



COETIROEDD
GWELL
I GYMRU



BETTER
WOODLANDS
FOR WALES

Grantiau a chymorth
i greu a gwella coetiroedd

Grants and support for creating
and improving woodlands

TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 14 – June 2008

Contents:

- **Editors note**
- **A plea from Plant!**
- **Spatial linking tool**
- **Extension of digital mapping consolidation payments**
- **Requests for digital & paper maps**
- **Consultation with Cadw**
- **Contact with Technical Services team**
- **Foundation plan signature page**
- **Operations & claims**
- **GLOS update & future releases**
- **BWW pilot schemes**
- **Deer Initiative**
- **Problems with Office 2007™**
- **Update on BWW and FCW's revised Welsh language scheme**
- **Staff update**
- **Contact details & future issue dates**

Editors note

Welcome to issue 14 of our newsletter. In this edition we're pleased to tell you about some improvements to our Grants and Licences Online System (GLOS) and give some tips which can help to make your work as a Management Planner run a little more smoothly. Plenty of other news and advice included, so do look at our contents list and read on.

"Plant! A Tree For Every Child in Wales", a WAG initiative, is looking for Partners to take part in this new and exciting project that aims to plant a tree at selected sites across Wales on behalf of every child born or adopted in Wales from the 1st January 2008.

If you are planning a new native woodland, which can be planted over the next 3 calendar years, is more than 5 hectares (preferably 10) in size, can be easily accessed from a public road, can provide parking for at least 4 cars and where public access can be guaranteed for at least 50 years and you would like grant aid support for 100% of costs, please contact Chris Botting, G&L Development and Projects Manager on his direct dial telephone number 01970 639840 or via his email address: chris.botting@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Spatial linking tool

Good news from Martyn Potton, Grants and Licences Technical Manager, after many requests from Management Planners we have managed to reduce the footprint of the spatial linking tool. The footprint is the area around the cursor within which items can be selected.

The footprint has been reduced from 20 metres to approximately 3 metres. This will make it easier for you to select and link small sub-compartments. It will also mean you will be able to select lines and points that are in close proximity to each other much more easily. However, the downside is, you will need to be more accurate in your selection of lines and points. (**Tip:** Zoom in very close to the spatial feature you wish to link to, then once linked you can zoom back out).

Extension to the digital mapping consolidation payments

As the technical group are currently reviewing the rates for preparing Better Woodlands for Wales (BWW) management plans and whilst any changes to the rates will not be made until December 2008 at the earliest, we have decided to extend the digital mapping consolidation payments in line with the other top-up payments.

Digital mapping: consolidation payments and map requests



Consulting with Cadw

This means that any Management Planner who embarks on the route of digital mapping is eligible for an additional payment of £750 for each of the first 2 approved cases where case maps are supplied to Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) using digital maps that meet the necessary standards. Thereafter they are eligible for a top-up payment of £250 for additional cases again where the digital mapping supplied by the Management Planner meets the necessary standards. It is only fair to point out that where a Management Planner applies for these payments, we would not expect the Management Planner to revert to using paper mapping unless the initial payments were returned.

Just to remind you, the standards for digital mapping supplied by you for use in BWW are:

- You must provide us with a digital version of the woodland boundary and sub-compartment information
- The Ordnance Survey MasterMap (OSMM) supplied by FCW will be the map base used to capture the woodland boundary and sub-compartment information
- All lines and boundaries following OSMM will snap to OSMM
- All polygons will be closed polygons
- Adjoining polygons will follow a common boundary – no gaps or overlaps
- Where additional line work is created - not following OSMM base - 'kickbacks' or 'loops' will not be acceptable; and
- The OS 1:10 000 raster and aerial photography must not be used to create spatial information.

Where a digital map submission does not meet the standards it will be returned to the Management Planner for verification.

Requests for digital & paper maps

Whilst on the subject of mapping can we remind Management Planners to make all requests for paper or digital maps via the www.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk email address. This address is constantly monitored and will ensure your request is dealt with quickly. If you send a request to an individual's email address there is a chance it may not be 'picked up' straight away due to leave, out of office etc.

Consultation with Cadw

We have received a request from Cadw asking Management Planners who need to consult with Cadw for information on Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) or Historic Parks & Gardens, to please include the name of the SAM or Historic Park & Garden in the email header. This will enable Cadw to pass the request to the correct people within Cadw quickly. In turn this should mean Management Planners receive a quicker response.

As a side issue Cadw have also informed us they do receive a number of requests from Management Planners for information on site that are a great distance away from the woodland. We are reviewing the constraint checker and report with a view to ensure you only need to consult on relevant sites. We will let you know of any changes in the future.

How to contact the Technical Services team

Foundation plan signature page

Operations & claims

GLOS update



Contact with the Technical Services team

We would encourage Management Planners to contact the case Technical Service Officer (TSO), when needing information or advice on a case. All we ask is that the case reference and name is included in the subject line of the email. This will help the TSO to deal with the request without having to contact the Management Planner for this information. If however the Management Planner has a more general request can it ask please be sent via the bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk email address as this address is monitored on a regular basis and lessens the possibility of the email not being 'picked up' immediately due to leave etc.

Foundation plan signature page

Once an applicant has signed the foundation plan, a number of Management Planners are sending a full copy of the signed foundation plan to the Technical Services Team. Though we have no problem with this, our main area of focus is the foundation plan signature page, which we need to upload to the case. Therefore we are happy just to receive this page and not a copy of the whole foundation plan. This should help to save Management Planners time and postage.

Operations and claims

When creating operations it is often convenient to merge similar work types together, two gates, or several culverts for instance. This saves time, and makes the operations list less cluttered.

A word of warning however when claiming, operation lines can't be split as they could be in WGS. Therefore if only some of the work is completed then the operation will have to be amended before the claim can be made.

Grants and Licences Online System update

The next release to GLOS is on the 26th June. The Service will be down all day as usual, but if the release allows earlier access we will let you know. This release includes:

- Changes to the spatial linking footprint (mentioned above)
- The introduction of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) cross-checking function
- Improved Land Premium (ILP) Terms and Conditions (Ts&Cs).
- Desired characteristics summary ; and
- Changes to contact management.

WAG cross-checking is an European Union requirement to ensure that work is not funded from more than one WAG scheme. In the past the cross-checking has been carried out by FCW. From this release, cross-checking will be carried out by WAG and the results sent back to us. This is a complex area and will not be detailed here. A document will be produced as soon as possible which explains how the process affects external users, in the meantime you can discuss any issues with your case team.

The ILP Ts&Cs have now been included. If the operation is new planting with ILP, then the Ts&Cs are automatically included. For cases previously approved, the Ts&Cs will be inserted next time the document is opened.

Future GLOS releases



Problems with Office 2007

Update on BWW and FCW's revised Welsh language scheme

At the request of the BWW Technical Group, the summary of the "desired characteristics and factors" has been moved to the foot of the feature.

Contact Management; a fault has been corrected which allows registered users to be merged in order to view all their cases on-line. If you have users who cannot view their case/s please contact your TSO and ask for the user to be merged.

Future GLOS releases

There is another release scheduled for July, this will be to restructure the database. Consequently the service will be both more stable and efficient. The next release, which will involve screen changes, is due at the end of September.

BWW pilot schemes

A reminder to anyone involved with our BWW Pilot schemes that claims for work will no longer be accepted. Contracts were amended last year to allow owners to claim in the financial year 2007/08 but the scheme is now closed. Owners wishing to carry out outstanding work should bring the sites into BWW.

Deer Initiative

Management planners should contact their case Woodland Officer if a Deer Management Assessment is required on the site. Woodland Officers will then contact the Deer Initiative to start the ball rolling.

Problems with Office 2007™

If you are using this version, please save spreadsheets and documents as **.xls** rather than the default **.xlsx** and **.doc** rather than the default **.docx**. You will then be able to upload them onto your BWW plan without any problems.

Update on BWW and FCW's revised Welsh language scheme

BWW approved contract holders and approved Management Planners are asked to note that, following the introduction of a revised FCW Welsh language scheme and the parallel introduction of the new Welsh Language Board guidelines on awarding grants, there are additional publicity obligations placed upon landowners when in receipt of BWW grant aid support.

All new projects and policies formulated and operated by FCW or on our behalf are now subject to the requirements of this scheme.

Section 2.10 of the new scheme identifies that "when we (FCW) award grants for activities to be undertaken in Wales, including public access and recreation, we will include conditions with regard to the use of Welsh. We will take into account the Welsh Language Board's guidelines on awarding grants".

To comply with this FCW have now amended clause 17 of the BWW "Plan of Operations, Contract Terms and Conditions" document (reference TC01), specifically in relation to "Publicity" with the addition of the following paragraph:

"Under Section 3 of the Welsh Language Act 1993, Forestry Commission Wales has agreed that public access and recreational



Staff update

Contact details & future issue dates

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

activities funded through the Better Woodlands for Wales grant scheme will have regard to the need for any printed material to be fully bilingual (this includes leaflets, booklets, signs, posters, packaging, user instructions, menus, marketing, publicity and display material) and any website pages to be produced through Better Woodlands for Wales grant aid support will be published in Welsh and English.”

The revised TC01 document (May 2008) is shortly to be uploaded for immediate use on GLOS as well as being translated and will be published bilingually as soon as possible on the BWW Reference Library.

Should you want further information on FCW's Welsh Language Scheme or how the BWW grant scheme will be further refined to meet the new Welsh Language Board guidelines on awarding grants, then please contact Chris Botting, Grants and Licences Development and Projects Manager on either email chris.botting@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or by telephoning him directly on 01970 639840.

Staff update

This summer will see a new Grant and Licences Operations Manager in place. Rachel Chamberlain, presently the Forest District Manager for Coed y Gororau will be taking over the role. Before managing the 22,000 hectares of Assembly Woodland in north-east Wales Rachel worked in the Grants and Licences team in Edinburgh developing and implementing new grant schemes.

Contact details

- General BWW enquiries: Telephone 0845 604 0845 or log on to www.forestry.gov.uk/wales
- Technical queries: Email bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- GLOS Service: Link www.eforestry.gov.uk ; and
- Suggestions for future issues: Email alison.evans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Issue dates:

BWW Technical Newsletter
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Issue 15 - 29 August 2008; and▪ Issue 16 - 31 October 2008

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



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