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WOODLANDS
FOR WALES

TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 12 – February 2008

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Editors note

It has been another good few weeks for Better Woodlands for Wales (BWW) with the number of cases approved by Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) now exceeding 170 – this equates to over 5,500ha. There are some concerns about under-utilisation of BWW budgets this year but we are doing everything to minimise this. On this note planners, agents and owners can help by ensuring claims are submitted on time. FCW will accept amendments to bring claim years forward, so if you played safe and put an 08/09 claim year down but have done the work, please come and seek an amendment to claim the money immediately. There are also a number of management plan preparation grants that have not yet been claimed despite the plan being approved for some time.

The Technical Group met at the end of January and had a very productive session looking at improvements to G&L Online. These are now in the process of being planned into this years delivery, with some changes planned for delivery in March. The changes will speed up the time taken to input data and make the system more user friendly but will not change the core principles or the management planning process. May I also take this opportunity to remind planners about the planner discussion area which the Technical Group has set up. To view the area go to <http://bww.freeforums.org>.

There has been excellent take-up of the Geographic Information System (GIS) consolidation fees and 38 planners are now registered as GIS users.

Public access features

Management planners should note that a public access feature is required for all cases where the applicant is seeking grant-aid towards the cost of providing public access. The feature will allow Woodland Officers to assess the 'vision' and clearly see what the applicant is trying to achieve, and judge whether this offers value for money. The desired characteristics will provide items that can be measured to assess whether or not the applicant is providing what was agreed. Desired characteristics should be readily measurable items.

**Best large
complex plan
- Phil Davies
for Erddig**



**Best overall
standard
across a
range of plans
– Richard
Curtis**

Grants and Licences Online System (GLOS) update

The latest version of GLOS was released on 28th February. The main areas of change are detailed below:

- Copying operations - fault fixed.
- Changes to the remittance advice for grant payments.
- Changes to allow agents to be added to cases following approval.
- Grid reference format corrected in case summary.
- The ability for FC staff to delete certain attachments, particularly those uploaded in error.
- Fix to stop stakeholders being merged to view case details.
- New Public Access statement - the Public Access statement has been removed from the word template and is now mandatory in the Stakeholder screen.

There has been a lot of work behind the screens as part of the Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) ongoing commitments to the National Assembly for Wales, with particular regards to the EU funding.

Of particular interest to planners and owners will be the work on cross-checking. There is a requirement that all grants given under the Rural Development Plan (RDP) need to be checked to ensure that there are no conflicting operations or double funding. We are working on an automated cross-checking system that is due for release next month with the final version released in June.

There is a lot of work going on to improve the stability of the system, the first phase of which will be completed in time for the June release, as well as other general improvements for planners and agents/owners.

The terms and conditions for Improved Land Premium (ILP) should be agreed by early March. They will be attached to the current Terms and Conditions for June 08 and retrospectively applied to all cases where ILP was requested.

Woods for Wales Competition Launch

Woodland owners in Wales are being invited to compete for up to £1500 in prize money in a new competition run by the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society and Forestry Commission Wales.

The 'Woods for Wales' competition will seek out projects which demonstrate examples of sustainable diversification and the provision of added value in three separate categories of woodland developments and management covering recreational, commercial and social activities. It is open to private woodland owners and farmers. More information, and an online entry form, is available on the RWAS and Forestry Commission Wales websites: www.rwas.co.uk and www.forestry.gov.uk respectively.

The closing date for entries is March 28 and an overall winner will be announced at the Royal Welsh Show in July.



Best first plan - Huw Denman for Pantmaenog



Ecotype Newsletter

A new issue of Ecotype, the Biodiversity and Conservation Newsletter for the Ecology Division of Forest Research, is out now. Issue 40 covers an interesting cross-section of current research work within the Division such as habitat networks for guiding integrated land-use, two new landscape ecology projects, the fate of lower plants in Atlantic oakwood restoration, the pan-European BioSoil project, genetic conservation thoughts on adaptive variation in pine, the Scottish crossbill census and lots of other news.

This issue of Ecotype can be downloaded from the Forest Research website at:

[http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/pdf/Ecotype40.pdf/\\$FILE/Ecotype40.pdf](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/pdf/Ecotype40.pdf/$FILE/Ecotype40.pdf)

The next issue of Ecotype will automatically be sent to BWW PAWS assessors and BWW Ecologists. Anyone else wishing to be added to the mailing list please contact Sam Davies (contact details towards the end of the Newsletter).

Forthcoming training events

The following sessions are for new intake/candidates who have not yet been formally approved in a specified role. You will have been contacted regarding your attendance, separate to this newsletter.

There will be another opportunity to attend any of these courses in October 2008.

Course Title	Date	Location
CCF Assessors	10 th March 2008 CANCELLED	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

Please confirm your attendance to any of the above sessions with Samantha Davies as soon as possible.

Management Plans

Planner	Plans Approved
Julian Miller	18
Evelyn	15
Graham Heath	13
Carl Bridges	12
John Jeremy	10
Hugh Wheeldon	9
Richard Curtis	9
Dick Godefroy	8
John Ferguson	7
Simon Ayres	7
Alison Wheeler	6
Iain Peddie	6
Simon Graham	6
Alison Ginn	5
Chris Radford	5
Neill Scott	5
Mat Ridley	4
Andrew Bronwin	3
Joe Fielding	3
Arthur Wiggins	2
John Lees	2
Mike Richards	2
Phil Davies	2
Phil Morgan	2
Phil Webb	2
Rob Marsh	2
Bede Howell	1
Dara Mullin	1
Gareth Henson	1
Huw Denman	1
Mark Potter	1
Martin Jones	1
Mike Hughes	1
Peter Jackson	1
Ritchie Tassell	1
Simon Hunt	1
Sonia Jones	1
Vaughan Lewis	1
	177

Customer Reference Numbers (CRN's)

Each Divisional Office is now responsible for processing CRN applications which fall within its own geographical area.

- **Carmarthen Divisional Office** is responsible for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire;
- **Caernarfon Divisional Office** has responsibility for Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd and Wrexham;
- **Llandrindod Wells Divisional Office** caters for Glamorgan, Gwent and Powys.

There have been backlogs in some areas but each Divisional Office is aware of the importance of dealing with CRN applications urgently.

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
- 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	AT01 Approach to Archaeology and the Historic Environment	Revised
5	SA09 Specialist assessment - stakeholder report & example	Revised
5	FM02 Amendment form	New
8	FM05a EPS Licence form	New

New and revised publications from Forest Research

Code	Name
Information note (FCIN090)	Forests and wood ants in Scotland
Information note (FCIN091)	Greenspace establishment on brownfield land: the site selection and investigation process
Research note (FCRN101)	Impacts of climate change on forestry in Scotland – a synopsis of spatial modelling research

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



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



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/infd-6tsj8s>

Issue dates:

BWW Technical Newsletter

- Issue 12 – 29 February 2008
- Issue 13 – 25 April 2008

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



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