



Glastir woodland creation: mapping and eligibility guide

Audience

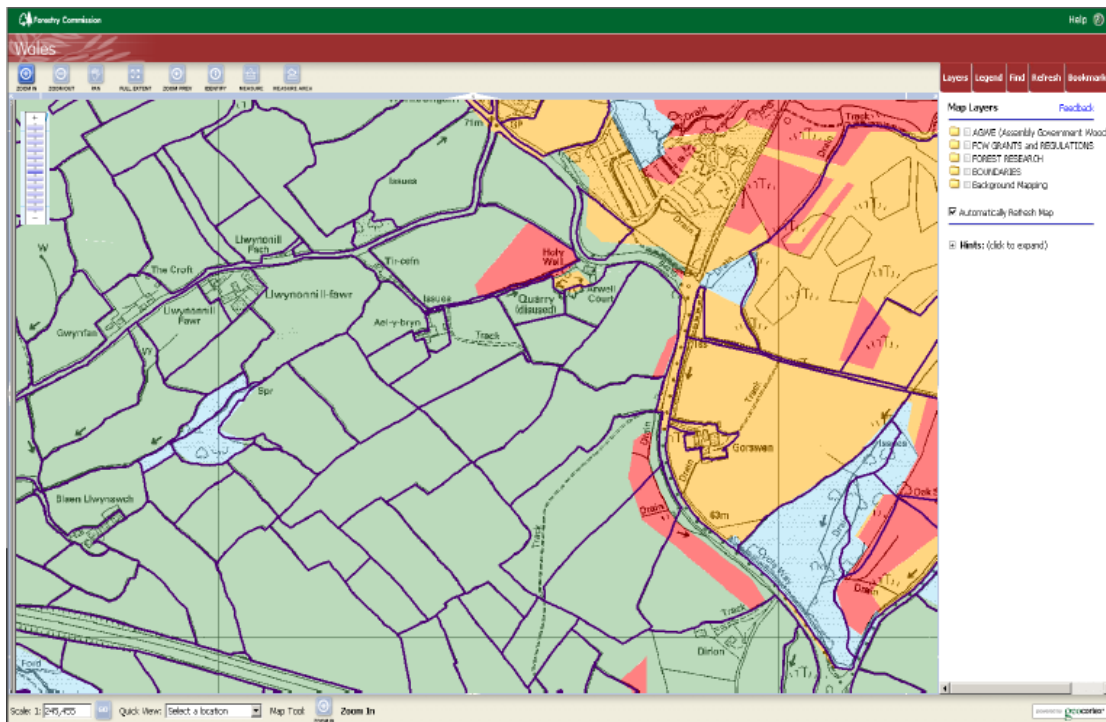
This guide is intended to guide project officers in assessing the suitability of areas for woodland creation and can be used by applicants who wish to establish whether a scheme is feasible on their land.

Background

The Welsh Assembly Government has tasked FCW to administer the Glastir woodland creation scheme until 1st January 2013. Applications to the scheme will involve the use of project officers (PO) employed by FCW who will complete the process for applicants.

To allow applicants to check quickly whether an area can be planted and ensure that applications can proceed quickly FCW has worked with conservation bodies in Wales to establish areas where no consultation is required. These “green” areas have been mapped and are available using a web based mapping browser. Some areas have additional constraints and these are marked as green hatch e.g. areas important for water vole or red squirrel.

Other areas have been established where there may be a potential for woodland creation, but further consultation is required to determine whether planting is a suitable option. These are “amber” areas on the mapping. (Description and list of layers in appendix 1)



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The remaining areas which are “red” on the mapping are where there is a presumption against planting. (Note: Some of the mapping in these areas relates to 1km squares which indicate presence of a species rather than an exact location. Where an applicant or Project Officer feels that the constraint is not valid they should complete the appeal form

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/GWC_Mapping_Appeal_form_20101102.pdf/\\$FILE/GWC_Mapping_Appeal_form_20101102.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/GWC_Mapping_Appeal_form_20101102.pdf/$FILE/GWC_Mapping_Appeal_form_20101102.pdf)

and send to the FCW Operations Manager who will decide whether or not to challenge the extent of the “red” area with the body that has marked these (Description and list of layers can be accessed from the main woodland creation webpage).

Checking application eligibility and consultation

The mapping has been made available to applicants and project officers using a web based map browser which can be accessed from the FCW website.

www.forestry.gov.uk/glastirwoodland

Instructions and help for operating the browser tool can also be accessed at here as well.

The project officer can search for the application area using the ‘search’ function, which will accept post code, grid reference or place name.

Once the location is found the areas which have been registered on the WAG Land parcel system can be seen. Applications can only be made on areas which are registered with WAG and project officers should close any applications where the area is not registered and ask the applicant to register their land with WAG.

The land parcel layer is updated frequently.

The user can then check on the eligibility field by field.

Green areas

If the application is in a ‘Green’ area then there is no need to consult at all; the application can go ahead without any restriction.

Green hatch areas

If the area has green hatch the planting can go ahead without consultation. However the special measures associated with the green hatch apply and these will be sent to you by FCW as part of the constraints check (Please note that eventually this information will be available on the browser and the information will need to be found using the ‘identify’ button.)

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Amber areas

If the area or part of the area is 'Amber' then there is a need to consult (see below) to determine whether woodland creation is a suitable option or the type or area of the woodland can be planted. There may also need to be some further survey of the area to establish the extent of an important habitat, for example to map additional areas of deep peat or bracken associated with high brown fritillary or pearl bordered fritillary butterflies.

Information on what has triggered 'amber' will be sent by FCW to the project officer. Eventually this information will be available on the browser via the 'information' button which will show which layer(s) have triggered the need to consult. On the layer list, the address and instructions for consultation are found by clicking on the blue text of the layer name. This will show the Project officer a PDF document giving contact details for consultation and other information for the layer

Red Areas

If the area is 'Red' then the presumption is against planting and the area will either need to be removed from the application or the application will need to be closed. The procedure to establish which layer of information has determined the area as 'red' is the same as described above; Some of the mapping in these areas relates to 1km squares which indicate presence of a species rather than an exact location. Where an applicant or Project Officer feels that the constraint is not valid they should complete the appeal form and send to the FCW Operations Manager who will decide whether or not to challenge the restriction with the relevant body. If the owner makes a successful challenge, he can re-apply once the mapping has been amended to reflect the decision.

If the display shows that only part of a field is Red or Amber then the applicant can decide to exclude the affected areas and only apply for the Green portion of the field. These areas will need be marked out on the ground and mapped accurately, preferably using a GPS. If an area shows as 'blue' on the creation mapping then it is established woodland and should also be excluded; again by mapping a part field if necessary. The areas used should be over the minimum areas and width thresholds for the Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme.

Applicants will need to ensure that they notify WAG of the new field boundaries to ensure their land registration remains up to date.

Consultation

If an Amber area is part of a potential application consultation must first take place with the relevant body to determine the suitability of the area, or of the type of woodland

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proposed. The project officer is responsible for agreeing any conditions or restrictions with the consultee before submitting an application within any Amber area.

The project officer should screen print a map of the proposed application together with the details of all layers which have triggered consultation. These should be sent to the consultee contact shown in the constraints check.

If more than one body is involved then this will need to be done for all the consultees involved. All details of the consultation should be retained by the project officer who should comply with the conditions on the application set by the consultee. Once the potential planting has been agreed with consultees the PO should upload consent letters to the case. Any refusal, conditions or restrictions which the Project Officer considers to be unjustified should be discussed with FCW.

For consultation on historic landscapes, local Archaeological Trusts only should be consulted, rather than both Archaeological Trusts and CADW.

Application mapping

The project officer will need to make a screen print from the browser and either print this on paper and mark up the fields and part fields to be planted or use the screen image in a drawing program. The screen print should be at a suitable scale for the area concerned and ideally no greater than 1:5000 scale. We recommend scattered areas have a screen print for each area. The screen print should also include an OS base map, the IACS field boundaries and a grid reference. The project officer should highlight the IACS fields or part fields to be planted and not base map boundaries.

If the split is based on the screen data then annotate the map ie " use the boundary of the red area to split this field ". If the split is not based on an existing line then use a GPS to identify the turn points ie "split point on existing fence; sn23455,78910" "turn point on fence sn34567,89101" Your GPS may use 6 figure references and miss out the Ordnance survey grid square ie "223455,278910.

If there could be any points of doubt on the mapping ie hedges following drain lines then annotate the map to ensure accuracy ie " new fence will follow hedge not the drain which is parallel"

The project officer should then send the computer generated maps to bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk. Paper copies should be sent to the Clawdd Newydd office address given below. All should be marked with the case number and should include all sub-cpts and fencing

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Forestry Commission Wales
Clawdd Newydd
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The owner should be given a copy to complete any changes to land registration.