

## 20. Hambury Wood

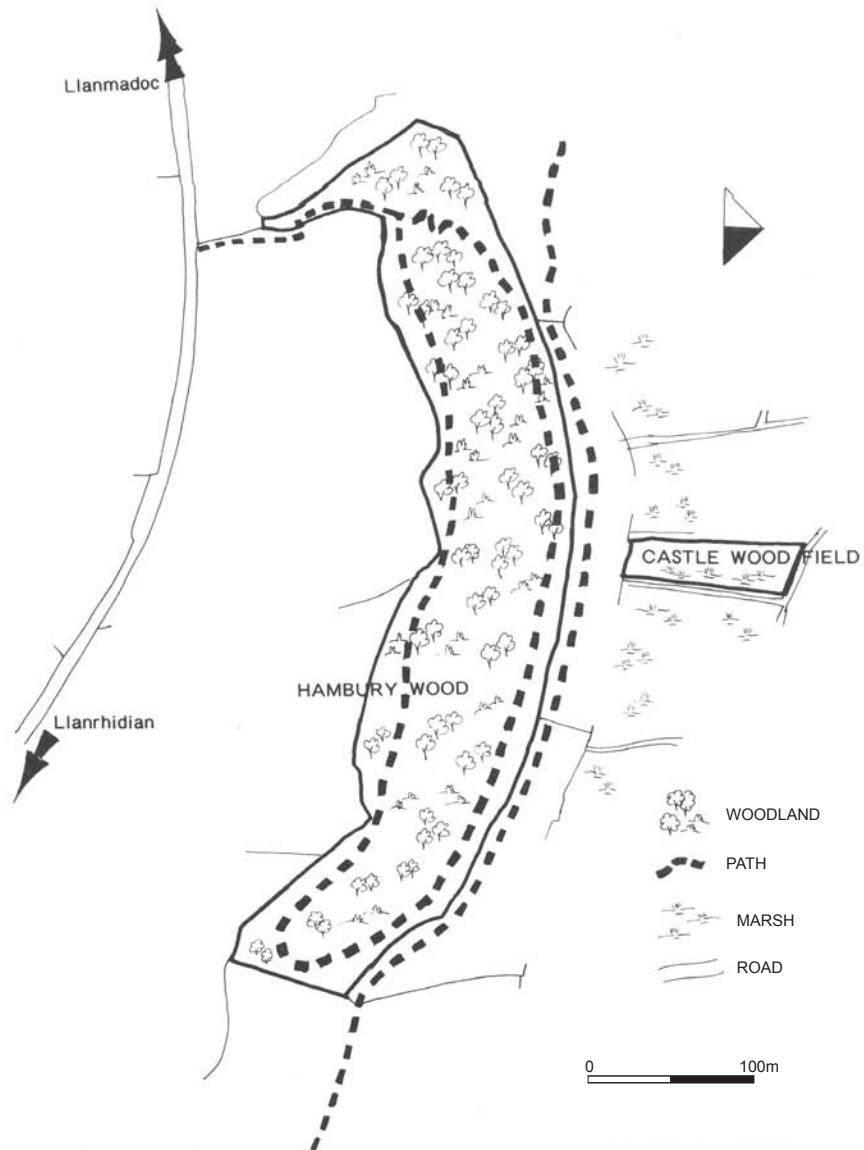
Landimore, Gower, Swansea

<b>Grid References</b>	O.S. Explorer map 164 Gower. Main entrance: SS469928, Site centre: SS472929
<b>Status</b>	
<b>Tenure</b>	The reserve was purchased in June 1977 through an appeal, and re-named by the Trust as a memorial to Col. Jo Hambury, the Glamorgan Trust's founding Chairman. The wood is still named "Castle Wood" on O.S. maps of 1:25000 and larger scale.
<b>Size</b>	4.79 ha (11.8 acres).
<b>Location and Access Notes</b>	Just west of Weobley Castle on the steep slope of the North Gower limestone escarpment 1.2 km east of Landimore and 1.2 km west of Llanrhidian. Access can be obtained from the unclassified Oldwalls to Llanmadoc road by way of a stile to the east of a stone wall on the north side of the road. A short walk down the field boundary gives access to the wood through a wicket gate on the western end of the reserve. Car parking on the side of the road close to the reserve is very limited.
<b>Public Transport</b>	Bus numbers 115, 116, 119 (Sundays) from Swansea Quadrant Bus Station to Llandimore.

**Description:** Ancient woodland on an ancient sea cliff.

Hambury Wood is dominated by Oak and Ash with an understorey of neglected Hazel coppice, which has become overgrown. This and past grazing by sheep has resulted in a sparse field layer. The tree canopy is augmented by some fine Field Maple, the occasional Sycamore, and a certain amount of dead and dying English Elm. The shrub layer is predominantly Hazel coppice interspersed with Hawthorn, Elder (6-7), and Holly. Other woodland plants that occur include Ivy, Honeysuckle (6-9), Bramble, Rose and Blackthorn. In spring, the field layer is carpeted with Wild Garlic (4-6) and Bluebells (4-6). There is an abundance of epiphytes with ferns, mosses and lichens all well represented.

Woodland birds such as Marsh Tit, Nuthatch, and Treecreeper have been recorded frequently, and good views of Buzzard can be obtained on almost every visit. A memorial seat at the centre of the northern boundary of the wood offers fine views of Whiteford Point, the North Gower saltmarsh, and Burry Estuary. Little Egret are often seen picking over the marsh, and the views of wintering wildfowl coming in to roost at high tide are spectacular.



**Management Objectives:** To restore the Ash woodland by allowing the natural regeneration of native trees, continuing coppicing, and preventing grazing by maintaining the boundary fencing.

**Good times to visit**

Mar - Jun	Woodland flowers
Apr - Jul	Breeding birds
Sept - Nov	Fungi
Sept - Nov	Roosting wildfowl at high tide on the saltmarsh