



THE ART OF NATURAL FOREST PRACTICE

Preaching Revolution the holistic forest

THE FOREST AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE !

Walking in the forest with Iliff
♣

So obvious, so easy to comprehend yet so misunderstood

Come with an open mind, bring no baggage. A challenge cease using management jargon - use plain English. It's quite difficult and will free your mind to think afresh

FIRST LAW OF NATURAL PRACTICE

Observe & learn first hand in the forest its harmony & beauty never the same, changing with the seasons & the decades, always growing spatially complex, interlocking of sound, light, smell, colour, movement listen to the wind, birds, stream, the spiritual silence;

SECOND LAW OF NATURAL PRACTICE

Nature is holistic not tree focussed, embracing the whole forest community rich & diverse fauna, flora & place healthy ecosystems incorporate a diversity of habitats that are truly sustainable not visa versa thus the forest is (perhaps) more resistant to the seasonal extremes of climate change;

THIRD LAW OF NATURAL PRACTICE

Think of the whole forest as one interactive community Think in FOREST TIME, decades, centuries, millennianot years;

FOURTH LAW OF NATURAL PRACTICE

Work **WITH** the forest community don't **IMPOSE** on a helpinghand accelerates natural processes of recovery knowing when to intervene & when to leave well alone;

INTERWOVEN WITH & SUPPORTED BY

♣ **Deep Ecology** provides the challenge to question our relationship with the forest based on respect rather than dominance, we coexist in harmony that is mutually beneficial guiding us in everything we do creating a future between the forest & ourselves;

- ♣ **The forest belongs**, not to us humans, but to the native community fauna, flora & place
it is a privilege to be involved with the forest & we have no right to do as we like of necessity we own the land on which this stands & we are thus responsible for conserving it from the outside world;
- ♣ To our untrained eyes the forest appears **random & chaotic** very untidy this richness & diversity is essential to nature in maintaining a healthy, harmonious forest that is selfsustaining, selfregulating governed by complex interlocking structures most of which we are barely aware & certainly understand very little;
 - ♣ Our **fragmented woodlands** must reflect the whole forest in miniature;
 - ♣ Our **intervention** must increasingly be based on compensating for: 1) **extinctions** (f&f), 2) fragmented forest, & 3) controlling invasive species (f&f). No more;
 - ♣ **Unnatural events** imposed by us humans are bad for the health of the forest eg. management thinning; planting, esp. at 1.2m centres; tidiness; not something of which nature has experience & thus kicks back to start afresh unaided nature can take centuries to put the forest right;
 - ♣ **Glades** nature's way of rejuvenating the forest on a patchwork of complexity restoring natural balance & improving genetic quality of evaluating light & humidity to maintain holistically the fauna & flora;
- ♣ In **selecting the tree** to take out, look up at the canopy, down at the base taking into account dominance, balance, weakness, or stress in the surroundings Darwin called this natural selection;
 - ♣ On new ground nature first **plants** pioneer species often in prodigious numbers & only as the forest develops are longlived species introduced seed sourced locally is likely to be of suitable genetic origin;
 - ♣ **Monitoring, recording, researching** holistic tools essential in caring for community as a whole, its specialities, qualities & possibilities;
 - ♣ Renewal of our **forest culture** focusing on the needs of the new century productive of timber, wildlife, & spiritual refreshment, peace & tranquillity;
 - ♣ **I love my forest** & in return it takes care of me people comment on the spiritual refreshment experienced here in my forest;
 - ♣ The sad decline of a once proud industry, **trees disappearing** from the countryside, **forest skills** dying, jobs lost, sawmills closed, the forest no longer has the cashflow to sustain it yet it is our duty to provide for our grandchildren;
 - ♣ **Introduced species** that become invasive are a serious problem. Hybridisation, crosspollination, etc, can likewise damage the forest (especially the ancient forest);

- ♣ There's no **litter** in my rural woodland because I pick it up;
- ♣ All forests should be highly **productive** not only of trees for the future but of all fauna & flora, thus benefiting the surrounding countryside;
- ♣ Our woodlands are so denuded & in such poor health take only where there is local **abundance** and always leave something for restoring the holistic health of the forest;
- ♣ **OLDGROWTH ANCIENT FOREST** (ASNW is technically 400 years or more old) here since the retreat of the ice age 12,000 yrs ago (like Coed Nant Gain) with features indicating antiquity (soil profile, oak stools, richness, diversity, geology, etc) of worldwide significance on a par with the rainforests, old-growth forests, etc demonstrate how nature works yet we ignore what they can teach us;

♣ **Past, present & future** exist in the forest simultaneously continuity from generation to generation is thus crucial why **the forest is as it is determines what we do & the forest we leave for our grandchildren.**

Coed Nant Gain I regard as **OLDGROWTH ANCIENT FOREST**. Damaged by intervention over many centuries it is exceptionally rich & diverse, its natural systems largely intact, provide a demonstration of how the natural forest works from which we can learn. Guided tours a pleasure.

This paper was inspired by walking in the woodland of the Clwyd Badger Group. Iliff Simey, Coed Nant Gain TOP END OF Wales T. 01352 741 039 E. [info@\(no spam\)naturalforestpractice.com](mailto:info@(no spam)naturalforestpractice.com) **A PASSION FOR RESTORING NATURAL FORESTS** delete no spam before emailing COPYRIGHT You are welcome to quote from this document providing you acknowledge me as the source. Sending me a copy would be appreciated. If you wish to use it in its entirety please contact me.