

Forestry Commission Wales
Management Planning

Full scoping report

Woodland name: Parc yr Ynys

Plan number: 10

Applicant: Coetir Mynydd

Application date:

Agent: Evelyn Over

Woodland Officer: John Ferguson

A1: Initial application

Applicant details:

Name: Coetir Mynydd

Telephone 01248 602124

Mobile: 07766 553508

Email: WongJenny@aol.com

Address: Ynys Uchaf
Mynydd Llandegai
Bangor
Gwynedd

Postcode: LL57 4BZ

Notes: Contact: Jenny Wong (details above) who is the Company Secretary of Coetir Mynydd which is being set up as a Charitable Company to own and manage Parc yr Ocar / Parc yr Ynys. The acquisition of the woodlands for a peppercorn is underway and should be completed within the next two months. The present owner of the wood is the Penrhyn Estate.

A2: Agent appointed

Agent details:

Name: Evelyn Over

Company:

Telephone 01938 850388

Mobile:

Email: evelyn@over.ndo.co.uk

Address: Rhallt
Castle Caereinion
Welshpool
Powys

Postcode: SY21 9AT

Notes about initial application: Current legal owner (pending sale to Coetir Mynydd): [NB: please do not contact without first informing Coetir Mynydd]

Mr Iain Collinson (Agent)
Carter Jonas
The Estate Office
Port Penrhyn
Bangor

John Ferguson has asked for written confirmation that the change of ownership is taking place as arranged.

A3: Outline information

Applicant is legal owner? No

Woodland certified? No

Status: Trust

Details: Owner is aware of certification and is not interested

Property type: Woodland holding

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Description:

The wood is the one of the Penrhyn estate woods and is a predominantly broadleaved dingle woodland along the Galedffrwd. The wood is in the process of being purchased by Coetir Mynydd, which is a community group in Mynydd Llandegai with 80+ paid up members. At the western end of the wood, called Parc yr Ynys there is open grassland which was grazed by hill ponies until spring 2003. The wood grades into secondary woodland - beech, oak, sycamore, birch, hazel, holly, willow and in the centre of the wood, there is mature Scots (and Corsican) pine and sweet chestnut which were planted by the Penrhyn Estate in 1902. The western end of the wood is less frequently used by the public.

The eastern section of the wood called Parc yr Ocar, runs along the northern bank of the Galedffrwd. It is dominated by sessile oak which was planted by the estate around 1850 and has plentiful oak and rowan regeneration and an understorey of bilberry. There is a small riparian woodland (oak, willow, alder) at the eastern end of the wood by the dam.

There is archaeological interest within the wood including a clawdd boudary, an old track, possible house platform to the east of the wood and 17th century ochre workings.

Context:

The wood is an important feature in the surrounding landscape especially from the opposite side of the valley from Bethesda, the surrounding villages and from the Carneddi. The wood also very visible from the eastern (Hirdir) road from Mynydd Llandegai to Coed y Parc and Bethesda.

The wood is surrounded by small, semi-improved fields which are rented by the Penrhyn Estate to smallholders. To the south west, the wood is joined by a broadleaved dingle (continuation of Parc yr Ocar).

There is a well used public footpath through the wood which is the main pedestrian thoroughfare from from the village to Bethesda.

The wood is also a popular recreational site (walks, picnics, birdwatching, bilberry picking) which is particularly enjoyed because it is peaceful and has an abundance of wildlife.

History:

The wood is in the process of being purchased by Coetir Mynydd but at present is owned by Penrhyn Estate. In the mid 19th century, the estate planted sessile oak by the Galedffrwd. In 1902, to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, the estate planted Scots and Corsican pine and sweet chestnut. The wood has probably not been worked regularly since the second World War because of the difficulties of extracting timber.

There were ochre workings in the wood and a possible medieval house platform.

The woods contain a 6 m high dam constructed in 1847 to supply water to drive a slate mill in the downstream Felin Fawr. Both the dam and water wheel are listed by CADW.

Notes:

Current legal owner (pending sale to Coetir Mynydd): [NB: please do not contact without first informing Coetir Mynydd]

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Legal stakeholder information:

A4: Boundary polygon registered

Boundary maps of all the pilot sites have now been received by the FC and digitised.

A5: Customer Services data

Agents for the pilot sites have been sent the following:

- 1) Printed maps (OS background) showing legal boundaries of the plan (as digitised);*
- 2) WGS constraints check information (map and printout)*
- 3) Aerial photograph with their boundaries marked and the OS background information overlaid.*

The archaeological trusts are currently working on desk-based assessments of known archaeology and site potential; this information will have to be incorporated into the plans at a later stage.

A6: Subcompartment database

The following data should be viewed in conjunction with a stockmap: these are currently being digitised by the FC (not all have yet been received from agents)

Compartment number: 1

Scpt: a **Stand type:** Single-storey

Status: Non-woodland

Comp	Land use	Layer	Species	Habitat	PYr	YC	%
1	Open	Field layer		Non-woodland habitat			40
2	Open	Understorey		Non-woodland habitat			30
3	Open	Regeneratio	Other	Non-woodland habitat	1990		30

Percentage area allocated: **100 %**

Description: Open grassland with scrub

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Scpt: b **Stand type:** Multiple-storey **Status:** Other Semi Natural Woodland

Comp	Land use	Layer	Species	Habitat	PYr	YC	%
1	High Forest	Regeneratio	Other	Lowland mixed deciduous woodlands	1980		50
2	High Forest	Understorey	Woody shrubs	Lowland mixed deciduous woodlands			10
3	Open	Field layer		Lowland mixed deciduous woodlands			40

Percentage area allocated: **100 %**

Description: Secondary woodland - XB includes beech, oak, sycamore, birch. Woody shrub includes willow, hazel, holly, dog rose

Scpt: c **Stand type:** Single-storey **Status:** Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site

Comp	Land use	Layer	Species	Habitat	PYr	YC	%
1	High Forest	Canopy	Pine	Scots	Mixed plantation	1902	20
2	High Forest	Canopy	Chestnut	Sweet	Mixed plantation	1902	20
3	High Forest	Canopy	Other	Mixed plantation	1950		50
4	High Forest	Field layer		Mixed plantation			10

Percentage area allocated: **100 %**

Description: Scots pine, Corsican pine and sweet chestnut planted in 1902 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Secondary woodland inc. beech, oak, row, wych elm

Scpt: d **Stand type:** Single-storey **Status:** Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site

Comp	Land use	Layer	Species	Habitat	PYr	YC	%
1	High Forest	Canopy	Oak	Sessile	Upland oak wood	1850	100

Percentage area allocated: **100 %**

Description: Oak planted by Penryn Estate around 1850 with an understorey of excellent oak regeneration and bilberry - good rowan regeneration on plateau to north of wood

Scpt: e **Stand type:** Single-storey **Status:** Other Semi Natural Woodland

Comp	Land use	Layer	Species	Habitat	PYr	YC	%
1	High Forest	Canopy	Oak	Sessile	Wet woodlands	1850	40
2	High Forest	Canopy	Willow		Wet woodlands	1950	30
3	High Forest	Canopy	Other		Wet woodlands	1950	30

Percentage area allocated: **100 %**

Description: Riparian wood by the stream. Mature oak and beech and willow. MB inc. beech, birch, holly, alder

End of data for Compartment 1 which contains 5 subcompartment(s)

A7: Stakeholder analysis

The stakeholder analysis has been completed using a Microsoft Word template; a printout of this document will be appended to this report.

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A 8: Scoping Report summary

Scoping categories used:

Economic	Direct employment	Economic	Non-timber forest products
Environment	Enhancing landscape	Environment	Management of grazing
Environment	Protecting water supplies	Environment	Threats to habitats & species
Environment	Wildlife habitats & species	Social	Archaeology
Social	Damaging impacts from people	Social	Educational use of woodlands
Social	Managing health and safety	Social	Permissive access
Social	Public access along existing Rights of Way	Social	Supporting community involvement in woodlands

Scoping categories not used:

Economic	Adding value to (felled) timber	Economic	Asset value
Economic	Certification	Economic	Commercial recreation / tourism
Economic	Growing high-quality timber	Economic	Protection of woodland
Economic	Sporting	Economic	Supporting the local economy
Economic	Timber production	Economic	Transformation to Continuous Cover Forestry
Economic	Water quality	Environment	Bracken
Environment	Deadwood	Environment	Grey Squirrels
Environment	Improve woodland biodiversity	Environment	Increase proportion of native tree
Environment	Management of invasive species	Environment	Protecting soil / water
Environment	Rhododendron	Environment	Scope to extend habitats within woodland
Environment	Scope to extend woodland / improve linkage	Environment	Scope to restore Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites
Environment	Threats to habitats and species: Livestock	Environment	Veteran trees
Environment	Wood pasture management	Social	Access
Social	Mountain-biking		

Summary of scoping issues

Issue	Current management	Current scope	Future potential	Owner priority	Suggested priority	Data needed?
Economic						
Direct employment	No	High	High	High	High	Yes
Non-timber forest products	No	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Yes
Environment						
Threats to habitats & species	Yes	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Yes

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Issue	Current management	Current scope	Future potential	Owner priority	Suggested priority	Data needed?
Management of grazing	No	High	High	High	High	Yes
Wildlife habitats & species	Yes	High	High	High	High	No
Protecting water supplies	Yes	High	High	High	High	No
Enhancing landscape	Yes	High	High	High	High	No
Social						
Supporting community involvement in woodlands	No	High	High	High	High	No
Educational use of woodlands	Yes	High	High	High	High	Yes
Damaging impacts from people	No	Low	High	High	High	Yes
Permissive access	No	High	High	High	High	Yes
Public access along existing Rights of Way	Yes	High	High	High	High	Yes
Archaeology	Yes	High	High	High	High	Yes
Managing health and safety	Yes	Low	High	High	High	Yes

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A 8: Scoping Report details

Category: **Economic**

Issue: **Non-timber forest products**

Is this a feature of current management? **No**

Notes on current management:

Unregulated collection of bilberries

Current	Low	Future	Medium
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Notes on future potential:

-

Owner	Medium	Suggested priority:	Medium
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Owners aspirations:

Possible small scale income from sale of Scots pine seed

How should the plan deal with this issue?

It is a good opportunity to sell the seed to a seed house to generate a small income for the group

Is further data needed? **Yes**

Details of further data needed :

Potential market needs to be investigated.

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Category: Economic

Issue: Direct employment

Is this a feature of current management? No

Notes on current management:

Current	High	Future	High
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Notes on future potential:

-

Owner	High	Suggested priority:	High
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Owners aspirations:

To provide opportunities for occasional professional work using local contractors

How should the plan deal with this issue?

Qualified arboriculturist to carry tree survey along public rights of way and subsequent tree surgery

Is further data needed? No

Category: Environment

Issue: Enhancing landscape

Is this a feature of current management? Yes

Notes on current management:

None - but historically very significant (Jubilee planting of Scots Pine)

Current	High	Future	High
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Notes on future potential:

-

Owner	High	Suggested priority:	High
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Owners aspirations:

Wish to maintain the profile of woods in the landscape

How should the plan deal with this issue?

The impact of the wood on the surrounding landscape is high priority. Consideration given to Scots pine planting grown from seed in the wood

Is further data needed? No

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Category: Environment

Issue: Protecting water supplies

Is this a feature of current management? Yes

Notes on current management:

The Galedffwrdd is an important tributary of the Ogwen

Current	High	Future	High
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Notes on future potential:

-

Owner	High	Suggested priority:	High
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Owners aspirations:

Coetir Mynydd are very aware of the importance of the water supply

How should the plan deal with this issue?

The group understands the importance of protecting the water supply but are concerned about possible upstream polluters. Environment Agency is being regularly consulted y Coetir Mynydd about the dam

Is further data needed? No

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Category: Environment

Issue: Wildlife habitats & species

Is this a feature of current management? Yes

Notes on current management:

There is casual records of birds, insects etc. in the wood

Current High **Future** High

Notes on future potential:

Coetir Mynydd is compiling a list of potential species recorders.

Owner High **Suggested priority:** High

Owners aspirations:

Aspire to have the woods designated as a Local Nature Reserve

How should the plan deal with this issue?

The group want to use recorders especially ones who live in or close to the community to monitor species. Contact Gwynedd Council with a view to registering the wood as an LNR

Is further data needed? No

Details of further data needed :

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Category: **Environment**

Issue: **Management of grazing**

Is this a feature of current management? **No**

Notes on current management:

There is no grazing of the open grassland to the west of the wood since the cessation of grazing by hill ponies in Spring 2003

Current	High	Future	High
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Notes on future potential:

Potential to restore traditional boundaries (stone walls / slate fences): in some cases these have been degraded by illegal stone removal.

Owner	High	Suggested priority:	High
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Owners aspirations:

Coetir Mynydd is keen to carry out good management of its open habitat

How should the plan deal with this issue?

High - the open grassland benefit from regular grazing

Is further data needed? **Yes**

Details of further data needed :

Coetir Mynydd needs to find out from the CCW woodland ecologist about the best grazing regime for the open areas and find out whether a new grazier can continue to graze part of the wood. Walk around the perimeter boundaries to check the condition of fences & walls.

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Category: Environment

Issue: Threats to habitats & species

Is this a feature of current management? Yes

Notes on current management:

No action has been taken to control the spread of exotics in the wood; European Gorse has been controlled by burning in the past.

Current Medium **Future** Medium

Notes on future potential:

-

Owner Medium **Suggested priority:** High

Owners aspirations:

The group needs to discuss the control of exotics in the wood as part of its consultation exercise

How should the plan deal with this issue?

The removal of the small area of rhododendron from the wood is high priority; management of the gorse to stop encroachment onto adjacent habitats is high priority; management of beech regen is medium priority.

Is further data needed? Yes

Details of further data needed :

Look at possibility of carrying out controlled burning gorse using volunteers from the group. Assess level of Beech regeneration and Rhododendron cover in the wood.

Category: Social

Issue: Managing health and safety

Is this a feature of current management? Yes

Notes on current management:

No tree surgeon has been employed in the tree safety aspect of the wood

Current Low **Future** High

Notes on future potential:

-

Owner High **Suggested priority:** High

Owners aspirations:

To meet insurance requirements on public safety aspect of the wood

How should the plan deal with this issue?

There are two public rights of way and a permissive access through the wood

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Is further data needed? Yes

Category: Social

Issue: Archaeology

Is this a feature of current management? Yes

Notes on current management:

Dam is CADW Grade 2 listed; wood has remains of ochre workings

Current	High	Future	High
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Notes on future potential:

-

Owner	High	Suggested priority:	High
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Owners aspirations:

Coetir Myndd are very keen to know as much as they can about the archaeological features in the wood

How should the plan deal with this issue?

There is a desk study being undertaken by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust for the management plan.

Is further data needed? Yes

Details of further data needed :

Use local expertise to increase the group's knowledge about the archaeology of the wood

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Category: Social

Issue: Public access along existing Rights of Way

Is this a feature of current management? Yes

Notes on current management:

There are public rights of way through the wood which are managed by the Community Council

Current	High	Future	High
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Notes on future potential:

-

Owner	High	Suggested priority:	High
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Owners aspirations:

High priority to ensure the rights of way through the wood are in good condition

How should the plan deal with this issue?

At present, the rights of way through the wood are in good condition

Is further data needed? No

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Category: Social

Issue: Permissive access

Is this a feature of current management? No

Notes on current management:

There is one permissive right of way through the wood

Current	High	Future	High
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Notes on future potential:

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Owner	High	Suggested priority:	High
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Owners aspirations:

High priority to ensure the permissive access is in good condition

How should the plan deal with this issue?

The permissive access needs to be upgraded

Is further data needed? Yes

Details of further data needed :

Design of upgraded footpath needs to be agreed

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Category: Social

Issue: Damaging impacts from people

Is this a feature of current management? No

Notes on current management:

Unofficial routes are being opened up in the wood by walkers and mountain bikers.

Current	Low	Future	High
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Notes on future potential:

-

Owner	High	Suggested priority:	High
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Owners aspirations:

Coetir Mynydd needs to decide on its policy on unofficial routes through the wood in the public consultation

How should the plan deal with this issue?

This is high priority as unofficial routes through the wood especially the oak plantation are damaging the understorey.

Is further data needed? Yes

Details of further data needed :

Find out the best way of managing access to the wood and minimising detrimental impacts from walkers & mountain bikers.

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Category: Social

Issue: Educational use of woodlands

Is this a feature of current management? Yes

Notes on current management:

Ysgol Bodfeurig use the wood occasionally for educational visits

Current High **Future** High

Notes on future potential:

-

Owner High **Suggested priority:** High

Owners aspirations:

Coetir Mynydd are keen for the local school to use the wood for educational purposes

How should the plan deal with this issue?

High priority - it is important for the local children to identify with the wood and be able to learn about woodland habitats

Is further data needed? Yes

Details of further data needed :

Encourage Forest Education Initiative to become involved and find out whether Parc yr Ynys would be suitable for a Forest School. Encourage a local Forest Leader to take the schoolchildren into a wood for a Taster day.



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Category: Social

Issue: Supporting community involvement in woodlands

Is this a feature of current management? No

Notes on current management:

Woods are in the process of being acquired by the Company on behalf of the village

Current	High	Future	High
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Notes on future potential:

-

Owner	High	Suggested priority:	High
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Owners aspirations:

Full community involvement in the management planning

How should the plan deal with this issue?

High priority

Is further data needed? No

Details of further data needed :
