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BETTER
WOODLANDS
FOR WALES

TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 10 – October 2007

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Editors note

Once again good progress has been made with BWW this month with over 80 plans approved covering around 2,000 hectares. Work has already started to resolve the instability issues and we hope that this will be complete by Christmas. There's some good news for Specialists with the introduction of some consolidation fees and an opportunity for planners to benefit from financial incentives aimed at increasing the number of planners using GIS and digital maps. The much awaited new planting screens have also now been released and a new 'Approach to New Planting' document is available in draft form and will be on the web very soon.

Specialist consolidation fees

With the closure of the Type 1 Consolidation Fees and the introduction of Top-up Fees for Planners, FCW has been considering consolidation of Specialists. FCW is really keen to keep Specialists on board with BWW and recognise their importance to the scheme, and the work they have put in attending training and becoming familiar with the assessments. We've therefore decided to offer Specialist Consolidation Fees.

Additionally, the Technical Group has considered the Ecologists role and determined that it would be appropriate to offer this group some additional fees. This is because Ecologists are the largest group of Specialists who have been missed by previous consolidation fees - most Ecologists are not approved Planners and have therefore not been eligible for Planner Consolidation Fees. Also, an extra burden has been placed on Ecologists this year with the introduction of new EPS legislation and there is a requirement for all Ecologists to attend an additional days training. Details will be sent out shortly.

Important! Planners and Specialist must initiate claims for any type of consolidation fee and FCW will not chase Planners or Specialists. The deadline for claiming all types of consolidation fee is the 31st May 2008 and no claims will be accepted after this date regardless of when a plan or assessment was completed. All invoices should be sent to the Clawdd Newydd office.

**Sonia Jones –
Best first plan
for Troserch
Woodlands**



**Graham Heath –
Best
large/complex
plan for
Glynsaer**

**Julian Miller–
Best overall
standard across
a range of plans**

BWW stability issues

It's unfortunate that BWW's first year has been hampered by G&L Online stability issues. FCW is very sorry for these problems and we know that they have caused much frustration. We have been working hard to ensure the issues are resolved and have now agreed an action plan with the Silvan House team responsible for the system. The action starts immediately and involves a methodical run through all elements of the system to identify faults. There will also be hardware upgrades. The bulk of the work should be complete by Christmas.

GIS and digital map consolidation

FCW has been considering the use of digital maps by planners as part of BWW and have concluded that there are potential savings to FCW and Planners relating to their use.

In view of this FCW has decided to introduce GIS Consolidation Fees to encourage Planners to move to the use of digital maps. The available money can be claimed at a reimbursement rate of **£750 per plan for the first two plans** submitted and approved where digital maps have been used and the correct standards met. **All subsequent plans** submitted using digital maps of the correct standard would be paid at a **flat rate of £250 per plan**. There is no upper limit to the amount of money that can be claimed but the GIS Consolidation Fees will end on the 31st May 2008 and FCW has no plans to pay enhanced rates for digital maps after 31st May 2008.

All Planners should have received a document explaining the GIS Consolidation Fees. This can also be found at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-6tsj8s>.

GLOS release update

The 11th October saw the latest drop into GLOS. This comprised of the new planting function, Building Society Roll Number, Landlords Consent and changes to the contract report, as well as numerous internal functions for FC case management.

The New Planting operations can now be accessed through the Management Plan and an "Approach to" document will be released soon. Applicants who use a building society not a bank can now add their roll number - previously the system would not accept building society numbers. The system no longer asks for Landlords consent when the applicant is a lessee, but will continue to do so for tenants. There have been some minor changes to the contract report mostly cosmetic.

There have been a large number of drops over the past few months and this has caused a lot of down time which, in turn, affects both FC staff and planners accessing the system. We have tried to reduce the frequency of these drops. This will ensure that drops are fully tested before release, resulting in less overall downtime. But this will mean that it takes longer for minor fixes to be corrected. Please be patient when you notice faults that do not appear to be corrected. If you do find a fault with the system please report them to the North Wales Area Office www.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk. If you find issues regarding the process, but not actually faults, please report to your representative of the technical group for discussion at the next meeting.



New version of the WIG Calculator now available on the FCW website at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6LCJM4>



WIG Calculator

The new version of the WIG Calculator was launched on the 1st October as planned. This version must be used for all plans at any stage prior to Foundation Plan approval at 1st October 2007. Any plans past this stage at 1st October 2007 must use the previous version of the Calculator. Please seek advice from Woodland Officers if you are unsure which version to use.

The main changes to the calculator are updated harvesting costs, reflecting the rise in timber prices, and new social costs.

Management Planner and Specialist Assessor application forms

FCW have made some changes to the application forms for Management Planner and Specialist Assessors to streamline the application process to help new applicants.

We no longer have a need for the expression of interest form and as such, this has been removed and any essential information has been incorporated into a single, general application form. The guidance provided to the applicant to help them complete the evidence requirements has been changed and we have provided an example. Lastly the forms have been renumbered.

There is no change in the evidence required, so no-one should be worried that we are making it easier or harder to become a Management Planner or a Specialist Assessor. These changes are just about the application forms.

These revised application documents have been published on the Forestry Commission Wales website and are now available for use at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6YMLSQ>.

WGS administration

Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) administration for all schemes across Wales will now be dealt with centrally by Liz Hopkins in the Operations Support Team in Abergavenny. You can contact Liz on 0845 604 0845 or email liz.hopkins@forestry.gsi.gov.uk if you have any queries.

Customer details

As you are all aware it is now a requirement to register for a Customer Registration Number (CRN) as part of the BWW application process. This means that there is duplication of information in a number of areas, which results in a greater administrative burden for you and an increased chance of having different information in the two systems. In addition, our Paying Agency has informed us that all payments must be made to the beneficiary, i.e. the owner or tenant of the land (excluding the various consolidation payments).

Our aim is to reduce the administrative burden as much as possible and ensure that the details are the same in both systems. To do this we plan to import some of the customer data captured as part of the CRN registration process into BWW.

Until we have this process set up, can you please ensure that when completing the registration form for a CRN the details are the same as you have entered into BWW. In particular the BACS details need to be the same, as do those of the customer.



Management Plans

Planner	Plans Approved
Evelyn Over	11
Graham Heath	9
Julian Miller	7
John Jeremy	6
Alison Ginn	5
Carl Bridges	6
Richard Godefroy	5
Hugh Wheeldon	5
Simon Ayres	4
Alison Wheeler	4
John Ferguson	4
Neil Scott	4
Chris Radford	3
Joe Fielding	3
Mat Ridley	3
Arthur Wiggins	2
Iain Peddie	2
John Lees	2
Richard Curtis	2
Rob Marsh	2
Martin Jones	1
Phil Davies	1
Phil Webb	1
Sonia Jones	1
Total	93



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	Name	Status
5	Value Adding Report Template	New
6	Management Planner Application forms & Guidance documents (A1 – A7)	Revised
5	SA08 PAWS Guidance & template	Revised
6	Approved Management Planners list	Revised
6	G&L Structure Chart	Revised
6	BWW status diagram	New
6	WIG Cost Calculator	Revised
6	Selection Panel Details	New

New and revised publications from Forest Research

Code	Name
Information Note (FCIN086)	The role of forest genetic resources in helping British forests respond to climate change
Information Note (FCIN087)	Resistance of young conifers to feeding damage by pine weevil
Information Note (FCIN088)	Ten years of intensive monitoring in British forests
Practice Guide (FCPG018)	Raising trees and shrubs from seed
Practice Note (FCPN4 Revised)	Controlling grey squirrel damage to woodlands
Operational Guidance Note (OGB1)	Tree safety management (revised)
Operational Guidance Note (OGB00)	Mandatory elements in OGB's (revised)

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/infd-6tsi8s>

Issue dates:

BWW Technical Newsletter	BWW Owners Newsletter
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Issue 11 – 14 December 2007▪ Issue 12 – 29 February 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Issue 2 – December 2007▪ Issue 3 – July 2008

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



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