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WOODLANDS  
FOR WALES

## TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 13 – April 2008

### Contents:

- Editors note
- Staff
- Changes to G&L Online
- Operational detail
- Amendments
- Specialist assessments
- RFS woodland visits 2008 - Wales
- Improved Land Premium – Important information about the 2008 Single Application Form
- Core and Focal Rates
- Reclaiming our Forgotten Inheritance (RoFI)
- GLOS downtime
- Contact details
- Issue dates



### Editors note

The end of financial year period was very busy with a rush on grant claims. All claims made were paid and we spent around £3.2 million in grants. Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) are very grateful to the industry for responding quickly to a request to either claim grants or amend the claim year. This allowed us to manage the grant budget and pay all claims that were made. The knock on effect is that we didn't have to roll grant payments over into this year's budget.

At the close of play on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 215 schemes had been approved totalling around 6,500 hectares.

Looking ahead to this year, we now have over 800 cases in the system with around 250 at the management plan stage.

### Staff

For a period of 6-months, starting in April, **Simon Mead** will be providing support to Andy Wright on Grants and Licences (G&L) Online issues. Andy Wright is Country Analyst for Wales with responsibility for progressing G&L Online development work. Simon has been asked to provide additional support to ensure that Wales takes full advantage of development opportunities during what will be a very busy summer period, with major software releases planned for June and September. G&L Wales welcomes back **Neill Scott** who will be helping Simon with Better Woodland for Wales (BWW) casework during the next 6-months. Planners should continue to deal with Simon but may have their cases passed to Neill to ensure quick turnaround.

G&L said goodbye to **Jo-Anne Anstey** last month. Jo has taken a job as Local Area Manager with the FC Forest District. A new Woodland Officer (WO) has been recruited and will start on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. Now here's where it gets complicated, the new WO is called **Andy Wright!** So G&L Wales now has two staff members called Andy Wright. The new Andy Wright joins us from South-East England where he has been a Woodland Officer for the past few years. **Alison Evans**, currently Woodland Officer Support for North Wales, will soon be taking over the role of Communications Officer as **Sam Davies** moves across to FC England as Events Co-ordinator at Westonbirt Arboretum.

## Important changes to G&L Online across page



## Rules on amendments simplified: the changes and process detailed in this issue

**Greg Vickers** G&L Operations Manager is resigning from Forestry Commission Wales to pursue a career change and take up a post as Head Forester of an estate in the South of England.

Richard Siddons, Acting Head of Grants and Licences Wales, wishes to assure all BWW customers that FCW will put in place measures to ensure that BWW Management Plans will continue to be approved as they reach this stage of the process and will do as much as possible to maintain business as usual. Richard will be initiating the process of finding a replacement to fill the G&L Operations Managers post as soon as possible.

### Changes to G&L Online

Although the April release of new software mainly dealt with internal work, there were a couple of changes that will benefit planners:

- Planners will now be able to input data into the management plan at the foundation plan stage. This change was made at the request of Planners. It will hopefully provide more flexibility and allow Planners to input information such as sub-compartment and feature data at the foundation plan stage. The foundation plan must still be approved prior to management plan approval.
- Part of a paging solution was delivered. This now allows planners to list up to 100 lines per page (e.g. in the sub-compartment or operations screens). The final part of the solution will be delivered in June. This will 'fix' the line setting to ensure it doesn't revert to the standard setting of 10 lines per page when planner moves away from the page.

### Operational detail

Planners may notice that Woodland Officers begin asking for clearer operational descriptions in the Operations section of the management plan. Some descriptions have not been clear and this leads to difficulties when operations are inspected. FCW will produce a standard set of operational descriptions which Planners can make use of.

### Amendments

The rules on amendments have been simplified:

- A Management Planner must do amendments requiring a change to the text in the management plan or those that require consultation. FCW will not fund this work.
- Any other amendment will be handled by FCW and the applicant or their agent (with correct permissions) can request an amendment at anytime except during March.
- Amendments will not be accepted during March. This is to allow FCW to manage budgets effectively.

The process:

- The case Woodland Officer will deal with amendments.
- The applicant or their agent can request an amendment by post or e-mail using the amendment form.



**Royal Forestry Society visits planned across Wales, throughout the year – see across page for more information**



## Special assessments

Some minor changes have been made to simplify the rules and process for special assessments.

PAWS:

- The minimum area above which a full PAWS assessment is required is now 10 hectares. Previously a PAWS assessment was required for all areas above 3 hectares.
- The minimum requirement for PAWS below 10 hectares is a map identifying the ancient woodland features and a PAWS feature in the management plan. FCW will not pay for the minimum requirement but Planners can request a full assessment on areas below 10 hectares and this will be paid for.

Ecological:

- The 10-hectare threshold for ecological assessments has been removed. Planners and Woodland Officers should take a risk-based approach and agree whether an assessment is needed, regardless of the woodland size.

## Royal Forestry Society woodland visits 2008 - Wales

### ▪ NORTH WALES

Contact: Trefor Thompson – Tel.: 01824 704230;  
Email: [plascanol@aol.com](mailto:plascanol@aol.com)

- 29 May - *Garnedd Pen Y Bont, Betws y Coed - Weiss Woodland Settlement*
- 10 July - *AGM - Clocaenog Forest, Ruthin - FCW*
- 02 Oct - *Craflwyn & Hafod y Llan, Beddgelert – National Trust*
- 11 Oct - *Leighton Redwoods & Naylor Pinetum, Welshpool – Royal Forestry Society*
- 15 Nov - (pm) *Lecture "Welsh Woods & Forests, Past, Present and Future" Llysfasi College, Ruthin*

### ▪ SOUTH EAST WALES

Contact: Tudor Morgan – Tel.: 01291 690 305;  
Email: [kingcoed@nildram.co.uk](mailto:kingcoed@nildram.co.uk)

- 09 May - (am) *Arcadia Wood, Abergavenny - A Michie & C Love*  
(pm) *Y Graig, Abergavenny, FC Wales*
- 11 July - (am) *BSW Sawmills, Newbridge on Wye - BSW Sawmills*  
(pm) *Llysdinam Estate, Newbridge on Wye - Sir J Venables-Llewellyn*
- 03 Oct - (am) *AGM Llangibby Estate, Usk - D Addams-Williams*  
(pm) *Pathfinder Renewables, Graigwith Farm, Llangibby – M Read*

### ▪ SOUTH WEST

Contact: Richard Griffith – Tel.: 01558 824138;  
Email: [richard.griffith@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:richard.griffith@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

- 09 May - *Picton Castle Estate, Haverfordwest - Mrs Phillips*
- 31 July - (pm) *Woodhouse Wood, St Clears - A Barlow*
- 11 Sept - *Bachsylw Login, Llanboidy - G Dickman*

## Management Plans

Planner	Plans Approved
Julian Miller	22
Evelyn Over	20
Carl Bridges	18
Graham Heath	14
Hugh Wheeldon	10
John Ferguson	10
John Jeremy	10
Richard Curtis	10
Dick Godefroy	9
Simon Ayres	8
Alison Wheeler	7
Chris Radford	6
Iain Peddie	6
Mat Ridley	6
Simon Graham	6
Alison Ginn	5
Neill Scott	5
Vaughan Lewis	5
Andrew Bronwin	4
Phil Webb	4
Arthur Wiggins	3
Gareth Henson	3
Joe Fielding	3
John Lees	3
Phil Davies	3
Rob Marsh	3
Simon Hunt	3
Mike Richards	3
Iwan Parry	2
Mark Potter	2
Mike Langley	2
Nigel Petts	2
Phil Morgan	2
Sonia Jones	2
Bede Howell	1
Dara Mullin	1
Huw Denman	1
Martin Jones	1
Mike Hughes	1
Peter Jackson	1
Ritchie Tassell	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>228</b>

## Improved Land Premium – Important information about the 2008 Single Application Form

The 2008 Single Application Forms (SAF's) must be used to claim your Improved Land Premium (ILP). These have now been issued to all customers who submitted a SAF in 2007. As ILP is a new payment with the first claims due this year it is very likely that a SAF will not have been sent automatically to many BWW customers. So if you intend to claim ILP for your new planting and you have not received a SAF then you should contact the nearest Divisional Office without delay.

More details can be found in an article in the April 2008 issue of Gwlad, which if you do not have access to a copy is available on the Welsh Assembly Government Website.

### Core and focal rates

Due to the requirements of the Rural Development Plan (RDP), FCW have had to reduce the grants given for the core and focal rates **for Native Woodland** new planting. The rates have changed from £500/Ha for each supplement to £475/Ha.

### Reclaiming our Forgotten Inheritance (ROFI)

It has been encouraging to see about 35 new cases being approved over the past few months, which qualify for ROFI funding. It is also pleasing to see that a number of claims have been submitted and paid for completed ROFI operations. This means that the project is still on course to being a success, with the effort made to date in getting these plans approved and worked being much appreciated.

This is also an opportunity to give a few timely reminders as follows:

- All claims to be submitted before the end of May 2008 at the latest, but preferably earlier.
- If any approved work proposals aren't likely to be done, could you please inform Iwan Parry ([iwan.parry@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:iwan.parry@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)) immediately via e-mail.
- If claims aren't submitted and received before the end of May 2008, it is likely that they will not be eligible for the 90% contribution.
- Remember that the option still exists for agents to claim £50/ha Incentive payment when all ROFI work on a case has been completed. This can be up to a £1000 depending on the area of PAWS that has benefited from the operations. Agents will need to submit an invoice to claim this payment. All WGS related invoices to be sent to Abergavenny and all BWW related invoices to be submitted to Clawdd Newydd.

As you can gather from the above information, the next few weeks are extremely important from a ROFI perspective, and it is hoped that all approved work proposals can be completed and claimed within the required timescale.

### GLOS Downtime

There have been 13 instances of unplanned downtime since Christmas. Two of these instances occurred during April. Most instances were resolved in less than 2 hours.



**Current  
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Wales web site  
[www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)**



## Contact details

- General BWW enquiries: Telephone 0845 604 0845 or log on to [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)
- Technical queries: Email [bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)
- G&L Online Service: Link [www.eforestry.gov.uk](http://www.eforestry.gov.uk)
- WIG Cost Calculator queries: Email [wig.costings@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wig.costings@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)
- Suggestions for future issues: Email [alison.evans@forestry.gov.uk](mailto:alison.evans@forestry.gov.uk)
- BWW Owners Newsletter: Link <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-6tsj8s>
- ROFI information: Email: [lwan.parry@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:lwan.parry@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

## Issue dates:

### BWW Technical Newsletter

- Issue 14 – 27 June 2008
- Issue 15 – 29 August 2008

Current issue and back issues available on the Forestry Commission Wales web site [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)



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