

WALES NEWS November 2017



Hi All, Welcome to our November 2017 Wales newsletter.

We still need photographs for the Forestry in Pictures page at the end of the FTN. Come on folks, don't leave it to someone else get some photos in to Stef.

Martin Bishop, Confor National Manager for Wales

LATEST NEWS

Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure visited Maelor Forest Nurseries recently

The minister was shown the cutting edge research Maelor is doing on tree breeding to improve the planting stock for the future and was impressed by the scale of the site and the sheer number of trees that is supplied to the forestry sector.



Mike Harvey, owner of Maelor Forest Nurseries and Chair of Confor Wales showing the minister around.



Clare Pillman has been appointed as NRW next Chief Executive

Currently Director for Culture, Tourism and Sport at the

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport in Westminster, Clare will take up the post in late February 2018 and said: "NRW is an extraordinary organisation with a wide and aspirational remit, a strong and committed professional workforce and a vital role in ensuring the sustainability of Wales' unique landscapes. "I look forward to working with the Chair, Board, Executive Team and all the staff to take the important work of NRW to the next

level." Details at: [new-chief-executive-appointed-for-NRW](#)

The previous CEO of NRW, Emyr Roberts

retired last week. All of us at Confor and the wider forestry sector thank him for all his work at NRW. It is not easy balancing all the competing requirements of such a diverse organisation Under Emyr's leadership Confor has had an open and positive working relationship with NRW and we look forward to continuing that relationship long into the future. We wish Emyr well in the future



The Branching out Report is still making news. Confor has asked the Cabinet Secretary for E&RA asking how WG will implement the recommendations in the report.

The minister has issued a written statement to the CC, E&RA committee in response to the report which accepts most of the recommendations "in principle".

We welcome the minister's response although we have difficulty understanding and accepting some of the statements in it and will be taking these up with the minister in our bi-annual meeting with her in November. The minister's written response is available at: [Ministers response to the branching out report](#)

A New Woodland & Forestry Management Plan template

is under development by the Confor Wales Committee and NRW. The idea is to have a long term management plan (up to 10 years) for the private sector. By submitting information in advance with sufficient detail, NRW could give approvals for a longer time period than the current 2 years allowed under the present felling licence process.

The draft template is undergoing trials now and hopefully will be ready to launch in the New Year.

Funding will also be available to help with the production of these long term plans and this will be from the Farming Connect programme.

The Farming Connect programme has kindly offered to help run a few workshops to publicise

the new template early in 2018. These workshops will also provide information on the funding that is available from the farming connect programme for writing management plans and how to access that funding.

PLANT HEALTH

***P Ramorum* Situation Report** During May 2017, NRW carried out aerial surveillance flights and the initial findings show 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.

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 1843, the bulk (1500 ha) lie outside the CDZ, of which 1300 ha are on Welsh Gov. Woodland Estate. The majority of sites have been visited with approximately 285 ha outstanding. Approx. 646 ha has been considered as uninfected.

The remaining 910ha has been categorised as:

- 232ha Lab confirmation received.
- 575ha Infected based on surveyors assessment
- 98 ha Negative lab results but visually infected
- 10 ha Pending lab results

NRW have issued SPHNs on the outliers and work is underway to destroy the trees.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultation on the NRW Charging Scheme for 2018-19

NRW are required by Government to recover the costs of delivering regulatory services from those being regulated, rather than being funded by general.

NRW are seeking your views and opinions on proposals for fees and charges for 2018/19. This 12 week consultation will close on 16 January 2018 and the results will be used to inform the final scheme, which will be introduced from 1st April 2018. Details at: [NRW charging scheme consultation 2018-19](#)

FUNDING AND FINANCE

Glastir Woodland Creation scheme will have an EOI window starting in Mar-2018

Woodland Creation Grants England

Next application window: 2nd January to 16th February 2018: Please contact FC England or see the Confor website.

The Co-operative Forest Planning Scheme

aims to support proposals seeking to facilitate, develop or establish new collaborations and activities and to help potential new collaborations develop project proposals. EOI window is open and closes in April 2018. Details at: [Co-operative forest planning scheme](#)

The Sell2Wales website is an information source and procurement portal set up by the Welsh Government. Examples of tenders on the [Sell2wales](#) site now are:

Grounds Maintenance Services at Cardiff Metropolitan University

Provision of Amenity Grass Cutting to Selected Sites within Pembrokeshire

Forest Replanting, Protection and Maintenance. Published by: Forestry Commission England

Clearance of Natural Regeneration of Woody Species on Open Habitats — South England District Forest. Published by: Forestry Commission England

Bracken Management in the Black Mountains. Published by: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Recently Confor asked some questions of NRW on restocking of the WGWE

1. How many hectares of woodland did NRW harvest in 2016?
Answer; Clearfell – 1,008ha, thin – 1,785 ha
2. On clear felled sites - How many hectares did NRW replant in 2016 (gross and net hectares)?
Answer; We do not record gross the net area replanted was 1,192.56 ha
3. On clear felled sites - How many hectares of productive conifers did NRW replant in 2016?
Answer; We do not record gross the net area replanted was 774.49 ha
4. On these net hectares what is the average restock planting density (plants per net hectare)?
Answers 2,700 sph
5. On clear felled sites - How many hectares of Sitka Spruce did NRW replant in 2016 (gross and net hectares)?

Ans; We do not record gross the net area replanted was 300.47 ha

a. On these net hectares what is the average planting density (plants per net hectare)? Ans 2,700 sph

6. How many hectares were clear-felled in 2010? Answer; Area clearfelled in FY2010/11 is 1,730ha. Of which 536ha were subsequently planted with Sitka Spruce.

7. Of those sites clear-felled in 2010, how many hectares are now (in 2017) restocked (naturally regeneration or replanted) with Sitka Spruce at a density over 2,300 Sitka Spruce stems per hectare?

Answer; For coupes clearfelled in 2010/11, 536ha were restocked with Sitka spruce.

8. On NRW's estate, what was the standing volume of harvestable and merchantable softwood and hardwood timber in 2000, 2010 and what are the projected volumes in 2020 and 2030?

Answer; Standing volumes in cum ob: -

	2000	2011	2020	2030
Softwood	16,144,000	18,868,000	19,577,000	17,956,000
Hardwood	1,289,000	1,408,000	2,147,000	2,612,000

Notes and source: Projected softwood volumes 2020 & 2030 are from the 2016 25 year softwood forecast figure 3. These do not include the impact of PAWS and peat restoration.

Editors N.B. the 25 year forecast assumed like for like restocking so these figure are substantially different under the 50 year forecast that Confor requested in 2014.

Also of note is the answer to Q6, of the 1,730ha clear-felled in 2010 only 536ha were subsequently restocked with Sitka Spruce. It is highly unlikely that any of the area clearfelled in 2010 was broadleaves and the majority was probably spruce, only 31% of the area was restocked with spruce and we do not know what the rest was restocked with.

An Article on Climate Change by Laurie Goering, (Thomson Reuters Foundation) caught our eye recently, it said:

As efforts to cut planet-warming emissions fall short, large-scale projects to suck carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere will be needed by the 2030s to hold the line against climate change, the article stated that "Ideas for achieving those [climate change goals] include planting carbon-absorbing forests across large

areas, then harvesting the wood for energy and pumping the emissions produced underground - a process likely to feature in an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report next year." Whilst it would be better to use the wood and lock up the carbon then burn it at end of life, it is good that they are even thinking of creating forests across a large area.

<http://news.trust.org/item/20171010175429-zazqr/>

RWS schools photograph competition

We are desperately looking for a sponsor for this competition which is a vital part of educating the wider society about our sector. There are also great benefits for sponsors at the RWS including free entry tickets, advertising and access to a sponsor lounge which is a haven of tranquillity at a busy show. Please get in touch if you would like to be a sponsor.

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