



COED CADW  
WOODLAND  
TRUST

# Coed y Ciliau

## Management Plan 2015-2020

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## THE WOODLAND TRUST

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

### PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk)) to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

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## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

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

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

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](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.

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

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

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

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

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## SUMMARY

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

## 1.0 SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Coed y Ciliau
<b>Location:</b>	Garth, Builthwells
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SN947544, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 147
<b>Area:</b>	9.44 hectares (23.33 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Ancient Woodland Site, Environmentally Sensitive Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

This wood occupies the central part of a ridge, a prominent feature overlooking the Dulas valley. Enjoy a woodland walk along one of the public footpaths, and look out for some of the many species of lichen that can be found here.

## 2.2 Extended Description

Coed y Ciliau is an Ancient Woodland Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) site, mostly comprised of upland oakwood dominated by sessile oak growing on thin acidic soils on a very steep west facing slope. This wood occupies the central part of a north-south ridge which forms a prominent woodland feature in the landscape overlooking the Dulas valley. It is the only substantial fragment of native woodland surviving on this ridge, with the ASNW to the north being planted with conifers, a Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) and managed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Most of the wood is on dry freely draining soils with ground vegetation dominated by bilberry and wavy hair grass. There is a rich epiphytic lichen flora. Several large wet flushes are present (sub-cmpt 1b) with ash and alder together with a ground flora indicative of wetter and more fertile soil.

Coed y Ciliau is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and therefore considered to be of national importance, with its four special features being broadleaved woodland, otter, Atlantic salmon and bullhead. Afon Gwernwst is part of the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and it forms the lower western boundary, and there is a small area of flat marshy floodplain woodland (sub-cmpt 1c) along the stream edge.

A public footpath passes through the site, closely following the stream on the western boundary. A second public footpath touches the upper north eastern corner of the site, and the main public entrance and an information board is located there.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

### General Location

Coed y Ciliau is approximately 2 miles from the village of Llanafan Fawr and 1.5 miles from the hamlet of Glandulas along hilly B roads with no pavement and then along a level forestry track. Access to the wood can be from the north by following the forestry track for one mile through the adjoining National Resources Wales (NRW) plantation (Bwlch y Ciliau) from where it leaves the road on a sharp corner. When you get near to the end of the track there is a public footpath leading down towards the stream and on into Coed y Ciliau. Alternatively there is a public footpath from the B4358 which enters the wood from the Southern end by the stream after about 1/2 mile. Other local access land includes the much larger Bwlch y Ciliau NRW plantation. There is also a reasonable network of public rights of way in the area but not all of them are passable.

### Entrances and paths

There is a stile at each end of the wood. At the NRW entrance there is a pedestrian gate. The main path along the river side is quite level and grassy but there are steep slopes to reach the wood. There are other old logging tracks in the wood but these are not maintained.

### Parking

There is space to park at the entrance to the NRW wood, one mile from Coed y Ciliau.

### Public Transport

There are no bus stops with 3 miles of this woodland, the nearest is at Beulah. (Information from Traveline). For more information call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or see [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

### Public Toilets

The nearest public toilets are at Garth, three miles from the woodland. There is a disabled toilet that requires a RADAR key.

## 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To maintain upland sessile oak woodland dominated by sessile oak over most of the site. Ash and alder remaining the natural component species in the canopy in the wetter flushed areas and the streamside flood plain. Small areas scrub habitat to exist along the stream. A diversity of epiphytic lichen species.

Natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate to allow the long-term objective of diversifying woodland structure.

Provide for low key public pedestrian access by maintaining entrances and public footpaths.

The PAWS site to the north (in NRW ownership) to be progressing to being restored to native broadleaved woodland.



## 5.0 KEY FEATURES

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

### 5.1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

#### Description

Upland ASNW oakwood dominated by sessile oak (NVC W17) growing on thin acidic soils on a very steep west facing slope. Most of the wood is on dry freely draining soils with ground vegetation dominated by bilberry and wavy hair grass. Three large wet flushes are present on damp spring fed ground on the steep west facing slope (sub-cmpt 1b) with ash and alder, rowan and hawthorn occurring together with plants indicative of wetter and more fertile soil (alder woodland NVC W7). These wet flushes are species rich and their presence within upland oak wood make this site of particular ecological interest. Several plants only occur within the woodland in these flushed areas including primrose, sanicle, valerian, dog's mercury, enchanter's nightshade and meadowsweet. Afon Gwernwst, southerly flowing and a tributary of the Afon Dulas, forms the lower western boundary, and there is a small area of flat marshy floodplain woodland (sub-cmpt 1b) mostly comprising of birch, willow, ash and hazel.

#### Significance

Last substantial fragment of the once extensive ancient woodland on the west facing slopes of the Dulas and Gwenwst valleys. The wet flushes and stream side woodland add diversity to the otherwise predominant upland oak woodland. This key feature is one of the components of the SSSI designation. A rich lichen flora is present on trees including 13 notable species noted by local lichenologist Ray Woods, including *Lobaria pulmonaria* growing on ash (however this species was not recorded during the management plan review in 2012 pers comm Ray Woods). Other species including *Phyllopsora rosei*, *Bacidia biatorina* and *Dimerella lutea*, all characteristic of ancient woodland. Total RIEC score 30 (Index of Ecological Continuity).

#### Opportunities & Constraints

There is little age diversity overall, particularly in the oaks. There are some areas of natural regeneration of oak and other species, taking advantage of naturally occurring gaps, though little oak regeneration under shaded full canopy. Controlled light grazing mimicking natural ecological conditions is a management option. The PAWS woodland to the north and owned by NRW, is potentially restorable to native broadleaved woodland, and displays ancient woodland remnants. A public footpath through NRW woodland leads to WT land. The lower southern corner of the wood is included in the area reserved for mining in the Powys County Council local development plan. Maintenance by occasional creation of small open areas by carrying out small scale thinning (last took place in 2006) is a management option for light-demanding lichens, including the local tree lungwort *Lobaria pulmonata*, especially around open grown oaks on lower slopes and around ash regeneration in wet flushes, though not deemed necessary at 2015 management plan review due to possible arrival of *Chalara*. Lack of mature trees to provide suitable substrate for lichens that generally require base-rich bark conditions. It may be possible to re-introduce some foliferous lichen species, including tree lungwort onto hazel, this and other management should be reviewed with NRW mid-way through management plan.

#### **Factors Causing Change**

Slow maturing canopy. Shade-casting canopy often detrimental to lichens. *Chalara* may cause ash death, with possible consequences for epiphytic lichens. Long term cessation of grazing and grazing incursion.

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

Mixed-age and structure upland sessile oakwood and ash and alder in wetter areas. On the lower slopes there are some older open grown oaks starting to show characteristics of veteran trees. A good range of epiphytic lichens to be present on ash and older oaks.

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

Stock excluded by maintaining fences (NB no fences WT owned).

## 5.2 Informal Public Access

### Description

A public footpath passes through the site, closely following the stream on the western boundary. A second public footpath touches the upper north eastern corner of the site, and the main public entrance and information board is located there.

### Significance

Allows public access from a highway/car parking area through land to the north leading to the site.

### Opportunities & Constraints

The site is fairly remote. The public footpath through the adjacent NRW land is not maintained, but there is a forestry track can easily be used instead.

### Factors Causing Change

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Public access using public right of way and permissive footpaths.

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

Maintain paths and stiles in a safe and clearly visible condition.

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## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	7.07	Oak (sessile)	1945	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Environmentally Sensitive Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Sessile oak dominated woodland with some rowan, hazel and birch, on dry freely draining soils. The shrub layer includes hazel and rowan whilst the ground vegetation consists of a variety of typical upland oak woodland plants including sweet vernal grass, wood sorrel, creeping soft-grass, heath bedstraw, bracken and variety of mosses. Where the soil is particularly thin and dry, plants such as bilberry, wavy hair-grass can be dominant with heather occasionally occurring. A public footpath runs north-south along its western boundary, with other permissive paths within the woodland.</p>							
1b	1.07	Oak (sessile)	1945	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Environmentally Sensitive Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest
<p>Three separate areas of damp woodland flushed by springs. In addition to sessile oak, ash, alder and hazel are also present. The ground flora is often dominated by grasses and bramble, but it also has a flora typical of damper and more neutral ground conditions, such as meadowsweet, yellow pimpernel, opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage, common valerian, remote sedge, smooth-stalked sedge, lady fern and marsh marigold.</p>							
1c	1.30	Alder species	1960	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Environmentally Sensitive Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation

Thin strip of flat land along Afon Gwernwst on western boundary. Wet floodplain woodland, mostly alder and birch, but with some ash and hazel, and a shrub layer mostly of rusty willow. The ground and stream vegetation is quite sparse due to shading.

## GLOSSARY

### **Ancient Woodland**

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

### **Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland**

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

### **Ancient Woodland Site**

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

### **Beating Up**

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

### **Broadleaf**

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

### **Canopy**

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

### **Clearfell**

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

### **Compartment**

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

### **Conifer**

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

### **Continuous Cover forestry**

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

### **Coppice**

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

### **Exotic (non-native) Species**

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

### **Field Layer**

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

### **Group Fell**

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

### **Long Term Retention**

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

### **Minimum Intervention**

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

### **Mixed Woodland**

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

### **National vegetation classification (NVC)**

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

### **Native Species**

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

### **Natural Regeneration**

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



## **Origin & Provenance**

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

## **Re-Stocking**

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

## **Shrub Layer**

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

## **Silviculture**

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

## **Stand**

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

## **Sub-Compartment**

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

## **Thinning**

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

## **Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes**

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

## **Weeding**

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

## **Windblow/Windthrow**

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