

# Coed y Garth

(Plan period – 2018 to 2023)



WOODLAND  
TRUST

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## Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

# Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

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

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

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

## The Public Management Plan

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

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

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

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

## Location and Access

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

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

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

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

# The Management Plan

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4. Key Features
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  - 4.2 f2 Informal Public Access
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GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Coed y Garth

Location:	Ffynnongroew, Mostyn Grid reference: SJ134814 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 116
Area:	6.06 hectares (14.97 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
Internal Designations:	N/A

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Coed y Garth, which is ancient semi natural woodland, occupies the northern slope of one of the many typical well-wooded "dingles" which cut deeply into the hillside above the narrow coastal strip along the Dee estuary. The southern slope of the valley is also wooded and the woodland extends beyond the Trust boundary upstream to the west. Pastureland separates the woodland and the nearby village of Pen y Ffordd to the north. The woodland to the east is damp (with numerous springs) and comprises of predominately sycamore, ash and oak with a diverse understorey and ground layer whilst to the west it grades into much drier, more uniformly oak woodland where the understorey and ground layer is more sparse. Many trees are the result of coppice regrowth from a timber extraction in the 1960s, although numerous mature standards also persist. The wood is secluded and not visible in the wider landscape.

Key features at the site are:

- Ancient semi natural woodland with two NVC woodland communities present: Upland Mixed Ashwood (W8) and Upland Oakwood and part of a larger complex of ancient semi natural woodland,
- Informal public access: the woodland contains several paths which are well used by locals and attracts visitors from further afield through its promotion by the local authority in a wider circular walk leaflet.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

This ancient semi-natural wood will be allowed to develop naturally and although Sycamore is present both within the canopy and sub-canopy its effect upon ground flora and regeneration of other broadleaved species is not considered significant enough to necessitate remedial action.

Paths will be maintained and improved where necessary in order to take into account the numbers of visitors to the site.

## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

<b>Description</b>
The whole site has been listed in a Ancient Woodland Inventory as Semi Natural Ancient Woodland. The eastern end of the site is described as Upland Mixed Ashwood (W8) where Sycamore, Ash and Oak dominate the canopy. The western end which is predominately oak is described as Upland Oakwood (W11). Present in small numbers are Beech, Downy birch Wild cherry and Sweet chestnut. Much of the oak across the site has been coppiced in the past. The understorey is dense with natural regeneration of Ash and Sycamore. Hazel, Holly and Hawthorn are present throughout along with oak regeneration to the west. The ground flora is diverse reflecting the differing ground conditions across the site.
<b>Significance</b>
Two UK Habitat Action Plans apply to the site. The site forms part of a larger ancient woodland complex.
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
The development of entirely semi-natural woodland is constrained by the presence of sycamore in the canopy. However it is not considered significant enough to necessitate remedial action.
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>
Maintain the semi natural ancient woodland as high forest comprised of predominately site native trees and shrubs with a diverse ground layer.
<b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>
Monitor for ash dieback.

### 4.2 f2 Informal Public Access

<b>Description</b>
Several public footpaths run to and through the site providing access for the nearby communities of Ffynnongroew and Pen y Ffordd to the north. The site also features in a circular walk leaflet promoted by Flintshire County Council. This, together with a number of improvements which were undertaken by the local authority including steps/board-walking during the last plan period have done much to increase access demand. An information board is also present near to the main entrance at the eastern end of the site.
<b>Significance</b>



A popular woodland walk which is well used is promoted locally by Flintshire County Council in their Ffynnongroyw Circular Walk leaflet.

**Opportunities & Constraints**

Two public footpaths (5 and 5a) which are shown on the Definitive Map as entering the northern boundary were not formalised during the last plan period. However due to the increase in site usage this situation will be remedied during the current plan period. There is no public parking close to the wood.

**Factors Causing Change**

Increase in usage

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

The site continues to offer informal public access with all public footpaths being maintained and improved as necessary in line with increased usage.

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

Maintain public and permissive footpaths as part of EMC contract.  
Improve the entrance ways at all sides of the wood.  
Continue to monitor the boardwalk of which sections were replaced in 2016.

## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2020	SL - Safety / Legal Obligation Work (SODS)	Works associated with specific Health and Safety legislation or associated legal requirements such as – safety fencing of quarries, safety requirements stipulated in planning consent for car parks or entrance points etc	April
2020	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Work associated with unplanned emergency tree safety works – such as clearance of fallen trees/branches and associated repairs	August
2021	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking or footpath facilities.	October
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## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	4.18	Sycamore	1962	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>Moderately to steeply sloping sub compartment, occupying the sunny south facing slope of a dingle, which has numerous springs. Sycamore is significant within the canopy, but Ash and Oak also present in quantity. Several other species are present in small numbers, including Beech, Downy birch, Wild cherry and Sweet chestnut. Much of the Oak is situated on the northern side and has been coppiced in the past. An abundant and rich understorey is present, with Ash as the most prevalent regeneration species. Some of this regeneration is also mature and approaching canopy height. Other species include Hazel, Holly, Hawthorn, Wild cherry and Beech. The ground flora is also very rich particularly in damper parts and species include Lesser celandine, Ivy, Nettle, Grasses, Male fern, Mosses, Bramble, Dog rose, Bluebell, Honeysuckle, Wood sorrel, Opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, Bracken, Lords &amp; ladies, Hart's tongue fern, Dog's mercury and Woodruff.</p>						
1b	1.85	Oak (sessile)	1952	High forest	Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
<p>Moderately to steeply sloping, south facing Sub-Compartment of mostly Mature oak coppice. Downy birch, Sycamore, Wild cherry and Ash are also present in the canopy. Hazel and Holly are the most common species in the understorey, along with Sycamore, Holly, Ash and Oak regeneration. Ground flora is dominated by Bluebell and grasses, with Wood anemone, Ivy, Dog rose, Lords &amp; ladies, Bramble, Mosses, Lesser celandine, Bracken. The ground in this sub compartment is much drier than that of Sub-Compartment 1a and the woodland type appears to be Upland Oakwood. A public footpath forms the eastern boundary of this Sub-Compartment and no other paths are present, although several desire lines may be found.</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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