

Cwm George & Casehill Woods Management Plan

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1.0 Site details

Cwm George & Casehill Woods

Location:	Dinas Powys Grid reference: ST155724 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 171
Area:	84.43 hectares (208.63 acres)
Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Scheduled Ancient Monument, Special Landscape Area

2.0 Site description

Cwm George and Casehill Woods are found to the west of Cardiff, between the villages of Dinas Powys and Michelston le Pit. The site forms the boundary of the urban area of Dinas Powys and the former parkland landscape Cwrt yr Ala Park. Neighbouring land use includes arable land, woodland and grazing land. The woodlands are part of a concentration of ancient woodland to the west of Cardiff.

Through a series of land acquisitions the site has developed into a complex of varied habitats and is important for planted ancient woodland restoration and the development of new native woodland. The main restoration phase has been completed with the removal of larch from the site. It now consists of mixed broadleaved woodland dominated by oak and ash. There are also areas dominated by beech from former plantings. Beech is now considered to be a part of the woodland and will not be actively removed. Both Ancient Semi Natural Woodland and Planted ancient Woodland has been recognised as key features for the site.

The existing woodlands of Cwm George and Casehill have been linked by new native woodland plantings on former improved agricultural land. Plantings include native species for the area such as oak, ash and a range of shrub species. New native woodland has been identified as a key feature for the site. Extensive areas of the grassland have been left un-planted and are being restored to species rich grassland.

Although in the main the areas of grassland have improved characteristics the potential for the restoration to species rich characteristics has been recognised by the inclusion of the grassland as a key feature.

A scheduled ancient monument increases the interest of the site. The wooded medieval hill fort is found within Cwm George Woods. The specific management requirement of this important archaeological feature has been recognised as a key feature.

The woodlands of Cwm George and Casehill are well used by the public, with local village populations within easy walking distance and larger urban populations of Cardiff and its suburbs within close proximity. Small parking facilities exist and an extensive network of permissive footpaths and bridleways have been added to the existing public footpath network to allow access throughout the site. The value of the site for informal public access has been recognised as a key feature.

3.0 Public access information

By bus:

The closest bus stops are a short distance away in Dinas Powys.

Route 89 from Cathays stops at Llandough Hospital (5th stop). From here walk up to Pen-y-Turnpike Road and turn left. After just over 350 yards turn right: this road is sign-posted Michaelstone-le Pit. Walking downhill you will see the woods to your left and after the road bends left, the Woodland Trust entrance and car park come into view.

Alternatively on the 95 bus (Cardiff-Barry-Rhoose-Llantwit Major), alight at the Elm Grove Road stop, on Mill Road at Dinas Powys. The stop is by The Square where the Three Horseshoes pub is located. Turn right into Britway Road, passing the parish hall on your right. Then after approximately 400 yards, take the right turn into Twyncyn Road. Walk straight to what appears to be the top and right in front is a sign saying Private road. Turn left into Beauville Lane. The wooded road bends to the right and having reached the point where the golf course crosses the road, the road turns left and the Cwm George entrance is straight afterwards on the right hand side.

Or alternatively, instead of walking along Britway Road, by taking Highwalls Road, then turning left into Highwalls Avenue and following this to the right you come out by the Dinas Powys Golf Club's club house and a public footpath north west across the golf course. This footpath finishes on Beauville Lane yards from the Cwm George entrance.

We advise all visitors to check travel information before their visit as it is subject to change.

By train:

The closest train station is Dinas Powys. From the station, cross the road (Cardiff Road) and walk up Station Road. This comes out at The Square where the Three Horseshoes pub is. Follow directions above. The nearest mainline station is Cardiff.

Information from: Traveline Cymru. www.traveline.org.uk or 0870 608 2608.

By car:

For Casehill and Pen-y-Turnpike Woods:

From Junction 33 of the M4 take the A4232. Stay on this road until the 3rd turn off (approx. six miles) which is signposted Athletics Stadium and Ninian Park. Turn right (the last exit) for Dinas Powys. Going straight away over a weak bridge, the road then climbs quite steeply. After just under half a mile is Leckwith. Then driving downhill, pass Woodland Care Home off to the right, the next turning right being access to housing. Then after a 90 degree turn left where there are filter road markings to turn right but no road sign. This is just over one mile from the roundabout. Take this right turn. The road climbs steeply again. This is quite a narrow road. After three quarters of a mile from the main road turn right (sign-posted Michaelstone-le-Pit). You will see woods to the left and soon come to the car park for Casehill and Pen y Turnpike woods.

The Woodland Trust main car park holds seven or eight cars. There is also informal parking under the trees along Beauville Lane.

For Cwm George Wood:

Follow the directions for Casehill and Pen-y-Turnpike Woods, then, but continue straight on. The road (Turnpike Lane) goes down hill and half a mile from the Michaelstone-Le Pit turning you enter Dinas Powys. Keep on Turnpike Lane and another half mile further along the road becomes Mill Road and ends at the Three Horseshoes pub. From here follow the directions given under the bus information.

The closest pull-in is just beyond here on the left hand side, but there is only room for one vehicle.

4.0 Long term policy

In fifty years time Cwm George and Casehill Woods will be a semi-natural woodland with a diverse species and age composition, primarily dominated by native species and with diverse, well developed shrub and field layers, representative of the surviving ancient woodland components currently found within the existing areas of ancient woodland.

Scattered, over-mature conifers will remain in planted ancient woodland areas but will not be regenerating significantly or pose a threat to ancient woodland remnants.

The area of the scheduled ancient monument will continue to be wooded and managed as coppice to retain an open nature to permit appreciation of its historical attributes. Mature trees will also be managed ensuring that the integrity of the monument is retained.

Those areas of planted woodland will have matured into established woodland and begun taking on the characteristics of the surrounding semi-natural woodland.

The grassland areas will be retained through a regime of cutting, favouring an increase in species diversity.

The site will be enjoyed by a high number and variety of users including pedestrian and equestrian groups and the network of footpaths and infrastructure will be maintained to accommodate this high level of useage.

5.0 Key Features

5.1 KF f1: Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Description
PAWS that has had the majority of planted species removed. Species retained including beech considered to now be a component of the woodland, but during forest operations native species will be favoured. Ancient woodland ground flora is well developed, in particular cmpt 5. Main canopy species are Ash and Oak. Beech dominates some areas in cmpt 1.
Significance
Significant area of planted ancient woodland, now linked by new planting. Ancient woodland ground flora is well represented making the woodlands diverse.
Opportunities & Constraints
Well used public site. Any management will need to be considered in context of local perceptions. Opportunities exist to further enhance the age structure and species composition by the creation of gaps and thinning.
Factors Causing Change
Suppression of ground flora due to shading. Threat to regeneration from chalara.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Gradual removal of remaining conifer component and restoration of site to broadleaf woodland. Beech will be thinned where its dense shade is posing a threat to ground flora but will be considered native to the site.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
By the end of this plan period all zones identified in the PAWS strategy will have been subjected to a thinning intervention.

5.2 KF f2: Archaeological Feature

<p>Description</p> <p>Scheduled Ancient Monument. Early medieval hill fort and a second earthwork feature. Dinas Powys hillfort is the richest, best preserved and most fully excavated early medieval secular settlement in Wales. The hillfort was extensively excavated by Leslie Alcock in the late 1950s. The subsequent publication became a seminal work of early medieval archaeology (Alcock 1963) and Dinas Powys is often quoted as the classic type site of the early medieval west. The quality and quantity of the early medieval material from Dinas Powys is thus far unparalleled in Wales and the site offers unique insights into the socio-political and economic conditions of early medieval western Britain.</p>
<p>Significance</p> <p>Site of national archeological value.</p>
<p>Opportunities & Constraints</p> <p>Potential as visitor attraction to site and a source of funding. Management must not adversely affect the scheduled ancient monument, and proactive management needs to ensure that the tree cover is stable.</p>
<p>Factors Causing Change</p> <p>Possible hazard from over-mature trees if not managed. Risk of damage to site from increased visitor numbers if promoted.</p>
<p>Long term Objective (50 years+)</p> <p>To protect this important monument from disturbance and damage and thus to ensure its preservation for the benefit of present and future generations to enjoy and learn from.</p>
<p>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</p> <p>The monument will be subject to condition inspections at least once every 5 years to ensure the monument is not suffering deterioration or damage of any kind. If any problems are discovered, this will be brought to the attention of CADW. The site manager will assess trees within SAM for firmness, and conduct any tree work required. This will include coppicing within the vicinity of the monument to open up the understorey and permit greater appreciation of its features. Interpretation installed in this plan period will seek to enhance understanding of this important site.</p>

5.3 KF f3: New Native Woodland

Description
Two areas of new planting one linking Casehill Wood and Cwm George and the other extending Casehill Wood. Both had high public involvement with an area being planted by members of the Welsh Assembly. A range of native tree species were planted. Millennium features were included on both new planting areas.
Significance
The presence of new native woodland on the edge of Casehill and Cwm George woods will have a buffering effect, protecting these valuable ancient woodlands from edge effects. This will create more stable conditions within the ancient woodland, which are preferable to ancient woodland specific species. In addition to this, new native woodland will provide a valuable visitor resource, by enabling the public to watch a new native woodland develop and adding interest to their visit. In support of this, there was a very positive response to public consultation regarding the Trust's acquisition and planting of the land.
Opportunities & Constraints
Open areas particularly in the Casehill Meadows was seen as important during the consultation process. These lie adjacent to the parkland of Cwt yr Ala House, and was seen as an important component of these.
Factors Causing Change
Natural succession, Chalara, squirrel damage.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
To ensure that native broadleaved woodland is successfully established and to ensure this remains healthy and vigorous so that, over the long-term, the wood becomes self-perpetuating through natural regeneration, ensuring its existence in perpetuity.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
The trees and shrubs are now well established and no longer require weeding and beating-up and can be largely left alone to grow and close canopy, with monitoring restricted to once per plan period as part of the woodland condition observations. By 2020, the plantings should have formed into dense thickets of young trees whose canopy has closed, creating the early stages of a woodland environment.

5.4 KF f4: Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description
Areas of open grassland that range from improved ryegrass reseed to semi natural species rich grassland. These areas make up the open ground within the new native woodland planting areas.
Significance
Species rich grassland is significantly reduced since the last war. The Trust has the opportunity to contribute to the biodiversity targets for this habitat type.
Opportunities & Constraints
The opportunity exists to recreate species rich MG5 grassland. This would significantly enhance the biodiversity value of the woodland complex.
Factors Causing Change
Natural regeneration if not grazed or cut.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
The areas of open grassland will be managed to increase diversity of the grassland species.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Within the plan period, the annual cutting of silage will continue and monitoring of the grassland species will be undertaken.

5.5 KF f5: Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description
Ancient semi natural Woodland is not found extensively within the site, and is restricted to the northern part of cmpt 1, on the steep slopes running down to the Wrinstone Brook. Lowland mixed broadleaves with Oak and ash. Well developed ancient woodland ground flora is found.
Significance
Area of ancient semi natural woodland. Undisturbed due to the terrain of the area.
Opportunities & Constraints
Steep slope of undisturbed ancient woodland with little public access due to the terrain. Opportunity to allow natural process to occur without the constraint of public access.
Factors Causing Change
Chalara.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
To maintain the health and vigour the ASNW and to protect it from any loss of biodiversity or any other degradation in habitat quality. Over the long-term (50-100 years), the area occupied by ASNW will also be increased through restoring adjacent areas of PAWS woodland.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Management will adhere to minimum intervention principles with operations confined to those required to ensure public safety and to remove invasive species should this be deemed necessary.

5.6 KF f6: Informal Public Access

Description
A site with high public usage. An extensive network of both public and permissive footpaths allow access throughout the site. The proximity of the site to Dinas Powys and Cardiff results in a high level of visitor use. There is also extensive provision for equestrian use with a network of bridleways in Park Wood linked to Casehillwood via the meadows.
Significance
The site within a special landscape area and is visually attractive. It is close to high urban populations and as a result receives a large number of visitors.
Opportunities & Constraints
The site could be used in an educational role due to its proximity to high urban populations and historic interest. The site and in particular the car park suffers from inappropriate behaviour. Some areas of bridleway can become heavily poached in winter and the meadows are particularly prone to intensive use which can lead to degradation of routes in wet weather.
Factors Causing Change
Wooden installations are subject to rot and infrastructure is also vandalised
Long term Objective (50 years+)
To maintain the public car park and a network of paths, rides and bridleways so that people can continue to enjoy free access on foot throughout the wood in the future.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Public footpaths, bridleways and other formal permissive paths will be kept clear of encroaching vegetation by cutting back at least once a year to provide users with free unobstructed access. Periodic coppicing will also be conducted on ridesides for the dual purpose of opening access and benefitting wildlife. Entrances, steps, bridges and other access furniture will be inspected periodically by the site manager and maintained in a safe and serviceable condition by carrying out repairs/replacements as required. Woodland Trust welcome signs will be erected and maintained at all formal entrances and visitor safety will be protected by carrying out periodic tree safety surveys along the wood's boundaries and along paths inside the woods.

6.0 Work Programme

Year	Type of Work	Description	Exp/Inc	Due By
2014	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Remove all rubbish from car park and sweep back any scalplings from tar-mac apron to main car park area five times between March and September at equal intervals.	634.68	27/09/14
2014	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Remove all rubbish from car park and sweep back any scalplings from tar-mac apron to main car park area five times between March and September at equal intervals.	0.00	27/09/14
2014	LC - Routine Litter Picks	General litter pick in the area of the medieval hill fort and around the deep pool and report on any damage to hillfort. Keep the centre of the site of the fort and ramparts (see attached map) in good order, removing brash and regenerating vegetation /brash and piling away from ramparts in piles no greater than 2m width and 0.5m height.	423.12	30/09/14
2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Item 5a on attached access plan -Resurfacing of bridleway in Case Hill meadow. Use excavated material to create raised bank for future hedge planting along de facto drainage ditch in meadows.	4,675.00	30/09/14
2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Stone drops at pinch points within Case Hill meadows: 3 squeeze gaps 2 stiles and at either end of 2 footbridges.	1,375.00	30/09/14
2014	LC - Fly Tipping	Clearance of litter form meadows and retrieval of interpretation board.	200.00	30/09/14
2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Flailing back (1-1.5m) of encroaching blackthorn and scrub from footpath edges, in various locations throughout site.	0.00	15/10/14
2014	LC - Fly Tipping	Clearance of flytipping in car park.	250.00	30/10/14
2014	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Upgrading and repairs to footpath network across site repairing access furniture and heavily poached or 'muddy' areas along footpaths (casehill woods and meadows areas) To 2015	0.00	31/10/14
2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Removal of 3 interpretation panels and installation of replacement, to include fitting of original display board and repair of fencing in car park.	780.00	26/11/14

2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Unit style: Musketeer - lectern - twin leg Size: A1 Material: Semi-seasoned oak (FSC certified) The above unit to suit a 3mm thick graphic panel £554 x3 £55 delivery Please deliver to: G A Howells & Sons Baiden Farm Ffordd Y Gyfraith Cefn Cribwr Bridgend CF32 0BS	1,717.00	26/11/14
2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Site contingency to tackle anti social behaviour issues (multiple incidents in 2011/12)	0.00	30/11/14
2015	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Trim hedge marked green on site plan, along Pen y Turnpike and Michaelston-le-pit roadsides, so that it does not interfere with passing traffic.	476.01	28/02/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	To make safe falling and fallen timber and any unstable deadwood of over 3 inch DBH within 6 metres of the path edge or any falling or fallen timber that would fall within 3 metres of the paths marked yellow and pink on the EMC map.	682.28	01/03/15
2015	SL - Safety Inspections / Reports	Inspect and provide report on condition of cliff top fence shown blue on site plan.	79.34	30/04/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintain entrances, paths and access furniture marked yellow on site plan. Remove any rubbish and report and quote for any additional repairs required to access furniture or fencing.	343.79	30/04/15
2015	LC - Routine Litter Picks	General litter pick in the area of the medieval hill fort and around the deep pool	79.34	30/04/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintain entrances both Vehicluar and pedestrian, access furniture and paths marked pink on site plan paying attention to cutting around access barriers/gates. Mow the rides, ensure that all ditches are clear of debris and remove any rubbish.	846.24	12/06/15

2015	LC - Routine Litter Picks	General litter pick in the area of the medieval hill fort and around the deep pool and report on any damage to hillfort. Keep the centre of the site of the fort and ramparts (see attached map) in good order, removing brash and regenerating vegetation /brash as in previous years. Brash heaps and piles to be no greater than 2m diameter and 0.5m depth/height. Please 'mash' down the heaps with a chainsaw if possible.	423.12	22/07/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintain entrances, paths and access furniture marked yellow on site plan. Remove any rubbish and report and quote for any additional repairs required to access furniture or fencing.	343.79	26/07/15
2015	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Hand pulling and control of ragwort in Pen Y Turnpike (new plantation). Pulling to include lifting of roots. Please quote for any additional days needed to control this weed.	476.01	09/08/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Create approx. 150m stone path at 1.5m wide with retaining revetment boarding + drainage Based on WT Spec 2.15: excavate 100mm deep trench, spread arisings at nearby location to be agreed, line base with Terram, spread minimum 125mm base layer of 40mm to dust stone rolled down to 100mm, spread self-binding gravel 10mm to dust laid at 100mm rolled down to 50mm	4,200.00	15/08/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Install steps and stone + drainage measures. Install 20 steps set to shed water to side, backfill using excavated material from slope and top dress step surfaces with approx. 50mm of 25mm to dust local stone	2,750.00	15/08/15
2015	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Remove all rubbish from car park and sweep back any scalplings from tar-mac apron to main car park area five times between March and September at equal intervals.	634.68	27/09/15
2015	LC - Routine Litter Picks	General litter pick in the area of the medieval hill fort and around the deep pool and report on any damage to hillfort. Keep the centre of the site of the fort and ramparts (see attached map) in good order, removing brash and regenerating vegetation /brash and piling away from ramparts in piles no greater than 2m width and 0.5m height.	423.12	30/09/15

2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Flailing back (1-1.5m) of encroaching blachkthorn and scrub from footpath edges, in various locations throughout site.	2,500.00	15/10/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Installation of interpretation boards specifically for scheduled ancient monument.	2,000.00	26/10/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Site contingency to tackle anti social behaviour issues (multiple incidents in 2011/12)	1,000.00	30/11/15
2015	FCW - WGS FWPS Grant	Site Name: Cwm George & Casehill Woods FWPS 2000 - Convergence Year 14 of 15 Reference: 6300163362 WT Acc No: A0035099	-2,548.00	31/12/15
2016	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Trim hedge marked green on site plan, along Pen y Turnpike and Michaelston-le-pit roadsides, so that it does not interfere with passing traffic.	476.01	28/02/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	To make safe falling and fallen timber and any unstable deadwood of over 3 inch DBH within 6 metres of the path edge or any falling or fallen timber that would fall within 3 metres of the paths marked yellow and pink on the EMC map.	682.28	01/03/16
2016	SL - Safety Inspections / Reports	Inspect and provide report on condition of cliff top fence shown blue on site plan.	79.34	30/04/16
2016	LC - Routine Litter Picks	General litter pick in the area of the medieval hill fort and around the deep pool	79.34	30/04/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintain entrances, paths and access furniture marked yellow on site plan. Remove any rubbish and report and quote for any additional repairs required to access furniture or fencing.	343.79	30/04/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintain entrances both Vehicluar and pedestrian, access furniture and paths marked pink on site plan paying attention to cutting around access barriers/gates. Mow the rides, ensure that all ditches are clear of debris and remove any rubbish.	846.24	12/06/16

2016	LC - Routine Litter Picks	General litter pick in the area of the medieval hill fort and around the deep pool and report on any damage to hillfort. Keep the centre of the site of the fort and ramparts (see attached map) in good order, removing brash and regenerating vegetation /brash as in previous years. Brash heaps and piles to be no greater than 2m diameter and 0.5m depth/height. Please 'mash' down the heaps with a chainsaw if possible.	423.12	22/07/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintain entrances, paths and access furniture marked yellow on site plan. Remove any rubbish and report and quote for any additional repairs required to access furniture or fencing.	343.79	26/07/16
2016	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Hand pulling and control of ragwort in Pen Y Turnpike (new plantation). Pulling to include lifting of roots. Please quote for any additional days needed to control this weed.	476.01	09/08/16
2016	WMM - General Site Management	Open drain flooding meadow - Catch run off and create ditch to redirect to river. Culvert under gated entrance. Use arisings to create raised bank and plant hedge protected by chestnut pale fencing. Remove old stile, excavate drainage into new culvert and instal new stile (WT spec. 1.05) with post and rail reveals (WT spec. 3.12). Spread scalpings on approach to stile/over culverts	2,200.00	30/08/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Entrance to meadows from Tyn yr Coed - Create stoned path 1.5m wide, with retaining revetment along approx. 300m stretch of right of way. Based on WT Spec 2.15: excavate 100mm deep trench, spread arisings at nearby location to be agreed, line base with Terram, spread minimum 125mm base layer of 40mm to dust stone rolled down to 100mm, spread self- binding gravel 10mm to dust laid at 100mm rolled down to 50mm	8,500.00	30/08/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Upgrading of timber access furniture and steps throughout site	10,000.00	30/08/16
2016	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Remove all rubbish from car park and sweep back any scalpings from tar-mac apron to main car park area five times between March and September at equal intervals.	634.68	27/09/16

2016	LC - Routine Litter Picks	General litter pick in the area of the medieval hill fort and around the deep pool and report on any damage to hillfort. Keep the centre of the site of the fort and ramparts (see attached map) in good order, removing brash and regenerating vegetation /brash and piling away from ramparts in piles no greater than 2m width and 0.5m height.	423.12	30/09/16
2016	WMI - PAWS Restoration	Thinning of zones 1-5	15,000.00	30/11/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Site contingency to tackle anti social behaviour issues (multiple incidents in 2011/12)	1,000.00	30/11/16
2016	FCW - WGS FWPS Grant	Site Name: Cwm George & Casehill Woods FWPS 2000 - Convergence Year 15 of 15 Reference: 6300163362 WT Acc No: A0035099	-2,548.00	31/12/16
2016	WM - Harvesting Sales Income for Resale	Income from PAWS harvesting in 1a+1b.	-6,000.00	31/12/16
2017	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Trim hedge marked green on site plan, along Pen y Turnpike and Michaelston-le-pit roadsides, so that it does not interfere with passing traffic.	476.01	28/02/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	To make safe falling and fallen timber and any unstable deadwood of over 3 inch DBH within 6 metres of the path edge or any falling or fallen timber that would fall within 3 metres of the paths marked yellow and pink on the EMC map.	682.28	01/03/17
2017	SL - Safety Inspections / Reports	Inspect and provide report on condition of cliff top fence shown blue on site plan.	79.34	30/04/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintain entrances, paths and access furniture marked yellow on site plan. Remove any rubbish and report and quote for any additional repairs required to access furniture or fencing.	343.79	30/04/17
2017	LC - Routine Litter Picks	General litter pick in the area of the medieval hill fort and around the deep pool	79.34	30/04/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintain entrances both Vehicular and pedestrian, access furniture and paths marked pink on site plan paying attention to cutting around access barriers/gates. Mow the rides, ensure that all ditches are clear of debris and remove any rubbish.	846.24	12/06/17

2017	LC - Routine Litter Picks	General litter pick in the area of the medieval hill fort and around the deep pool and report on any damage to hillfort. Keep the centre of the site of the fort and ramparts (see attached map) in good order, removing brash and regenerating vegetation /brash as in previous years. Brash heaps and piles to be no greater than 2m diameter and 0.5m depth/height. Please 'mash' down the heaps with a chainsaw if possible.	423.12	22/07/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintain entrances, paths and access furniture marked yellow on site plan. Remove any rubbish and report and quote for any additional repairs required to access furniture or fencing.	343.79	26/07/17
2017	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Hand pulling and control of ragwort in Pen Y Turnpike (new plantation). Pulling to include lifting of roots. Please quote for any additional days needed to control this weed.	476.01	09/08/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	upgrading of path and bridleway surfaces throughout site	15,000.00	30/08/17
2017	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	(CCW) Botanical survey of open fields and grasslands and rides	1,500.00	31/08/17
2017	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Remove all rubbish from car park and sweep back any scalplings from tar-mac apron to main car park area five times between March and September at equal intervals.	634.68	27/09/17
2017	LC - Routine Litter Picks	General litter pick in the area of the medieval hill fort and around the deep pool and report on any damage to hillfort. Keep the centre of the site of the fort and ramparts (see attached map) in good order, removing brash and regenerating vegetation /brash and piling away from ramparts in piles no greater than 2m width and 0.5m height.	423.12	30/09/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Upgrading of bridleways in various locations throughout site.	21,000.00	30/09/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Stoning of 300m of footpath from Tyn y Coed entrance through meadow.	8,350.00	30/09/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Formalisation of desire line leading from meadow to Hill Fort.	3,150.00	30/09/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Site contingency to tackle anti social behaviour issues (multiple incidents in 2011/12)	1,000.00	30/11/17
2017	WMI - Coppice Restoration	Coppicing of 2a and 3a	3,500.00	30/12/17

2018	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Trim hedge marked green on site plan, along Pen y Turnpike and Michaelston-le-pit roadsides, so that it does not interfere with passing traffic.	476.01	28/02/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	To make safe falling and fallen timber and any unstable deadwood of over 3 inch DBH within 6 metres of the path edge or any falling or fallen timber that would fall within 3 metres of the paths marked yellow and pink on the EMC map.	682.28	01/03/18
2018	SL - Safety Inspections / Reports	Inspect and provide report on condition of cliff top fence shown blue on site plan.	79.34	30/04/18
2018	LC - Routine Litter Picks	General litter pick in the area of the medieval hill fort and around the deep pool	79.34	30/04/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintain entrances, paths and access furniture marked yellow on site plan. Remove any rubbish and report and quote for any additional repairs required to access furniture or fencing.	343.79	30/04/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintain entrances both Vehicluar and pedestrian, access furniture and paths marked pink on site plan paying attention to cutting around access barriers/gates. Mow the rides, ensure that all ditches are clear of debris and remove any rubbish.	846.24	12/06/18
2018	LC - Routine Litter Picks	General litter pick in the area of the medieval hill fort and around the deep pool and report on any damage to hillfort. Keep the centre of the site of the fort and ramparts (see attached map) in good order, removing brash and regenerating vegetation /brash as in previous years. Brash heaps and piles to be no greater than 2m diameter and 0.5m depth/height. Please 'mash' down the heaps with a chainsaw if possible.	423.12	22/07/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Maintain entrances, paths and access furniture marked yellow on site plan. Remove any rubbish and report and quote for any additional repairs required to access furniture or fencing.	343.79	26/07/18
2018	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Hand pulling and control of ragwort in Pen Y Turnpike (new plantation). Pulling to include lifting of roots. Please quote for any additional days needed to control this weed.	476.01	09/08/18

2018	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Remove all rubbish from car park and sweep back any scalplings from tar-mac apron to main car park area five times between March and September at equal intervals.	634.68	27/09/18
2018	LC - Routine Litter Picks	General litter pick in the area of the medieval hill fort and around the deep pool and report on any damage to hillfort. Keep the centre of the site of the fort and ramparts (see attached map) in good order, removing brash and regenerating vegetation /brash and piling away from ramparts in piles no greater than 2m width and 0.5m height.	423.12	30/09/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Upgrading of footpaths in various locations throughout site.	18,000.00	30/09/18
2018	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Site contingency to tackle anti social behaviour issues (multiple incidents in 2011/12)	1,000.00	30/11/18

7.0 Monitoring Key Features & Woodland Condition

All monitoring observations will be recorded on a live database.

Observations for KF-Planted Ancient Woodland Site	Ref no. f1
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Planned observations

Date	Planned observation
01/06/10	Assess the need for further thinning at the end of the plan period
01/06/17	By the end of 2016, all PAWS areas identified as threatened in the PAWS site survey will have received active intervention to address the factors causing the poor condition. Remnant ancient features in compartments subjected to PAWS restoration have shown an improvement in status as recorded in their initial PAWS assessment.

Completed observations

Date	Actual observation	Suggestions/Actions
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Observations for KF-Archaeological Feature	Ref no. f2
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Planned observations

Date	Planned observation
30/06/19	Assess the wind firmness of the trees once within the plan period.

Completed observations

Date	Actual observation	Suggestions/Actions
15/03/06	Jon Winder met with Rick Turner from CADW who confirmed no works required on SAM Sept 27th - not concerned if trees fall over. Possibly to allow clearer view of SAM for visitors if opportunity. Damage was minimal from cyclists - minor excavations by mountain bikes on surface.	
24/08/06	Some bike tracks leading down from monument - instructed contractor to block with felled trees. No major damage to surface of monument	
31/07/07	Public use elsewhere on the site high but here not. Monument ok (inspected June with CADW) and programme of works discussed with CADW to make it more accessible	
07/08/08	monument ok. Have not finalised CADW agreement for works yet. To do before end of year	
02/07/09	Inspected with Joe Cliff from CADW in context of project to open up/scrub clearance. SAM ok although 2 bike jumps on path adjacent and will need to monitor once opened up.	
09/06/14	One mature oak now dead requires felling.	
09/06/14	The monument does not seem to be suffering from any adverse use, except from evidenc of occasional contained fires within the site. The path infrastructure appears to be serving its purpose in directing foot traffic and alleviateing the impact on the ground.	

Observations for KF-New Native Woodland	Ref no. f3
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Planned observations

Date	Planned observation
30/06/17	Evaluate the establishment of new planted areas, looking at levels of vandalism, tree health and growth, with particular attention to squirrel damage.

Completed observations

Date	Actual observation	Suggestions/Actions
15/03/06	New planted areas established well, although occasional trees had tops broken off through vandalism. 151 dedication posts around pool had been removed for fires in summer 2005 - new posts have been ordered through Cheryl Deans	
24/08/06	Levels of vandalism high - many lost dedication posts for replacement 2006. Despite some vandalism to trees & guards (dogs?) trees are well established. Cutting of bramble ordered 2006 and future years where swamping trees on boundary with wood.	
31/07/07	Trees are well established despite ongoing vandalism. Guards are removed.	
07/08/08	Trees very well established in all areas. Excellent growth.	
24/06/09	Trees well established. Main thing to check in future is vandalism, otherwise it's a wood.	
09/06/14	The trees are generally establishing well, however in several areas squirrel damage is undermining their development. This is not currently at a level to prevent woodland establishment.	Monitor levels of squirrel damage.

Observations for KF-Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat	Ref no. f4
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Planned observations

Date	Planned observation
01/06/15	Record species found within meadow areas - using survey 2006 as baseline

Completed observations

Date	Actual observation	Suggestions/Actions
24/08/06	grassland monitoring carried out and results on file. Recommendation to continue reduction of nutrients through cutting silage/hay. Seeding may be possible in 3-5 years. Fencing constraint to grazing.	
29/05/12	Survey to be undertaken in 2015	Arrange survey to be undertaken in 2015

Observations for KF-Informal Public Access	Ref no. f6
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Planned observations

Date	Planned observation
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Completed observations

Date	Actual observation	Suggestions/Actions
15/03/06	Removal of shrubs/bramble around car park entrance has helped reduce the problem although littering continues with asbestos being dumped early 2006 - notified police of identity of culprit as license plate was spotted by neighbour.	
06/10/06	Vandalism has continued with neighbour reports that increasing. Bench, fenceposts and dedication posts burned on bonfire / damaged in 2006. Security patrols did not appear to have an effect - either because people causing trouble were there during week (or possibly security not doing patrols regularly). Improvements to car park on contrary appear to have worked.	
10/04/07	Car park ok. Vandalism problem continues but security 06 not effective. Discussed with police 5/4/07 and to raise at PACT meeting - possible repeat "sting" operation. Meeting with community police on site arranged. Also discussed potential for grazing with farmer but he is reluctant due to vandalism problem	
29/08/07	Levels of vandalism generally down due to very wet summer. However gate burned twice in field and gate stolen from entrance. Gate in field to be replaced by metal one and entrance gate replaced by one with WT routed in it. Some damage to stiles also. People have moved from pond area to river crossing.	Met with locals to start Friends group, need to follow up.
16/04/08	Some fires using dedication posts started already. Also misuse by horses-broken rail to extend horse route. To follow up with horse riders. Security not worked in previous year. To contact police to see if can add route to patrols again this year and aim to motivate informal Friends group to keep an eye out. Contractor doing regular litter picks in EMC	
07/08/08	Vandalism levels lower than usual due to wet summer weather. However some damage to access furniture (stile and bench) and some litter.	
16/04/09	litter picks/removal continue. Sec. guards did not work. Volunteer warden patrols.	
22/09/09	Levels poss. Lower than initially due to wet summer. But problems with motorbikes and newly surfaced bridleway and needed to get metal gate	
09/06/14	3 interpretation boards at te main entrances are degraded and in need of replacement. Several pinch points within the meadows as well as path infrastructure needs replacing.	Add to 2015 budget

Observations for Woodland Condition	Ref no. F99
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Planned observations

Date	Planned observation
01/06/15	General surveillance Inspection - As per monitoring guidance

Completed observations

Date	Actual observation	Suggestions/Actions
13/03/06	Litter in car park continues however action to make more visible from road in last year has helped considerably. Someone was reported to the police for dumping asbestos here. There is continued vandalism in area around deep pond - fires and camping continue, with one serious fire in 2005, and dedication posts are pulled up for these: security to be arranged for 2006. New interpretation boards have been put up on the site. Site is closed to horses over winter due to state of paths. Apart from these problems, site generally in good condition. New interpretation boards have been put up on the site. Site is closed to horses over winter due to state of paths. Apart from these problems, site generally in good condition.	
07/08/08	Litter in car park continues but fairly low level however some builders rubbish dumped by lower gate. Lower levels of vandalism than usual due to wet weather although some litter around pond and horsecrossing. Horse paths including new one in Cwm George were left open in winter and suffered damage, to consider closing in wet winter weather. Apart from these problems, site generally in good condition, and new trees are growing very well.	
16/08/11	Woodland in good order and in line with current management practices.	None. Review PAWS strategy
29/05/12	Woodland in general looks fine. Some thinning of remaining conifers to be undertaken by not urgent. PAWS assesment carried out in 2011.	

Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	17.00	Beech	1960	PAWS restoration	People issues (+tve & -tve)	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>Area known locally as Park Wood (formally known by the Trust as Cwm George). A level area of planted ancient woodland with the northern section being steep north facing running down to the Winstone brook. The compartment is bounded by the main access route running from the one o'clock gates to the east, Beauville Lane to the southwest, open farmland to the west and Wrinstone Brook to the north. Mature woodland with beech, oak and ash and some remaining mixed conifers. Ground flora varies between sparse, under the beech-dominated areas, to well developed where Ash dominates. Species include Dog's Mercury, Bluebell, Bramble, Enchanters nightshade and Wood Sedge. Well used public access to the compartment with numerous footpaths and a permissive bridleway. Pockets of regenerating western hemlock still pose a threat to ancient woodland features in some areas of the compartment and require intervention to move towards secure status. Access to the compartment is via the one o'clock gates off Beauville Lane.</p>							
1b	3.30	Beech	1960	PAWS restoration	People issues (+tve & -tve), Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Special Landscape Area
<p>An area known locally as Coed Clwyd-gwyn (known formally by the Woodland Trust as Cwm George). Gently sloping, west-facing area of planted ancient woodland. The compartment is bounded by the main access route running from the one o'clock gates to the west, compartment 4 to the north and the cliff that run down to the bottom of Cwm George to the east. Mature woodland with planted beech, oak and ash and some remaining mixed conifers. Ground flora varies between sparse under the beech-dominated areas to well developed where Ash dominates. Species include Dog's Mercury, Bluebell, Bramble, Enchanters nightshade and Wood Sedge. Although the conifer element is limited, some small pockests of regenerating western hemlock pose a threat to ancient woodland features. A more substantial area of planted beach also requires a thinning interbvention within this plan period to prevent shading out of ground flora. Access to the compartment is via the one o'clock gates off Beauville Lane nad a bridleway runs North to south through the compartment with several footpaths emanating from it.</p>							
2a	5.30	Willow species	1995	Coppice	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve)	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Special Landscape Area
<p>Area known as Cwm George. A dry limestone gorge, with a flat floor and substantial cliffs on the western side and the wooded hill fort to the east (Cmpt 3). The valley floor is damp and supports dense regrowth of trees and shrubs and bramble, following clear felling by the previous owner circa 1995. Limestone has been quarried at the northern end to create 50m high cliffs. The cliffs are less steep and lower at the southern end. Access to the compartment is via the one o'clock gates off Beauville Lane.</p>							

3a	9.10	Oak (sessile)	1940	High forest	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, No/poor vehicular access within the site	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access	Planted Ancient Woodland Site, Scheduled Ancient Monument
<p>An area known locally as Newland Wood (Formally known by the Trust as Cwm George). A wooded hill of part ancient woodland and part planted ancient woodland, now secure and possessing some typical ancient woodland flora such as blue bells and wood anemone. Bounded by the floor of Cwm George to the west (Cmpt.4) to the south privately owned woodland of Tyn y Coed and areas of new planting to the north and east. The hill is the site of an early medieval hill fort, and a second earthwork feature. Both of these are scheduled ancient monuments. A footpath runs north to south, through the gorge and connects the site entrance at Tyn yr Coed with compartments 1a and b (formally Park Wood) as well as leading to Casehill Meadows and out of the site via the public footpath network to Ely and Caerau hill fort to the north. A second path, emanating from the southern entrance to the gorge follows some steep steps, through the Tyn yr Coed Earthworks and up to the hill fort.</p>							
4a	20.95	Open ground	2001	Non-wood habitat	People issues (+tve & -tve), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access	Special Landscape Area, Tree Preservation Order
<p>An area known as Casehill Meadows. Area of newly created woodland running along the northern edge of the site, bounding both sides of the Cadoxton River and links Cmpt 3 and 5, Cwm George and Casehill Woods. Part of the site was planted by the public and several Welsh Assembly members in December 2001 and known as Casehill Meadows. Oak, ash and alder were the most commonly planted species, along with a range of shrub species. The majority of the cmpt. has been left un-planted following public consultation, which highlighted the proximity to the parkland of Cwrt yr Ala House. The site is mainly flat, but with gentle to steep slopes throughout the site of mainly a northerly aspect.</p> <p>The grassland areas are the result of agricultural improvement and are at present species poor, although some of the steeper slopes retain species rich grassland. A number of veteran trees are found within the grassland A network of heavily used footpaths, often wet in winter, connect the two areas formally known as Park wood and Casehill Wood as well as linking into the surrounding public footpath network.</p>							
5a	10.59	Ash	1960	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Special Landscape Area
<p>Area known as Casehill Wood. Casehill Wood is a prominent feature in the landscape around Michaelston le Pit. It is a restored ancient woodland site, formally planted with japanese larch which, with the exception of a few individuals, has now been removed. The wood has retained much of its ancient woodland characteristics, with a diverse structure and composition of mixed broadleaves, including oak, ash sycamore, alder and wych elm, along with some planted larch and beech. An abundant ground flora also exists, including a good population of early purple orchids. The site slopes in places steeply to the northwest, and is bounded to the north west by an area of new planting (Cmpt 4). To the south east another area of new planting is found (cmpt 6). To the north the site is bounded by the council road running to Michaelston le Pit. Access is well provisioned with a bridleway running through the compartment to the meadows and connecting to compartments 1a and b, several footpaths run through the compartment and connect to the meadows and the new planting in compartment 6a.</p>							
6a	9.17	Birch	1999	Wood establishment	Services & wayleaves	Archaeological Feature, Informal Public Access	Special Landscape Area

Area known as Pen y Turnpike. It is a level area at the top of a wooded NW facing slope (Cmpt 5). New planting as part of the WOYD initiative was carried out in 1999, with a range of native species and a Millennium feature of Scots Pine, open areas were also retained within the woodland planting. The compartment is bounded to the southeast by Pen y Turnpike Road and to the northeast by compartment 5. To the east is the council maintained road to Michelston le Pit. To the west is privately owned land. Some areas of the planting are suffering substantially from squirrel damage, with most species targeted, although this is not currently threatening the overall establishment of the woodland. The habitat value of the compartment is enhanced significantly by the presence of two naturally occurring ponds, towards the south-west of the site. A circular path provides access around the area of new planting.

Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)

Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Forecast Year	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
1a	Thin	3.50	2016	26	90
1b	Thin	4.50	2016	29	130
2a	Coppice	2.00	2017	2	4
3a	Coppice	9.10	2017	2	15

Appendix 3: Reference information and surveys

Type of Information	Details of Contents	Author / Recorder	Date of record
Wildlife Conservation			
	Additional assessment work planned. Botanic/ NVC survey, archaeological survey, mammal assessment, Fixed point bird survey, search of info held by others e.g. CCW, LA, Wildlife Trust. Date of Record - ''.		
Report	Woodland Bird Survey- Casehill Wood Date of Record - 'April-June 2000'.	Annie Poole	
Single Species Record	Rare species Monitoring in Wales- Lords and Ladies	CCW	01/06/94
	nestbox monitoring and maintenance record	The Hawk and Owl trust	01/01/99
	National Vegetation Classification Survey of Casehill wood.	Alison J. Wheeler	01/07/99
Report	Transect monitoring at cwm George. (slides available)	Alison Wheeler	01/10/99
Report	Botanical Assessment of Grasslands Adjacent to Casehill wood.	Alison J. Wheeler	01/07/00
Report	Botanical assessment of grassland at Casehill Meadows.	Alison J Wheeler	01/07/00
Report	Baseline Survey of Herb Paris, Paris quadrifolia, at cwm George.	Allison J. Wheeler	01/10/00
Single Species Record	Distribution of rare Lords-and-Ladies at Cwm George. (slides available)	Alison J. Wheeler	01/10/00
Recreation & Access			
	Copy of leaflet advertising public planting event at Casehill Meadows.	Woodland Trust	12/01/01
Landscape, Geology, Geomorphology, Soils & Hydrology			
	Various extracts regarding Cwrt-yr-ala estate, including "Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales" and "Landscapes Working for the Vale of Glamorgan".	Vale of Glamorgan Council	01/01/00
Archaeology & History			
Archaeological Survey	Cwm George woods, Archaeological Assessment	The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust	01/12/97
Archaeological Survey	An Archaeological and Historical Assessment- Casehill wood.	David Thomas	01/05/99
Archaeological Survey	Woods on your doorstep. An archaeological and Historical Assessment	David Thomas	01/05/99

Community			
	Detailed notes from local contact regarding the management of Casehill Meadows. Date of Record - '14/3/01'.	Woodland Trust	
Consultation Responses	Preferences re access provision and management	P. Webb	07/12/98
Consultation Responses	16 replies to initial public consultation regarding the planting of Casehill Meadows.	Woodland Trust	01/03/01
	Detailed notes and maps from local contact regarding the management of Casehill Meadows.	Woodland Trust	01/04/01
Management History			
Current Management Agreement	Copy of planting contract, ref. WW2001sdk, issued to Fieldwork Forestry & Woodland Services. Date of Record - '20/11/01'.	Woodland Trust	
Past WGS	Expired FWPS contract from planting of Casehill Meadows. WGS reference no. 52001926 Date of Record - '16/12/01'.	Forestry Commission	
Past WGS	Copy of FWGS application.	Tilhill	08/07/01
Monitoring Results	<p>This plan review, includes the formal combining of a number of sites that have had their own paper management plans and have been written in different formats. Key Features, and the key feature objectives have not been changed, but the way they have been described has. The past plan period has seen the consolidation of the infrastructure of the site. Permissive footpaths now allow circular walks through the whole site linking Casehill Wood through the new planting areas of Casehill Meadows and Pen y Turnpike to Cwm George Wood. Two new footbridges have been built to facilitate this. A seasonal permissive bridleway has been opened providing horse access between the village of Michealston le Pitt and Dinas Powys. Car parking facilities have also provide parking at Casehill.</p> <p>New planting has been achieved in cmpt 4 and 6. These are establishing well, but have in some areas suffered from vandalism. Removal of Larch from Casehill Wood has been completed and the initial intervention in restoring phase of this PAWS site has been completed. Areas at Cwm George have been thinned and in Cmpt 2 a coppice rotation has been instigated.</p>	Jon Winder	19/05/05