# Glastir Woodland Creation Bulletin 1 November 2015

## 1. Introduction

This is the first GWC verification bulletin from the NRW verifiers which aims to highlight and resolve common issues found during GWC verification.

## 2. Important contact details

Please ensure that the following contact details are used to ensure applications can be processed efficiently:

[forestregulations@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:Forest.Regulations@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) Email address for all EIA opinions (not General Enquiries)

[Glastirprocessing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:Glastirprocessing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) Email address to receive conditional consent for SSSIs

**RPW online** to send in all GWC plans, maps, consultation responses, etc

Remember that all GWC plans need Welsh Archaeological Trust consultation and an EIA opinion prior to being submitted for verification, otherwise they will be returned.

## 2. Lle Glastir Woodland Creation Opportunities map

The Lle map browser (<http://lle.gov.wales/apps/woodlandopportunities>) now has additional functionality published to allow the user to query which sensitive sites are present by simply clicking the left mouse button at any point on the map.

There is also the option to search Wales using a 6 digit grid reference (e.g. SN111222 – no spaces), place name, or postcode (SY23 1AB- with space). There is functionality to draw a box which will provide an area calculation of a new planting area (use the ruler symbol in the top left corner) as well as a linear tool which can be used to measure potential fencing. There will also be a link with metadata information for each sensitive site layer which is linked from the popup. If this additional functionality is not showing for you when you open the attached link, refresh the webpage as your computer may have ‘cached’ an older version.

**Look at the Lle Map before you start the Glastir Woodland Creation scheme to make sure you are aware of all the new planting constraints and sensitivities.**

## 3. Priority habitats

If there is a priority habitat or deep peat on the Lle map in the new planting area, the photographic evidence needs to be of sufficiently good quality to demonstrate to GWC verifiers that the area can be planted up.

## 4. Feedback from the Permitting team (Forestry) team

Before submitting an EIA opinion, make sure you read the guidance <https://naturalresources.wales/forestry/tree-felling-and-other-regulations/environmental-impact-assessment-for-forestry-activity/glastir-eia-quick-guide>.

For the EIA opinion form you need to:-

* Have a clearly marked boundary around the new planting boundary
* Ensure **the grid reference is correct**
* Remove the Glastir Advanced layers from the map – if necessary, copy and paste a map into word.
* Highlight the text in the GWC management plan as shown on the GWC example plan in the Glastir EIA quick guide
* To help the Forest Regulations team locate the new planting, in New Woodland property box name please add the name of the nearest village or town eg Coed Cae Glas, Tregarth

## 5. GWC scheme rules

Please ensure that your plan complies with the GWC schemes rules. In particular we have found that plans do not meet the following:

* Mixed Enhanced mixture – five major species (at least 10% of each species) – these are tree canopy species but are not woody shrubs (eg hawthorn, hazel, holly)
* Tree numbers in the GWC management plan can be useful information for the owner but make sure that the tree numbers in the GWC plan are correct
* Ensure the new planting area is stock proof.
* Follow guidance on scattered trees “Existing scattered trees and shrubs have a high environmental value and should not be cleared for new planting but should be incorporated in the planting design. Shrubs and scattered trees need to be mapped out in the same way as open ground if the area is more than 0.1Ha.”

## 6. Brecon Beacons National Park National park consultation

Brecon Beacons National Park has worked with Welsh Government to include areas within the Park which is suitable for new planting. These areas, which are marked in green on the Lle woodland opportunities map, do not need National Park consultation. Only new planting marked in white on the Lle map need National Park consultation over the EIA threshold.

## 7. Glastir Woodland Creation Guidance

There is additional GWC guidance which has been uploaded onto on the NRW website <https://naturalresources.wales/forestry/new-woodland-creation/support-available-for-new-woodland-creation>

* **Tree planting guide**
* **Photographic evidence** Provides guidance on taking photo-tagged photographs especially in priority areas. Again make sure you include this for any areas that are identified as habitat land.
* **Guidance on selecting tree species** https://naturalresources.wales/forestry/planning-for-the-future/tree-species-choice/?lang=en