

# Better woodlands for Wales

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## Closure of Better Woodlands for Wales



You will be aware that Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) has carried out a review into how woodland grants should be managed to ensure they deliver the Welsh Assembly Government's (WAG's) Woodlands for Wales strategy.

The Minister for Rural Affairs has announced that Better Woodlands for Wales (BWW), the woodland grant scheme delivered by FCW will close to new applicants on 17th November 2010. Woodland grants will be integrated into Glastir; the new Sustainable Land Management Scheme for Wales managed by the Department for Rural Affairs. If you would like to read more on this topic please see our web site:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-5z8jcr>

### What's next?

Glastir woodland creation grants will be launched this autumn and FCW will continue to deliver them until 1 Jan 2013, via Glastir, on behalf of the WAG. We will publish details of the new scheme on our web site:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-5z8jcr>

### Developing Glastir woodland management

Grants and Regulations staff, Kevin Taylor and Patrick Green, are working with WAG to develop the scheme design and method of delivering woodland management through Glastir. The Glastir woodland management options will seek to deliver the outcomes in Woodlands for Wales, WAG's woodland strategy that can be funded through Axis 2 of the Rural Development Plan.

Particular emphasis will be placed on management of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS), conversion to Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) and bringing considerably more farm woodlands into positive management. Options for restocking, using diverse species mixtures are also being considered.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-5z8jcr>

### Next issue January 2011

Current issue and back issues available on the FCW website:  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/wales](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/wales)



# Grant helps to reveal garden's hidden treasures



“As 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, eliminating ecologically inappropriate species and instigating management practices to encourage species diversity are surely the best contributions anyone can make.”

Treborth Botanic Garden, near Bangor is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2010. Now, during this special year, some of the garden's hidden treasures have been revealed thanks to a grant from FCW.

The garden, which occupies an enviable position overlooking the Menai Strait, is owned by Bangor University, which bought the 40 acres of woodland and pasture in 1960. Due to the variety of soil types and habitats that support native plants and animals, it offers a valuable teaching resource and is well used by university students and school groups.

FCW, together with the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), has helped to fund the restoration of the garden's ancient woodlands. The restoration work has included the removal of introduced shrub species such as rhododendron and cherry laurel to allow native plants, which are an important part of an ancient wood like the one at Treborth, to recolonize the area.

Following the removal of these non-native shrubs, fine pathways and a lime avenue can be seen once again and, thanks to clearance work around the waterfall in the eastern area of the wood, magnificent views across the Menai Strait have been opened up.

The area was first landscaped in the 1850s by Joseph Paxton, designer of the Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition in 1851. However the site was abandoned in the early 1850s. The pleasure grounds and the hotel were only partially finished and the land reverted to pasture and woodland.

Over the years, the pleasure grounds and woodlands had become overgrown with ornamental non-native shrubs planted by the Victorians and the remains of Paxton's design had become smothered while the magnificent views across the Menai Strait became hidden.

Curator of Treborth Botanic Garden Nigel Brown said, “I would like to thank Forestry Commission Wales and the Countryside Council for Wales for helping to improve

the woodlands at Treborth in such a significant way.

“As 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, eliminating ecologically inappropriate species and instigating management practices to encourage species diversity are surely the best contributions anyone can make.”

The historic woodlands are open daily to the public, free of charge. Guided tours are available on open days and special events are organised by the Friends of Treborth Botanic Garden who play a vital role in managing the 40-acre site.

For more information, see

[www.treborthbotanicgardens.org](http://www.treborthbotanicgardens.org).



# Phytophthora ramorum: support for owners

An outbreak of *Phytophthora ramorum* (*P. ramorum*) infection has been discovered for the first time in Wales on trees in privately owned woodlands.

Staff from FCW and Fera (the Food & Environment Research Agency) have visited the owners' woodlands in Denbighshire and in Neath Port Talbot and a notice has been served to fell the infected Japanese larch trees. In one case only a small number of trees are infected, and the owner will use the timber on site. In the other the owner had already entered a BWW scheme for felling.

*P. ramorum* is a fungus-like pathogen that kills many of the broadleaf trees that it infects. It also infects larch and to date has killed all the larch it has infected.

Richard Siddons, Head of Grants and Regulations said, "Forestry Commission Wales is determined to minimise the impact of this serious tree disease on woodlands, and the support of woodland owners in looking out for early signs of *P. ramorum* infection will play a key part in achieving that."

FCW has developed a programme of support for private woodland owners who have infected Japanese larch confirmed on their land.

Funding will pay for the clearance of infected immature Japanese larch on both public and privately owned land. The cost of support services provided by an agent to private woodland owners will also be covered.

These funds will be restricted to a finite budget and period and are provided only as a short term and emergency measure.

Further information about *P. ramorum* can be found on FCW's website at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-85TDX6>

If you suspect a *P. ramorum* infection is in your woodland, please contact FCW's Grants & Regulations Office on **0300 068 0300** or email: [bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk).



## Planting and restocking with larch species

If you have an approved BWW scheme we strongly encourage you to change the species where larch is scheduled for planting. In order to allow both forest managers and nurseries the opportunity to adjust to this change, FCW will continue to fund larch planting in approved contracts up to and including the 12/13 planting season. However, contract holders must bear the risk that if the crop fails due to *Phytophthora* FCW will reclaim the grant if the failed trees are not replaced. Beyond 12/13, FCW will no longer fund planting of larch.

Advice on species choice can be found at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infid-868egu>

With immediate effect, FCW will not approve or fund any larch planting on unapproved BWW plans or Glastir Woodland Creation contracts once the scheme has been launched.



# Managing Native Broadleaved Woodlands – new publication

Forest Research scientists Ralph Harmer, Gary Kerr and Richard Thompson have just published this new handbook which offers advice that will help owners understand their woodland and improve their management. A wide variety of subjects are included, from the identification of woodland communities and management for nature conservation to uneven-aged silviculture and vegetation management. The handbook is published by The Stationery Office. For more information or to order a copy visit [www.tsoshop.co.uk](http://www.tsoshop.co.uk)



## Launch of the carbon code of good practice

The potential of woodlands to soak up CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere while providing a host of other benefits for society and biodiversity is becoming increasingly recognized. Many individuals and businesses wish to contribute to tree planting to sequester carbon emissions. But before investing in such projects people want evidence that the tree planting schemes will deliver carbon savings.

The Woodland Carbon Code will provide that reassurance. This code will encourage a consistent approach to woodland carbon projects, and offer clarity and transparency to customers about the carbon savings their contributions may realistically achieve. To read more about this please see:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode)

## Complaints Procedure

Management planners and specialist assessors have all signed up to a code of practice. If you are unhappy about the performance of a planner or specialist you should follow the complaints process which can be found on the FCW web-site under BWW complaints and disputes.

Complaints made against a planner or specialist will feed into the 'Maintaining Standards' process and action will be taken using the guidance that the process outlines.

## Contact details

For general BWW enquiries, telephone:  
or log on to:

For, technical queries, email:

For the GLOS Service link:

Suggestions for future issues, email:

0300 068 0300

[www.forestry.gov.uk/wales](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/wales)

[bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

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