



# Glastir

**Cyfoeth  
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## Glastir Woodland Bulletin 3

18 March 2016

### Glastir Woodland Creation Update

From the 91 Expressions of Interest received, the Welsh Government has offered 49 Glastir Woodland Creation Contracts of which 41 have been signed. In total, NRW has verified a total of 49 of 51 Glastir Woodland Creation plans which have been returned to Welsh Government. For queries regarding GWC contracts please contact Welsh Government through your RPW Online account or by telephone on 0300 063 5004.

**Important Note:** GWC plan verification needs evidence from GWC planners to comply with UKFS and Glastir rules. For example, if a new planting area is shown to be in a NRW sensitive habitat and insufficient evidence has been provided (in form of clearly taken geotagged photographs) to demonstrate the area is not a sensitive habitat, a GWC plan cannot be verified.

The second EOI window for Glastir Woodland Creation will open on **30 March 2016** and close on **29 April 2016**. This window is for those who can complete the Capital Works by **31 March 2017**.

### Glastir Woodland Restoration Update

During the first Glastir Woodland Restoration application Window 42 Expressions of Interest were received. Following on from subsequent withdrawals and rejections, 26 contracts have been offered of which 25 have been signed.

25 Expressions of Interest were received during the second window. 20 contracts have been offered of which 16 have been signed.

The third EOI window for Glastir Woodland Creation will open on **30 March 2016** and close on **29 April 2016**. This window is for those who can complete the Capital Works by **31 March 2017**.

### Glastir Woodland Management Update

At present Welsh Government holds 268 Glastir Woodland Management Contracts.



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Currently there are no plans to re-open another Glastir Woodland Management Expression of Interest window.

## Glastir Woodland Capital Works Claims

Glastir Capital Works Online is now live for the three Glastir Woodland schemes Capital Works claims – all new planting and fencing Capital works, once completed, must be claimed by **30 April 2016**. Glastir Woodland Creation maintenance and premium grants will need to be claimed annually on the Single Application Form.

## Glastir Woodland Creation Training

GWC training sessions will be held during April and all GWC planners are expected to attend one of the sessions. The training will aim to address issues and frequently asked questions that arose during the first EoI window. For example, training topics may include NRW sensitive habitats, acid sensitive catchments, tree species diversification, EIA opinions, WAT consultations and Welsh Government land registration.

The Welsh Government will provide more details once the venues and dates have been finalised.

## Lle Glastir Woodland Creation Opportunities map update

Take time to familiarise yourself with the Glastir Woodland Creation opportunities map. This is hosted on the Lle Welsh Government website. A tutorial is being written to accompany the map. This aims to provide the user with an understanding of how the map works and the constraints and sensitivities provided by the Lle GWC map will help to inform applicants about the suitability of a new planting area.

<http://lle.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Item/GlastirWoodlandCreationOpportunitiesMap>

**TIP:** To ensure that all sensitive sites are identified in a new planting area, navigate to the ruler square symbol in the top left corner of the screen and select 'create new area measurement'. Use this tool to draw around the new planting proposal, and upon clicking enter, a box will appear for the area that has just been drawn. There is a line of text within this box which says "click here to view the points of interest this area intersects". Upon clicking this, a list of sensitive areas within what has been drawn will be shown.

## EIA opinion

For the July 2015 EoI, the NRW Forest Regulations team received 47 EIA opinions for consideration. All have now been processed.



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An applicant can submit an EIA opinion for new planting at any time, even if the GWC Expression of Interest window is closed. However, the applicant must have a **serious intention** to undertake the new planting during the next five years – the decision only lasts for five years from the date of the NRW letter. More information is available on the NRW website:

<https://naturalresources.wales>



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An EIA opinion form should be submitted to [forestreulations@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:forestreulations@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk). It is important to put in the correct grid reference (and not the field number provided by Welsh Government) and fill in all the boxes on the form. Otherwise the EIA opinion will have to be returned to the applicant. On more complex new planting sites additional information such as ecological surveys and consultation responses are needed to help to make a decision on the EIA opinion.

The Forest Regulations team will consult on SSSI and SSSI buffers. If SSSI consent is not given for all or part of a new planting area, it is unlikely that a new planting scheme will pass GWC verification and an EIA opinion will need to be withdrawn.

## Archaeological Trust consultation

Consultation responses was received from the Welsh Archaeological Trusts (WATs) for all the GWC plans. Welsh Government is meeting with the WATs to discuss issues for the next GWC EoI. WAT consultation is required for UKFS compliance which says “Steps should be taken to ensure that historic features, which may be adversely affected by forestry, are known and evaluated on an individual site basis, taking advice from the local environment services.”

## Stakeholder statement

In line with the UKFS, there must be a stakeholder statement in Section 6 of the GWC Management Plan. This should include details of any neighbours, users and community councils who may use the new planting area. If a new planting is in a remote location, you need to say why no stakeholders are involved. Below is a good example of a well written and informative stakeholder statement:

*“This is a small scale woodland planting which fits within the landscape character for the area of mixed woodland with copses and hedgerow. The copses will be situated on low lying ground which is not prominent in the landscape and does not interfere with the views from any adjoining properties. The land is all managed in hand and there is no impact on other*

*farmers. The landowner has made his neighbours aware of his proposal and there has been no negative feedback.”*

## CROW open access land

If an area of new planting has open access, you must refer to the guidance on open access. Please refer to the Lle GWC opportunities map for more information, and the NRW website.

<https://naturalresources.wales/media/5598/open-access-and-commons-guidance-for-glastir-woodland-creation.pdf>.

If there is open access a brief statement is needed in Section 6 of the GWC plan in Section 6. Below is a good example of an open access statement:

*“Both proposed compartments occur on CROW open access land. There is an existing public footpath south of the proposed planting compartments and therefore public use of the areas to be planted is likely to be very low. To accommodate any access needs by the public, a stile will be provided at the southern end of each parcel and another at the far end of each. An unplanted 4m wide corridor will be left between the two stiles of each compartment.”*

## Acid sensitive catchments

If the new planting area is in a ‘Failing’ or ‘At Risk’ Acid Sensitive Catchment (this information can be found on the Lle Glastir Woodland Creation opportunities map) and is over the thresholds, the applicant will need to ask the NRW Forest Regulations team whether the catchment is over 30% afforested. If this is the case, the applicant will need guidance from NRW on collecting water samples for Critical Load Assessments. Refer to the good practice guide and implementation guide on the Acid Sensitive section of the NRW website for more information.

<https://naturalresources.wales/forestry/woodlands-and-the-environment/acid-sensitive-catchments>.

## Additional guidance on tree species diversity

Take time to look at guidance on diversifying tree species selection to support climate change resilience, for example using western red cedar (see next page) in a GWC Enhanced Mixture (Glastir Capital Works 801).



## Western red-cedar (RC) - *Thuja plicata* (Richard Carrick)



Of all the “alternative” tree species available to foresters in Wales, western red cedar is one with possibly the greatest potential for increased use. There has been a long history of planting red cedar in Wales on a range of sites and although there is crop variation, recent surveys and circumstantial evidence from a range of sources suggests that we should increase the planting of this species in Wales.

For further, information on this species and a range of others go to the NRW website:  
<http://naturalresources.wales/forestry/planning-for-the-future/tree-species-choice>

### Timber Business Investment Scheme

This scheme was launched on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016 by the Deputy Minister for Farming and Food. The grant provides funding for capital investment that add value to forests by enabling woodland management activities, timber harvesting and/or timber processing.

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/wales-rural-development-programme-2014-2020/timber-business-investment-scheme>.