

Better woodlands for Wales

News from Forestry Commission Wales Grants and Regulations • Issue 23 • January 2010

Contents

- Extension to claim date
- Update training – your ideas
- BWW case study
- PAWS restoration
- Time savers in GLOS
- Staff update
- Reminders to planners

STOP PRESS

NEW PHONE NUMBER

From 23rd November the telephone number for the Forestry Commission Wales contact centre has changed to 0300 068 0300. All calls to this number are charged at a standard national landline rate even if you are calling from a mobile.

The old number will automatically divert calls for a 3 month period then there will be a message with the new number for a further 3 months.

Next issue

Issue 24 March 2010

Issue 25 May 2010

Current issue and back issues available on the FCW website:
www.forestry.gov.uk/wales

Claim date extension

In view of the recent adverse weather conditions we recognise that some planned BWW work will be delayed during early 2010.

In recognition of this we are extending the deadline for claims for 09/10 work to 26th March 2010.



Update training – Comments please

We are planning BWW update training for all Management planners once the planting season is over. It would be most helpful if you could make suggestions as to the topics and updates which would be most useful to you.

We may not be able to cover everything in the sessions, but please send your comments to alison.evans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk before 26th February.



Commercial upland Sitka Spruce plantation in transformation to CCF through BWW



“BWW is helping at Bryn Arau Duon to create a new type of productive forestry which aims to supply the timber market with increased quantities of quality timber in cost effective and energy efficient ways”

The Read report, *Combating Climate Change - A role for UK forests* has thrown the spotlight on how Continuous Cover might be a useful tool in our armoury in mitigating the effects of climate change. This comes at a very timely moment for two CCF foresters and Better Woodlands for Wales Management Planners, Phil Morgan and Huw Denman, who are passionate about continuous cover and how this forest management alternative is adapted to provide integrated commercial, environmental and social benefits that will help to mitigate the effects of climate change. They jointly manage Bryn Arau Duon, a 680-hectare conifer plantation in the Southern uplands of Wales. Their client bought the property in 1998 as a single unit surrounded by hill grazing land and by spectacular gorges linking to a network of fields, hedges and broad-leaved woodlands. The species composition is 86% Sitka spruce, 9% other conifers, mainly larch and lodgepole pine and 5% open ground. This relatively simple species mixture has provided real commercial benefits in the establishment phase of the woodland which is now developing the character of a permanent forest due to the repeated thinning and selective felling operations. The wind hazard classification ranges from 3 to 5, however most areas have now been thinned for the first time as the track infrastructure is developed into the most inaccessible places; only extreme site types are not considered as productive and are included in a phased habitat restoration plan. The commercial nature of the forest has not deterred the managers to develop other features within the woodland; Bryn Arau Duon has some well documented archaeological remains which are carefully managed so that forest operations do not impact on the designated sites; the forest also has the largest recorded population of red

squirrels in southern Wales which are monitored and where the intruding grey squirrel is trapped and eliminated. The forest is FSC certified woodland.

Much of the work in transforming this even-aged plantation to continuous cover has been carried out with the assistance of the WGS (Woodland Grant Scheme) and now is ongoing under the BWW (Better Woodlands for Wales) replacement scheme. Numerous woodland officers have liaised with the managers over the years, but Stuart Gray in particular, who was in post when the early developments of the BWW scheme were taking place, has an appreciation of the work that has been undertaken. He was particularly helpful in establishing the criteria for determining features such as CCF and in finding incentives to fund operations to meet Welsh Assembly Government forestry targets. The tracking infrastructure is critical in limiting the environmental impacts of harvesting and without assistance from BWW would not be so extensive; the uneconomic thinning of stands requiring early interventions have been supported, enrichment planting for species diversification and initiating under-storey elements in irregular structures have all been made possible, as well as the squirrel trapping programme to remove the threat of grey squirrels to the surviving red squirrel population.

BWW is helping at Bryn Arau Duon to create a new type of productive forestry which aims to supply the timber market with increased quantities of quality timber in cost effective and energy efficient ways to support a better carbon economy while at the same time creating better more adaptive habitats that support our endangered species.



Staff update

Woodland officer ALAN HUBBUCK will be on a six month secondment with the planning team and his temporarily replacement will be Tim Harland who is the FCW Local Area Manager for Coed y Cymoedd. All cases - including new ones - will remain with Alan until mid February.

RHIAN CORLETT from the Technical Services team has now changed her email address to **rhian.taylor@forestry.gsi.gov.uk** following her marriage.

Woodland Officer Support BECKY HARES has been successful in her application for the Planning Forester post in Coed y Gororau. This is a loss for us but a great opportunity for Becky and I'm sure that we all wish her well in her new role.



PAWS restoration

Following publication of the recent Wales Woodland Strategy which emphasised the restoration of PAWS sites to site native broad-leaved, FCW has decided that WIG operations on PAWS sites where the prescription is 100% restoration to native woodland will be eligible for the higher 75% rate. You will have to clearly explain within the BWW plan how the site will be converted to 100% site native broadleaves within a reasonable time period.

Time saving tips for working in GLOS

When you are building up a plan in MP status, for example inserting operations and features, use the SAVE & VALIDATE button regularly. This not only saves your work but also validates and checks your work as you go.

When you are working through the operations of a BWW case, please remember to hit the UPDATE GRANT AMOUNTS button, which is at the bottom of the page. This ensures that the grant amounts are calculated correctly.



Reminders from the Technical Services Team

We have had a couple of occasions recently where the owners have inadvertently carried out work early and made themselves ineligible for the grant. Please make applicants aware that BWW contracts must be approved before work begins.

Please remember to put your phone number on any emails to the TSO team at **bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk** This speeds up their response to you.

If you are changing the company you work for, please let us know, as it has a knock-on effect on your Framework agreement and digital data contract.

Contact us...



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

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