



Information Note 23

Restocking on areas felled for Phytophthora ramorum

Purpose

This note details the help available to land managers in order to restock areas felled because of *Phytophthora ramorum* infection. Grant aid for management of existing woodland through Glastir will not be available until 2013, so as an interim measure Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) will grant aid restocking using the Better Woodland for Wales (BWW) scheme.

Versions

Version 1.0: September 2011, original version

Availability

Grants are only available on sites where a Statutory Plant Health Order (SPHO) has been issued due to infection by *P. ramorum*. The grant will be for the restocking operation and to replace all or part of the boundary fences required to make these areas stockproof. The grant rates available are the same as available under BWW and are dependent on the type of woodland. Fencing rates will be as per Glastir fencing rate and rules.

Grants can only be applied for by '**Phytophthora support agent**' and FCW will pay a fee for their time equivalent to the BWW Management Planner fee.

These grants are additional to the support offered to land managers in order to fell infected trees/stands.

Land Managers can apply for assistance in the following way;

1. If you have an existing BWW contract, get in touch with the Grants and Regulations (G&R) Technical Services Team or your local Woodland Officer and request an amendment to your scheme.¹
2. Land managers without a current BWW contract should contact G&R Technical Services and ask for further advice on entering the scheme.¹
3. If you are using a 'Phytophthora support agent' to help fell the trees, they can complete the application for you.

¹ FCW Contact Centre – tel - 0300 068 0300 or E-mail - bww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



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New applicants must have a Customer Registration Number (CRN), and the land also must be registered in a similar way to agricultural land. If required, this can be done by contacting your local divisional office for the Welsh Government (WG) office.²

Claim years

Where a BWW contract is being amended the claim year for any restocking grants and fencing must be within the existing contract period.

Where a new BWW contract is proposed the claim year must not be beyond 2015/16.

Restocking Grants

Restocking grants are a single instalment payment, paid on completion of satisfactory replanting of the area designated under the SPHO. This payment will contribute both to the initial establishment of the crop and its subsequent management up to year 5.

The restocking grant amount is dependant on the classification of the woodland ie Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) or non-PAWS.

NB: Replanting grant is not applicable for restocking by natural regeneration.

The tables below show the grant rates available.

² Gillian Langdon Carmarthen Front Office

gillian.langdon@wales.gsi.gov.uk

tel.: 01267 225361

Maria Francis Llandrindod Wells Front Office

francismc@wales.gsi.gov.uk

tel. 01597 8208265

Grace Williams Caernarfon Front Office

gracew@wales.gsi.gov.uk

tel. 01286 662175

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Table 1 – Non-PAWS Restocking grant rates

Replanting Type	Other Woodlands	Other Woodlands in Sensitive Areas ³
Native Woodland Site native species, planted in communities corresponding to Habitat Action Plan native woodland types (1600 stems/ha).	£1000/ha	£1500/ha
Standard Crops Any appropriate species (2500 stems/ha).	£500/ha	
Simple Mixtures Minimum of 25% broadleaves. At least three main species in the mixture (2500 stems/ha).	£1000/ha	
Quality Mixtures Crops on sites with greater potential to grow quality timber in mixtures that provide scope for later transformation to Continuous Cover Forestry. Minimum of five species in the mix with no less than 25% broadleaves (2500 trees/ha).	£1500/ha	

Table 2 - PAWS Restocking Grant Rates

Replanting on Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)	
PAWS partial restoration >25%	£1000/ha
PAWS partial restoration >50%	£1500/ha
Full restoration to 100% native woodland	£2000/ha

An additional £150/ha is payable for planting local native planting stock.

Open Ground

We generally expect open ground to form a maximum of 15% of the planting area.

The FCW woodland officer will query all restocking operations where there is greater than 15% and will only agree to the open ground where there is a clear ecological benefit. (see the Approach to Restocking' for further information).

³ sensitive areas may include:

- areas adjacent to existing native woodland
- sites with environmental or landscape designations (e.g. SSSI, AONB)

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Boundary Work Grants

FCW will grant aid fencing at £3.15/m as per Glastir rates. This will include all gates as required and the site must be stockproof.

The specifications below set out **MINIMUM** standards for fencing work funded under the BWW grant scheme. All fences must be fit for the purpose. Specific site conditions will often demand a higher level of specification than defined below. For example; over uneven ground, it may be necessary to reduce the spacing between intermediate posts. In very wet ground, intermediate posts may need to be longer than the minimum length. Only in **exceptional circumstances**, and then only with prior agreement with the case Woodland Officer, should alternative methods be used to establish more accurate working costs for difficult site conditions.

Type	Operation Specification/Detail
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">By accepting any grant for fencing the owner agrees to ensure stock exclusion and must inspect the fencing annually and carry out maintenance. However, limited grazing may be desirable. For example: grazing of a very wet site with scientific interest may be appropriate. On occasions such as this the Planner should agree with the WO the most appropriate action.
Lifespan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Grant is paid on the basis that the fence must last a minimum of 10 years. The owner is liable to carry out any maintenance, for example - damaged stakes, damaged wire, etc., at their cost to ensure the fence remains fit for purpose over the full ten year period.
Public Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fencing must not block any Public Rights of Way (PRoW) or permissive paths and where PRoW or permissive paths exist, appropriate gates and/or stiles must be installed.
Fencing Timber	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fencing timber must comprise of either Welsh hardwood or pressure treated softwood in line with EU Legislation. If round stakes are to be used, they must be 3 to 4 inch top diameter.
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Trees and/or shrubs must not be used as strainers or fencing posts, or used to support fencing wire, staples or netting.Fencing timbers, line wire, netting and staples used to construct approved fence lines must always consist of new materials.All gateposts, straining posts, struts and stakes, or intermediate posts can be round or square sawn.The minimum diameter and minimum face of square sawn posts are effectively the same.Half round stakes will not be accepted for new fences.Where high tensile or sprung steel netting and wire is to be used, the post dimensions remain the same as for mild steel, but the minimum spacing between posts is greater.Straining posts must be strutted in the direction of strain at the maximum spacing for the fence type and at all changes in slope or direction.Gateposts must be tied back or set in concrete. Gateposts should be independent of straining posts.Box strainers should be used in wet ground conditions, where the soil depth is

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Type	Operation Specification/Detail
	insufficient to allow a minimum of 1 metre below ground or in any other situation causing an insecure fixation.
Sheep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep fences should be erected using woven netting C8/80/15 with one top barbed wire, except in sites with adjacent public access where the top wire can be substituted with a plain wire. • A bottom barbed wire is recommended and essential in situations of high livestock pressure or uneven ground.
Fencing Metalwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unless otherwise stated, all metal work must be galvanised to BS EN10244-2 standards. • Barbed wire should be two strands. Top wires can be barbed or plain and a bottom barbed wire will be necessary on uneven ground or situations of very high grazing pressure. • Mild steel, high tensile and sprung steel mesh and wire are acceptable. However, it is essential that the correct erection methods and tools are used for the different fence types (see FC Technical Guide – Forest Fencing).

Table 1 - Minimum fencing requirements for animal control purposes

Fence type	End posts and turning posts (m x cm)	Struts (m x cm)	Stakes (m x cm)	Maximum stake spacing (m)	Minimum finished height (m)
Sheep	2.3 x 10-13	2.0 x 8-10	1.7 x 8-10	3	0.9 – 1.0