



Glastir

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Wales

Glastir Woodlands

Bulletin 5 - March 2018



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Welsh Government

Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales work in partnership to deliver Glastir woodlands schemes under the Rural Development Programme for Wales 2014-2020. This bulletin provides a review of both Glastir Woodland Creation and Glastir Woodland Restoration schemes in 2017, an update on the published Glastir Woodlands rounds in 2018, a summary of updated guidance and an overview of other matters raised by registered woodland planners and stakeholders.

General Advice

Derogation Requests

If an applicant is unable to complete capital works by 31st March 2018, an application for a derogation to extend the deadline can be made. Derogations may be considered for Glastir Woodland Restoration contracts issued under the 5th round or Glastir Woodland Creation contracts issued under the 4th round.

To apply for a derogation, please ensure that the contract has been accepted and that the capital works have started before 31st March 2018. A request needs to include photographic evidence of the work completed to date and copies of paid invoices for materials. For example, plant orders, fencing and planting materials. The derogation request and supporting evidence should be sent through the respective RPW Online account.

If the derogation is approved, an extension to complete work by 15th May 2018 can be granted and for claims to be submitted by 15th June 2018. Please contact Rural Payments Wales on 0300 062 5004 for further information.

Terms and Conditions for Registered Woodland Planners

Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales are keen to ensure that the standard of professionalism is maintained by registered foresters. Under the revised Glastir terms and conditions for registered management planners, warnings and sanctions can be issued if the conduct of a registered woodland planner falls below the standard set out in the [ICF Code of Conduct](#) and the [Glastir scheme rules](#). The Welsh Government wrote to you and your professional body regarding a draft update to the terms and conditions.

Examples of situations that might warrant a warning include:

- Writing Glastir plans that do not comply with the Glastir rules and associated guidance.

- Not adhering to NRW advice for Glastir woodland schemes.
- Not following the advice of statutory consultees.

Examples of situations that might warrant a sanction include:

- Providing a false declaration or information
- Omitting important information
- Having received three or more warnings
- Not achieving full chartered membership of your professional body in the given timescale.

For further information, visit the updated Glastir registered planners' [Terms and Conditions](#) on the Glastir section of the Welsh Government website.

Registered planner training events

Natural Resources Wales have partnered with Farming and Forestry Connect and the ICF to run two training events. These events will focus on Long term forest planning and professionalism and will take place on:

- Tuesday 24th April Garwnant Visitor Centre
- Wednesday 25th April Coed y Brenin Visitor Centre

Natural Resources Wales are helping to organise these events and all Glastir registered woodland planners are expected to attend as part of your Continuous Professional Development. The events will include a one-hour closed session for Glastir planners on both days from 3pm. Please note, the events are free, but you need to register with the ICF to attend one of the events. You can do this on the ICF [events page](#).

In addition, Natural Resources Wales are organising two on-site planner training days on priority habitats and to support PAWS assessments. These events will take place in May and June and Natural Resources Wales will provide more information in due course.

Contact information

For enquiries relating to a Glastir expression of interest, selection and scoring, contract or payment information, please contact the Welsh Government through a [RPW online account](#) or 0330 062 5004. For enquiries relating to a Glastir Woodland plan, consultations and advice or the Glastir verification process, please contact Natural Resources Wales by [email](#) or telephone 03000 65 3000.

Mapping and Land Registration

You need to ensure that you submit the Glastir Woodlands plan (preferably as a word document) and the Glastir Woodlands geopdf as separate documents to RPW online. Check with the applicant to find out if the proposed area of woodland creation is registered with Welsh Government. If it is not registered, ensure that an FM4 (land registration) form is submitted with an Glastir Woodlands scheme Expression of Interest.





Glastir Woodland Creation

Expression of Interest windows

Expression of interests for the 6th round of Glastir Woodland Creation will run from 26th February and until 6th April 2018. This is for completion of capital works by 31st March 2019 and claimed by 30th April 2019. Customers can reapply in this window if their expression of interest in the 5th round of Glastir Woodland Creation was rejected.



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Scheme overview

	Round 3	Round 4
Area of woodland creation verified (Ha)	363.1ha	282.7ha
Average size (Ha)	7.7ha	5.6ha
Conifers planted (<i>estimate</i>)	167.7ha	102.5ha
Broadleaves planted (<i>estimate</i>)	195.3ha	180.2ha
Number of trees planted	816,058	613,000

Guidance update

As part of ongoing process improvements, Natural Resources Wales have updated several Glastir guidance notes. These will be available on the [Natural Resources Wales website](#) in March 2018.

- Updated **Glastir Woodland Creation guidance** sets out how to identify any sensitivities shown in a proposed area and to indicate what impact they are likely to have. The guidance describes the steps that registered woodland planners will need to take to accommodate these sensitivities in to a plan.
- This updated guidance is supported by new **Glastir Woodland Creation plan examples**. This includes two hypothetical cases that set out good practice for small-scale and large-scale woodland creation plans.
- Additional guidance on **priority habitats and areas of deep peat**.

There is also an updated [implementation guidance on Acid Sensitive Catchments](#).

Stakeholder Engagement

Taking a proactive approach to local engagement at an early stage of the woodland creation planning can promote understanding of the vision for a new woodland. This can lead to higher levels of interest, active support and help reduce the likelihood of negative reactions to your plans.

It is your responsibility to ensure the appropriate level of stakeholder engagement is carried out and, to help, the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales have made several changes to the [Glastir Woodland Creation rules](#) and the [updated Glastir Woodland Creation guidance](#).

- All schemes require responses from individuals whose properties might be affected, especially properties which adjoin new planting.
- If a woodland creation proposal is over the EIA threshold, you should inform the Community or Parish Council.
- As part of any public or neighbourhood engagement, your Glastir Woodland Creation plan must highlight when you consulted with stakeholders, how they were consulted, how long the consultation ran and who responded.
- A public event is recommended for larger woodland creation schemes, especially schemes located close to a community



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Natural Resources Wales might request further information during the verification process, so it is important that you keep a record of any discussions you have with stakeholders, details of notifications you provide and responses you receive.

Landscape Design

Glastir Woodland plans should include a Landscape Design Plan if a proposed woodland creation scheme is visible or important in the landscape (UKFS Good Forest Practice 1-4).

The design plan should include an analysis of landscape character to ensure it relates to the character of the surrounding landscape. Other factors to consider include visual sensitivities, historic context, designed landscapes and landscape design principles including scale, shape and landform. The final design should also address the external shape of a new woodland creation scheme in the context of the landscape setting; the design of the species unit and design of internal shapes.

Please refer to [Design techniques for Forest Management Planning](#) and [UKFS and Forest Management Planning](#) for further information.

Special Landscape Areas

A Special Landscape Area is a Local Authority designation to categorise sensitive landscape. If a woodland creation proposal is over five hectares, you should email the [Glastir Team](#) at Natural Resources Wales to find out if the woodland creation proposal is in a Special Landscape Area. You may also need to seek advice on the Special Landscape Area from the Local Authority.

Lle Woodland Opportunities Map

Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales have introduced several updates to the Woodland Opportunities map to make the map more user-friendly to a range of different user groups. We have also included more up to date evidence, incorporated a download function for the Terrestrial Phase 1 Habitat Survey and removed several constraint layers to ensure larger areas of Wales have a higher suitability for woodland. Some of the changes include:

- Moving the three National Parks and the Historic Landscape Area from the “sensitivities” layer to the “Special Guidance” layer. This shows that the National Park Authorities and local

Archaeological Trusts are happy to consider new woodland creation schemes. However, the same [consultation](#) process applies if the new planting proposal is in these layers.

- Introducing the most recent iteration of the National Forest Inventory.
- Amending the Red Squirrel dataset to include information from the Wales Squirrel forum and the Mid Wales Red Squirrel partnership.
- Updating Butterfly Conservation fritillary layer, resulting from current research.
- Amended dataset names to be consistent with updated [Glastir Woodland Creation guidance](#).
- Including 2016 Acid Sensitive Waterbodies Cycle 2 data.
- Removing the 800m buffer around each National Park Authority.
- Introducing a download function for the [Terrestrial Phase 1 Habitat Survey](#)



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While the woodland opportunities map is a decision supporting tool to help identify areas in Wales that are most suited to woodland creation, it is not a decision-making tool. It is important that planners carry out their own site assessment for a proposed new planting scheme.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) opinions

Currently, every application under the Glastir Woodland Creation scheme requires an opinion under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. This opinion assesses whether consent is needed for a new planting proposal.

As part of further process improvements, Natural Resources Wales have amended the Glastir rules so that a new planting application under Glastir Woodland Creation is not considered an EIA application unless it matches the thresholds set out in the Regulations. This will mean that schemes below the EIA thresholds will not require an opinion. This change will apply from the 6th round of Glastir Woodland Creation.

Please note that an applicant can apply for an EIA opinion at any time, even if the Glastir Woodland Creation expression of interest window is closed. However, an applicant must have a **serious intention** of undertaking the new planting. Visit [here](#) for more information.

Woodland Carbon Code

The Forestry Commission have now registered all 21 Glastir Woodland Creation “Native Woodland Carbon” proposals from the first three rounds. The registered projects can be viewed [on the Woodland Carbon Code registry](#).

Coed Cymru are taking over the ‘Group Manager’ role for these projects from April 2018. Coed Cymru will be in contact soon to discuss the next steps.

In March 2018, the Forestry Commission published an updated version of the standard, guidance and documentation. This simplifies some aspects, incorporates small projects and provides additional details on verification.



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Visit www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode or email [Vicky West](mailto:Vicky.West) for further details.

Glastir Woodland Restoration

Expression of Interest windows

Expressions of interest for the 6th Glastir Woodland Restoration will run from 9th April until 4th May 2018. This is for completion of capital works by 31st March 2019 and claimed by 30th April 2019.

Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) overview

Under the 5th round 61 schemes were selected, including 39 cases within PAWS. Welsh Government assessed all non-PAWS and PAWS cases with a high Ecological Potential Score (EPS) or where restocking was with 100% native broadleaves.

Natural Resources Wales supported the Welsh Government by assessing 117 hectares of Glastir Woodland Restoration schemes with areas of PAWS with medium and low EPS. This comprised 19 cases and included:

- Area of conifer planted 82 hectares
- Area of broadleaves planted 35 hectares

Schemes within the Red Squirrel core areas

Planners should use the [Mid Wales Red Squirrel project](#) to find out if a Glastir Woodland Restoration scheme is within the Red Squirrel core area. If it is, Natural Resources Wales recommend:

- Avoid planting large seeded broadleaved tree species such as oak, chestnut, beech, sycamore or hazel where these are not already present. Instead consider restocking with small seeded broadleaves (Birch, Rowan, Willow, Alder, Aspen).
- If the restocking area is adjacent to existing red squirrel habitat, include Pine (Scot's or Lodgepole) and Norway spruce with Sitka and small seeded broadleaves species mixture.
- In Anglesey, preferred species for restocking are oak, beech, sweet chestnut, hazel, lime, rowan, and pine (e.g. Scots, Lodgepole, Maritime, Stone and Mountain).

Please refer to the [Conservation Plan for Red Squirrels in Wales](#) for further information.



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Case Study

Woodland Creation in North Wales

By the end of March 2018, a landowner in North Wales will have completed over 48 hectares of new planting and the installation of over 10 kilometres of associated stock-proof fencing. This has been achieved through four separate applications under Glastir Woodland Creation.

The overall aim of the four schemes has been multi-fold and aligns with the joint Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales aim to create and sustainably manage our natural resources for multiple benefits.

By using a predominantly native broadleaf mixture (Native Biodiversity mixture 801) the schemes collectively seek to:

- Provide a sustainable source of timber.
- Create thriving, biodiverse woodlands that will augment existing local biodiversity
- Enhance the local landscape character;
- Support recreation activities



A minor element of Enhanced Mixed Woodland (Glastir Woodland Creation mixture 803) has been included to mitigate concerns over changes to the historical landscape.

Guidance and advice on multiple constraints and sensitivities on the sites was sought from appropriate consultee experts at the earliest opportunity. This enabled the proposals to be designed in a sensitive manner that could avoid adverse effects on other needs of the land and landscape.

The key element of success of the four schemes that cumulatively form this landscape-scale woodland planting scheme has been the early and ongoing collaboration between the applicant, stakeholders and Natural Resources Wales. This has achieved a positive and balanced outcome for all, and has delivered four successful schemes that meet the cultural, historical, landscape and biodiversity requirements of a widely-regarded landscape.



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Case Study

Woodland Restoration in the Snowdonia National Park

Work is underway to restore Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and remove larch at risk of infection by *Phytophthora ramorum* in a large forest in the Snowdonia National Park. The restoration of PAWS and non-PAWS under the Glastir Woodland Restoration 5th Round will take place in the southern section of the forest, which includes areas within an SSSI designated for its Western sessile oak woodland.

Consent to work in and adjacent to designated sites was obtained along with a conditional felling licence to fell Japanese larch and Sitka spruce with minor components of Western hemlock and Lodgepole pine. A UKFS-compliant management plan was completed and included 26 hectares of restocking, 4.4 hectares of which was recorded as PAWS on the 2011 AWI.

In line with Glastir Woodlands objectives to deliver environmental benefits, the management plan included the following objectives:

- Re-structuring conifer stands to increase diversity and resilience.
- Restore areas of high conservation, landscape and amenity value
- Timber production
- Conserve features of archaeological and historical interest
- Managing the woodland in accordance with the UK Forest Standard and UK Woodland Assurance Standard



Restoration of PAWS under the 5th Round required a PAWS survey to ascertain the ecological development criteria.

Two compartments containing PAWS were deemed to be of High Ecological Potential and will be restocked with 100% site native broadleaves under Capital Works option 631. The third site was assessed as Medium Ecological Potential. While this will be restocked with 100% site native broadleaves, it will be partially-restored with a minimum 50% native broadleaves that will be sited to buffer existing hotspots of remnant semi-natural trees, regeneration, shrubs and flora.

The remaining 21 hectares of non-PAWS will be restocked under Capital Works option 619 with a mixture of commercially productive conifer species and site native broadleaves. The Glastir Woodland Restoration plan also assessed threats to restoration of PAWS. The most significant threat was Rhododendron and the plan therefore included 2.59 hectares of rhododendron control under Capital Works option 663.

