

# Better woodlands for Wales

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## Thanks to planners

A word of thanks to planners for the patience and co-operation shown over the last three months. We have all had to be quite flexible in the way we have kept BWW moving during the last quarter of the financial year and

without your help it would have been very difficult. March was a particularly busy month as 40% of the claims, to the value of £1,231,299, were processed during the last month of the financial year.



## Do you have a wood worth publicising?

We are often on the look out for BWW case studies to include in publicity stories and photographs. If you have an enthusiastic woodland owner and a suitable woodland or

new planting scheme that you think would fit the bill, please contact [alison.evans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alison.evans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

### Next issue

Issue 26 July 2010

Current issue and back issues available on the FCW website:

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



# Woodland Creation Project

Elin Jones, Minister for Rural Affairs, has announced a new ambitious tree planting programme as part of the targeted element of Glastir.

The programme aims to expand the area of woodland in Wales by 100,000 hectares over the next 20 years. Farmers would receive a capital grant to establish permanent woodland on lower grade agricultural land, together with annual maintenance and compensation payments for loss of income on the land for up to 15 years after planting. Until 2012 Forestry Commission Wales will deliver this and after this date it will be transferred to Glastir higher level.

Since the publication of the Welsh Assembly Government's Woodlands for Wales Strategy in 2009 and three years after the BWW scheme was launched, the emphasis on woodland creation has been broadened to

include climate change, carbon capture and water management. As farmers own most of the plantable land in Wales, their involvement is essential to expand the country's woodland cover. However, research shows that the majority of the BWW scheme funding goes into existing managed woodlands and not into creating new woodlands.

Forestry Commission Wales has initiated a project to ensure that the BWW grant scheme is correctly designed and resources are in place to begin delivery towards meeting this target. This had resulted in some temporary changes to the G&R team. During the next six months Rachel Chamberlain will take on the project manager's role for this project. Patrick Green will move into the operations manager's post and Andy Wright into the assistant operations manager's post.



"The programme aims to expand the area of woodland in Wales by 100,000 hectares over the next 20 years"

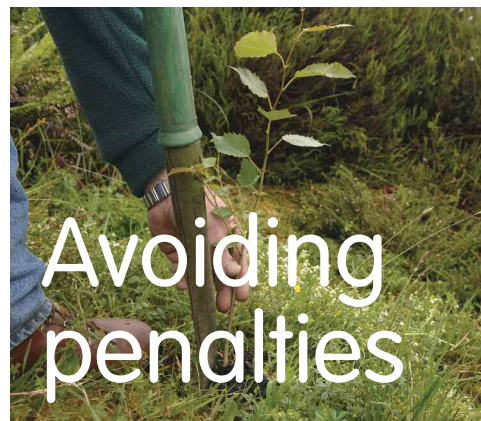
## Farm Woodland Survey

Forestry Commission Wales commissioned a survey in 2009 to gather farmers' views on their woodlands and the woodland grants that we offer. The survey has provided valuable information on how effective our woodland grants are and how we can improve them.

Wavehill Consulting interviewed 264 farmers on behalf of FC, including 100 who, despite having woodlands on their land, have never applied for a grant.

The full survey can be downloaded from our G&R homepage

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-5z8jcr](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-5z8jcr)



Recently, a number of BWW cases have failed inspections and have had grant claim penalties applied. We should like to remind planners to ensure that owners are fully aware of the rules which can be found in the BWW online reference library - AT22 Grant claims & inspections.

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6YMLSQ](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6YMLSQ)

Recent inspections of claims have highlighted a number of incidents where the owner or management planner has claimed for work that is either ongoing or incomplete. This has often resulted in the entire claim being declined. Should this happen, the operation cannot be resubmitted or amended in future years. It will also put the claimant into a higher 'risk status' and may affect the owner's Single Farm Payment through cross compliance penalties against other types of grant available under the Rural Development Plan. If you have any concerns please speak to your woodland officer prior to submitting the claim.

## Managing wood pasture

Forestry Commission Scotland has produced a useful new guidance book called **Management of ancient wood pasture**. It can be downloaded as a pdf. from their web site

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7XQFXR](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7XQFXR)

## Planners' fees

A complete and revised list of all fees due to management planners and specialist assessors can be found in the BWW reference library under the title IN04 Grant Guide

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6YMLZF](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6YMLZF)

# Don't wait for the new rate!

A review into grant rates for creating new woodland via the BWW scheme is underway.

Even though the outcome of this review will not be known until later this year, Forestry Commission Wales anticipates that the grant rates will rise.

In order to encourage landowners to continue to plant new woodland, Forestry Commission Wales has announced that all new applications for woodland creation

made from 1 April 2010 or already submitted will qualify for the revised grant rates.

The new rates will also apply to BWW schemes that have already been approved but not claimed.

Richard Siddons, head of Grants and Regulations at Forestry Commission Wales, said, "BWW was launched in 2007 and, since then, operational costs for woodland creation have changed. The purpose of this review is to ensure that our grant rates are in line with current costs.

We are aware that the review could lead to uncertainty and may encourage landowners to delay entering BWW in case the rates are increased. We have therefore decided that all woodland creation applications made from 1 April 2010 or already submitted will qualify for the new grant rates which we anticipate will be higher.

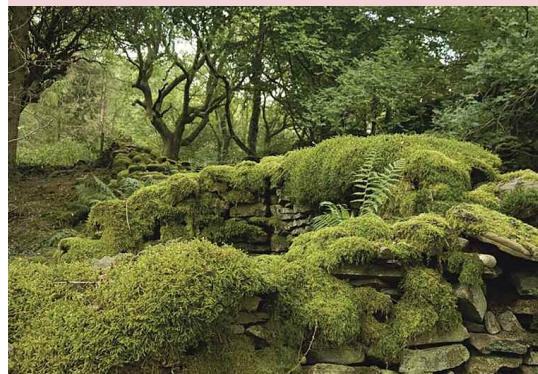
We hope that this decision will mean that landowners keep their applications coming in so that we avoid a surge later in the year.

Woodlands can provide many benefits to landowners – shelter, water management, an increase in biodiversity, landscape improvements and timber – and we urge them to look into the grants and free specialist advice available via the BWW scheme."

The new grant rates will be published later this year on Forestry Commission Wales' website. Staff will contact all existing BWW contract holders who have approved plans for new planting to advise them how to claim the revised rates.

## CADW and buffer zones

Following advice from CADW, we have altered the buffer zone so that only Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) within 100 metres of a BWW woodlands require consultation.



## Time saving tips and updates 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.



## 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:

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