

Making the case for deforestation and afforestation

Friday 16 June 2017.
Tywi Forest & Maes Mynach

Programme

09:00	ARRIVE - MEET AT SUGAR LOAF CAR PARK (A483) Registration, biosecurity boot wash and load into mini buses
09:30	Introduction to the day & departure to first site Dai Jones MICFor, Wales Regional Group Chair
09:35	10-minute drive
09:45	Welcome to Tywi & Timber transport forum shared road (site 1) Neil Stoddart MICFor (Natural Resources Wales) & David Edwards FICFor (Tilhill Forestry)
10:00	20-minute drive
10:20	Cardiff University water quality monitoring sites and research (site 2) Dr Isabelle Durance, Cardiff University
10:40	30-minute drive
11:10	Tywi peat restoration (including 2 km walk onto site) (site 3) Simon Mead, Natural Resources Wales (introduction) Caroline Riches, Natural Resources Wales (surveys) Brain Rumble (engineering techniques) Brian Hanwell MICFor (peat restoration operations)
11:40	30-minute drive
12:10	Species diversity and options for Upland Wales (site 4) Chris Jones, Natural Resources Wales
12:25	Round-up of morning Neil Stoddart MICFor
12:30	LUNCH
13:00	25-minute drive
13:25	Introduction of afternoon site (site 5) Rachel Chamberlain FICFor, Natural Resources Wales
13:35	Update on Maes Mynach site (site 5) Arthur Wiggins, Pryor & Rickett Silviculture (Forest operations) Andrew Sowerby MICFor, Pryor & Rickett Silviculture (Current regulation process)
14:30	Environment Act in context of new planting & habitat connectivity Dr Sarah Williams, Natural Resources Wales (SoNaRR & what this means) Michele van-Velzen, Natural Resources Wales (Forestry in the context of wider land use) Robert McCall, Natural Resources Wales – (Future habitat resilience & PES)
15:30	Conclusions for the day Dai Jones MICFor, Wales Regional Group Chair
15:40	10-minute drive
15:50	DEPART

Important information for the day:

Car parking & meeting point:

09.00 – 09.15

SUGAR LOAF CAR PARK (A483)

SA20 0LP (Closest post code)

SN 838 429

Lunch:

Lunch is not provided. Delegates must provide their own food and drink for the entire day.

Site visits:

Both morning and afternoon tours will involve walking for up to an hour over rugged terrain. Appropriate footwear, waterproofs, sun-screen and water canteen are advised.

Due to the threat of *phytophthora ramorum*, please ensure that your footwear is clean and free of debris. Boot cleaning equipment will be made available for the start and end of the day. It should be noted that we will not be walking through any infected areas.

Any queries please email Michael Cresswell at
michael.cresswell@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Background information:

In September 2016 Natural Resources Wales published the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR), which looked at how pressures on Wales' natural resources are resulting in risks and threats to long-term social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being, as set out in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Forecasts indicate a drop in timber availability, which poses a risk to wood supply and the wider benefits that woodlands provide. This could impact on ecosystem services delivered by woodlands and on future well-being.

Two of the areas where SoNaRR has highlighted the greatest opportunities to deal with the challenges and risks identified, and contribute towards the well-being goals are:

- Increasing woodland cover, and bringing more of our existing woodlands into appropriate management.
- Utilisation of our uplands to deliver multiple benefits – wider resilience of habitats and the species that depend on them.

This day will give us the opportunity to see examples of the above at two different sites, and give us the opportunity to consider the challenges involved in meeting these opportunities and how the new legislation may help.

Site 1 is Tywi forest, where we will see the creation of a more natural woodland habitat, with peat restoration, bog cultivation and wild wood projects.

Site 2 is 72 ha with two phases of new planting implemented and grant funded (25.5 ha and 10 ha) with a further 25 ha proposed, as presented as a case study at the 2016 Wales ICF Autumn Conference.

Risk assessment:

See attached risk assessment for the day's field trip.