

Coed Pwllgwyn

(Plan period – 2022 to 2027)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

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
4. Key Features
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5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Coed Pwllgwyn

Location:	Afonwen, Caerwys Grid reference: SJ127722 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 116
Area:	2.34 hectares (5.78 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The wood lies on the moderately steep, south facing scarp above the Chwiler Valley, with free-draining soils. Overlooking the Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Coed Pwllgwyn is part of a generally well-wooded landscape with the surrounding land use being predominately pasture. Apart from a row of mature oaks and sycamore along the southern boundary, the wood consists of ash, oak and sycamore regrowth from felling in the 1960's and 70's. Understorey includes hazel, holly, elder and hawthorn, and ash regeneration is good. The varied ground flora includes Bluebell, Dog's mercury, Wood melick, Herb robert and Nettle-leaved bellflower.

Key features at the site are:

- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland - structurally diverse with two NVC woodland communities present (upland mixed ashwood and upland oakwood) and a diverse ground flora reflecting changes in underlying geology.
- Public Access- the site is well used, being easily accessible via the public footpath network from the village of Caerwys to the north. Both the public footpath and the circular path created by the Trust are well used.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

Maintain the ancient semi-natural woodland with a diverse understorey and field layer, allowing the woodland to continue to develop to mature broadleaved high forest, predominately ash with some oak. A proportion of sycamore is expected in the canopy. Little woodland management will be required to achieve this objective. Old maiden trees will be retained as future veterans and the dead wood habitat will be enhanced over time as any safety felling will be left on site. Informal public access will be maintained in the form of the circular permissive path.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description
The whole site is in the Wales Ancient Woodland Inventory as Semi Natural Ancient Woodland. The woodland appears to be W8 upland mixed ashwood, grading into W11 upland oakwood, although no formal survey has been carried out. The woodland appears to be in very good condition, with a fairly diverse structure and abundant natural regeneration, although little oak regen. Sycamore is present in the canopy and understorey. The field layer is abundant and diverse. The woodland is well connected to the woodland habitat networks of the Alyn and Chwiler valleys.
Significance
Two UK Habitat Action Plans apply to the site:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Upland Mixed Ashwood- Upland Oakwood Ancient woodland is among our most biodiverse habitats but occupies only 3% of land in Wales.
Opportunities & Constraints
Management access route unsuitable for timber extraction.
Factors Causing Change
Mature trees may be prone to wind throw, particularly mature coppice stools. Ash dieback is likely to impact the long term species composition of the wood but may accelerate accumulation of deadwood. Abundance of periwinkle and laurel requires monitoring.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The wood will continue to be managed as ancient semi natural woodland habitat, with biodiversity potential maximised within the context of safe public access. It will be developing into a well structured mature broadleaved high forest, of predominately ash with some oak, and sycamore also being a significant component of the canopy. The understorey will be well developed and diverse in terms of species and age structure, containing healthy regeneration. The field layer will also be extensive and species rich. Dead wood will increase in quantity over time as any timber arising from tree safety works will be felled to waste. Old maiden trees present will be retained as future veteran trees. Invasive species will not displace native flora.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
No woodland management work is required in this plan period, with natural processes allowed to operate. Invasive species will be monitored and controlled if necessary.

4.2 f2 Informal Public Access

Description
A public footpath runs along the western boundary of the site and this provides a means of entry for the public. Informal public access within the site exists in the form of a circular permissive path which follows the boundary of the site and links up with the public footpath to provide two means of entry. One steep section has been managed by the installation of a long flight of steps. The site is well used by the public, mostly local residents from the nearby village of Caerwys and likely to be repeat visitors. There is some den building and locals have occasionally put up informal wildlife spotter trails.
Significance
The site is well used locally and is located next to a public footpath. A valuable local green space for dog walkers and families.
Opportunities & Constraints
Steepness and ecological value of site constrain any new access creation.
Factors Causing Change
Path sections will require maintenance as slippery when wet. Ash dieback has increased the tree safety risk along the Zone B and some trees may require intervention, although small diameter deadwood poses a low risk. The wood was obviously well used during the Covid 19 lockdown.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The site continues to offer informal public access on a local level. The permissive footpath and respective entrances and other estate works are kept open and welcoming through annual maintenance operations.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Annual maintenance will be undertaken of permissive footpath, entrances and estate works, as part of EMC.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

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

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	2.36	Ash	1970	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>Gently to moderately sloping, south facing Sub-Compartment (the whole site) of broadleaved woodland, dominated by ash and sycamore. The Sub-Compartment appears to have been felled several times in the past, between 1940 and 1970 as many canopy trees are of coppice origin, especially sycamore and oak. Several older maiden trees are present on the southern boundary, retained for screening purposes during the felling operations.</p> <p>Natural regeneration is plentiful, with ash (abundant) being the most common species, taking advantage of the many natural gaps in the canopy. Sycamore (occasional/frequent), hazel (frequent) and Wych elm (frequent) regeneration are also notable in the understorey, along with holly (frequent), hawthorn (occasional), elder(rare) and beech (rare).</p> <p>Ground flora is also abundant and forms a continuous carpet across the Sub-Compartment. Bluebell, Wood anemone and Dog's mercury are most common, with Bramble, Ivy, Ferns, Common nettle, Wood sedge, Wood melick, Lesser celandine, Red campion, Sanicle, Dog violet, Herb bennet, Wild strawberry, Cleavers, Herb robert, Harebell, Nettle leaved bellflower, Woundwort and Figwort also present. Bluebell is more common at the southern end and Dog's mercury is dominant at the northern end, due to a variation in the underlying geology.</p> <p>There appears to be the remnants of an old lime kiln in the north-western corner and a small quarry in the south-western corner of the site.</p> <p>A permissive footpath follows the perimeter of the Sub-Compartment.</p>						

Ancient Woodland

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

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

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

Ancient Woodland Site

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

Beating Up

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

Broadleaf

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

Canopy

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

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

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

Conifer

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

Continuous Cover forestry

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

Coppice

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

Exotic (non-native) Species

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

Field Layer

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

Group Fell

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

Long Term Retention

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

Minimum Intervention

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

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

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

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

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

Origin & Provenance

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

Re-Stocking

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

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

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

Sub-Compartment

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

Thinning

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

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

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

Weeding

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

Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

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