



WALES NEWS September 2017



Hi All, Welcome to our September 2017 Wales newsletter.

NEWS. Glastir Woodland creation scheme EOI rules have now changed.

WG have reviewed procedures to help customers who did not meet the initial selection for Glastir Woodland Creation (GWC) EOI windows, but who may wish to resubmit an EOI for the same land under the next GWC EOI.

With immediate effect, customers can submit an EOI during a current EOI window and will no longer be required to withdraw their EOI from the previous GWC EOI.

Customers who did not meet the threshold for a GWC round may still be selected under that EOI, should take-up by plans submitted be lower than the available budget.

Customers will be contacted before end of October with the outcome of their EOIs under both the 4th and 5th GWC windows. [Glastir Woodland Creation Queries](#)

A NEW report on woodland creation is "a shot in the arm"

for the £500 million forestry and timber industry in Wales, Confor said in a recent press release.



"Branching out: a new ambition for woodland policies" was

launched at the Royal Welsh Show by the Welsh Assembly's Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee. This report is a shot in the arm for the industry, which delivers half a billion pounds of annual value to the Welsh economy. It recognises that Wales is missing an enormous range of economic,

environmental and community benefits delivered by not planting enough trees and sets out a clear plan of action to put things right. It is a blueprint for a greener future.

The first recommendation delivers the central message forestry and timber businesses have been waiting for – more tree planting and especially more commercial tree planting, to provide the raw material to drive those businesses, and the wider economy, forward."

We have highlighted the fall in woodland creation over the past 20 years and the damage this will continue to cause in terms of jobs and investment in rural Wales. In that context, the emphasis on 'significantly' increasing planting rates and the mention of long term targets is very welcome. The committee recognised "constraints" on the commercial forestry sector and called for them to be addressed – by "facilitating coniferous woodland creation and commercial operations on both public and private land", as well as "promoting to the farming community the commercial and other benefits of planting trees on agricultural land.

The report also says "the potential for growth in the commercial forestry sector should be actively supported by Welsh Government" and we are delighted the committee has also backed the industry's ambitious targets for Wales to become increasingly self-sufficient in timber production and less reliant on imports, a central plank of the arguments I have put forward to the committee on behalf of Confor. There is also a call to look at building regulations to promote the use of timber in construction, which is very welcome."

In practical terms, the report calls on the Welsh Government to address the barriers to increasing planting by linking up the regulation and funding more effectively and "providing additional guidance and support to applicants". It also calls for consideration of "a presumption of

approval for applications in areas identified by the Woodland Opportunities Map as having a high suitability for woodland”

Stuart Goodall, Confor’s Chief Executive, said: “Martin has been highlighting the planting decline in Wales and fighting for the industry tirelessly. His efforts have been crucially important in delivering this report. The next step is to work with politicians and a range of partners to make it happen – and Confor will be right at the heart of those discussions.”

Read the full report on the Confor website @ <http://www.confor.org.uk/news/latest-news/>

Forestry Day at the Royal Welsh Show was on ‘Cooperation in the

management and expansion of our forest resource’. Here are a few photos of the day and thanks to all those who attended and we hope you enjoyed it. As ever the buffet was well received.



We received many visits from AM’s and MP’s on the day and was a great chance to showcase the forestry sector.

Chris Davies MP. Mike Hedges AM
Eluned Morgan AM



FUNDING AND FINANCE

Funding for creating woodland and forestry management plans is now available from the Farming Connect programme. Owners can apply for funding directly with Farming Connect and **agents acting on behalf of owners can now apply for funding to supply advice on woodland management.**

There are several categories for funding which can be for creating a management plan or getting certification for a woodland or forest and the funding is limited to 80% of 1500Euro (around £1000) per category of advice.

Agents wishing to become approved advisors to deliver woodland and forestry management advice under the Farming Connect Framework need to:

1. Sub-contract under one of the eight main sub- contractors for the Lot 3 Farming Connect Advisory Service contract to become an approved advisor. This means contacting one of the approved farming connect advisors and discuss terms: the advisors can be found at: [https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/selectin g-adviser](https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/selectin-g-adviser)
2. Submit CV for Screening
3. Submit 2 Woodland Management Plans for Assessment by IBERS (Bangor University)
4. Attend one Farming Connect CPD event to cover business planning.

More details should be available from Farming Connect at: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/develop-your-business> or by Phone 08456 000 813

Rural Community Development Fund offers grants which are primarily aimed at community-based organizations. The grants will provide investment funding for a wide range of activities to help meet local needs and strengthen communities so that they can grow and thrive. EOI

window is open now and closes on 12th October. Key areas for support include:

- Drawing up of community / village development plans
- Investments in small scale infrastructure including renewable energy generation and energy saving actions
- Investments in ICT including broadband
- Improving access to services investments and studies for the maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage
- Investments in the relocation of activities and conversion of buildings with a view to improving quality of life or increasing environmental performance.

[Rural-community-development-fund](#)

The Sustainable Management scheme will provide financial support for land management and collaboration activities. The EOI window closes on 5th September and the scheme offers grants to collaborative groups looking to:

- Improve our natural resources e.g. soil, water, woodland and carbon storage
- Improve biodiversity and habitat management, managing uplands and peat management
- Take action to improve access and recreation opportunities
- Increase green infrastructure and

urban drainage Details at:

[sustainable-management-scheme](#)

Co-operation and Supply Chain Development scheme. The scheme aims to support the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies in the agriculture, forestry and food sectors, including:

- Small businesses working together to share production facilities and resources
- Short supply chains and local markets

including promotion activities in a local context

- Pilot projects where the information is made publicly available and widely disseminated. EOI window opens on 18th Oct 2017 and closes on 20th Dec 2017

[Co-operation-supply-chain-development-scheme](#)

Countryside Productivity Scheme (CPS) in England will offer large grants between £35,000 and £1million for up to 40% of the cost of investments in certain capital items. The full list and all guidance can be found on Gov.uk. Including:

- Timber processors and harvesters which can fell, de-limb, cut to length and sort in one operation,
- Wood chippers which are crane fed
- Construction of covered areas designed specifically for processing, storage and seasoning of timber and processed firewood.

This round of CPS closes on 3rd April 2018. RPA colleagues running the scheme will be joining us at the Confor Show at Longleat on 7th & 8th September to answer questions.

The Sell2Wales website is an information source and procurement portal set up by the Welsh Government.

Examples of tenders on the Sell 2 Wales site now are: Provision for BioMass Fuel for 220kw biomass boiler Tree, grass and hedge cutting

Ground maintenance and Weed spraying.

Collection and Recycling of Waste Wood
Published by: Newport City Council

[Sell2wales](#)



Confor

Promoting forestry and wood
Hyrwyddo coedwigaeth a choed

EVENTS

Confor Wales AGM is on September 18th 2017, 14.00pm at Llandewi Skirrid village Hall, Nr Abergavenny. NP7 8AW. Please let me know if you wish to attend or have anything you would like to raise with the committee. Tea/coffee available from 13.30pm, for directions see: <http://www.llanddewiskirrid.co.uk/hall/hall.htm>

Taking Forward Wales' Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) consultation is underway and I will send out the Confor response which you are welcome to use. Consultation closes on 30th September.

In addition WG are planning to hold a series of workshops across Wales to discuss the SMNR consultation.

7th September Welsh Government Office at Llandudno Junction

13th September Cardiff

18th September Welsh Government Office at Aberystwyth

If you wish to participate, please could you indicate which date you or a representative can attend via the doodle poll link below? Spaces are limited to 30 for each venue so please can you complete by the 31st August.

<https://beta.doodle.com/poll/2sxuubrwgpxhq2w6>

Timber Transport Conference will be held on Friday the 23rd March 2018 at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness.

The Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity plans to attend.

We also hope to arrange an interesting site visit on the Thursday afternoon and will propose a dinner venue that evening.

Please share with colleagues, more details

on the programme and ticket booking will be available in due course from Roland Stiven. [Timber Transport](mailto:TimberTransport@www.timbertransportforum.org.uk)
www.timbertransportforum.org.uk
roland@confor.org.uk

Woodchoppers Ball 2017 is being held on Friday 6th October at the Mercure Holland House Hotel & Spa Newport Road, Cardiff. Presented by the South Wales Timber Trades benevolent society it is a Black Tie Event, Tickets £50pp. For tickets please contact:

Andy Thomas. andy@walestimber.co.uk
Dilwyn Howells. dhowells@premierforest.co.uk.
Simon Harris. sharris@premierforest.co.uk.
Chris Offa. chris@ransfords.co.uk

Business Wales Start Up Workshops

for individuals looking to learn the skills needed to run a Business. The Starting a Business: Taking the Plunge workshops are aimed at individuals who have never run a business before and give people the chance to look at whether running a business is right for them. The workshops cover topics such as:

- writing a business plan
- raising finance and financial planning
- marketing
- legal aspects of running a business
- intellectual property
- USP (unique selling point)
- tax

The workshops are free of charge to individuals looking to start a business in Wales. [Business Wales start up event](#)

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee of the National Assembly for Wales is holding a stakeholder workshop_to assess the extent to which the Welsh Government's Natural Resources Policy (NRP) delivers its objectives is being held on October 4th in Cardiff

The RFS is pleased to announce the following training courses taking place in September:

- 1st September: Essentials for measuring your trees and woods - Cumbria
- 19/20th September: Continuous Cover Forestry in the Uplands (two day course) - Wales
- 21st September: Grading and measuring your timber - Herefordshire
- 27th September: Essentials for caring for your wood - Hampshire

The courses are for new and novice woodland owners and others wishing to develop their forestry knowledge and skills. Each course has clear learning objectives and will include a mixture of lectures and practical activities. Locations have been selected where the principles being explained can be demonstrated in the forest.

NRW amended sales plan was due to be announced, I have asked for the detail but received no answer yet. I will keep you posted when I know more.

If anyone knows more on this let me know.

The Brecon Beacons National Park authority is seeking a new Chief Executive who will work with the family of National Parks across Wales and the UK to continue to influence national and local policy through effective lobbying and to continue delivering the Future Landscapes agenda. Application packs can be obtained by visiting website. www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/vacancies or email: elizabeth.lewis@beacons-npa.gov.uk

Closing Date: 18th September 2017

CONSULTATIONS.

Taking forward Wales' sustainable management of natural resources.

Consultation closes 30th September 2017. The consultation seeks views on proposals on whether potential regulatory reform is required to:

- improve alignment of forestry and designated landscapes with the sustainable management of natural resources
- improve access to outdoors
- improve governance structures
- streamline legislation
- improve the legislative framework through introduction of modern regulatory mechanisms.

I will submit a response for Confor but I urge you all to send a response to WG and I have circulated my response to everyone.

[Consultation sustainable management natural resources](#)

Plant Health.

***P ramorum* Situation Report.**

During May 2017, NRW carried out the two aerial surveillance flights and the initial findings show a possible significant spread of the disease in Ceredigion and west Powys. Main blocks where symptoms were observed are:

Tywi South & North, Myherin, Crychan

Brechfa West & East Hafod, Cwm Berwyn, Caio, Trecwn, Crynant, & Tarenig.

Following concern raised through the flight analysis, NRW instigated a survey programme to include all larch on WGWE in an area outside the CDZ in the area picked up through the flight. The total area identified for inspection is 1958 Ha, the bulk (1600 ha) lie outside the CDZ, of which 1300 ha are on Welsh Gov. Woodland Estate. The majority of sites have been visited with approximately 274 ha outstanding (185 within CDZ).

This year to date NRW have issued SPHNs on 719 ha. The majority lie in the DLZ (623 ha) with a destruction date of 31st March 2018. Of the 623 ha, over 500 is on the WGWE and just over 100ha on private woodlands.

The next surveillance flights are scheduled for w/c 11th September and any suspect sites will be visited ASAP.

Management of *P ramorum* in Wales.

Further to the meeting of the Wales Tree and Plant Health Steering Group on 11th August, the Welsh Government's current policy for the management of *P ramorum* in Wales as follows:

- The Core Disease Zone (CDZ)/Disease Limitation Zone (DLZ) boundary should not be moved.
- NRW should focus its resources on attacking the leading edge of the disease, working from the outside in. This should involve prioritising outliers of infection and the leading edge of infection to the north and west of the new areas identified in Myherin, Tarenig and Hafod, and to the east of Crychan and Halfway forests.
- If parallel progress can be made on felling areas outside the existing CDZ to assist with the management of the disease, that should also be pursued.
- WG endorses NRW's proposal to manage socio- economic consequences by including an element of stem injection, as described in the paper about managing the disease on the Welsh Government Woodland Estate.
- The moratorium on SPHN issuance should be lifted, ie NRW should resume the process of serving SPHN's in areas outside the CDZ. As above, this should prioritise the leading edge, working from the outside in.
- At this stage WG do not intend to revise the Disease Management Strategy.
- WG will review this guidance around early November.

Wales Tree Health Seminars 2017

have been arranged by NRW for Tuesday October 10th 2017 South Wales (Henderson Hall, Tal y Bont on Usk, Brecon, LD3 7YQ)

Wednesday October 11th 2017 North Wales (Coed y Brenin Visitor Centre, Dolgfeiliau, Ganllwyd, Dolgellau,

These seminars are designed for those

who work in an outdoor environment and have an interest in tree health. Spaces are limited so please book ASAP by contacting the [email: treehealth@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:treehealth@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

Photographs needed for the Forestry in Pictures page at the end of the F&TN. We keep asking but get very little. Come on folks, don't leave it to someone else get some photo's in to Stef.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. I often try to end on a humorous note and although this seems laughable it is very serious for the individual.

A Confor member recently tried to obtain a felling license for his border crossing woods from FC England alone. But devolution insists that he needs to deal with both Wales and England separately. In other words he has to have two licences for the same woodland from separate organisations. As an addition, one organisation classes the woods as PAWS, the other not!

Have our regulators gone completely mad!! Don't answer that question.