

Long Term Forest Planning and Professionalism

Programme / Agenda

08:30 Registration & Refreshments

09:30 *Introduction from Chair (David Edwards FICFor, ICF Chair)*

Forest Management Plan

09:40 *Working Group Overview (Martin Bishop, Confor)*

Forest Management Plan: The Elements (John Browne MICFor, NRW)

- Long-term forest management plans (FMPs) are intended to provide clearer, more complete and longer-term plans for managing a geographical area of woodland, and to provide a regulatory level playing field between the public and private forestry sectors.
- The FMP will not suit everyone as inevitably these will involve more work, but they do signpost the way the forestry sector is likely to be working soon, and the principles will apply to felling licences too before long.
- The FMP is based around an initial self-screening, which will provide greater clarity all round and reduce the amount of time NRW spends assessing your plan. This increased professionalism is important not just so that you can provide better service to your customers and have greater success with your applications, it is also important with NRW charging for discretionary advice coming along.

10:50 Questions and Answer session

11:00 Break

ICF and Farming and Forestry Connect updates

11:15 *Professionalism & CPD (Andy Lederer, ICF)*

Funding Opportunities (Einir Williams, Farming Connect)

- Farming Connect is the Knowledge Transfer programme for Farming and Forestry businesses in Wales. Its aim is to support businesses to develop and increase efficiency and profitability.



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- The Advisory Service is a part of the Farming Connect programme that offers expert, independent, confidential and bespoke advice. The service provides business support and/or technical advice, tailored to a business' needs; reducing costs and increasing efficiency across all areas of the business; benchmarking business performance, working towards progress and growth and identifying areas for improvement and finding solutions to problems.
- The Advisory Service provides subsidised support to eligible businesses on a range of topics including Woodland Management. Eligible businesses are able to access four instances of advice over the duration of the programme.

12:00

Lunch

Improving your plans

Sourcing Spatial Data (Alex Harris, Welsh Government)

- Delegates will learn how to obtain the spatial information that will enable them to screen and start writing their long-term forest management plans. In due course there will be an NRW external map browser, which will provide access to additional layers of spatial data.
- Other information will also be required for your plans, including the designated features of a European 2000 site and the conservation objectives and management plan of an SSSI. This information will be required to enable you to carry out a screening under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations and determine any likely significant effects on the favourable conservation status of the designated features.

13:00

- This item will introduce the Welsh Government Lle Geo-information portal and the Glastir Woodland Creation opportunity map; and will explore the spatial data that are available to assist in the development of long-term forest plans.

Forest Landscape Design Plans (Jill Bullen NRW)

- The Welsh Government has set very large targets for planting new woodland. As well as an EIA screening there may also be a landscape consideration, particularly as there will be some sizeable new woodland planting if the targets are to be met. The importance of landscape character will be explained as the first step in considering landscaping issues, both for new planting and for managing existing woodland.

13:20

- Landscape is particularly important where your new planting and existing woodland management occurs in a National Park, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or a Designated Landscape. These designations cover 25% of Wales and include some of the areas most likely to be planted.
- Designing coupe shapes in existing woodland needs to consider the so-called UK Forestry Standard 'adjacency rule' and how much can be felled within an acid sensitive catchment.



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Forest Regulatory updates (Jim Hepburn and Lajla Cash, NRW)

14:00

- There are many items to consider in ensuring your long-term forest management plans and felling licences conform with the law. Much of this is covered in the UK Forestry Standard, but this item will highlight the forest regulation items you will need to consider as part of your application.
- The presentation will cover items such as exemptions to the need for a felling licence under the Forestry Act 1967, EIA screening and writing an environmental statement under the recently amended EIA Forestry Regulations 1999, and assessing the likely significant effects of your proposals on the favourable conservation status of a designated feature under the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017.
- There will be an update on the funding for compensatory planting.

Stakeholder Engagement (Evelyn Over MICFor, NRW & Alan Wilson MICFor, Tilhill)

14:30

- The significance of good, early stakeholder and public engagement in woodland creation schemes will be highlighted to avoid potential problems or delays at the later stages of plan development.
- Information will be provided to Glastir forest planners on the recent technical and scheme updates to the Glastir Woodland Creation scheme, to provide clarity, help reduce approval times and maximise the chances of your proposals being approved.
- The importance of professionalism in writing good quality management plans for Glastir schemes will be emphasised.

14:45

Question and Answer Panel

14:55

Closing thoughts from the Chair

Closed session for Welsh Government Glastir woodland planners

15:00

Glastir overview (Welsh Government)

15:15

Guidance and verification updates (NRW)

15:30

PAWS and how it applies to you (NRW)

15:45

Question and Answer Panel

16:00

Depart

Meet the presenters:

David Edwards FICFor, District Manager, Wales & Marshes, Tilhill Forestry



'Since graduating from Aberdeen University in 1984, David has worked in the private sector, holding positions in Scotland, England and Wales. He is District Manager in Wales & Marches for Tilhill Forestry. Prior to his election in 2015 as Vice President, then President last year, David served ICF as an examiner, a member of the Institute's Council and the Professional and Educational Standards Committee, Finance Officer, and Wales Regional Group Chair. He is a member of the Wales' Confor Committee, WSAP, PORT, Wales Tree & Plant Health Steering Group and a Glastir Planner.'

Martin Bishop, National Manager for Wales, Confor



'Martin's early forestry career was as a contractor in SE Wales, he learned his trade the way many do in our industry and used that knowledge to progress through the industry as a buyer of hardwoods, later changing to softwoods for AJ Charltons Sawmill. He eventually took an opportunity to study part time at Bangor University, gaining an MSc in Forest Industries Technology in 2009. Martin represents Confor members of Wales, and much of his work is responding to consultations and making sure the forestry message is heard at all levels of Government. He is keen to meet and listen to members to form links between all sectors of our industry.'

John Browne MICFor, Senior Advisor on Forestry, Natural Resources Wales



'John has worked in many forestry roles in the public and private sectors in Scotland, England and Wales over a 30-year period, these roles including land management, harvesting, planning, certification, tree health, grants and regulations. He currently works for Natural Resources Wales, and has been developing a long-term plan for forest management and a one-stop shop as far as possible for the many related regulations that impact on the forestry industry. John has a degree in forestry from Aberdeen University and has been a professional member of the ICF for 25 years.'

Lee Price, Regional Manager for South East, Farming & Forestry Connect



'Einir has an HND Agri from Aberystwyth University and started employment as a Farm Inspector with the Welsh Government. She then joined the newly formed Farm Liaison Service in 2002 before joining Menter a Busnes and the Farming Connect team in 2015 as Regional Manager for the North Wales Region. Her role is to manage the team of Development Officers in the region, who are front facing staff and main point of contact for the programme. The team delivers the key services within the programme such as discussion groups, advisory service and skills.'

Alex Harris, Spatial Analyst, Welsh Government



'Alex Harris grew up in Cheshire, and started his professional career after 10 years living in various places throughout Asia and Africa. He returned to the UK to read a Bachelor of Science at Harper Adams University and stayed in academia to read a Masters in G.I.S. and Remote Sensing at Aberystwyth University. Since then Alex has worked at Forestry Commission Wales, and the Welsh Government as a spatial analyst. Alex is also a trustee of the Welsh charity Mbale coed supporting afforestation in Uganda and is passionate about trees and woodlands.'

Jill Bullen, Senior Landscape Specialist, Natural Resources Wales



'Jill has worked and taught in the landscape and historic environment for over 25 years. Her role is to provide professional specialist and technical expertise, strategic advice and lead on Landscape and Heritage for policy, strategy and legislation development at the national and UK level. She manages the LANDMAP landscape evidence and landscape monitoring programmes for Wales. Jill was previously a Lecturer at the University of Aberystwyth for ten years which included forestry and woodland management. Jill has a degree in Geography and an MSc in Landscape Ecology, Design and Management.

Externally, Jill is Chair of the Community Council and Community Emergency Plan Coordinator.'

Dr Evelyn Over MICFor, Woodland Implementation Advisor, Natural Resources Wales



'Evelyn has worked in the forestry sector in Wales for over 25 and her role has been to support and deliver woodland management and creation schemes for the public and private sector. She has a Masters and PhD from Bangor University and is a professional member of the ICF. She currently works for Natural Resources Wales as an implementation advisor for Glastir Woodland schemes.'

Alan Wilson MICFor, Forest Manager, Wales & Marshes Tilhill Forestry



'Alan has been working for Tilhill Forestry since 2007. Initially working on woodland creation projects in South West Scotland with Tilhill's Investment & Property team, he has been a Forest Manager, based out of the Llandoverly office since 2009. With a diverse portfolio that includes both extensive upland plantations, mixed lowland woods and a number of new woodland planting schemes in mid and West Wales, for the last two years he has been involved in the planning and delivery of a significant multipurpose woodland creation scheme near Llanwrtyd Wells. With a high level of public interest and some significant

opposition, this has required ongoing public engagement and consultation to bring it to successful completion.'