

Dyffryn Woods

(Plan period – 2021 to 2026)



WOODLAND
TRUST

Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

The Management Plan

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 Connecting People with woods & trees
 - 4.2 f2 Planted Ancient Woodland Site
 - 4.3 f3 Ride Margins
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Dyffryn Woods

Location:	Neath	Grid	reference:	SN729000	OS	1:50,000	Sheet	No.	170
Area:	116.52 hectares (287.93 acres)								
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Ancient Woodland Site, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area								
Internal Designations:	Ancient Woodland Restoration Project								

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Situated on the eastern side of the Mynydd Drumau, the upper section of the woodland is highly visible and is prominent in the local landscape. It slopes steeply down from a line of rocky crags to flatter areas on lower ground. Surrounding land is almost all improved pasture, but there is semi-natural ancient woodland to the south, which links Dyffryn Woods to Coed Maesmelin, also owned by the Trust. Dyffryn Woods form part of a concentration of ancient woodland and Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) in the Vale of Neath.

Key features are the Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access and the Ride Margins. Numerous streams run from springs along the cliff line. This is an Ancient Woodland Site, formerly part of a large private estate, which was felled and planted with conifers in the 1930s. Most of the wood was clear felled in the 1980s by the Forestry Commission, but a few blocks of conifers and beech were retained. Replanting was mostly with larch and other conifers, but these areas are now largely dominated by dense thickets of birch, willow and other broadleaves. Plentiful rhododendron has been subject to a programme of control. There are nine entrance points and an extensive network of paths and tracks that provide attractive walks and rides, and an excellent ride edge habitat.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The semi-natural characteristics of Dyffryn woods will have been enhanced through the restoration of coniferised areas and the control of rhododendron. The woods will be dominated by diverse native species, with well-developed shrub and field layers. Replanted areas will have developed into semi-natural woodland emulating ancient woodland characteristics. Open areas along the upper slopes will be left to develop naturally, and the dramatic skyline pines will have been retained although thinned to enhance the stability of the remaining trees. The extensive areas of young birch and mixed conifer woodland on the lower slopes will have had the proportion of conifer reduced, allowing the birch and the oak to develop naturally.

Walking and horse riding will continue to be encouraged by maintaining the path network and entrance points in good condition, with riding confined to selected routes. Track margins will be cut on rotation to maintain herb and woodland edge habitat, and light will be let into the track margins by periodic coppicing on ride edges - this will also serve to diversify the structure of the wood. Local community and volunteer involvement will continue to be welcomed and supported.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description
Dyffryn Woods are located on the edge of the town of Neath. Two public footpaths and two public bridleways pass through the site. A network of permissive paths has been maintained within the site extending to over 6km. Some tracks/paths have also been designated as permissive bridleways creating a more circular route linking back to the public bridleways in the area. Public entrances into the site have Woodland Trust signs welcoming walkers and horse riders.
Significance
Dyffryn Woods is a large, accessible site near to relatively large populations in Neath and Swansea. It is the main recreational site adjacent to the local village of Bryn-coch in the parish ward of Dyffryn Clydach and is therefore important for informal public access. The site is also one of the largest, free open access sites within the county borough of Neath Port Talbot, with a neighbouring population of 50K people within a 10-mile radius and connected to a wider population of over 250K when the nearby city of Swansea is included in the figures. Other significant features of Dyffryn Woods include the large overall scale of the site and its proximity to nearby Woodland Trust sites, including Coed Maesmelin. It is a significant feature in the landscape, being located on the valley slopes of Mynydd Drumau and it forms a large visual back drop to the region.
Opportunities & Constraints
Due to the location of the site and the size of local populations, Dyffryn Woods offers engagement possibilities including volunteering, on site events and interpretation of the restoration of ancient woodland. The large scale of the site and varied annual workload offers opportunities for practical volunteering to take place (working groups), offering training and engagement opportunities. The site has an interesting historical aspect including coal mining and former estate features. Some remnant features of past use can be found on occasion within the woodland itself, including ruined buildings, ponds and cascades as well as non-native tree planting in certain areas which would have formed part of a landscaped garden. Limitations of the site include the lack of mass car parking for larger on-site events and other nearby locations would have to be considered in conjunction with minibus shuttling to site. Also, parts of the site are not accessible to all abilities with steep inclines and steps.

There could be opportunities to invite external partners and communities to use the site more frequently for events, training, or activity days.
Factors Causing Change
<p>Unauthorised access by mountain bikers and motorcyclists causing damage to paths across the site. Construction of mountain bike trails away from the permissive footpath network risks damage to sensitive woodland flora.</p> <p>Vandalism, fly-tipping and litter from impromptu camping activity.</p> <p>A significant maintenance burden, resulting in some minor paths, tracks and rides becoming impassable due to tree and vegetation growth immediately adjacent.</p>
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Create a welcoming site with well-maintained infrastructure and signage across the woodland, with opportunities for local people and local groups to become involved with the site and help shape its future management.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
<p>Maintain the access network including footpaths, bridleways, bridges and benches through the Estates Maintenance Contract so that they remain accessible and safe for visitors. Regular litter picks carried out in hotspot areas.</p> <p>Explore and implement volunteering opportunities and include these activities in the Work Programme.</p> <p>Consider the possibility of hosting events on site within the management plan period.</p>

4.2 f2 Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Description
<p>The vast majority of Dyffryn Woods has been designated as ancient woodland, and the whole site will be managed as if it were all ancient woodland. The ground flora throughout contains species associated with ancient woodland, except where the woodland has been suppressed by commercial conifer plantations and dense rhododendron for many years. A small number of significant pre-crop trees survive. Following conifer felling and significant rhododendron control since the Woodland Trust gained ownership of the site, there is much mixed broadleaved regeneration; mainly birch but also patches of oak and other species. There is the potential for further restoration work in areas with dense spruce and larch canopies. The majority of the rhododendron has been controlled and dense conifer stands thinned or felled, however some further work to thin coniferous areas and ensure rhododendron does not take hold again is required: all PAWS stands remain threatened by dense shade according to the 2020 reassessment, with weed competition localised.</p>
Significance
<p>Dyffryn is one of the largest ancient woodland sites in South Wales and is within an area where there is a concentration of ancient woodland. Restoration of Dyffryn would meet the Trust's objective of restoring all its PAWS to native woodland. It is also one of a few Planted Ancient Woodland Sites in the region which has a large proportion of Japanese</p>

Larch trees that have not yet been clear-felled under a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN). Several SPHNs have been issued in South Wales since the Phytophthora ramorum disease outbreak in 2010, but the larch canopy at Dyffryn Woods currently remains intact.

Opportunities & Constraints

The potential expansion of invasive exotic / non-native trees and shrubs, most notably rhododendron, could cause harm to the site by suppressing native flora and tree species. However, the majority of rhododendron has now been controlled and if follow-up control of re-growth is maintained, combined with the thinning of non-native conifer species, the site can be restored to native woodland. Some areas of adjoining land at Dyffryn Woods have high concentrations of rhododendron – this will continue to seed into Dyffryn Woods but annual treatment should keep this under control. There are good levels of natural regeneration of broadleaved trees in the wood, and planted areas are developing well.

Under the Welsh Government's P. ramorum strategy for Wales, Dyffryn Woods is located within Core Disease Zone 1. SPHNs have been issued to the majority of larch woodlands within the CDZ1 and the onus for managing the larch in this area largely rests with the landowners and land managers. Larch will be inspected where felling licence applications are received and for infected sites a SPHN(m) or Notification Letter will be issued before operations can take place.

Factors Causing Change

Phytophthora ramorum appears to be affecting some of the Japanese larch remaining in the wood. This is unsurprising given the number of sites in the local area that have had the diseases identified in 2019/20. Depending on the level of infection in different parts of the site, there will be an impact on the make-up of the stands which contain the most larch.

Invasive rhododendron regeneration across the site and seed sources on adjoining land risks impacting on sensitive ground-flora.

Other invasive species including Himalayan Balsam, Himalayan Honeysuckle, American Skunk Cabbage and Cotoneaster.

Risk of fire or arson with areas of dense bracken found on site in isolated areas.

Mature conifer species including planted Larch, Pine and Spruce which is partially regenerating across the site suppressing ancient woodland indicator species.

Anti-social behaviour including fly-tipping, overnight camping and fires.

Development of unauthorised access routes and down-hill bike tracks causing damage to tree root plates, ground flora and soils.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

All ancient woodland components will be secure or improving in condition, following the completion of the PAWS restoration programme and rhododendron control. Heavily-shading conifers will have been removed through thinning

by a combination of mechanised harvesting and motor-manual felling in order to restore a canopy dominated by broadleaved species and with a diverse ground flora. Some conifers and non-native broadleaves will be retained long-term to add visual and biological diversity. Invasive species will be managed to prevent them from becoming dominant across the site and to prevent their introduction to other parts of the site in which they are not usually found.

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

Planned thinning operations will be conducted within this plan period as outlined in the PAWS strategy for the site. Following this next round of PAWS restoration activities, Dyffryn Woods can be considered 'secure' in the sense that most of the woodland canopy will have been reverted to native broadleaved species. Some areas of conifer will remain where further felling activity is uneconomic, would not derive further ecological benefit or is to be retained for its aesthetic/amenity value. In terms of the areas of larch on site, it is likely that a proportion of larch will die off over the mid to long-term as there are signs of Phytophthora ramorum being present. Larch that is unreachable by machines during PAWS operations without causing undue damage, and is not over-shading preferable tree species, can be left and monitored for signs of decline.

The next phase of PAWS restoration activity will concentrate on areas where dense shading by planted conifers of native tree species and specialist woodland flora poses the greatest threat. This includes areas of spruce and occasional larch in compartment 1a, spruce in 1e & 1c, spruce and larch in 2a and 2d, spruce in 2c, pine in 2e, and larch in 2f. Work will be carried out through a combination of mechanised harvesting and motor-manual fell to waste due to the range of access constraints and variable volumes. As with previous PAWS restoration interventions, this work will serve to enhance the character of the wood, encourage natural regeneration and promote the eventual development of a canopy of native broadleaf throughout most of the site. With regards rhododendron, the majority of this invasive species will be kept under control through rotational treatment of regenerating seedlings.

4.3 f3 Ride Margins

Description

A comprehensive network of tracks and rides exists in Dyffryn Woods - split broadly into stoned rides and grassland / tall herb rides. The ride edges and the grass rides support a large and diverse population of plant/flora communities with a few locally scarce species such as orchids.

Significance

The network of rides is extensive with up to 6 Kilometres of edge to be managed. Some of this edge habitat has been opened up through rhododendron clearance, thinning and respacing with ongoing late summer mowing. As much of the rest of the site is even aged woodland, the ride margins offer crucial edge habitat; some are already ecologically rich with orchid species for example and others show potential to become so. Ensuring the rides are open also relates to the Informal Public Access Key Feature.

Opportunities & Constraints

Rhododendron regrowth, particularly around the watercourses at ride edges, will need ongoing control. The rides are prone to waterlogging in places where existing ditches/culverts silt up, and it is likely that periodic drainage maintenance will be necessary. Currently, much of the ride margins consist of secondary even-aged woodland immediately bounding the rides with no edge zone and offering no gradation of habitat. There is an opportunity to

extend the area of ecologically rich edge zone through management, maintaining a gradation of open edge zones. This will also open up the rides to ensure continued public access.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive rhododendron, maturing secondary woodland.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Ride edges are managed so that there is a structurally graded woodland edge zone. Within this area will be a broad mix of tall herbs, grasses and shrubs. Areas currently rich in orchids will be maintained and hopefully extended.

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

Rides will be mowed annually, and selected sections of the ride edges will be coppiced on a 10-year rotation. Where opportunities are presented through felling operations to provide visual, structural, and biological diversity at ride edges these will be taken. Invasive species such as rhododendron will continue to be controlled on ride edges for the benefit of desirable flowers, herbs and grasses.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2021	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	November
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	November
2021	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	November
2021	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	February
2022	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside areas such as car parks, roadsides and boundaries	March
2022	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	April
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	November
2022	WMI - PAWS Restoration	Works associated with the restoration phase of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) such as halo thinning around existing native trees, thinning and felling works, ride restoration, access improvements to aid restoration.	February
2026	SL - Safety Inspections / Reports	The provision of external consultants/contractors to provide specialist advice / inspections undertaken to assess safety and/or legal obligations of features such as bridges, walls, mineshafts and other site infrastructure	March
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	March
2026	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	March

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	April
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	May
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	May
2026	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	July
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	August
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	November

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	24.97	Birch (downy/silver)	1984	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub-compartment 1a has a gentle to moderate south easterly aspect and contains a number of footpaths and streams. It is a large sub-compartment, varied in nature and with three main zones. All contain a dense thicket of birch with secondary species including rowan, sycamore, sessile oak, hazel, holly and goat willow and a ground flora of ivy, fern, sparse bramble and bluebell. The first zone, at the south-eastern end of the compartment near the entrance on both sides of the track, also contains significant levels of larch and Sitka spruce which appear to have been planted in the early 1980s, with a consequential lower shrub/ground flora element. It appears attempts were made to "clean" the birch after planting with conifers as up to 50% are multi-stemmed. This area is a priority for thinning to remove conifer and promote the sub-canopy and ground flora. The Western part of the compartment contains patchy Lawson cypress, which is also to be removed as a medium priority. The second zone, in the centre of the compartment on the western side of the track, is wet in nature and dominated by dense areas of planted spruce and occasional larch. This is also a priority area for restoration. The remainder of the compartment consists of secure broadleaf. Of historical interest within the compartment are a wood bank, mineshafts and an old mine track.</p>						
1b	2.18	Oak (sessile)	1950	Min-intervention	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub-compartment 1b has a gentle easterly aspect. The main canopy species of sub-compartment 1b are a mixture of sycamore and oak, estimated to have been established around the mid-1950s, an area of birch and rowan, and an understorey of holly, with some alder and willow. There is also an area of birch and rowan with dense bramble, bracken and ferns following felling in the previous plan period near the trackside. Patches of rhododendron have been subject to control but will require follow up weeding. Rhododendron on land adjoining the northern boundary provides one of several seed sources.</p>						
1c	3.54	Mixed native broadleaves	1954	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub-compartment 1c has a moderate to steep easterly aspect and mainly consists of two blocks of new native woodland along the edge of the main ride running along the lower slope. Sitka spruce was cleared from both areas in 2002 before they were planted with mixed broadleaves (oak, alder, rowan, hazel and blackthorn) in 2004. The northern block has a prominent and potentially unstable rock outcrop in the west, and the ride to the east has</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>floristic interest including early purple orchid. Trees in both blocks are established together with much self-seeded birch. In the southern block by Keepers Lodge, as well as the area of planting, there is an area of mature beech estimated to have been established in the 1950s. There is also a small block of larch. A buffer zone of mature trees including Scots pine, Sitka spruce, sycamore and oak surrounds Keepers' Lodge, and a heronry is situated here. There is an understorey of mainly beech, sycamore, holly and bramble.</p>						
1d	7.48	Birch (downy/silver)	1986	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub-Compartment 1d has a steep easterly aspect becoming greater with the increase in height and forms the majority of the top finger of Dyffryn woods. The northern part consists of densely stocked young birch with a small component of other broadleaves, rowan and oak. The grassy ride to the east has floristic interest including early purple orchid. An old wall is present. The southern part consists of a mixture of Japanese larch planted in the early 1980s with areas of sycamore, rowan, beech, Lawson cypress, oak and birch.</p>						
1e	0.87	Scots pine	1950	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub-compartment 1e has a steep easterly aspect and consists of a small remaining, exposed remnant of a mature Scots pine and Sitka spruce plantation, both estimated to have been established around the 1950's. It was last thinned to waste in 2012. The skyline pines on the ridge are prominent in the local landscape. Holly and a small proportion of oak and rowan are scattered within the stand. Ground flora includes bramble, fern, birch, foxglove, holly, bilberry and bracken near the top of the slope. Some rhododendron has been subject to control but requires follow-up.</p>						
1f	6.87	Open ground	1992	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub compartment 1f consists of two areas of predominantly open ground with rocky outcrops, dense bracken, and occasional mature trees, mainly sitka spruce but occasional oak, larch. oak, beech and Scots pine. The slope is very steep and the northern area may be unstable. Although not technically a PAWS zone the mature, elevated and exposed sitka are providing a seed source and are potentially a causal agent for regeneration throughout the site.</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
2a	34.56	Birch (downy/silver)	1979	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub- compartment 2a is a large and varied compartment with good access, footpaths and streams. It has a moderate to steep easterly aspect. It consists predominantly of young, dense Silver birch, estimated to have regenerated naturally from the early 1980's onwards. Mixed in among the birch are planted areas of Larch and to a lesser extent Norway and Sitka spruce. Other broadleaves include Goat willow, beech, rowan, holly and occasional oak. Ground flora includes bramble, fern, ivy and moss, and there are orchids present on some sections of ride. Rhododendron has been subject to significant control and only requires follow-up control of re-growth as elsewhere on the site.</p>						
2b	3.93	Mixed native broadleaves	1950	Wood establishment	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub compartment 2b is a located in the centre of Dyffryn wood, with a moderate to steep easterly aspect. The sitka spruce and Norway spruce in this area was felled in 2003 and replanted with mixed broadleaves: hazel, oak, alder, rowan. Mature beech trees vulnerable to the wind were retained at the margins, estimated to have been established in the 1950s. There is a dense self-seeded birch developing around the planted trees, together with bramble.</p>						
2c	3.44	Scots pine	1950	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub compartment 2c is a narrow strip of Scots Pine running along the western boundary and extremely prominent in the local landscape. It has a steep easterly aspect. Occasional oak, ash, Sweet chestnut and holly within the stand. The stand was thinned to waste in 2003. Open areas on the higher slopes are being colonised by bracken and bramble. The Scots Pine on the lower slope below a small cliff face is estimated to have been planted around the early 1950s and contains very little understorey or ground flora structure due to the dense main canopy. Sitka spruce is also regenerating on the lower slopes.</p>						
2d	4.84	Mixed broadleaves	1979	PAWS restoration	Landscape factors, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Very steep	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
					slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	
<p>Sub compartment 2d is located on the prominent south-western boundary of the wood on a steep and unstable slope with an easterly aspect. Major rock falls have occurred on adjoining land to the south and some ground instability has spread to the southernmost part of the Trust's land. Open areas at the top of the slope are dominated by bracken and bramble. There is an area of planted larch (P1955) but much of the wooded area is over-mature sweet chestnut coppice (estimated to have last been cut around the early 1940s) with some beech and sycamore, and oak, rowan and birch in the understorey. Ground flora includes bracken, fern, moss, ivy and some bluebell on the ride edges. A high proportion of the beech, sycamore and sweet chestnut stems have been severely squirrel damaged. There is an unused water tank present and wall at the western end.</p>						
2e	7.57	Mixed native broadleaves	1997	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub compartment 2e contains an area of planted trees 1997-8 following a fire, with some remaining oak, hazel and rowan throughout and dense bramble. Remnants of the previous woodland cover (P1965 and P1987) are still visible within the planting area. There are also two blocks of Scots pine and larch. The northern block was subjected to a preliminary thin in 2011 but is still densely shaded. The southern block has also been thinned but possesses a much sparser canopy with ground flora threatened by ruderal species.</p>						
2f	15.91	Birch (downy/silver)	1983	PAWS restoration	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Sub compartment 2f has a gentle to moderate south-easterly aspect and contains a large number of footpaths and streams within the area. There are very wet and unstable conditions with flowing water to the southwest of the compartment adjacent to the landslip. The area is predominantly made up of young, dense Silver birch, estimated to have regenerated naturally from the early 1980's onwards. Some areas of conifer - mainly larch, with some Norway spruce and Scots pine- planted around the same time are also present and other broadleaves include beech, oak, Goat willow, alder and rowan. The ground flora consists mainly of bramble, fern, ivy and moss with some orchid present at ride edges. Extensive rhododendron control has been carried out.</p>						
2g	0.71	Mixed broadleaves	1950	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>Sub compartment 2g is a small distinct area of woodland with agricultural land to two sides, containing a stream and a number of mature stems of ash, oak, beech, sycamore and alder. The existing understorey includes oak, sycamore, beech, holly and yew, with bluebell and ferns on the ground.</p>						

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

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