

# Coed Gwempa

(Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



WOODLAND  
TRUST

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## Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

# Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](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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GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Coed Gwempa

Location:	Pontantwn Grid reference: SN437115 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 159
Area:	18.36 hectares (45.37 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Internal Designations:	N/A

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Coed Gwempa is a rare Welsh example of an extensive lowland wet woodland habitat, located close to the Gwendraeth Fach river in Carmarthenshire. The wood preserves evidence of a varied management history, including hazel coppice with oak and ash standards and old woodlots demarcated by historic earth banks, with alder carr and willow occupying the wettest areas. The wood is ancient semi-natural or long established woodland but includes an area of open ground where a species-rich fen-meadow plant community has developed. Together these areas are designated as Coed Gwempa Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and provide a pocket of rich semi-natural habitat within a relatively intensively-managed agricultural landscape, albeit connected to other sites by mature hedgerows and riparian corridors.

Its rich shrub layer of hazel, elder, honeysuckle and guelder-rose makes this a prime habitat for dormice, which are present at the site. Woodland flora includes dog's mercury, along with enchanter's-nightshade, wood-sorrel, wood speedwell, red campion, and ferns, in particular male-fern and soft shield-fern. In damper flushed areas there are growths of opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage, moschatel, sanicle, wood avens and rough horsetail. Species such as marsh ragwort, purple loostrike, marsh thistle, knapweed, marsh bird's foot trefoil, meadowsweet and wild angelica provide a splash of colour in the meadow, where cattle graze periodically in spring or autumn. Open glades and willow scrub support a range of invertebrates, including some rarities.

This is a quiet, rural woodland with limited maintained public access from the main entrance: the mature woodland is now allowed to develop naturally with a tangle of fallen trees and dense understorey.

The key features present are Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Semi-natural open ground habitat and informal public access.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

Coed Gwempa will support a range of native tree species, with a well-developed and diverse shrub and ground flora typical of wet lowland woodland. Natural processes will be allowed to play out, creating temporary canopy gaps for regeneration and large areas of the woodland will remain undisturbed with minimal human intervention. There will be abundant deadwood and mature trees retained and developing veteran features. Within the shelter of the woodland, there will be a permanent pocket of species-rich wet meadow in good conservation condition. This will comprise a core area of open ground free of all bramble and scrub encroachment and host characteristic flowering plants such as purple loosetrife, marsh birds foot trefoil, wild angelica, knapweed and marsh thistle, with scrubby margins and scattered willows providing transitional habitat along the woodland edge, maintained by light grazing and cutting. Invasive species will be rare or absent thanks to regular surveillance and control where needed.

Passing walkers will benefit from basic access provision, will be able to identify the woodland as a Trust wood and enjoy views of the open meadow and woodland habitats.

## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

#### Description

Coed Gwempa is an ancient semi natural woodland located in the Gwendraeth Fach valley in Carmarthenshire. It is a predominantly wet woodland growing on base-rich soils (old Red Sandstone overlain with boulder-clay) and relatively extensive by the standards of the area, at almost 19 hectares. It is designated as a SSSI for its diverse wet woodland habitat and is one of a number of designated high nature conservation-value woodlands within the Gwendraeth catchment, although it is relatively isolated within a relatively intensively farmed landscape, being connected largely by mature hedges and riparian tree cover. The woodland is a mosaic of woodland types, largely dominated by oak and ash, but with areas of alder carr, and a rich shrub layer including species such as guelder-rose. There is permanent open space within the woodland (see the Semi-Natural Open Ground key feature/ cpt 1b). A tree belt alongside the road was widened by additional tree planting by the Trust in 1994.

Evidence of the wood's history is apparent in the many wood banks that cross and bound the site. Within the northern/ more easterly half of the site (acquired by the Trust in 1992) are a series of earth embankments with associated ditches. These help to form the sub-compartment boundaries and most probably are relics of former 'wood lots' where areas of the site were subdivided and managed independently for local wood fuel or building materials. As such these sub compartments help to show the slight variance in tree species with each area having a difference in composition and ages class. Parts of the site show evidence of past management as hazel coppice with standards. In 2013, the Trust acquired the remainder of the woodland block to the west. These areas have a slightly different character with a more characteristic 'wildwood' feel and less historic intervention, with a more diverse ground flora and more varied age structure.

The ground flora comprises dog's mercury, along with enchanter's-nightshade, honeysuckle, wood-sorrel, wood speedwell, red campion, and ferns, in particular male-fern and soft shield-fern. In damper flushed areas there are growths of opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage, moschatel, sanicle, and rough horsetail Equisetum hyemale, a scarce and declining plant which requires permanently moist and silica-rich substrates in which to grow. In more waterlogged places the the ground flora is characterised by an abundance of tufted hair-grass, meadowsweet, wood sorrel, enchanter's-nightshade and a sparser covering of dog's mercury, creeping soft-grass, water avens, common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and sedges.

#### Significance



The site is designated as a SSSI as a good example of species-rich wet woodland, a rare Welsh example of flat lowland woodland. Dormice, a Section 42 and protected species, are present in both the woodland and the interconnecting hedges. The red-tipped clearwing moth *Synanthedon formicaeformis* has been recorded from open glades at Gwempa, its only known extant Welsh site, breeding on willow *Salix* spp.. At the time of citation, dense herbaceous vegetation was also known to support a thriving colony of dark bush-crickets *Pholidoptera griseoptera*, a rare species away from the coast in Wales.

The ancient woodland also preserves evidence of local cultural heritage in the form of wood banks.

### **Opportunities & Constraints**

There are a number of operational constraints that limit options for intervention, for which reason it has been decided not to attempt to resume any type of coppice rotation:

- \* Much of woodland is very wet throughout the year and dense with bramble and fallen trees, so access on foot and by vehicle is difficult.
- \* Historical features such as earth embankments need to be protected during any operations.
- \* The presence of dormice, and their requirement for continuity of understorey cover and connectivity, is a consideration when planning and scheduling operations.
- \* The relatively small size and isolation of the woodland and the lack of local markets for coppice products mean that establishing a rotation and extracting timber is not thought to be sustainable.

The most practical option for active maintenance of open glades is provided by the fenced field in sub-compartment 1b, which has good access and reasonable infrastructure for grazing as permanent semi-natural open ground habitat, while taking the opportunity to rely on ash dieback for a period of gap and glade creation in the wooded areas.

### **Factors Causing Change**

Ash dieback was recorded on site in 2016/17 and has since advanced significantly. Over the coming years this is likely to further drive gap creation as mature/ canopy trees die and are subject to windthrow. This process will provide accumulated deadwood habitat and create small open areas where regeneration can take place, which may have a positive impact in the short term, although it is also likely to stimulate coarse vegetation and the composition of the canopy is likely to shift over time with an increase in shading sycamore a possible medium-term outcome. Large quantities of fallen deadwood will make any access for management and monitoring even more challenging.

Invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and Cherry laurel have been found and are under control but can alter the diversity of species within the woodland if left unchecked for long periods of time.

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

Coed Gwempa will support a range of native tree species, with a well-developed and diverse shrub and ground flora typical of wet lowland woodland. Natural processes will be allowed to play out, creating temporary canopy gaps for regeneration and large areas of the woodland will remain undisturbed with minimal human intervention. There will be abundant deadwood and mature trees retained and developing veteran features.

Invasive species will be rare or absent thanks to regular surveillance and control where needed.

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

Natural processes will be allowed to run their course, with intervention limited to safety work and control of invasive species, which shall be rare or absent. The path shall remain closed to the public for the duration of the plan period while ash dieback drives widespread collapse of canopy trees.

### 4.2 f2 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

#### Description

Sub-compartment 1b supports an area of species-rich wet meadow, on waterlogged ground over boulder-clay. The area of compartment 1 as a whole had apparently been allowed to succeed to woodland until 1980 when it was cleared and attempts were made to improve it by seeding with rye grass: little evidence of this improvement remains and the Trust planted up around the margins of the field (cpt 1a/b) in 1994, while an interesting floristic mix has developed in the unplanted areas.

Cpt 1b is fenced and extends to around 1.3ha, of which around half is currently free of bramble, trees and shrub growth. The meadow is dominated by tall herbs and rushes, with species recorded including purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*); ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), *Angelica sylvestris* (wild Angelica); *Centaurea nigra* (common knapweed); *Cirsium palustre* (marsh thistle); *Filipendula ulmaria* (meadowsweet); *Hypericum* spp (St John's wort); *Juncus effusus* (soft rush); *Juncus articulatus/ subnodulosus?* (jointed/ blunt-flowered rush); *Lotus pendunculatus* (marsh bird's foot trefoil); *Mentha aquatica* (water mint); *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain); *Potentilla anserina* (silverweed); *Pulicaria dysenterica* (common fleabane); *Ranunculus* spp.; *Scrophularia auriculata?* (water figwort) and *Senecio aquaticus* (marsh ragwort). The area to the east of the meadow is similar to the M22 NVC Community, grading into meadow communities of drier ground with frequent knapweed to the west of the field.

Although a little rank, with a vegetation height of around 70cm, the grassland is thought to be in good condition, with good diversity (>22 species) and positive indicators present throughout. Negative indicator species such as dock are currently rare. Bramble and scrub are, however, encroaching onto the open ground from the field margins.

#### Significance

Species-rich meadow of this type is relatively rare in a region known for intensive dairy farming, with lowland meadows a priority Section 42 habitat. The field provides a well-sheltered open space with surroundings of mature woodland and abundance of woodland edge habitat with low-growing willow. The whole site is designated as a SSSI and glades are described in the citation. The rare Dark Bush Cricket, *Philidoptera grieseoptera*, is also mentioned and has been recorded utilising tall herb vegetation within the site. The site also was known to support the red-tipped clearwing moth *Synanthedon formicaeformis*, here at its only known extant Welsh site, breeding on willow *Salix* spp..

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The sub-cpt is fenced to allow grazing and the Trust now has its own herd of Welsh White cattle in the region which would be suitable stock for grazing the area. Maintaining this field will be an easier task than managing open ground within the wider woodland matrix.

Constraints include lack of water supply to the field and small area making letting of the area under a licence or lease potentially difficult.

#### **Factors Causing Change**

Lack of grazing would result in advance of bramble and scrub and loss of the species-rich open ground habitat over time. Over-grazing would also reduce the species interest and encourage negative indicator species such as nettles and docks, Animal treatments could impact invertebrate diversity.

Invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam could occur and spread into wet habitats throughout the site.

Potential environmental impact from surrounding dairy farms where nutrient run off from surrounding fields may occur, although surrounding woods and hedges provide some buffer. Surrounding land drainage and long term climatic changes could shift species composition.

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

Coed Gwempa will continue to support a significant area of species-rich wet meadow in good conservation condition. This will comprise a core area of open ground free of all bramble and scrub encroachment and host characteristic flowering plants such as ragged robin, purple loosetrife, water mint, jointed rush, meadowsweet, marsh birds foot trefoil, wild angelica, knapweed and marsh thistle, with scrubby margins and scattered willows providing transitional habitat along the woodland edge. Invasive species and negative indicators such as dock will be rare or absent.

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

Maintain at least the current extent of open ground free of scrub and bramble (c.0.67ha), allowing some scrubby habitat to remain along the margins of cpt 1b. Maintain a diverse sward: aim for presence of at least 20 different meadow species and widespread abundance of key indicators such as *Mentha aquatica*; *Holcus lanatus*; *Cirsium palustre* ; *Trifolium pratense*; *Centaurea nigra* agg.; *Angelica sylvestris* ; *Scrophularia auriculata*; *Pulicaria dysenterica*. Invasive species and negative indicators such as dock should be rare or absent. The vegetation height should vary but not generally exceed around 70cm in mid summer.

This should be achieved through the continuation of cattle grazing using 4-5 animals from the Trust's Welsh White herd for a period of approximately two weeks per annum (in early spring or late summer/ early autumn outside the main flowering season), supplying water from a mobile bowser as required and without supplementary feeding or applications for fertilisers. Every 3-4 years, or in any season when grazing may not be feasible, vegetation may also benefit from mechanical mowing and removal of arisings in late summer/ early autumn, to maintain the balance between rush cover/ coarse vegetation and other herbaceous plants. Veterinary medicines should be applied off-site of required. If invasive species are observed these should be removed as soon as possible. (By hand pulling/ strimming for balsam).

### **4.3 f3 Informal Public Access**

<b>Description</b>
A rural woodland with no local parking, visitor numbers are likely low, with occasional visitors arriving on foot from nearby villages; therefore the woodland path has been closed whilst ash dieback runs its course through the woodland. A short <300m section of grassy path runs from the gated entrance in sub-compartment 1a: this allows visitors to get a feel for the woodland and grassland habitat but provides only a short there-and-back walk.
<b>Significance</b>
There are few ancient amenity woodlands in the locality with easy access. Most other ancient woodlands which are easily accessible are within private ownership and other accessible sites are generally new woodland creation sites created following industrial coal mining activities, for example the Trust's Coed Ffos Las, which has much better visitor access infrastructure.
<b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>
The impacts of ash dieback mean that maintaining safe access within the woodland is not currently feasible without significant intervention, which could impact the conservation interest of the site, therefore the decision was taken to abandon maintenance for the short term given low visitor numbers. The wet nature of the site would mean that additional infrastructure would be needed (e.g. sections of boardwalk etc) if the woodland loop were to be reopened.  The site is around 5 miles from Coed Ffos Las, which provides an alternative visitor destination with extensive walking opportunities.
<b>Factors Causing Change</b>
Ongoing ash dieback impacts will impede reopening of the former woodland loop path.  Demand for access appears relatively low with little sign of attempts to circumvent the closure or create new desire lines within the woodland. The cattle, when present on site, may be a feature of interest for passing walkers.
<b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>
Basic access provision from the main entrance will benefit passing walkers, identify the woodland as a Trust wood and allow for views of the open meadow and woodland habitats.
<b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>
Maintain the entrance and pathway in cpt 1a in welcoming condition and ensure signs are clean, oiled and legible. Maintain public exclusion from the wooded compartments for safety reasons.

## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2024	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
2025	NWH - Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing of a non-woodland habitat to protect and enhance its conservation value – grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs etc	April
2025	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,	June
2025	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	September
2026	NWH - Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing of a non-woodland habitat to protect and enhance its conservation value – grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs etc	April
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,	June
2027	NWH - Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing of a non-woodland habitat to protect and enhance its conservation value – grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs etc	April
2027	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,	June
2028	NWH - Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing of a non-woodland habitat to protect and enhance its conservation value – grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs etc	April
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	June

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2028	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the control of invasive plants within non-woodland habitats to maintain their conservation value and/or the necessary control of noxious weeds	September
2029	NWH - Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing of a non-woodland habitat to protect and enhance its conservation value – grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs etc	April
2029	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,	June

## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	0.83	Sessile oak	1900	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, Landscape factors, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>A long and thin part of the site lying between the unclassified road and the grazed field (Cpt 1b). This area comprises of a strip of woodland of variable width along the public road that forms the southern boundary of the site, widened by an approx. 20 metre wide strip of the former field planted by the Trust with native broadleaves in 1994 and a small strip of grassland which was left unplanted but now contains a number of self-sown trees and shrubs. The 1994 planting included ash, hazel, rowan, with oak, wild cherry and other shrubs</p> <p>The boundary of this compartment along roadside comprises of mature oak trees of significant crown spread growing alongside or on top of an old earth embankment for the entirety of the boundary with the roadside with an understory hedgerow of hazel, holly and hawthorn. The mature tree line over-arches the narrow country lane and provides a landscape feature as well as significance for connectivity of the site with surrounding hedgerows for species such as the dormouse.</p>						
1b	1.33	NULL		Non-wood habitat	Archaeological features, Management factors (eg grazing etc)	Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Remaining part of grass field created in early 1980s by the clearance of woodland between sub-compartment 1a and cmt 2. Re-fenced by WT in 1993 and subsequently grazed intermittently by cattle, horses or donkeys. Of botanical interest with wet meadow species present including purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>) and ragged robin (<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>). The rare dark bush cricket, <i>Philidoptera grieseoptera</i>, mentioned in the SSSI designation has been recorded in this area.</p> <p>Field is boarded on 3 sides (south/east/west) by earth embankments and partial ditches which could be interpreted as being medieval in origin with the field created as part of a woodland clearance for farming practises.</p>						
2a	3.16	Ash	1940	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, Diseases, Mostly wet	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
					ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Special Scientific Interest
<p>Mature ash dominated woodland, with oak or alder predominant in places with elements of mature Hazel coppice to southern parts of the site and willow to the western fringes. Many trees within the woodland are multi stemmed. Gently undulating topography is wet most of the year, with several very small springs and streams. Age and overall structure is varied in places following natural wind thrown gaps often in filled by Sycamore and regenerating ash.</p> <p>Compartment is bordered by open field (cpt 1b) to the south-east, mature stand of Ash and Sycamore to the north-west, marked by an internal wood bank and a small stream to the south making up the boarder with Cpt 2b. This earth bank is approximately 1 metre in height and is probably medieval in origin, created to mark internal compartments as either field boundaries following clearances or small wood lots used to supply firewood locally (hence the reason for lack of large and ancient tree species present)</p> <p>Ground flora species include bluebell (abundant at western end) bramble, dog's mercury, ivy, rose, honeysuckle, moss, nettle and wood anemone and wood sorrel. Wet woodland species in alder stands include marsh marigold, water avens, and angelica which can be predominantly observed in the western boundary.</p>						
2b	8.6	Ash	1940	Min-intervention	Archaeological features, Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Compartment is bounded to by an earth embankment that defines the boundary with 2a.</p> <p>The compartment is characteristically different to Cpt 2a but shares a similar ground flora mix of species including bluebell (abundant at western end) bramble, dog's mercury, ivy, rose, honeysuckle, moss, nettle and wood anemone and wood sorrel. Wet woodland species in alder stands include marsh marigold, water avens, and angelica which can be predominantly observed in the western boundary.</p> <p>The canopy composition is much less structured compared to cpt 2a and shows less signs of intervention and is classified as ASNW with areas of more extreme wet woodland (non ASNW) to the west where the canopy changes from a predominantly Ash, Alder, Birch mix to more grey willow species present. The Tithe Map shows a number of small pockets of meadow within woodland in this area.</p>						



Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Occasional springs can be found throughout the woodland and the compartment is bordered by a narrow stream with compartment 2c to the south west.						
2c	2.18	Sessile oak	1940	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access to the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>A predominantly wet woodland bordering open agricultural grassland fields to the south and a small stream to the north with compartment 2a.</p> <p>Woodland shows little signs of recent management and has well developed areas of understory with mature Hazel a key component. Mature Alder species and Ash are present within the canopy along with Sycamore around the woodland edges mostly. Evidence of coppicing are present in some Hazel stands but not of a significance.</p> <p>Ground flora is abundant with an array of ancient woodland specialist species.</p> <p>A man made plateau area is evident along the boundary with the unclassified highway which appears to be created and constructed from man made materials such as brick rubble and concrete which has lead to inclusion of Himalayan balsam being brought to the site.</p>						
3a	2.12	Sessile oak	1850	Min-intervention	Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Site of Special Scientific Interest
Oak dominated broadleaf sub compartment with ash and alder also present. Two approximate age classes of oak appear to be present. The sub-compartment has a dense shrub layer in which ash regeneration was prolific although now impacted heavily by dieback. Ground flora is abundant and species include dog's mercury, honeysuckle, bramble, ivy, moss, fern, nettle, rose, lesser celandine, wood sorrel. Several small springs create patches of wet ground with opposite leaved golden saxifrage.						

### **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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