

Coed Tregib

Management Plan 2018-2023

MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM Page No.

Introduction

Plan review and updating

Woodland Management Approach

Summary

- 1.0 Site details
- 2.0 Site description
 - 2.1 Summary Description
 - 2.2 Extended Description
- 3.0 Public access information
 - 3.1 Getting there
 - 3.2 Access / Walks
- 4.0 Long term policy
- 5.0 Key Features
 - 5.1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
 - 5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees
 - 5.3 Open Ground Habitat
 - 5.4 New Native Woodland
 - 5.5 Planted Ancient Woodland Site
- 6.0 Work Programme

Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Glossary

MAPS

Access

Conservation Features

Management

THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust

(wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- · Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- · Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- · Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

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.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

- 1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
- 2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, 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.
- 4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on 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 heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
- 7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential 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 allow our woods to be used to support 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. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name: Coed Tregib
Location: Llandeilo

Grid reference: SN641217, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 159

Area: 43.64 hectares (107.84 acres)

Designations: Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, National Park, Site of Special

Scientific Interest

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Coed Tregib is a beautiful site set within a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. Ancient woodland (predominantly oak and ash), grassland and new native woodland are the prominent features. Wetland plants are supported within the wood, and dormice have been recorded at this site.

2.2 Extended Description

Coed Tregib lies one mile west of the town of Llandeilo and is part of one of the largest areas of ancient woodland in the area, and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The wood occupies a gentle north-facing slope above the floodplain of the Afon Tywi and is bisected by the shallow valley of a west flowing stream. Much of the site is permanently wet with heavy, slow draining clay soils. The adjoining land use includes broad-leaved woodland, conifer plantation, pasture and improved grassland. The National Trust property Dinefwr Park and the Castle Woods nature reserve are 1 mile to the west across the river and are notable for their ancient woodland and trees.

Two fields running from the south west boundary of the woodland onto the edge of the Afon Tywi flood plain were purchased by the Trust in 2004. They are outside of the SSSI. The larger of these fields was improved pasture and was planted as native broadleaved woodland in 2004-5. The smaller field is semi-improved grassland being maintained by summer cattle grazing. There is also a former field, now a mixture of planted oak, self seeded shrubs and bramble, within the current boundaries of the woodland and SSSI which supports a range of wetland plants.

The ancient woodland is principally oak and ash with hazel coppice together with wet woodland dominated by alder. Parts of the woodland appear to be secondary woodland regenerated on old pastures. Botanically these are indistinguishable from the surrounding woodland. The woodland was clear felled during the First World War. The few remaining old trees are found mainly on the boundaries, which retain some of the epiphytic communities and are a refuge for many species rare or absent from the rest of the woodland. The woodland is botanically diverse with over 100 plant species being recorded. Dormice have also been recorded on the site.

To the western half of the broad leaf woodland is a area of Planted Ancient Woodland site (PAWs) on wet soils which was purchased in 2016. This stand of Norway spruce is a feature within the woodled landscape and will be restored over coming years. This extension is accessed off an existing stoned track which leads through the Warren Tregib part of the woodland.

Public and management access into the upper south eastern boundary of the woodland is from a minor council maintained road. A much more accessible entrance is available into the extension from the Bethlehem Road which runs along the north western boundary. There are no public rights of way through the site, but networks of permissive paths are maintained. The number of visitors to the site has been low for many years but is currently increasing with the better access available via the new planting area.

The key features present are ancient woodland, open ground habitat (species rich grassland), informal public access, new native woodland and Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Coed Tregib is located approximately 2km (1.2miles) from the small medieval town of Llandeilo. When travelling by car to the site, leave the A483 at the mini roundabout in the centre of the village of Fairfach, 0.5km south of Llandeilo, turning left onto the Bethlehem road. Continue along this road, under the railway bridge, past the junction for Trapp and the school on the right and after approximately 1km (half mile), the entrance to the woodland will be on the right hand side.

The site benefits from 3 entrances which include 3 pedestrian access gates with one located immediately off the main entrance car park. The car park is equipped with an all ability access kissing gate suitable for wheelchair users, connecting to a circular, smooth and firm all ability path, approximately 0.5km length. The paths within the older woodland located on the upper slopes of the site are gently sloping footpaths with narrow sections along grassy paths and natural woodland paths with sections of raised boardwalks across the muddiest sections. The circular path can be narrow in places and includes a stream crossings and 2 kissing gates. The route is way marked.

The nearest public toilet is located in Llandeilo at the main car park where the Council Offices and Library are located. The toilets are open all year round and have disabled facilities requiring a radar key.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intention is to develop mature, semi natural woodland and for the new woodland extension acquired in 2004, to gradually become a valuable extension to the woodland habitat. This can be achieved simply through allowing natural processes to occur with minimum intervention where other factors such as Deer control are in place. A combination of wind blow and natural tree decay will allow opportunities for new trees to regenerate but intervention along site boundaries and tracks may be required on occasion. Young woodland habitat is already abundant in the recently planted extension and once this new woodland is well established the deer fence surrounding it will be removed rather than replaced. Deer will be present in the woodland but in numbers that do not threaten the long term survival of the wood by over-browsing regeneration. Species such as Dormice will hopefully continue to inhabit the site but no species specific management is considered necessary, we will seek to expand the site as opportunities arise allowing for extension of suitable woodland habitat to increase territories for protected species.

The new extension of Planted Ancient Woodland will be restored over future years following the Trusts approach to PAWs restoration, with precautionary thinning operations to likely clear-felling and restocking in future years. Deer will be controlled to allow this area to re-establish as a broad leaf woodland with occasional conifers present.

Rides in the woodland will be cut regularly to maintain ride side vegetation which supports butterflies and wildflowers which need more light than is found under the canopy. In the new woodland the wide rides including under the power lines will be cut when ground conditions are dry enough to provide varied habitat and keep the services clear.

All large old trees in Coed Tregib, including the two large roadside trees on the northern boundary of sub compartment 2a will be retained where possible, and all large dead wood will be retained on site and as part of the wider landscape such as conjoined with Dinefwr Park, one mile to the west contains many ancient trees and old growth stands.

The marshy pasture will be kept open to support marshy grassland plants and insects by summer grazing and occasional scrub clearance if necessary.

Public access is supported by provision of a car park and the creation and linkage of a network of paths through the newly planted woodland, including a short surfaced all ability path which joins up with longer routes within the older woodland.

Entrance signage and information points will be maintained to inform visitors of site workings and for the benefit of their visit.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Part of one of the largest blocks of continuous woodland within South East Carmarthenshire. The ancient woodland is made up of mainly oak and ash with hazel coppice together with wet woodland dominated by alder. Parts of compartment 1 appear to be secondary woodland regenerated on old pastures. Botanically they are indistinguishable from the surrounding woodland and are therefore included within this Key Feature and are part of the SSSI. Only one small area (old sub compartment 1d) which was planted and naturally regenerated with trees in the last 30 years is excluded from the SSSI.

The woodland was clear felled during WW1. The few remaining old trees are found mainly on the boundaries, which retain some of the epiphytic communities and are a refuge for many species rare or absent from the rest of the woodland.

The woodland is botanically diverse with over a 100 species being recorded. Dormice have also been recorded from the site. Abundant deadwood both standing and on the ground is found.

Significance

Part of one of the largest blocks of woodland within south east Carmarthenshire. Subject to two biodiversity action plans and a designated SSSI. Dormice have been found in the woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

The site is very wet in parts and easily damaged by even light machinery. The population of deer within the woodland has prevented natural regeneration in the past and needs to be kept under control. The SSSI status and presence of dormice also present legal constraints on management.

Woodland diversity can be enhanced by maintaining open rides. This however is constrained by the presence of Dormice.

Factors Causing Change

In 2016 Chalara Fraxinea or Ash Dieback as recorded within the young plantation on site and is likely to be present within the older woodland compartments. This will over time, change the dynamics of the predominantly Ash canopy into a likely Oak, Alder and Beech composition.

Other factors causing change include the PAW part of the site acquired in 2017 which will effect the connectivity of the woodland and cause possible wind throw issues caused by sudden exposure.

Public access is also impacting upon the woodland flora through erosion and widening of footpaths so measures should be sought to alleviate this.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Large undisturbed ancient woodland with mature trees, lots of standing and fallen deadwood and a rich ground flora. Deer will be present but at numbers which do not threaten the ground flora or tree regeneration. Permissive access will be in place but not be detrimental to the woodland flora.

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

The canopy cover above the hazel coppice will increase. Coppice will be allowed to naturally senesce and new shoots to regrow.

The impact of deer will be monitored annually to assess damage and deer numbers will be controlled as necessary to ensure survival of natural regeneration and ground flora.

The high forest will be allowed to develop through natural processes and regeneration will be occur within natural canopy gaps where the onset and impacts of Ash Die-back take place on site. All mature ash trees, where safe to do so, will be allowed to remain standing to maximise the levels of ash seeding and regeneration to encourage potentially disease resistant genetic types within the tree species.

Coppicing and restructuring of broadleaves will take place along the boundary with the nearby conifer plantation to the western fringes of the site. This is to allow the compartment to stabilise and become more resilient to the likely clear-felling of the neighbouring spruce plantation. Also path and track side coppicing will take place to manage risk zones but to also allow for re-structuring of edge habitat. Connectivity within canopy must be maintained to create canopy corridors for dormice however.

Management of small streams within the site will be carried out and will include occasional maintenance (every 3 to 5 years) to maintain current trajectories and prevent erosion and flooding of surrounding woodland if they were to become blocked.

Reduce impacts of Permissive access to the ASNW by way of suitable infrastructure installations and visitor management.

5.2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Coed Tregib offer a variety of access routes with each taking in a different aspect of the site. These access options include hard surfaced sections suitable for wheelchair users, raised boardwalks and woodland paths which can be soft and wet underfoot.

Entrances to the site are accounted for by 3 routes. These include through the main car park with 2 other access points from quiet public road and main Bethlehem Road on foot only. 550 metres of surfaced all ability path routes. The sites Car park can accommodate up to 10 cars on casual basis and up to 15 for event purposes. The car park is surfaced with stone and received re-surfacing in 2017 to improve drainage issues.

Current impressions first impressions of the site include a new welcome ladder board at the main entrance and a new information panel and noticeboard have been ordered to be installed in 2017.

Significance

The site was extended in 2004 as part of the Woodland Trusts Trafalgar Woods project creating the free public access routes seen on site today. These routes form some of the longest accessible routes locally which are free to site users and include paths suitable for wheelchairs. Furthermore, many of the wooded sites within the National park sometimes offer limited access to all abilities, whereas due to the low lying topography of the site, Coed Tregib is able to offer this service.

The open ground areas of the site and car parking facilities also offer opportunities to hold on site events.

Opportunities & Constraints

Coed Tregib should become part of the trusts 'welcoming sites' activity to ensure all entrance signs and furniture are maintained according to standard.

Due to the topography of the site, Coed Tregib offers the opportunity to host small scale on site events annually as well as outdoor learning due top proximity to local primary and secondary schools. Also increased visitor numbers to the site, backed by regular correspondence received through the Trusts enquiry channels, mean that marketing, publicity and engagement are a real opportunity. The varied woodland 'types' on site offer an opportunity to engage with visitors to talk about ancient woodlands and importance of new woodlands. These can be taken in via the sites way marked trails which offer the opportunity to extend into other regional and national trails.

Current on-site constraints for further engagement would be as a result of constraints associated with part of the sites status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This is due to the possibility that high visitor numbers within the older part of the site would be detrimental to the important SSSI nature of the old woodlands. However, these impacts may be reduced with the creation of a suitable surfaced path to alleviate erosion and compaction issues in the older part of the site but retain access. Creation of suitable way marked routes across the site will also help to control levels of public use in sensitive areas.

Opportunities to explore extending the car park to create seasonal/occasional overflow car parking should be explored along with increased roadside presence and installation of noticeboards to improve casual levels of public engagement.

Other opportunities would be to engage with other groups to promote the site externally and allow activities such as forest school to be carried out on site.

Factors Causing Change

Dog fouling - potentially dissuading visitors from using site due to high levels of dog mess.

Llandeilo By-pass planned which may affect local traffic directions, also effecting local ancient woodland and trees.

Nearby National Trust property (Dinefwr Park) has strong draw and conflict may arise when carrying out events so timings and event 'offers' needs to be considered.

Heavily eroded paths due to increased visitor numbers having negative effect on site.

Poor appearance and first impressions such as badly maintained signage will effect visitor experiences.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Coed Tregib will become a welcoming, wooded network of paths creating a experience of mature and semi mature woodlands with open spaces for recreation activities. The site will be one of the largest permissively accessed woodlands within the western Brecon Beacons National Park which offers enjoyment for all abilities.

Paths across the site will be maintained according to their access grade with provision for less abled visitors at Coed Tregib. The car park entrance will display in good condition, the current welcome signs and information panels and present a welcoming entrance with regular maintenance carried out to ensure site is litter free and cared for.

Seasonal events will be held at this site and published locally and regionally which will allow new visitors as well as current visitors to engage with the Trust and learn about our work. Avenues for volunteering on site will be explored with opportunities for local communities to become involved where appropriate.

Site will offer permissive access and look to join with local, regional and national projects where suitable.

Success will be reviewed in the form of feedback from events and levels recorded of site misuse and volumes of anti-social behaviour such as littering and criminal damage.

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

Short Term Management objectives would include ensuring annual maintenance program is carried out and at appropriate time throughout the year ensuring site is well kept, litter free and all on-site furniture is maintained to standard.

Information Panels and access 'welcome' signs will be visible at main entrances and be maintained accordingly with new notice boards to be installed.

All ability access routes will be maintained to suitable standard and car park will be free of ruts and standing surface water. Access routes will be improved where appropriate with priority given to the all ability path and boardwalk to reduce impacts upon site and improve visitor experience.

Way marked routes will be created and maintained to enhance visitor's experience of the site and inform visitors upon arrival of the necessary information about the current levels of access.

Overflow car parking options will be looked at as part of event reviews

5.3 Open Ground Habitat

Description

Wet marshy grassland dominated by wet grassland species including Meadow Sweet and soft Rush. A detailed botanical survey was carried out in 2016 and the results are on file, see also compartment 2b details. The field in compartment 1 which is becoming woodland supported a wide range of grassland species and Lepidoptera including marsh fritillary and brown hair streak butterflies.

Significance

Marshy grassland adds diversity to the woodland, providing another natural habitat and buffering the woodland against more intensive land uses. The site acts as a refuge for important Lepidoptera locally and is one of a limited number of extensively managed wet meadows within the local area (10 mile radius)

Opportunities & Constraints

Water supply for grazing is limited in dry periods. Scrub is encroaching in some areas but not considered to be detrimentally impacting upon the grassland. Some cutting back of scrub may be required to maintain viability for grazing.

Factors Causing Change

Natural Succession to woodland if grazing isn't achieved within 5 to 10 years, but currently 'grazed' by wild fallow deer.

Clear-felling of mature Conifer plantation along southern boundary will also encourage coarse vegetation with increases in light levels as well as increasing wind exposure of field which may impact upon Lepidoptera species.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

An area of grazed marshy grassland supporting a range of plant and insect species, with variance in sward heights achieved. Alder scrub will be present but not increasing.

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

Manage area with grazing in summer months by use of low stocking densities of Cattle.

Investigate opportunities to improve supply of water for stock - such as creating a pond. Control scrub periodically if grazing is insufficient to prevent it from spreading across the field and to maintain access.

Repeat monitoring in final year of management plan period to ascertain impacts of current management regime.

5.4 New Native Woodland

Description

Approx. 8 Ha of native broadleaved woodland planted in 2004 -5, principally of oak, birch, willow, alder and ash, on flat, wet low lying land to the west of the ancient woodland. Approx. 1.5 Ha to remain unplanted because it comprises way leaves, rides and open areas adjacent to houses and gardens. The compartment is predominately enclosed by Deer fencing to exclude the local fallow deer population and has a small orchard planting in 2004 and 2017 outside of this fence close to the car park.

Significance

A significant extension to one of the largest areas of ancient woodland in the immediate area, and close to an old growth and ancient tree site (Dinefwr Park). Much of the surrounding landscape is intensively farmed with little or no woodland expansion taking place.

Opportunities & Constraints

Allow permissive access for all abilities within this area due to flat and level topography of the site.

Opportunity to expand ancient woodlands close-by, providing a buffer to aid resilience with the prospect of Ash Dieback being located on site.

Factors Causing Change

Impacts of tree diseases and disorders such as Ash Dieback (ADB) affecting successful establishment. ADB has been observed and formally notified in 2016 and likely been present on site for up to 2 years previous. IN 2016 around 40% of the Ash within the new woodland compartment were showing signs of disease with many having stag horn effects within the canopy.

Encroachment of deer into exclosure before establishment causing major damage.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

An area of mature native woodland gradually assuming the characteristics and ground flora of ancient woodland. Area of mown and scrubby open ground adds habitat diversity along rides created due to service way leaves on site. The deer fence will have been removed at the end of its lifespan rather than replaced and deer control will take its place where appropriate.

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

Establish baseline survey of rides and open spaces to look to manage rides through annual cutting regimes to improve diversity and structure.

Maintain deer exclosure whilst regeneration establishes within compartment, until point where regeneration of broadleaves is resilient enough to handle browsing damage (i.e. when the branches achieve height above potential browsing line)

Remove tree guards and tubes as required within this management plan period.

Maintain and establish small orchard area close to car parking area, planting and maintaining locally provenant and nationally important fruit tree species.

5.5 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Description

Small linear area of PAW purchased in 2017 comprising of predominantly un-thinned Norway spruce running east - west. This new compartment links the existing Warren Tregib to the other ASNW to the west. Much of the ground lies wet probably due to blocked drains and has areas of wind throw present with an unstable canopy structure.

Access to this compartment is by the way of a stoned track through Warren Tregib from the old entrance making access relatively easy.

Significance

This is the last block of PAW within the main woodlands around Coed Tregib. The main reason for purchase was to remove the 3rd party access rights through the SSSI part of Coed Tregib. Sensitive management will allow the existing ASNW SSSI to re-structure gradually as the PAW part of the site is restored.

Opportunities & Constraints

Restoration of PAW, enhanced control over the pre-existing SSSI part of the site through entire ownership. Extended Deer control across the woodland block.

Constraints - wet poorly drained ground conditions making harvesting difficult. Likely to wind throw further and extraction of timber will impact upon SSSI and Dormouse population in some way.

Factors Causing Change

Wind-Throw of Norway spruce.

Deer Impacts caused by browsing of new re-growth of trees and fraying during rutting season.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

All remnant ancient woodland components will be secure and improving in condition within the next first management plan period following acquisition with a long term objective to restore to broad leaves within 25 years through combinations of thinning, clear-felling and re-stocking. Deer will be controlled and leading edge between new PAW and Warren Tregib SSSI will be created to reduce impacts upon main SSSI part of the site.

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

Carry out initial thinning operation to improve light levels, improve drainage issues and improve accessibility to sub-compartment. Remove internal fences, map remnant features.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By

APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	27.80	other oak spp	1920	High forest	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Connecting People with woods & trees	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, National Park, Site of Special Scientific Interest

Compartment 1a is known as Warren Tregib and is a combination of ancient woodland to the south, long established secondary woodland to the north and a small area of young planted oak and scrub on what was a field 30 years ago on the north western side. The wood is gently sloping towards the West and North West. The site lies on heavy clay with a shallow soil in some places and is intersected with two streams. Parts of the compartment are waterlogged most of the year. In previous management plans it was divided into four sub compartments (1a,1b,1c and 1d).

Old earth boundaries known as wood banks are found within the sub compartments and probably indicate old field and wood boundaries. They are most noticeable in the parts which are not shown as ancient woodland on the national inventory.

Towards the south (in the old 1a) there is unmanaged hazel coppice with oak standards. The main canopy trees are oak and ash with the occasional beech. Sycamore is present but does not seem to increasing. The understory is dominated by hazel with holly, hawthorn and blackthorn. The ground flora is diverse with bluebell, wood anemone, celandine, sedges, honeysuckle, dogs mercury, early purple orchids, wild garlic and wood sorrel. In the wetter areas opposite leaved golden saxifrage is found. The wood is characterised by the abundance of mosses. Dormice have been recorded in this compartment in the last 20 years.

Further north (in the old 1b) the higher ground is drier but the canopy species are the same. The wetter patches are dominated by alder.

In the centre of the compartment on the western side there is an area of lower, wetter ground which is dominated by alder (old 1c). Oak and Ash are also present with ash regenerating well, but with little advanced regeneration.

A small field (which was 1d) on the north western side of the compartment has now mainly been covered with willow, birch and alder scrub and an area of planted oak which came from Powys Castle and was planted in about 1980. The more open patches here are dominated by bramble. Marsh fritillary butterflies have been recorded from this area (date unknown). Plant species recorded here include sneezewort, lousewort, common marsh bedstraw and tufted hair grass. This is the only part of the compartment which is excluded from the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation.

There is an entrance into this compartment from a minor unclassified road that runs off the Ffairfach to Trapp road and allows access along a stoned track leading to a stand of Sitka spruce PAW site on adjoining land. There are a network of footpaths and tracks through this compartment but the ground conditions are very wet in places.

	People with woods & trees	10	PAWS restoration		Norway spruce		1b	
--	---------------------------	----	---------------------	--	------------------	--	----	--

Mature and Pole stagestand of Norway Spruce on north facing shallow slope overlooking Tywi river. Compartment is surrounded on 2 sides by open fields with area of rhos pasture to the north and improved pasture to the south. Stand boarders the main 'Warren Tregib' block of ASNW woodland which is also designated SSSI. A narrow strip of mixed broadleaves follows the upper slope of the site along the southern boundary.

Stand appears unthinned and probably planted in 1983. Evidence of deer are present along with windthrow. Woodland floor is wet in places possibly due to blocked drains and ditches and underlying clay conditions associated with the nearby woodland. Where canopy gaps have been created following windthrow, some vegetation is apparent.

A stoned track leads to the compartment transecting the adjacent Warren Tregib part of the site which crosses a small ditch/stream which marks the boundary between the two woodlands.

Linear feature: streamside feature along north eastern border with main SSSI woodland.

2a	9.40	Ash	2006	Wood	Diseases, Mostly	Connecting	National Park
				establishment	wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves	People with	

Large field of improved pasture to the west of the woodland purchased in 2004 and planted with native broad leaves including Alder, Ash, Sessile Oak, Grey Willow and Hazel between 2005 and 2007. A deer fence surrounds the planted trees whilst establishment takes place. The field is flat and the western quarter of it is within the Afon Tywi flood plain. It is frequently waterlogged in winter by rising groundwater levels. There are occasional sink holes which appear in the field. A car park and a network of footpaths including a surfaced circular path make this compartment very accessible. Fruit trees were planted around the car park in 2007 and later in 2017.

The Ash component of the tree species planted have been suffering with Ash Die back, first noticed in 2015, and will create gaps within the canopy in successive years.

2b	3.60	NULL	Non-wood	No/poor	Connecting	National Park
			habitat		People with	
				to the site,	woods & trees	
				Sensitive		
				habitats/species		
				on or adjacent to		
				site, Services &		
				wayleaves		

Field of wet permanent semi improved pasture to the south west of the woodland. The open ground is home to an array of associated wet ground botanical species including meadowsweet, purple loosestrife, lesser spearwort, hemp agrimony, common spotted orchid, sneezewort, ragged robin, blue green leaved sedges, knapweed, and some invasion of alder and willow. Detailed species lists on file after 2005, 2012 and 2016 surveys, described this compartment as National Vegetation Classification (NVC) M27 Mire and NVC MG5 grassland.

The open space is also a suited habitat for Lepidoptora such as Marsh fritillary and brown hair streak species.

Over grazing within management period 2013 to 2017 has resulted in the open ground being in less favourable condition botanically so a fallow year during 2017 has been actioned and future grazing of the open ground will commence from 2018 onwards.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Fo	orecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
	2019	1b	Thin	6.00	0	0
	2020	1b	Clear Fell	6.00	100	600

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. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

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