

John Muir Award Media Project

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Appendix

1. **Woodland Trust Management Plan for Coed Ystrad**
2. **Wood land Trust Risk Assessment**

**“When we try to
pick out anything
by itself, we find
it hitched to
everything else in
the universe.”**

**John Muir
(MY FIRST
SUMMER IN THE
SIERRA, 1911)**

The John Muir award is a UK-wide environmental award scheme. John Muir has been called ‘John of the Mountains’ and ‘Father of the National Parks’. He was known for his work on preserving the wilderness.

I believe the quote above is significant because humans generally do not tend to relate their actions to consequences and thus often disassociate themselves from them. (The concept of the chaos theory: The butterfly effect, Edward Lorenz) This theory was noted by John Muir, and I feel is even more relevant today.

Coed Ystrad

COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

eso Welco





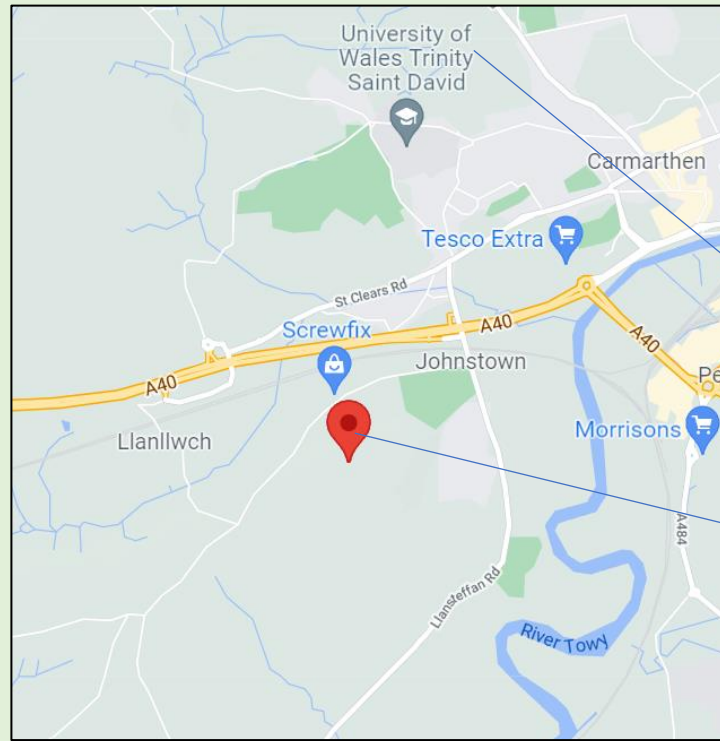
WOODLAND
TRUST

Discover a wild place:

Coed Ystrad

Johnstown Carmarthen

Size:
11.99 ha (29.63 acres)
Grid reference:
SN394188
Map reference:
Explorer 177
OS Landranger 159



Google maps



Photo credit Steven Kind

I chose this site because of its close proximity to our university. It is an ancient woodland that is managed by the Woodland Trust.

It is used by both local residents and by those visiting. It is therefore a popular site. Informal public access (which this site has) often means it can become overused. This can create issues for the wood itself but also for the animals and their habitats. I wanted to focus efforts on helping to conserve, protect and yet promote a place which is and will continue to be somewhere many go to relax, reconnect with nature and breathe in all the outdoors has to offer.

Upon reading the Woodland Trust Management Plan of the site, I understand that their aims are:

- 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

Coed Ystrad Management Plan 2013-2018

I too believe in these aims and values and wanted to help support the Woodland Trust in them.



One of the long term visions I was pleased to read about in the management plan, was that the Woodland Trust look to return ancient woodland sites to native species where possible, with ancient trees retained. They also seek to support habitats.

In addition, I saw that they offer provision to local education and initiatives, so saw the chance to get involved.

Photo credit Steven Kind

Explore its wildness

In order to get to know Coed Ystrad, I visited the location and read the Woodland Trust's Management plan for the site (from their website) and the site-specific Risk Assessment. I used both to inform me of the land, its plants and therefore habitats within it. Both also provided me with information on access, popularity, management approach, key features and long-term policies for the site.





Highlight the key natural characteristics of the place

The area consists of mixed aged broadleaves including Ash, Hazel, Sycamore, Beech and Oak with dense pockets of Douglas Fir (circa 35yrs old) and occasional species such as Wild Cherry and Sweet chestnut.

Most trees are found on steep to moderate slopes growing on shallow soil with shallow bedrock in places. Mostly the trees are mature or very mature towards the southern/eastern end of the site closest to the new housing estate and adjacent sports ground with mature Douglas fir, Cherry and Hazel towards the mid point and western end of the site. Paths are used frequently by local dog walkers and one path forms part of the Wales coast path and is a PROW.

We noticed a lot of insulated powerlines and telephone cables strung between wooden roadside poles. In fact, one of our first pieces of litter was found to be an electrical risk warning sign from one of these poles.

Trees to the rear of the properties along this road appear to be of a semi mature and mature state and are stepped back by the provision of a permissive footpath along the property boundary. These comprise of Sycamore, Ash and some Oak.

We feel that it is important to remain on the track when partaking in outdoor adventure education such as mountain biking to as not to promote and expedite erosion of the woodland floor nor damage wildlife habitats.

Conserve and take responsibility





Litter in our wild places is a growing problem, especially after Covid lockdowns and the increase in use of these places during this time. Litter is harmful to both habitats and animals as well as being a hazard. It of course, looks awful too. Litter encourages others to litter, as it then appears acceptable. I wanted to change this for the area in which I lived and encourage others to do the same.



I contacted 'enquiries@woodlandtrust.org.uk' as the Woodland Trust logo was on the sign at the entrance of Coed Ystrad. I received an email back from Anna Pierlejewska, who is the assistant site manager for the Woodland Trust - South Wales. She directed me to the 'Keep Wales Tidy' website, at which I found the address of the Carmarthen Town Council being the hub for 'Keep Wales Tidy' in Carmarthen. Anna also sent over a risk assessment (appendix 2), which I studied and assessed before embarking upon the litter pick.



Next we spoke to Eleri, the admin officer at the council hub, explaining the situation. She gave us four litter pickers (best to use these for safety), four red bin bags (specific so they can be collected – as part of ‘Keep Wales Tidy’), four high visibility jackets (also for safety) and thanked us for helping conserve the area.



**Cyngor Tref
Caerfyrddin
Carmarthen
Town Council**



cadwch keep
gymru'n wales
daclus tidy

Swirfodd

That same day we walked to the wood to do the litter pick. We found lots of litter. The primary source of litter was alcohol cans and bottles, alongside crisp and snack packets. We even found chicken wire and an air mattress!



Before litter pick



After litter pick





We filled the four bags and plan to do further litter picking in future as felt that there was more to do.





Share your experiences

It is a quiet, peaceful, calming place, which I have used recreationally (mountain biking). I have also been walking here for solitude and stress release after busy days. When walking here before, seeing the litter I felt upset that others would do this to a 'wild' place and not look after the environment.



Litter and the Environment an Academic Study

Journal of Litter and Environmental Quality VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1 MAY 2018 – Keep Britain Tidy

Small mammal mortality in discarded bottles and drinks cans: Norfolk based field study in a global context by Graham Moates

Small mammals occupy an important midpoint in the food chain acting as insectivore, herbivore or omnivore, as well as forming a key prey item for carnivorous mammals and avian predators such as owls and kestrels. This article reports on the results of a study of the impacts of discarded bottles and cans on small mammal mortality and compares these results to those of other national and international studies. 2,174 bottles and cans were collected and examined from sites in south and central Norfolk.

Of these, 115 were occupied representing an overall occupancy rate of 5.3% (8.1% of bottles and 4.8% of cans) and, in total, they contained a sum of 230 small mammal casualties. The most frequent number of casualties per container was one, with a maximum of seven casualties found in any single container.

Across all containers examined, the most common casualty was the common shrew (*Sorex araneus*) followed by the bank vole (*Myodes glareolus*). True shrews (Soricidae) comprised 52% of the specimens found in bottles and 77% in cans. There is some indication that litter casualties may have local effects in areas of low population size or for pre-breeding/winter populations of small mammals.

Doing an Outdoor Adventure Education degree, I see it as my duty to promote environmental sustainability. Sharing my work in this field with others will encourage them to do the same. I have shared this PowerPoint with a school local to my home address to do this and believe that by preparing a PowerPoint – with photos and videos – it can be easily shared to both young and old alike.





With litter picking, you can see your impact on the environment straight away and this gave me a real sense of satisfaction – that I was really helping. I buy sustainably and try to live sustainably too, by biking and walking, eating as local as possible, obviously not leaving litter myself and promoting all of these things to others where possible.

The whole experience gave me an enormous sense of wellbeing - that I AM doing things to help our planet.

Appendix
1.management
plan, page 1

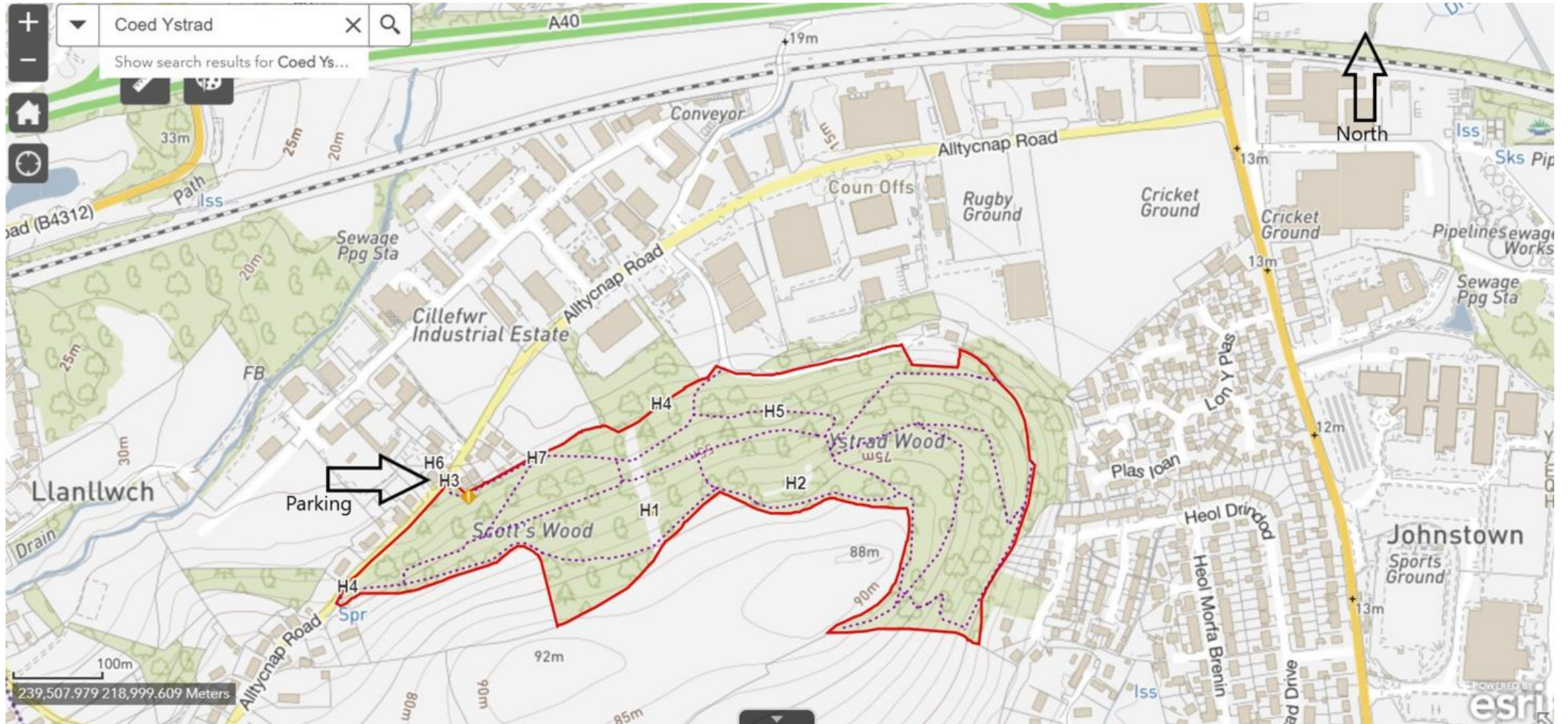
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/47025/4465-coed-ystrad.pdf>



Coed Ystrad

**Management Plan
2013-2018**

Appendix 2. risk assessment, page 1



Appendix 2. risk assessment, page 2

Map Ref	Hazard	Description
H1	Electric – over ground	Overhead electric cable, 3 strands (33Kv type) Western Power controlled which cuts through site. Area is kept as a coppice to ensure no contact can be made with overhead cables. A Roadside cable runs along roadside (allt y knap road) for the majority of the boundary and is kept cut underneath as part of the annual EMC. These cables had the poles replaced in 2012 and are insulated.
H2	Quarries	Disused quarry with steep sides, max height approx. 40 ft. Quarry does not show evidence of erosion or landslip and scree is covered in ground vegetation including Ivy. A path runs above quarry and the quarry floor is openly accessible but is not considered a high risk. Pathway above quarry is fenced off with stock type fencing and strands of barbed wire with 'danger' signs including symbols displayed intermittently. A warning sign informing visitors of the steep drops and unstable slopes is displayed at all entrances. At base of former quarry lies an area of 'scree' which appears stable from former quarrying on site. Area is accessible on foot.
H3	Estate furniture(stile/gates/board walks/steps)	STEPS: Timber steps found throughout site on several footpaths but with predominance on path along southern boundary and leading to quarry area. along. BENCHES: Two Oak Benches are found on site. One bench located at southern edge of site facing llangain (SN 396 187) and the other above the quarry (SN 396 188). Unknown date of installation. FENCE: A post and rail barrier installed in 2014 was put place to prevent people running out into Allt y Knap Road at lower entrance (SN39118 and SN390187)
H4	Tree Safety Zone A	This zone borders Allt y Knap road and alongside an access track leading to Dower house used as the main access road to the property which enters off Allt y Knap road. The zone immediately alongside Allt y Knap road comprises of mainly shrub species such as coppiced Hazel which are maintained on an annual basis through roadside hedge cutting. Directly along this zone are insulated powerlines and telephone cables strung between wooden poles at roadside. Trees to the rear of the properties along this road are of a semi mature and mature state and are stepped back by the provision of a permissive footpath along the property boundary. These comprise of Sycamore, Ash and some Oak. The zone which borders the access track to dower house comprise of planted Larch & Douglas Fir with Ash regeneration and semi mature ash trees. This zone is on a steep slope, graduating from the track into the woodland and houses a man-made structure, likely to be a former water holding tank. All trees along this zone are in good health although intervals for inspection should be no more than 12 to 18 months with every other year during late summer/autumn to co-inside with symptoms of Chalara Fraxinea
H5	Tree Safety Zone B	Trees within falling distance of main footpaths and trees within falling distance of overhead 33Kv powerlines (SN 393 188) which have a small transformer box on 2 poles at most northern end of zone adjacent to nearby industrial area. Zone consists of mixed aged broadleaves including Ash, Hazel, Sycamore, Beech and Oak with dense pockets of Douglas Fir (circa 35yrs old) and occasional species such as Wild Cherry and Sweet chestnut. Most trees are found on steep to moderate slopes growing on shallow soil with shallow bedrock in places. Mostly the trees are mature or very mature towards the southern/eastern end of the site closets to the new housing estate and adjacent sports ground with mature Douglas fir, Cherry and Hazel towards the mid point and western end of the site. Paths are used frequently by local dog walkers and one path forms part of the Wales coast path and is a PROW.
H6	Fires	Fire assessment record. No significant fires recorded in last 5 years from 2011 to 2018. Not considered a significant threat.
H7	Vehicle culverts	2x Twin wall PVC pipes carrying seasonal stream/ditch across neighbouring landholdings. Pipes are laid under path/track approximately 15 metres apart. A deep channel connects these 2 pipes from the upper slope stream/ditch which is maintained annually.