

4th Meeting of the
Woodland Ecosystem Group

23rd September 2010
William Davies room Ibers, Penrhyncoch
10.00am to 4.00pm

Attendees

Chris Tucker – Chair	FCW
Chris Smith	Snowdonia National Park
Jim Latham	CCW
Nigel Ajax Lewis	WWL
Lynda Makepeace	WAG
Emma Guy	Powys CC
Reg Thorpe	RSPB
Ray Woods	Plantlife
Richard Jones	CCW
Jane Holloway – Minutes	FCW
Richard Crompton	Wales Mammal Grp
David Jenkins	Coed Cymru
Celia Thomas	Pembrokeshire National Park

1. Introduction and Apologies

Trevor Dines – replaced by Ray Wood
Sarah Mellor
Jerry Langford

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

AWI update – tender awarded – already completed more than 60% - Jim Latham gave short update. – Any further info required please speak to [Emma Small](#) – FCW or [Jim Latham](#) CCW

NFI update – NFI survey manual, biodiversity features being recorded are: deadwood, habitat type (broad & Priority), Storey assessment, tree species, vegetation (list and layers), NVC class, browsing and bark stripping data and Woodland edge

Action Point - NFI

How many sites? 1500 - % for Wales & timeline– check and email group.
Send David Jenkins copy of the disk – survey handbook.

Update – Emma Small - The National Forest Inventory Field Survey will survey 15,000 one-hectares sample squares across GB, including 2,000 sample squares in Wales.

This sample size has been carefully selected so that the confidence intervals around the data are:

- Woodland area/creation/loss: +/- 1% at GB and Country levels
- Other metrics: +/- 2% at GB, +/- 4% at Country level

The Field Survey Programme is a rolling 5-year programme, and began this year (after a pilot last year). Across GB 3000 sample squares will be surveyed per year between 2010/11 and 2014/15. Wales samples will be surveyed pro-rata. The first report on the field survey data will be in 2014/15.

New figures from NFI update - Liz Howe is of the opinion that WBP and thus WESG can set targets for Wales based on most accurate baseline we have. Current woodland cover is 14% - WBP – will need to take to steering group.

Tir Gofal update from Lynda Makepeace – Contract on second year – so far gone well due to good weather. Revised contract with Plantlife. Early days for results – 3 year contract.

Woodland for Wales indicators – update from Emma Small - paper already distributed – will update in a future meeting when further developed.

Action Point – Chris Tucker

Speak to Emma Small about this groups role with indicators.

TPO – do FCW record/use TPO information? If so who and for what?

Update – 24th Sept

TPO – Dion Griffiths is attempting to collect all TPO's from LA (all held in different datasets) once he has them all he is going to put all on to 1 dataset – then looking to use in a project to help develop the urban tree programme.

Prioritisation of species update from Ray Wood – issues regarding resources – which species etc information needs to be given

Action Point – Chris Tucker

Email FCW priority species list to group (add Ray Wood to list), look at the Species expert Group Species list (from Reg Thorpe) and see how it matches. (could this be a piece of work for Anne MacDonald who developed the first list?) Add additional column species

Point raised by Ray Woods - Acid rain still an issue, needs to be looked at.

FR New letters

www.forestry.gsi.gov.uk/fr/infid-5wbkxv

3. WfW Biodiversity Policy Position paper- comments and discussion

All published Policy position papers can be found on,

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-85ucz>

Part of a suite of 8 papers

- Welsh Woodland their Extent Nature & Character
- Water & Soils
- Biodiversity
- Economic Development & Enterprise
- [Landscape, Heritage & Culture](#)
- [Education, Learning and Skills benefits from Welsh Woodlands & Trees](#)
- [Health & Well-being benefits from Welsh Woodlands & Trees](#)
- [Community Involvement with Welsh Woodlands & Trees](#)

Biodiversity Paper been to Management Board and is going to National Committee on Friday. Amendments to the paper can still be made. Post national Committee discussing the paper, so Chris would welcome comments, please send them direct to him.

Action Point – All

Send Chris comments on the Biodiversity Policy Position paper

Action Point - Chris Tucker

Would be useful to have a Policy fit /guidance diagram can we get this together

Users guide – facts and figures produced for the industry etc – one the glossaries for this year?

4. WfW indicators/AWI update - Chris Tucker

See earlier comments

5. Priority Mapping project - Jim Latham

Send out PowerPoint presentation – Setting Spatial Priorities

List of 10 critical areas – action required now

Action Point – Chris Tucker/Jim Latham

Compile list and send out to group

6. Glastir Planting opportunity mapping - Chris Tucker/Clive Thomas

Clive gave overview from the launch of the Woodland for Wales's strategy then WAG Climate Change strategy then the Land Use Climate Change group/report published March 2010. The Minister tree planting programme as part of the targeted element of Glastir. Aimed at expanding the area of woodland in Wales by 100,000 hectares over the next 20 years. Glastir, the new Sustainable Land Management Scheme for Wales managed by the Department for Rural Affairs

Action Point – JH/CT

Circulate facts and figures sheet – get from KJ - Done

7. Grants BWW/Glastir - (update from Patrick Green) - Chris Tucker

BWW update

- Post BWW what will happen
 - Glastir.

Patrick Green is working on Glastir and will attend our next meeting. Project is to develop the grant and mechanisms and advise Glastir management board. PAWS CCF Mixed woodland native woodland planting and management included.

Action Point - CT

Confirm minimum woodland size for the scheme and find out what the timetable for Glastir woodland scheme is – speak to P Green

8. Delivering for species through habitat management - Chris Tucker

CT proposed that the group develops generic woodland habitat management which can benefit most of the priority species but we will need some specific guidance for those species who will not benefit from this approach, ie have specific needs.

Action Plan – Richard Crompton/Chris Tucker

Write up this proposed way forward, pull out themes – management types – guidelines – RC to assist CT with taking this forward

General discussion on Phytophthora ramorum

Fera has statutory responsibility for delivering policy and inspectorate functions in relation to plant health, including legislative responsibility for P. ramorum relating to plants and plant produce in England. Fera also co-ordinates UK plant health policy. The research arm of Fera provides scientific and technical advice, and carries out all diagnostic services. See hyperlink below

<http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/showNews.cfm?id=451>

Forestry Commission Wales pages on Phytophthora ramorum hyperlink below

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-85TDX6>

Action Point – Chris Tucker

Has Phytophthora ramorum been found in Pembrokeshire – re site mentioned by Celia Thomas?

9. Local Partner communication

Pembrokeshire Woodland forum – run by Celia Thomas – 2 meetings a year - Completed days of Bats & TR

Swansea has sub group

Emma Guy – link to LBAPs

Richard Jones sits on 2 LBAPs – Gwent and Glamorgan

All relevant papers need to be put on WBP web-site – forwarded to Emma Guy

BARS – LBAPs

Quick Web reference for access and guidance

Who are the relevant people in each area?

Action Point – Emma Guy

Collate list of relevant people in each LBAP area

10. Policy Issues

Action Point– Chris Tucker

Send paper updating Woodland priorities to the group

– All

Send any comments to Chris prior to 21st October

11. Update WESG Action Plan

Action Point

Chris Tucker to update and then circulate

Next steps and DONM

13th January 2011 – venue to be confirmed