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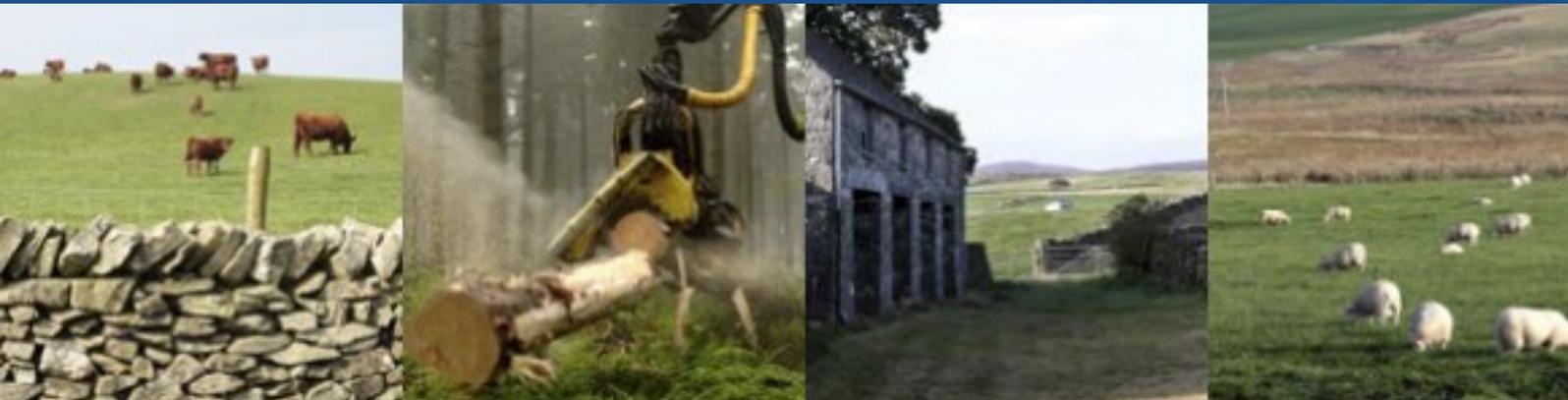
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Glastir

Glastir Woodland Restoration

Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) Plan Verification Guidance

Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme for Wales 2014 - 2020



PLANTED ANCIENT WOODLAND SITES (PAWS) VERIFICATION GUIDANCE

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

This document provides the verification checks and four examples for PAWS assessments for Glastir Woodland Restoration (GWR) plans. These PAWS assessments will be verified by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

All PAWS assessments will be verified to comply with:

- [PAWS restoration – guidance on best practice](#).
- [UK Forest Standard](#)
- [Glastir Woodland Restoration Rules](#)

Scoring for PAWS assessments

There are 3 scores for the Ecological Importance Criteria (EIC) and 4 scores for Ecological Development Criteria (EDC) which totals 7 scoring criteria. Scores are High, Medium and Low for each criterion.

A number has been allocated to each score – High (5), Medium (3), Low (1) There is a maximum score of 35 (7 criteria x 5 High scores) and a minimum score of 7 (7 criteria x 1 Low scores).

Scoring thresholds have been allocated for high, medium and low scores:-

Threshold for High score = 23 and over

Threshold for Medium score = 15 and over

Threshold for Low score = 14 and below

Statutory Plant Health Notice/Felling licence

Before applying for a GWR plan, applicants need to have received a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN), an approved felling licence or felling licence application number from the NRW Forest Regulations team. An applicant may also need to apply for an [European Protected Species licence](#) as part of the felling licence.

Stakeholder engagement

In line with UKFS Forest & People Good Forest Practice 7, a report on stakeholder engagement must be provided and should include neighbours and users who have a recognisable interest in the proposal or its outcomes of the restock site.

Wayleaves

If there is an electricity wayleave or underground services through a restock site, refer to the relevant utility company guidance as evidence for the verifiers.

Tree species choice

To improve the resilience of a restocking site for climate change resilience, look at increasing tree species diversity in Wales <https://naturalresources.wales/forestry/planning-for-the-future/tree-species-choice>

SECTION 2 - VERIFICATION EVIDENCE REQUIRED FOR GWR PLAN (Section 3 of the GWR plan)

Information source					Evidence required	
GWR geopdf layer/site features	Description of GWR geopdf layer/site features	UKFS Reference	Available guidance	Mapping data	Management plan evidence	Additional evidence
Biodiversity: (Designations)	Biological SSSIs & 300m buffer includes Special Area of conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	<u>Forests & Biodiversity</u> : Legal 1; Good Forest Practice 4; Forest Guidelines 4,5; <u>Forests & Water</u> Legal 12; <u>Forests & Climate Change</u> Forest Guidelines 5; Forest & Soil Forest Guidelines 24	Designated sites guidance	Designated sites maps	Follow guidance SSSI Notice of Intent (received as part of a Felling Licence application)	Approved Felling Licence
Ancient, semi-natural wood (ASNW)	National Forest Inventory data (2011)	<u>Forests & Biodiversity</u> : Legal 1; Good Forest Practice 3,4; Guidelines – 6, 35; <u>Forests & Water</u> Legal 12	Ancient Woodland inventory guidance	AWI data	Evidence there is no damage to adjacent ASNW as part of restocking operation	No
PAWS					Complete Section 4 of GWR plan if PAWS present	No
Biodiversity (European protected species)	Great crested newts	<u>Forests & Biodiversity</u> : Legal 1; Good Forest Practice 3,4; <u>Forests & Water</u> Legal 12	European protected species guidance	National Biodiversity Network	If EPS conditions in FLA, ensure they have followed	Approved felling licence/Felling licence application with EPS checklist/EPS licence
	Otters					
	Dormice				Evidence that mature and veteran trees have been retained during felling operations	
	Bats (all species)					
Biodiversity (Sect 7 species Environment Act)	Red squirrels		Red Squirrel guidance	Red squirrel core area	Within red squirrel core areas , increase % of Norway spruce and use small seeded broadleaves	No
Historic environment	Parks & Gardens: Registered (CADW)	<u>Forests & Historic Environment</u> Good Forest Practice 2,4; Forest Guidelines 10	Registered Parks & Gardens guidance	GWR geopdf	Demonstrate restocking in line with Registered Parks & Gardens consultation response	CADW consultation response

Information source					Evidence required	
GWR geopdf layer/site features	Description of GWR geopdf layer/site features	UKFS Reference	Available guidance	Mapping data	Management plan evidence	Additional evidence
Historic environment	Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<u>Forests & Historic Environment</u> Legal 1; Good Forest Practice 4; Forest Guidelines 10, 11, 20	Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Wales guidance	GWR Geopdf	Demonstrate restocking follows SAM consultation response	CADW consultation response
	Historic Environment Features	<u>Forests & Historic Environment</u> Good Forest Practice 1-5; Forest Guidelines 10, 17, 22	Historic environment features which are not protected by statutory designation	Archwilio	If HEF present, consult with Welsh Archaeological Trusts (WATs)	WAT consultation response (if HEF present)
Landscape	National Parks (Brecon Beacons, Snowdonia, Pembrokeshire Coast)	National Park (and 800m buffer) <u>Forests & Landscape Forest Practice: 1-4</u> ; <u>Forests & Landscape Forest Guidelines: 1,2,4,7</u>	National Parks guidance	GWR geopdf	Follow any guidance on landscape (especially for larger restock sites) in Felling Licence	Approved Felling Licence
	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Gower, Anglesey, Clwydian Range, Wye Valley, Llyn Peninsula)		AONB guidance			
People	Public rights of way	<u>Forests & People</u> : Legal 1,2	Comply with Public rights of way (ProW) landowner responsibilities:	Ordnance survey maps	Ensure PRoW within restock area must not be obstructed.	No
Water	Acid sensitive catchments (ASCs) - At risk and failing catchments	<u>Forests & Water</u> : Good Forest Practice 11; Forest Guidelines 1,2,6	Acid sensitive catchment guidance:	Acid sensitive catchments maps/Lle GWC map (special guidance)	Plant less than 10% alder in riparian buffer ASCs. Avoid filling trenches (created for mounding on restock sites) with fresh brush.	No
	Lakes and rivers	<u>Forests & Biodiversity</u> : Forest Guidelines 30, 31; <u>Forests & Soil</u> : Forest Guidelines 17; <u>Forests & Water</u> : Legal 10; Good Forest Practice 5; Forest Guidelines 80, 81		Ordnance Survey maps	Table 5.1 – UKFS guidance within riparian buffers; Consider opportunities to restore forest wetlands within restock areas to increase flood storage & slow flood flows	No

SECTION 3 – EXAMPLE OF GWR PLAN WITH PAWS ASSESSMENT

Glastir Woodland Restoration Plan

Note: Only planners with a Planted Ancient Woodlands (PAWS) scheme should fill in Section 4.

Customer Reference Number (CRN)	A00*****
Expression of Interest (EOI) Reference number	7*****

1. Property Details

Woodland Name	Coed Gwyn		
Site Reference Number (SRN)			
Contact Name		Status	Owner / Tenant / Manager
Email		Contact Number	
Do you have management control of the land?	Yes/No		
Management Planner			
Email		Contact Number	
Agent Name and Company (If Applicable)			
Email		Contact Number	
GWR Area (Hectares)	3.2 Hectares		
Area of PAWS (Hectares)	3.2 Hectares		
6 Figure Grid Reference (centre of felling area)	SH123123		
Local authority	Denbighsire		
Altitude in metres (above sea level)	270m		
Is there an existing Felling Licence (Give FLA reference)	050/16-17/172		
Does the FLA restocking prescription list the same species and species % as Section 6 (GWR plan)?	Yes		
Is there a Tree Preservation Order (TPO)?	No		
Is there a European Protected Species licence?	No		
Do you intend to make an insurance claim or have you received an insurance payment for the loss of trees due to <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> ?	No		

2. Site background

2a. Management Objectives

Coed Gwyn will continue to be managed to produce a future supply of timber using sustainable forestry principles, to enhance the biodiversity of the site and to improve the water quality of the stream through the wood. Stock will continue to be excluded from the wood.

2b. Site description

Coed Gwyn is on a sheltered, south facing slope at around 270m above sea level and is predominantly a brown earth site. Cpt. 1a was planted with mixed conifers (Japanese larch, Douglas fir, Sitka spruce) in 1960 (Cpt. 1a) and the compartment has been felled under a Felling Licence. The wood is adjacent to a conifer plantations to the north and west and an ancient woodland site to the east. There is frequent rhododendron and scattered conifer regeneration throughout the wood.

A stream runs along the southern boundary of the compartment and there is a well used public right of way through the wood. A lime kiln has been recorded on site which will be excluded from the restocking area.

3. Background assessment - GWR features (Desk based & Site survey)

GWR GeoPDF layers & features on site	Description of Glastir layer in/adjacent to wood	Is consultation required?	How will the GWR GeoPDF layer be dealt with (in accordance with UKFS)
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	<i>The wood is within the Clwydian Range AONB</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Small scale felling and restocking next to stream – will have limited landscape impact</i>
Historic environment feature	<i>A lime kiln is located along the northern boundary of the wood</i>	<i>WAT response</i>	<i>WAT advice will be followed – no restocking within 5m of archaeological feature</i>
Stream	<i>There is a stream through the site</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Ensure that UKFS Forest & Water guidelines are followed during the restocking operation</i>
Public right of way	<i>There is a well used PRow through the wood</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Ensure PRow is kept open at all times</i>
Lesser horseshoe bats	<i>Bats use woods for foraging</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Standing mature and veteran broadleaves within and adjacent to the felled site will be retained</i>
Woodland Habitat Network	<i>40% of Coed Gwyn is in Woodland Habitat Network</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Information used for scoring the Ecological Potential Criteria (Section 4)</i>

4. PAWS Assessment

Note: Only planners with a Planted Ancient Woodlands (PAWS) scheme should fill in Section 4.

4a. Potential impacts of PAWS restoration - Ecological Importance Criteria (EIC) – Desk assessment		
GWR GeoPDF layer	Description of EIC in/adjacent to wood	EIC score (High, Medium, Low)
Relevant designations	<i>No SSSI/SSSI buffer in or adjacent to the site Site is not near a designated woodland. Designated features will not benefit from restoration</i>	Low 1
Priority habitats and species	<i>Ancient oak woodland to east of the wood and along eastern boundary; Lesser horseshoe bats have been recorded in the wood Restoration to potential woodland type will make a major contribution to resilience of Section 7 habitat restoration/potential Sect. 7 species</i>	High 5
Woodland Habitat Networks	<i>40% of the PAWS is in a Primary Network Restoration will have a minimal or neutral impact on woodland habitat network</i>	Medium 3

4b. Ecological Development Criteria (EDC) – Site survey and annotated map		
Ecological Development Criteria	Description	EDC Score (High, Medium, Low)
Mature remnant semi-natural trees & shrubs	<i>3 mature alder especially along streamside corridor and 2 oaks within PAWS Very limited range of native trees and shrubs</i>	Low 1
Presence of site native tree and shrub regeneration	<i>Occasional birch, rowan, ash regeneration Some potential for seed production from native species on or adjacent to the site; limited amounts of advanced regeneration present</i>	Medium 3
Presence of specialist woodland ground flora on site	<i>Occasional ancient woodland flora present including wood sorrel and bluebells especially along PAWS boundary A few patches across the site; small populations of small or two species</i>	Medium 3
Adjacency and quality of existing semi-natural woodland	<i>Ancient woodland site to east of PAWS (NVC W10) Semi natural woodland adjacent to some parts of the restoration site</i>	Medium 3

Ecological Potential Score
19 - Medium score for PAWS restoration

4c. Threat to PAWS – Site survey and annotated map

Threats	Description
Over shading	<i>Shading from adjacent Sitka spruce plantation will not impact on PAWS restock site</i>
Presence of non-native regeneration	<i>Occasional Sitka spruce regeneration</i>
Grazing and browsing including deer/squirrels	<i>No evidence of stock grazing in the wood. The northern fence is in poor condition and will be replaced.</i>
Invasive non-native plant species	<i>Frequent rhododendron regrowth in 30% of the wood</i>
Presence of bracken and brambles	<i>Dominant bramble through Cpt. 1a</i>

5. Long term Vision and management operations

5a. Long term vision for restoration

The Ecological potential for Coed Gwyn is **medium** and the site will be restocked with a minimum of 50% site native broadleaves (sessile oak, downy birch, rowan, alder and woody shrubs). There will be ground flora typical of lowland mixed broadleaves especially by the stream and ancient woodland. Within the broadleaf areas, conifer regeneration will be minimised and all mature native trees will be left to senescence. There will be no flowering rhododendron bushes within the area of the PAWS.

Operation	Statement of intent	Measure of success (within 10 years)
Restocking	Site will be restocked with >50% broadleaves and <50% conifers using GWR Capital Works 618 and 631. Broadleaves and woody shrubs (hazel, hawthorn) will be planted by the stream, ancient woodland site and public right of way. Conifers (Sitka spruce, Douglas fir) will be planted in the rest of the compartment.	Ensure 100% establishment of conifers and broadleaves (2,500 trees/Ha)
Rhododendron	Remove rhododendron bushes in 30% of the PAWS and set up annual herbicide programme to control regrowth	No flowering rhododendron in PAWS area
Brambles	Control brambles throughout the PAWS to ensure good tree and shrub establishment	100% tree and shrub establishment not impacted by brambles
Stock exclusion	All boundaries will be stockproof. The northern boundary will be replaced and will comply with Glastir fencing specification.	The boundary fencing around the PAWS will be checked at least annually to ensure the perimeter boundary is stockproof
Stream	Remove all conifers (mature conifers & regeneration) and rhododendron within 10m of the stream. Restock with broadleaves within the 10m buffer at wider spacing (around 2.5m spacing) to get more dappled shading. Elsewhere, restocking will be at closer spacing to ensure 2,500 trees//Ha within the PAWS	100% broadleaf trees & shrubs within 10m of stream
Lime kiln	No restocking within 5m of limekiln	5m open ground around lime kiln
Public rights of way	Maintain public right of way through the wood	Keep 2m open ground for public right of way. Woody shrubs will be planted adjacent to the public right of way.
Mature remnant broadleaves	Ensure all mature broadleaves are retained within PAWS	Mature broadleaves will be retained within the PAWS

6. Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder	Response
<i>The public right of way through Coed Gwyn is well used by local residents</i>	<i>The forestry agent has spoken to the members of the public about the restocking operation</i>
<i>A farmer uses a track through the wood to access his fields</i>	<i>The forestry agent has informed the farmer about the restocking operation</i>

7. Plan of Operation for GWR plan

Cpt. No	Sheet Reference	Field Number	Map ID	Capital Works Reference	Capital Works Number	Description	Quantity	PAWS Present (Y/N)
1a	SH1212	4567	GWC001	<i>Restock: Native Broadleaves</i>	631	<i>50% sessile oak, 20% downy birch, 10% rowan, 10% alder, 5% hazel, 5% hawthorn</i>	1.44Ha	Y
1a	SH1212	4567	GWC002	<i>Restock: Basic restocking between 250-350m</i>	618	<i>50% Sitka spruce, 20% Douglas fir, 20% Norway spruce, 5% alder, 5% sessile oak</i>	1.76Ha	Y
1a	SH1212	4567	GWC003	<i>Rhododendron and laurel control <1.5m</i>	663	<i>Control rhododendron in Cpt. 1a</i>	0.96Ha	
1a	SH1212	4567	GWC004	<i>Bramble/scrub control - hand/knapsack spraying</i>	654	<i>Control bramble on the restock site prior to planting</i>	3.2Ha	
1a	SH1212	4567	GWC005	<i>Post and wire fencing plus stock netting</i>	595	<i>Replace fencing along northern boundary</i>	290m	

Documents submitted in support of this plan

GWR plan	
Annotated GWR map showing Ecological Development Criteria (e.g. site native trees and shrubs, regeneration, veteran trees) and threats (stock grazing, invasive species)	Y
GeoPDF map of operations for GWR contract	Y
NRW consent within Sites of Special Scientific Interests (SSSIs)	N/A
CADW response within 100m of Scheduled Ancient Monument	N/A
Felling licence	Y
Statutory Plant Health Notice	Y
European Protected Species (EPS) licence (if needed)	N/A
Consultation responses e.g. Archaeological Trusts	Y

SECTION 4 – PAWS assessment examples with high, medium and low scores (Section 4 of the GWR plan)

Example 1 - PAWS assessment (High score)

7.2Ha well thinned Douglas fir and Japanese larch (P.60) adjacent to the river SSSI/SAC. 100m above sea level. 55% larch infested with PR and the owner has decided to fell Douglas fir at same time. Approved felling licence application.

4a. Potential impacts of PAWS restoration - Ecological Importance Criteria (EIC) – Desk assessment		
GWR GeoPDF layer	Description of EIC in/adjacent to wood	EIC score (High, Medium, Low)
Relevant designations	<i>Adjacent to river SSSI/SAC Restoration will contribute significantly to safeguarding and enhancing the adjacent designated site</i>	High 5
Priority habitats and species	<i>Ancient Woodland Site to the north of PAWS; otters (European Protected Species) use SSSI/SAC river Restoration to potential woodland type will make a major contribution to resilience of Section 7 habitat restoration/potential Sect. 7 species</i>	High 5
Woodland Habitat Networks	<i>Within a primary woodland network Restoration of the site will contribute significantly to the woodland habitat network.</i>	High 5

4b. Ecological Development Criteria (EDC) – Site survey and annotated map		
Ecological Development Criteria	Description	EDC Score (High, Medium, Low)
Mature remnant semi-natural trees & shrubs	<i>Rare mature birch, oak, rowan Very limited range of native trees and shrubs</i>	Low 1
Presence of site native tree and shrub regeneration	<i>Abundant hazel & frequent holly regeneration; frequent birch, ash; occasional oak Some potential for seed production from native species on or adjacent to the site; limited amounts of advanced regeneration present</i>	Medium 3
Presence of specialist woodland ground flora on site	<i>Abundant scaly male fern, frequent bluebells, honeysuckle, wood sorrel Range of robust patches of specialist woodland ground flora across the site</i>	High 5
Adjacency and quality of existing semi-natural woodland	<i>Adjacent to AWS to the north Semi natural woodland adjacent to north of PAWS</i>	Medium 3

Ecological Potential Score
27 - High score for PAWS restoration.

Example 2 - PAWS assessment – Medium score

Planted Ancient Woodland (0.60Ha)– area of western red cedar/western hemlock felled in 2015

4a. Potential impacts of PAWS restoration - Ecological Importance Criteria (EIC) – Desk assessment		
GWR GeoPDF layer	Description of EIC in/adjacent to wood	EIC score (High, Medium, Low)
Relevant designations	<i>PAWS is not within 300m of SSSI</i> Site is not near to a designated woodland. Designated features will not benefit from restoration	Low 1
Priority habitats and species	<i>Ancient Woodland Site to the east of PAWS</i> Restoration to potential woodland type will make a major contribution to resilience of Section 7 habitat restoration/potential Sect. 7 species	Medium 3
Woodland Habitat Networks	<i>Within a primary woodland network</i> Restoration of site will contribute significantly to the woodland habitat network	High 5

4b. Ecological Development Criteria (EDC) – Site survey and annotated map		
Ecological Development Criteria	Description	EDC Score (High, Medium, Low)
Mature remnant semi-natural trees & shrubs	<i>Rare mature broadleaves – ash, birch, rowan – within area of PAWS</i> Very limited range of native trees and shrubs	Low 1
Presence of site native tree and shrub regeneration	<i>Frequent ash, birch, hazel, rowan regeneration</i> Some potential for seed production from native species on or adjacent to the site; limited amounts of advanced regeneration present	Medium 3
Presence of specialist woodland ground flora on site	<i>Frequent patches of ancient woodland flora including wood sorrel and slender st. john's wort</i> Afew patches across the site; small populations of small or two species	Medium 3
Adjacency and quality of existing semi-natural woodland	<i>Restored ancient woodland (NVC W11) and Planted Ancient Woodland to east of PAWS</i> Semi natural woodland adjacent to some parts of the restoration site	Medium 3

Ecological Potential Score
<i>Total score – 19 - Medium score for PAWS restoration.</i>

Example 3 - PAWS assessment – Low score

Planted Ancient Woodland (1.20Ha) – area of P.70 unthinned Japanese larch/Sitka spruce/Lodgepole adjacent to council road to north and stream to the south. Otherwise surrounded by improved grassland.

4a. Potential impacts of PAWS restoration - Ecological Importance Criteria (EIC) – Desk assessment		
GWR GeoPDF layer	Description of EIC in/adjacent to wood	EIC score (High, Medium, Low)
Relevant designations	<i>PAWS is not within 300m of SSSI</i> Site is not near a designated woodland. Designated features will not benefit from restoration	Low 1
Priority habitats and species	<i>Adjacent to improved grassland, stream and minor council road.</i> Potential woodland type will not contribute to Sec. 7 habitat restoration. Site is isolated; No remnant features available to indicate alignment with prioritised habitats	Low 1
Woodland Habitat Networks	<i>Not within a primary or secondary network</i> Site is isolated and restoration will not improve connectivity.	Low 1

4b. Ecological Development Criteria (EDC) – Site survey and annotated map		
Ecological Development Criteria	Description	EDC Score (High, Medium, Low)
Mature remnant semi-natural trees & shrubs	<i>Occasional mature trees - Mature oak along woodland boundary and scattered mature alder, ash and willow by the stream</i> Remnant trees at a low density	Medium 3
Presence of site native tree and shrub regeneration	<i>Rare tree and shrub regeneration</i> There is limited potential for seed production from native species; there is no advanced regeneration present	Low 1
Presence of specialist woodland ground flora on site	<i>Occasional ancient woodland flora present by stream, including dogs mercury, yellow archangel and wood sorrel</i> A few patches across the site; small populations of small or two species	Medium 3
Adjacency and quality of existing semi-natural woodland	<i>No adjacent ancient woodland sites adjacent to PAWS</i> No semi-natural woodland adjacent to the restoration site	Low 1

Ecological Potential Score
11 - Low score for PAWS restoration