



# Glastir Woodlands

## Bulletin 4 - June 2016

This bulletin provides an update on the next round of Glastir Woodland schemes, a summary of updated guidance and topics raised at the Glastir Woodland Creation (GWC) training workshops held in April 2016. It also includes a case study of tree planting in Wales and tree planting in Uganda. These demonstrate the versatility of growing trees to benefit society, the economy and the environment.

### Glastir Woodland scheme update

During the second GWC application window in April 2016, 155 Expressions of Interest were received. In addition 50 expressions of interests were received for the third Glastir Woodland Restoration (GWR) application window. For Glastir queries please contact Welsh Government through your RPW Online account or by telephone on 0300 063 5004.

### Glastir Woodlands web pages

The Welsh Government has provided updated guidance on their [Glastir Woodlands web pages](#). Please read these documents, as they contain important updates on GWC scheme rules and the verification process. **This includes a new GWC plan template, containing information for the EIA opinion. Please note that old GWC plan templates will not be accepted.**

NRW has also updated their [Glastir Woodlands web page](#). This contains guidance on aspects such as deep peat and sensitive habitats.

### New planting on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

If a potential new planting area is within a SSSI you **must** consult the NRW conservation team. This consultation must take place before you proceed with your GWC plan. You can arrange a SSSI consultation by emailing [glastirprocessing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:glastirprocessing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk).



## No planting on Sensitive Habitats

The UKFS states that "*appropriate protection and conservation must be afforded where sites and species are subject to the legal provisions of EU directives and UK and country legislation*". NRW sensitive habitats are Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and a duty to maintain and enhance these habitats is set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

For guidance on NRW sensitive habitats and photographic evidence visit:  
<https://naturalresources.wales/forestry/glastir-woodland-scheme>

## New planting on Bracken

NRW wants to prioritise verification for Bracken cases to ensure that spraying can go ahead from July 2016. If there are GWC plans on areas of bracken that need to be sprayed before planting, mark **BRACKEN** clearly so that NRW can prioritise the case.

The Chemical Regulations Directorate issued a notice of authorisation letter on 26 April 2016. The notice authorises the use of asulam in the form of Asulox to control bracken from 1 July 2016 until 12 September 2016. This comes into effect on 16 May 2016.

For further information visit the bracken control website [www.brackencontrol.co.uk](http://www.brackencontrol.co.uk).

## Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) opinions

For the majority of cases, the EIA opinion will be assessed after the GWC plan has been sent by the Welsh Government to NRW for verification. This new process follows feedback by NRW staff and the sector.

For larger, more complex GWC plans, we advise that applicants submit an EIA opinion separately for new planting. An applicant can apply for an EIA opinion at any time, even if the GWC expression of interest window is closed. However, the applicant must have a **serious intention** to undertake the new planting.

For further information visit:

<https://naturalresources.wales/forestry/tree-felling-and-other-regulations/environmental-impact-assessment-for-forestry-activity/eia-quick-guide>

The NRW website also contains information on the supporting guidance needed for an EIA opinion (or an EIA statement) for larger and more complex new planting schemes. For further information, visit:

<https://naturalresources.wales/forestry/glastir-woodland-scheme>



## Archaeological Trust consultation

All GWC plans in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Expression of Interest will be assessed by CADW and Welsh Archaeological Trusts (WATs). Applicants will be informed if a WAT site visit is required. This is funded via the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020.

## Woodland Carbon Code (Vicky West, Forestry Commission)

The Forestry Commission has offered to register all successful 2015 GWC Native Woodland Carbon cases to the Woodland Carbon Code (WCC). The Welsh Government will be in contact with the relevant GWC planners soon to outline the process of registering projects to the WCC. This will also ask for the consent of the landowner to register the project.

**Note:** Projects should be registered with the WCC within required timescales for GWC grant eligibility. If an applicant does not want to register with the WCC, you should not select the Native Woodland - Carbon option (GWC reference 802). Any GWC plan with this option will have to repay the grant if it is not registered within the required timescale.

In the longer term, the Welsh Government and Forestry Commission are looking for ‘group managers’ in Wales to help coordinate WCC projects. For further information contact [vicky.west@forestry.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.west@forestry.gov.uk).

## Acid Sensitive Catchments (Helen Cariss, Natural Resources Wales)

The Lle woodland opportunities map identifies ‘failing’ and ‘at risk’ acid sensitive catchments in Wales. If a proposal falls within these areas and is over the thresholds set out in the *Managing Forests in Acid Sensitive Catchments in Wales* implementation guide, the applicant will need to consult NRW’s Forest Regulations team via [forestreulations@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:forestreulations@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk).

Forest Regulations will establish whether the proposed new planting will take the area of woodland cover within the catchment to over 30%. If this is the case, the applicant will need to collect water samples for a critical load assessment. This is outlined in the implementation guide.

If planting can continue, proposals will need to adhere to the UKFS Forests and Water section on acidification. Forest Guideline 6 states to “limit the planting of alder to less than 10% of the area within riparian zones within acid sensitive catchments”. A riparian zone is within a buffer zone which is defined in Table 5.1 of the Forests and Water section of UKFS.

For further information visit:

<https://naturalresources.wales/forestry/woodlands-and-the-environment/acid-sensitive-catchments>



## Additional guidance on species diversity (Richard Carrick, NRW)

There is guidance available on diversifying tree species selection to support climate change resilience. For example, using lime in GWC planting mixtures (Glastir Capital Works 801-4).

For further information visit:

<https://naturalresources.wales/forestry/planning-for-the-future/tree-species-choice>

## Lime (*Tilia spp*)

The two main types of lime that grow in Wales are large leaved lime (*Tilia platyphallos*) and the more common small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*).



Lime is likely to increase in suitability with a warming climate and should have an increased role in Wales. This, in part, can be used as a replacement for ash in native woodlands. It is a shade tolerant species that can reach a large size on suitable soils, is cold hardy and is both drought and frost resistant, but does not tolerate exposure.

Lime is also considered to be a soil improver. It is shade tolerant and freely coppices and the yield class is to up to 8m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr.

If you have any information on good stands or small groups of lime, or components of lime within woods where lime is growing well, email [Richard.Carrick@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Carrick@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

## Timber Business Investment Scheme

This scheme is designed to help support a range of private and public bodies to make investments that will enhance forestry potential or relate to the mobilising, processing or added value to forest products that benefit Welsh woodlands. Grants will primarily focus on schemes that improve the economic value of forests, harvesting and processing of forestry products. Grants can be used to improve and develop processing or contracting facilities and to buy eligible new or second-hand equipment. Further information can be found on the Welsh Government website:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/wales-rural-development-programme-2014-2020/timber-business-investment-scheme>.



## Glastir Small Grants

The Glastir Small Grants scheme will provide opportunities for land managers and farming businesses across Wales to apply for Capital Works grants which will contribute to Welsh Government's aim to tackle climate change, improve water management and increase biodiversity. The first Glastir Small Grants Expression of Interest is due to open in June 2016.

For more information visit:-

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/farming/schemes/glastir/glastir-small-grants/?skip=1&lang=en>

## Farming Connect (Geraint Jones, Farming Connect Technical forestry officer)

The new Farming Connect programme provides support that can transform the business prospects of farmers and foresters. To benefit from all that is now on offer, you will need to **register** for the new programme. Individuals registered under the previous Farming Connect programme will need to **re-register**. The Farming Connect eligibility criteria have been widened to include more farmers and foresters with smaller holdings, new categories of self-employed contractors and food businesses. Many services are fully funded, others are subsidised by up to 80%. Farming Connect support can include:-

- Benefit from subsidised strategic business support, tailored to your business needs
- Develop your skills as part of our new continuing professional development/lifelong learning programme with the latest innovations in technology through industry developments and the latest research projects
- Share best practice and benefit from the knowledge of other farmers, industry experts and academic research

Farming Connect will hold a variety of events including one to one surgeries, strategic awareness events and open events on our network of demonstration sites. If you would like further information, Geraint Jones from Farming Connect, will be at the Coed Cymru stand in the Forestry section of the Royal Welsh Show. Keep an eye on the [Menter a Busnes](#) website for updates on future Farming Connect events.

## Tree planting in Mid Wales

An organic farm in mid Wales has planted up 17Ha under a Glastir Woodland Creation in February and March 2016. The farm business comprises 120 milking cows, a flock of 700 sheep and 50 fattening cattle. The farm planted up a predominantly Native Carbon mixture GWC mixture 802) with broadleaves (sessile oak, rowan, silver birch, alder, hazel and hawthorn) at 2m spacing. Over 40,000 trees were planted with 6,000m fenced out over a number of compartments on three farms.



The Glastir Woodland Creation scheme is realising a number of benefits to the farm business and wider economy:-

- The fencing and new planting have improved the farm structure and biosecurity of the farm by enhancing boundaries with neighbouring holdings.
- The farm has a regular income from GWC premium grants for 12 years.
- There will be a sustainable supply of timber and firewood in the future. The farm has a biomass

boiler to heat the farmhouse and farm buildings.

The farm business has an improved carbon footprint, which the farmer feels will become more important in the future, especially with farm assurance schemes.

There are benefits to the local economy, with the farm using a local planting contractor to carry out the work and purchasing trees from a local tree nursery.

## Plant! A tree for every child in Wales (Carol Travers, Natural Resources Wales)

Plant! is a Welsh Government project delivered by Natural Resources Wales in partnership with the Woodland Trust. Plant! contributes to Government strategies for climate change mitigation and provides a tangible link between young children and their natural environment. Funding can include some maintenance to support tree establishment, and infrastructure such as an accessible path, a small car park for visitors and benches. For further information visit: [www.wales.gov.uk/plantatree](http://www.wales.gov.uk/plantatree)



## Tree planting in Uganda (Alex Harris – Welsh Government Forest Policy)

Welsh Government is involved in encouraging environmental sustainability and through the Wales for Africa programme, Welsh Government supports the [Ten Million Trees Project in Uganda](#). The trees planted provide a range of resources for the communities include timber or firewood. This aims to reduce the felling of native tropical rainforest, particularly considering over 90% of cooking is still carried out with wood to provide fuel in Uganda. Other trees are planted as fodder crops for livestock or pollinators, boundary trees for soil stabilisation, shade trees for agro-forestry practices or as fruit trees in family compounds or school grounds, which aims to provide nutrition and shade to the children of Uganda.