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BETTER
WOODLANDS
FOR WALES

TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 12 – December 2007

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Editors note

The past few weeks have been the busiest yet for BWW with around 40 plans approved since the October Newsletter, bringing the total approved by FCW up to 128. More plans are waiting to be approved and by Christmas I expect we will have exceeded 150 plans. The plans already approved equate to around 3,000 hectares. The average size of approved plans is half that of the overall average in the system, and so I hope that in the next few months we will start to see some larger plans being approved and the hectarage increasing accordingly.

The quality of recently submitted plans has been excellent with many planners consistently producing high quality plans - the prizes this month award two management planners for the same prize for exactly that reason!

I've been asked to remind everyone about the 'base year' issue. The base year is the financial year in which the management plan grant will be claimed. With only a few months of this financial year left planners need to think carefully about which base year they use. If you are in any doubt about getting a plan approved and claiming the management plan grant this financial year (runs until 31st March 2008), then you are advised to put the next financial year down as the base year. Please seek advice from Woodland Officers if you are unsure about this issue.

Finally, I'd like to thank all planners and specialists for the work they have put in this year, and also to thank my own team for their efforts. I wish you all a happy Christmas and look forward to working with you in the New Year.

BWW WEFO spend

Do We Owe You Any Money?

A plea from Chris Botting, BWW Objective 1 Project Manager, would all Management Planners kindly submit as soon as possible any outstanding Consolidation Fee claims (Types 2, 3 & 4) and encourage any holders of approved contracts who have not yet submitted their Plan Preparation Grant claim to do so?

To help you identify such outstanding claims please contact the BWW Technical Services team **with known approved** case references **for a quick status check**.

**Bede Howell –
best first plan
for Coed
Caeau-
Gwynedd**



**Mike Richards –
best first plan
for Tan y bryn**

**Julian Miller –
best
large/complex
plan for
Glasfryn**

Chris Botting said "With only 3 European claims to go there are large sums of, as yet, unclaimed eligible BWW Grant monies, of which 39% of it can be reclaimed from our Welsh Assembly Government colleagues on receipt of evidence of FC Wales payment. Outstanding monies forecasted for receipt between now and 31st December 2007 is £162,000. For the period 1st January 2008 to 31st March 2008 this reduces to £57,000 and for the final claim for the period up until 30th June 2008 is £37,000. Without the help of Management Planners the Objective 1 project will not be able to meet these targets and will undoubtedly have to hand monies back".

The BWW Technical Services team can be contacted via e-mail using bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone on 0845 604 0845.

Feedback from the Technical Group

Issue	Status
Uploading compartment data	FCW will not be able to provide a facility for uploading existing compartment data electronically despite requests from planners. The cost of providing this facility was not considered justified at this stage.
Postcode facility	There is an intermittent problem on the postcode facility provided in G&L Online. Planners are advised to input the postcode manually to avoid problems.
Operations in G&L Online	Some operations derived from the WIG Calculator do not appear in G&L Online. For full details see article below.
Mapping errors	Planners should report errors with maps produced by Technical Services to Carol Jones so that these can be monitored. Routine additions and updates should be dealt with through the Technical Services Officer dealing with the case.
Two character sub-compartment number	FCW cannot alter G&L Online to allow for two character sub-compartment references. This is unfortunate but the cost would be too great.
Signing Contracts	Planners must remind applicants that if they are signing on-line, once they have accepted the terms of the contract they will be asked for their payee details. If they do not have these available there is no option to back out of the approval process and come back later with the details. If the applicant gets to this stage and doesn't enter their payee details, then they will need to post them to Carol Jones for her to upload to the system on their behalf. Effectively the applicant only gets one chance at approval. The system has been set up this way for security reasons. Please make the applicant aware of this and ask them to have their payee details ready to enter into the system.

Operations in G&L Online

There has been some confusion over the grant names within GLOS and the WIG cost calculator (WCC).

This can be explained simply; the GLOS operations are about what will be achieved by the operation i.e. the Outcome, whilst the WCC looks very specifically at what is being done.

So an operation in GLOS for removal of scrub from a burial mound Grant type WIG silvi-environmental > environmental standards > archaeological operations would appear as figure 1:

The screenshot shows the 'Operation Details' form in GLOS. The 'Operation Ref' is 'dd clear arch site' and the 'Operation Area (Ha)' is empty. The 'Feature' is 'dd', 'Grant Type' is 'WIG Silvi Environmental', and 'Situation' is 'Other woods'. The 'Operation Group' is 'Environmental standards operations' and the 'Operation' is 'Archaeological operations'. The description is 'Clear all woody scrub from tumuli mounds as per WHE 2'. Other details include 'Operation category: clear arch site', 'Vegetation type: Woody', 'Terrain: Flat', and 'Vegetation size: >7cm dia'.

Figure 1

This is seen in the WIG Cost calculator however as Vegetation > woody weeds (figure 2):

1 Vegetation - enter details of vegetation control operations here								
2	Operation ref. (max 20 characters)	Vegetation type	Terrain	Vegetation size	Treatment 1	Treatment 2	Herbicide cost band	Unit type
4	clear arch site	Woody	Flat	>7cm dia	Chainsaw	N/A	1	#N/A
5								#N/A

Figure 2

Another example, opening a canopy view from a footpath using high pruning would be seen in GLOS as Grant type; WIG Social > access > informal recreation facilities as figure 3:

The screenshot shows the 'Operation Details' form in GLOS. The 'Operation Ref' is 'dd allow view out' and the 'Operation Area (Ha)' is empty. The 'Feature' is 'dd', 'Grant Type' is 'WIG Social', and 'Situation' is 'High permissive access or CROW dedicated'. The 'Operation Group' is 'Access' and the 'Operation' is 'informal recreation facilities'. The description is 'Pruning to allow views through to prescelli hills and the National park'. Other details include 'Operation category: Forest management', 'Operation ref: dd allow view out', 'Category: Tree improvement', 'Terrain: Flat', and 'Operation type: Pruning'.

Figure 3

but in WCC (figure 4) it is in Forest management > tree improvement > pruning.

1 Forest management - enter details of operations here							
2	Operation ref. (max 20 characters)	Category	Terrain	Operation type	Variable 1	Variable 2	Unit type
4	ddnat regen ops	Ground prep	Flat	Scarification	Area <1 ha	N/A	ctare
5	dd allow view out	Tree improvement	Flat	Pruning	Pruning height band 3	N/A	Trees
6							#N/A
7							#N/A

Another examples would be GLOS operation > Natural regeneration operations WCC; Forest mgt > Ground prep > scarification

Or bracken spraying in the same GLOS operation would be WCC vegetation > bracken spraying



Julian Miller – best overall standard across a range of plans





Customer Reference Numbers (CRN's)

Once the Woodland Officer is happy with the plan and submits it to the Operations Manager for approval, it should be approved within 1 week. However, plans without a CRN cannot be approved and this is causing delays. Woodland Officers have been asked not to submit a plan for approval unless they have a CRN. Planners should request a CRN from the owner at the beginning of the planning process and let the Woodland Officer have this when they submit the plan for approval. This will avoid delays.

Value Adding specialist assessments

FCW are now accepting applications for the long awaited role of Value Adding specialist assessor. We are seeking people who are able to give practical advice to woodland owners on the opportunities for developing woodland-based businesses. The assessment should be seen as the first step in a wider process. It is intended to identify ideas with good potential and give applicants the confidence to take these forward. However, applicants may need to look outside BWW to complete the process and achieve everything they want. For example further business advice and a detailed business plan can be accessed through Farming Connect 2. The Assembly's Processing and Market Grant scheme can provide grant-aid for harvesting and processing equipment.

The BWW assessment is in two parts:

Part 1 – to be completed by the management planner at the foundation plan stage. This is a preliminary checklist to assess whether or not it is worth undertaking a full assessment. The document should be submitted with the foundation plan and the Woodland Officer and planner will use it to discuss the need for an assessment.

Part 2 – to be completed by the specialist assessor during the management plan stage. This is a more detailed look at the potential for a woodland-based business in terms of resource, equipment, skills and markets. It also identifies the likely funding required for the business and suggests where grant-aid might be available.

BWW Newsgroup

A newsgroup has been established to provide planners with a forum to share information/tips, etc. The forum address is <http://bww.freeforums.org> and you can log on using your own email address. As a protective measure the site will be carefully monitored and all users will have to complete an initial registration with the forum and will need to be approved by the moderator before being given access. We would ask that anyone wishing to register uses the email address which appears on the published list of management planners so that we can cross reference against this to make sure only planners are allowed on.

Field assessments

All individuals requiring field assessments were contacted at the beginning of November and asked to confirm that they wished to continue with the application process. All responses need to be returned to Sam Davies in the BWW operations Support Office at Abergavenny, to be received no later than 31st December 2007. Those individuals who wish to remain on the list, whose responses are received before this date, will be contacted in the New Year with details of the next field assessment dates, due to be held in May. These individuals will be given a two-year period from 31st December 2007

Management Plans

Planner	Plans Approved
Evelyn Over	14
Julian Miller	14
Graham Heath	10
Carl Bridges	8
Richard Godefroy	7
Simon Ayres	7
Hugh Wheeldon	6
John Jeremy	6
Alison Ginn	5
Alison Wheeler	5
Chris Radford	5
John Ferguson	5
Neil Scott	4
Richard Curtis	4
Joe Fielding	3
Mat Ridley	3
Andrew Bronwin	2
Arthur Wiggins	2
Iain Peddie	2
John Lees	2
Phil Webb	2
Rob Marsh	2
Bede Howell	1
Gareth Henson	1
Martin Jones	1
Mike Hughes	1
Mike Richards	1
Peter Jackson	1
Phil Davies	1
Phil Morgan	1
Sonia Jones	1
Vaughan Lewis	1
Total	128

to attend the assessment before they will need to resubmit their full application. Anyone who fails to reply will be automatically removed from the list and will have to resubmit their application should they change their mind in the future.

GLOS Update

The latest version of the G&L Online Service was released on Thursday 29th November. Primarily this was to rectify issue on the Management Plan Report, Management Plan Brief Report and the Contract. These issues include text cut off in the Desired Characteristics and Factors, displaying correct location details for features and ensure that the Operational Details are shown in the correct format. There were other minor issues with the reports too numerous to mention. Also included was an increase in fly tipping and Additional Public Liability rates from 0% to the appropriate rate depending on situation.

BWW administration

A quick note for all individuals sending maps to the BWW Technical Service Team at Clawdd Newydd: in order to ensure the team know they have received all the relevant paper maps for your BWW case, please number the sheets, "sheet 1 of 3", "sheet 2 of 3", etc. In addition to this, please ensure that you remember to insert the BWW case number into the appropriate box (at the bottom) of each sheet. Also, when requesting maps, please send details to the bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk email account.

Forthcoming training events

Course Title	Date	Location
GIS & Digital Map training	17 th December 2007	FC Office, Ruthin
GIS & Digital Map training	18 th December 2007	FC Office, Llandoverly
GIS & Digital Map training	22 nd January 2008	Council Chambers, Llanidloes
European Protected Species	16 th January 2008	Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells
European Protected Species	17 th January 2008	Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells
NB: The following sessions are for new intake/candidates who have not yet been formally approved in a specified role.		
Policy Day (for non-Management Planners)	3 rd March 2008	Council Chambers, Llanidloes
PAWS Assessors	4 th March 2008	Council Chambers, Llanidloes
CCF Assessors	10 th March 2008	Council Chambers, Llanidloes
Ecology Assessors	11 th March 2008	Council Chambers, Llanidloes
Management Planner Training (4 compulsory days)	17 th March 2008	The Conrah Hotel, Aberystwyth
	18 th March 2008	FC Office, Aberystwyth
	27 th March 2008	The Conrah Hotel, Aberystwyth
	28 th March 2008	FC Office, Aberystwyth





Current newsletter and back issues available on the Forestry Commission Wales web site www.forestry.gov.uk



New and revised Grants and Licences publications

- Level 1 – ‘Approach to’ documents explain the BWW framework.
- Level 2 – **Grant guides** explain what grants are available.
- Level 3 – ‘How to’ documents give guidance and instruction on how to do something
- Level 4 – **Business rules** give very specific detail on rules.
- Level 5 – **Templates and forms** are the actual documents that are used to physically do something e.g. prepare a specialist assessment.
- Level 6 – **Publicity material**.
- Level 7 – **Application Documents** for the role of Management Planner and Specialist Assessor
- Level 8 – **Miscellaneous**

Level	Name	Status
1	Approach to EIA and EPS	New
5	Value Adding template	New
8	WIG Cost Calculator – Version 2.2	Revised

New and revised publications from Forest Research

Code	Name
Information note (FCIN089)	Evaluating biodiversity in fragmented landscapes: the use of focal species
Technical note (FCTN017)	Cleaning mechanised pesticide spray equipment
ISBN: 9781845932947	Forestry and climate change

For more information, see Publications links at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/peopleandtrees

Contact details

- General BWW enquiries: Telephone 0845 604 0845 or log on to www.forestry.gov.uk
- Technical queries: Email bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- G&L Online Service: Link www.eforestry.gov.uk
- WIG Cost Calculator queries: Email wig.costings@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- Suggestions for future issues: Email Sam.davies@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- BWW Owners Newsletter: Link <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-6tsj8s>

Issue dates:

BWW Technical Newsletter	BWW Owners Newsletter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issue 12 – 29 February 2008 ▪ Issue 13 – 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issue 2 – December 2007 ▪ Issue 3 – July 2008

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