

7th Meeting of Woodland Ecosystem Group
23rd June 2011 Hafod Estate Office
Minutes

Attendees

Tucker, Chris	FCW (Chair)
Arfon Williams	RSPB
Celia Thomas	Pembrokeshire National Park
Chris Smith	Snowdonia National Park
Jim Latham	CCW
John Healy	Bangor University
Lynda Makepeace	WG
Nigel Ajax Lewis	Wildlife Trust South & West Wales
Richard Crompton	Wild Wood Ecology
Richard Jones	CCW
Sarah Mellor	National Trust
Jane Holloway	FCW (Minutes secretary)
Guests	
Michelle van-Velzen	FCW
Mark Malins	FCW

1. Welcome and Introduction to meeting – Chris Tucker

Apologies

David Jenkins
Emma Guy
Trevor Dines
Richard Lucas
Jerry Langford
Ray Woods

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising – Chris Tucker

- Links on minutes to Glastir viewing [Map Viewer Guidance Page](#) [Glastir Woodland Creation Mapping and eligibility guide](#) (PDF)
- Sent Terms of reference to group
- Priority mapping – Jim's direction has now changed due to funding from WBP – urgency to do this now. Need to pick this up with more Urgency in next few months – please put together a list
- Not as easy for woodlands to pick out individual sites – but due to shift in funding needs more important. 3rd level of Priority Mapping We agreed that one of the priorities would be Himalayan Balsam in the Wye Valley.

Wales Biodiversity grant fund – next round is 26th July next deadline.

Examples of possible grants - Dragonfly project, Wet woodland, Wye Valley Balsam Woodlands, Rhododendron strategy

- Coastal was the priority from last funding round.
- Evaluation of the grants was by Environment Wales for last year.
- Grant fund 75% /25% match funding – volunteer time can be claimed as match funding, Can be survey work or practical action.

Action Point: – Chris Tucker - Done

Send out list from last year that did not get funded to group – as a starting point Details of the fund.

Note from Chair: the submitted applications will be circulated following the 26th and the group has until the 10th August to comment back to Environment Wales.

Action Point: for All Group

Please send any new funding ideas to Jim Latham/Chris Tucker

Action Point: Chris Tucker to send current plan to group.

3. Introduction to Glastir – Michelle van-Velzen

Glastir has already had priority species included but just on agricultural land.

For the woodland part of Glastir, we as a group have the opportunity until September to input our advice to G&R, they in-turn will give this information to Ann Humble's team.

Our priority species on woodland

Information that was in BWB has been put into this scheme. There is an opportunity to put into contract manager guidance – it will have to include all priority species.

- Michelle showed the CCW guidance note on Barbastelle Bats. Have to cluster as many of our species as we can. EPS info can be used and modified; we need to agree this process.

The GWM objectives will be targeted to prioritise management from 12 'target' map layers and will be supported through area based and capital grants administered -

- Farmers who have woodland on their land – targeted element – compulsory woodland management – woodland species would have added to there points total – e.g. red squirrel but this list is very limited and we need to add to the list that can be added to this points total.

Lynda Makepeace - AWC some have excluded their woodland and they have been able to go forward – MVV is going to check this?

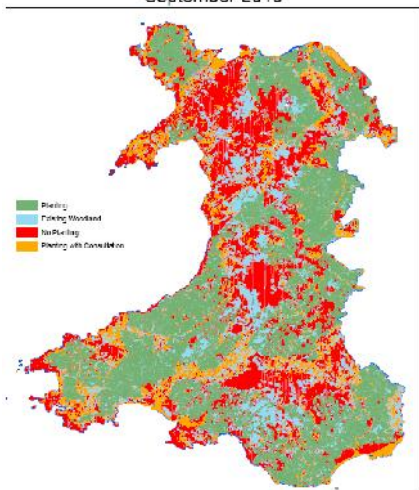
- Farmers who wish to included their woodlands
- Land managers, including farmers and the forestry sector, who are not in Glastir AWE who wish to carry out Glastir TE woodland management.

The last 2 would be based on the maps we have developed – only if we get over subscription would it be down to targeted points

Not sure what the proportion of the fund is this but should be around RDP £3m figure BWB has not finished and Glastir has not started yet. Only part that is running at present is Woodland creation which has been running for 6 months – 250 hectares approved at present. FCW hopes to get its target of 500 hectares for this year.

- 90/95% of new woodland creation has been native woodland.

Woodland Opportunity Mapping
September 2010



FCW are currently running a process to improve the accuracy of the eligibility map and associated scheme rules.

<u>Green</u>	<u>692,659</u> <u>ha</u>	planting acceptable, including planting with special guidance for red squirrel, water vole, common land and open access areas
<u>Blue</u>	<u>302,524</u> <u>ha</u>	existing woodland
<u>Amber</u>	<u>525,421</u> <u>ha</u>	planting may be approved following consultation
<u>Red</u>	<u>593,895</u> <u>ha</u>	Planting presumed unacceptable – an appeals process is available

Advisory

Still under discussion

- Glastir Woodland Management (GWM) expects to have a number of woodland advisers in place to deal with GWM applications with woodlands that exceed 2ha in size. These advisers will, in all likelihood, be selected from applications to carry out this role from the existing pool of BWW management planners.
- Any GWM applications that are dealt with by woodland advisers will be scrutinised by a Glastir Contract Manager against the scheme rules and the available Contract Manager Guidance, to ensure applications are appropriately prescribed and funded. Any GWM applications that require FLA, EIA or HRA consent will be passed to FCW for approval.

FCW have developed a number of area based and capital grants for inclusion in GWM to help deliver targeted management to achieve positive outcomes, along with Glastir Contract Manager Guidance, including the following:

- Thinning – to improve ground flora development and natural regeneration of tree species from seed by allowing more light to enter the woodland, as well as the creation of deadwood.
- Restocking – where this ensures greater tree species diversity, aids PAWS restoration and leads to improvements in water quality and quantity.
- Infrastructure – to bring previously inaccessible woodlands into management.
- Boundary work - to make woodlands stock proof or achieve better stock management where grazing is beneficial. Where appropriate, to improve landscape features such as dry stone walls, earth banks and parkland railings.
- Protected and priority species – various grants to aid breeding success and survival.
- Vegetation management – to control invasive exotic and native plants that overwhelm and threaten woodland health, as well as to improve ride and glade management.
- Pest control – grey squirrels and deer in particular
- Public access – various grants to improve woodland access and provide information and respite to visitors.

If you have a certain type of species we would require different types of management for the woods

This group could put together a list and take to the Glastir team

Identity should woodland have a buffer zone – to report on species – e.g. 1 field depth – Black grouse is an example

Capital works for thinning, classical example of were thing

SAC boundary / boundary drawn down woodland

Look outside area outside woodland

Owner draws up a simple management woodland management plan – this has to be something simple – this guidance needs to be brought into this, BWW plans to complicated, be aware of where the woodland sits –

Land managers will be supported throughout the GWM process by either a dedicated Glastir Contract Manager or, for larger applications, probably >2ha total woodland area, a

Woodland Adviser, who will be employed under contract by Glastir. This will mainly be desk work – with email/phone help to applications.

- Trying to keep guidance down to around 10 pieces – group worried that things may be missed
- What is the opportunity to comment on land outside the woodland?

Celia Thomas - Pembrokeshire Woodland Forum are trying to provide advice to local woodland officers/woodland owners with information on Glastir.

Looking at wood pasture & connectivity

- Strict rules if you have Plantation on ancient woodland – grants are tailored to encourage you to restore woodland.
- How woodland is managed depends of type of woodland.

4. Input to Species Integration – Michelle –Velzen/Chris Tucker

If we can identify a limited management list which are consistence and can be attached to various species

Celia Thomas provided the list below that the group added to.

List of management types - Management tools

Fell

Coppicing /Coppice with standards

Clearfell – area of woodland

Restock

Thinning – with levels – 0 – 100% - could be chart that shows which level of thinning is appropriate for each species – e.g. Pied Flycatcher requires clearfell etc

Rotation cutting elements shrub layers

Grazing – different levels

Extraction

Open space

Non intervention

- Management of deadwood – part of thinning
- Management of invasive
- Old growth
- Shrub layer/canopy

Under-planting

Understory management

Patch panting – trees / shrubs

- Should we be saying these species require close canopy/open canopy /humidity etc
- Canopy management/ground management and shrub management
- Do all LRC have all the data?

Arfon Williams - Right action needs to be taken in the right place, can this not be a desk exercise?

A – Those which would benefit from woodlands being brought into management with support from main scheme elements

Group worked on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Species Habitat spreadsheet – identifying for each species –

- Distribution Map
- General good positive woodland management and any specific structure
- Specific requirement that require Capital Grant or scheme role
- Publication reference

Hyperlinks to Publications/Internet guidance
[Habitats and Rare Priority Protected Species \(HaRPPS\)](#)

[Woodland Management for birds a guide to managing woodland birds in Wales](#)

[Woodland Management for Bats](#)

[European Protected Species](#)

[JNCC 2007](#)

Notes / comments when completing spreadsheet

- Prioritisation to look for synergizes
- Some species missing from list – these are local and need to be added.
- General management of birds is not specific but you may not have it for general management of woodlands.
- Favourable rates for coppicing, Glastir team will target large estates
- Woodland management/food source/
- Need to cross reference this list that we section 42 list – invertebrates / fungi some are missing, etc
- Timetable for contract manager guidance needs to be translated/ and published and on the web.

Action Point

Chris Tucker to pull together list by August and send to group prior to the September Meeting.

Celia Thomas – Bluestone – Woodland Trust – plant Diamond woodland – missed point of Biodiversity for the area. New woodland must take into account of current meadows/ hedges etc birds that like open areas but nest in woodlands. Room for planting but need to leave areas for current biodiversity.

Average size of woodland creation projects are 1.5 hectares.

For next meeting think about gaps in EPS species

Bats? – Feeding habitats

Water voles – planting with special guidance

Red Squirrel

Date of next meeting

Thursday 22nd September 2011 – Location – Pembroke – Pentre Ifan – Newport Pems.

Next meeting agenda

Terms of reference

Action Point ALL - Policy group meeting in July – email issues to Chris Tucker

Discussion for next meeting - Update WESG Action Plan

5. Meeting closes

Link to previous meeting minutes on the WBP website
http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/woodland_resources-150.aspx