland

Description
A relatively newly planted site (A 'Woods on your Doorstep' site purchased in 1998 and planted in 1999) where the trees have now reached canopy closure. The structural diversity is provided by the two ancient hedgerows with occasional mature trees. Now primarily impacted by ash dieback this will have to focus any thinning however in future the clumpy nature of species planting might affect tree safety especially the prevalence of large numbers of cherry's. Local community involvement in design and planting. Open space was highly appreciated on the initial local consultation of the wood plan so it should be retained to add habitat diversity and keep the views across the Seven valley and over Newtown. A swathe of open land has been retained through cpt 3 to ensure this view remains as the trees mature. Unrestricted public access on foot, with grass surfaced path network, and a small parking area at the entrance. The highest point of the site is a ridge, which follows the boundary between cpts 2 and 3. The presence of overhead powerlines means regular clearance occurs below and around this lines that cut the site in half.
Significance
Provision of public access not previously available. Extends an adjacent semi natural ancient woodland, Rock Wood, although access is not formalised. Fine view, and one of the nearest accessible high points for Newtown
Opportunities & Constraints
Tree growth will restrict and frame the view in time. The retained open land will not be regularly cut and scrub growth may start to interfere with views in time.
Factors Causing Change
Growth of trees, Natural regen in cpt 3 adjacent to Rock Wood, Natural succession of larger open areas to scrub. Ash die back causing gaps in the canopy after tree safety work. AWI flora likely to colonise the wood over time from adjacent ancient woodland stands
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Establish native broadleaved woodland and allow larger areas of unplanted land to scrub over by natural colonisation. Development of characteristics of semi-natural woodland including woodland flora species, trees regenerating naturally from planted stock and adjacent seed sources to diversifying age structure. Ash dieback gaps to allow for new natural regeneration.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Tree safety work on ash dieback will provide canopy gaps. Powerline clearance will also maintain ride/ forest edge effects. EMC work to keep viewpoints clear. Ash dieback will also increase the volume of standing and fallen deadwood within the young stands.

4.2 f4 Informal Public Access

Description
<p>There is an entrance off Lonesome Lane at the northern end of the wood with parking for about two cars, and a network of grass surfaced paths runs from there. A Powys Council litter bin is installed at the parking area, which has helped with litter management.</p> <p>Fine views are available to the south overlooking Newtown and the Severn Valley. The wood attracts mainly local visitors and dog walkers, with occasional instances of antisocial behaviour such as littering and fire setting.</p>
Significance
Recreational area close to residential properties and within walking distance of Newtown, of value to local people.
Opportunities & Constraints
At present access is not available through the adjoining Rock Wood to the south - although this woodland was to have been designated as public open space as a condition of planning consent - which limits the ability to reach the site on foot without walking on the public road. Access on foot from Newtown is up a relatively steep hill so those with mobility restrictions may rely on the informal parking for access. Opportunities to improve physical access are now emerging, which could make it easier to engage local volunteers with the site in future.
Factors Causing Change
Scrub will naturally encroach the viewpoints if left unmanaged. Any increase in antisocial activity could reduce visitors' quiet enjoyment of the wood. Ash dieback is now widespread and impacting potentially on visitor safety along the path network (safety thin undertaken in 2022). Growing local population in Llanllwchaiarn due to widespread housebuilding is likely to increase demand for access to local greenspace.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
An attractive woodland walk will be enjoyed by local walkers, with a basic network of paths, open viewpoints and infrastructure maintained to a safe and welcoming standard. Ideally, access on foot from Llanllwchairan via a footpath through Rock Wood will be secured in the future and links will be made to wider rights of way.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
<p>Paths and entrances will be maintained to ensure they remain safe and suitable for the current light use. Occasional vandalism especially around the car park area will be addressed promptly through regular maintenance visits and liaison with the local police. The current viewpoints will be kept open, by scrub cutting if required.</p> <p>Work with local partners to explore the potential for linking the site on foot to the nearby communities and engaging local volunteers with the site.</p>

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January
2024	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	February
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	January

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	1.3	Oak (sessile)	1999	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	
Former improved permanent pasture field comprising the north western end of the site and planted with native broadleaves in December 1999. Which have become very well established by 2016. Mostly moderately sloping with a westerly aspect. Includes the site entrance. Separated from Compartment 2 by a derelict hedge.						
2a	1.7	Ash	1999	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	
A field of improved permanent pasture planted with native broadleaved trees in December 1999. Which have become very well established by 2016. Mostly moderately sloping with a north westerly aspect. Bounded by hedges, mostly in a derelict condition.						
3a	3.3	Birch (downy/silver)	1999	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	
Former improved pasture field at the southern end of the site planted with native broadleaves in December 1999. Which have become very well established by 2016. Includes the hill crest forming the high point of the site, from which good views are available over Newtown. Adjoins a semi natural ancient woodland, Rock Wood at the lower southern boundary						

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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