

FORESTRY DASHBOARD

October 2019 – September 2020

% of activity relevant to the Forestry Sector:



548 BUSINESSES REGISTERED with Farming Connect are from the Forestry sector.

Demonstration Network

Fedw Arian Uchaf: Multifunctional benefit of trees in a farming system

Objectives:

- Create a hedgerow management plan to assess the asset.
- Use existing green infrastructure to create appropriately sized meadows/fields for a rotational grazing system utilising agroforestry practice.

Example of hedge survey report for 'hedge no.2' at Fedw Arian:

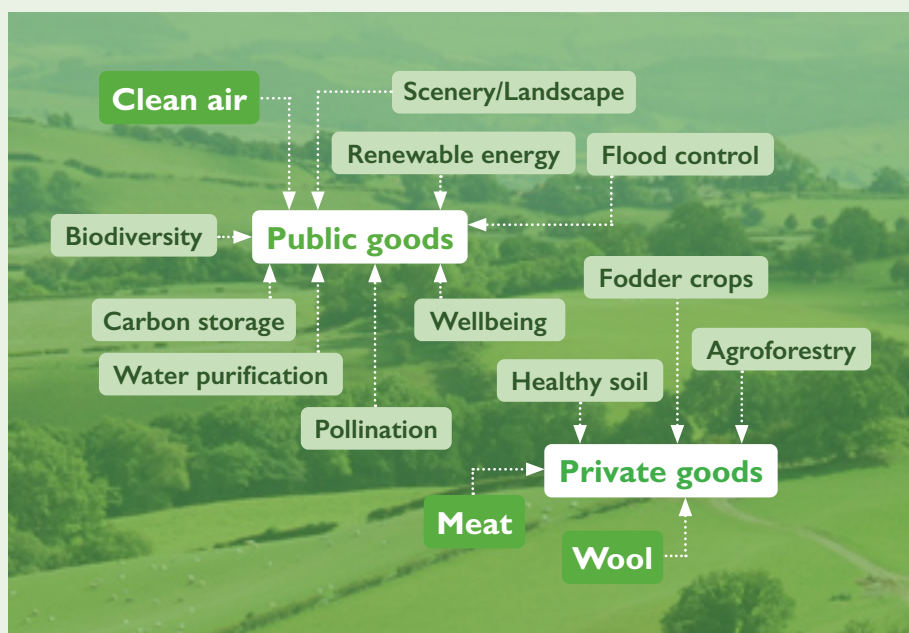
Types of hedge shrubs	% growing in hedge
Blackthorn	35
Hawthorn	30
Hazel	25
Wych Elm	5
Other	5

Condition of hedge: Healthy, dense hedge with numerous stems. Last hedge laid in 2005. Some minor gaps are developing at base.

Current management: Annual flail.

Management recommendations: Allow hedge to increase in width and height. When next re-laying hedge re-fence slightly further into the field.

To address the second objective of improving the overall infrastructure of the farm, consideration has also been given to how this relates to the provision of public goods.



Key messages:

- Positive sustainable management of natural resources can improve environmental and economic performance of the farm business.
- Post Brexit, there is potential to strengthen 'Brand Cymru' by improving the environment to a higher standard which will provide a strong platform for producing Welsh produce.

EIP Wales

Establishing trees in dense bracken

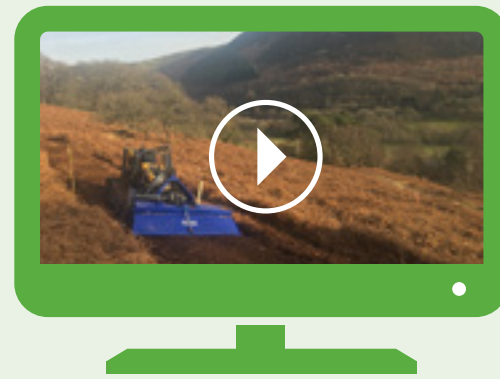
The dense canopy of bracken makes it very difficult to establish trees and often trees are being planted in areas where access with machinery is difficult. This project will look at different mechanical options for preparing planting sites that avoid the need for chemical herbicides.

One option uses a mini-digger with a cultivator attachment and another method is a remote controlled rotavator (shown in the picture below). These machines enable safe working on slopes and rough terrain.

The trees were planted in March 2020 and regular monitoring is assessing growth rates.

Despite little or no rain for three months following planting, establishment has been good with less than 5% losses.

Four tree species were planted; oak, sitka spruce, rowan and birch. The rowan and birch established the best with 20cm of growth reported on plots where ground treatments had been used to break up the bracken rhizomes.



Click [here](#) or the TV screen to watch a video outlining the project.



KE Hub

The following technical articles have been produced by the KE Hub:

- BIOCHAR FOR CLIMATE CHANGE: IS IT A VIABLE STRATEGY?
- CHALLENGES FACING THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF SERVICES FROM WOODLAND IN WALES
- PUBLIC GOODS AND FARMING
- SMALL-SCALE FORESTRY FOR BIOENERGY CONSUMPTION – PART 1: IMPORTANT TREE SPECIES FOR CONSIDERATION
- CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY – 12 METHODS THAT CAN BE INCORPORATED ON YOUR FARM

Surgeries

118 Surgeries Held

Key topics included:



A business received support through a woodland surgery regarding the rules concerning creating woodland near an SSSI and some ideas of how to regenerate the land naturally by enhancing biodiversity. Following receiving the advice, they intend to create a woodland on their current land.

Agrisgôp

32 MEETINGS HAVE BEEN FORESTRY RELATED



Some examples of group themes:



Discussion Groups



8 MEETINGS HAVE FOCUSED ON FORESTRY ISSUES



47 ATTENDEES

Webinars



33 WEBINARS HELD



4,015 VIEWERS

Examples of webinars held include:

07/07/2020 Multi benefits of tree planting to the farming business

In this webinar, attendees heard from Iwan Parry, Senior Forest Manager for Tilhill Forestry, who discussed both environmental and economic benefits of tree planting and establishing woodlands on farms. Some areas discussed included: design and planning, type of land to plant, the right tree in the right place and ensuring good establishment. 30 participants joined this webinar.

16/07/2020 Adding value to farm woodland

Coed Cymru director, Gareth Davies, discussed how to best manage farm woodland in order to produce quality material as well as add value to farm timber. 51 participants joined to hear information on the opportunities available to establish productive woodland whilst considering climate change, what farm machinery was necessary to manage a woodland, general logistics of woodland operations and an overview of timber grading.

13/08/2020 Are your trees fit for purpose and working for the farm?

This webinar focused on work undertaken at Fedw Arian Uchaf, where hedgerows were planted with a purpose to develop them as a multi-functional resource on the farm. Geraint Jones, Farming Connect's Forestry Technical Officer, discussed key aspects of the project such as planning for improvement and the provisions for shelter. Information was also provided on rules, regulations, and available funding for management. Geraint also questioned whether the hedgerows were fit for purpose, when was best to coppice and when to lay. He also gave information with relevance to carbon. 13 participants joined this webinar.

Management Exchange

David Phillips' Management Exchange, June – August 2019

Topic: Agronomy and cultivation of tree species for Christmas tree production to reduce rotation length and improve quality and saleable yield of trees.



Countries: Denmark and Ireland

The aim of David's visits were to investigate the agronomy and cultivation of tree species for Christmas tree production, Noble fir in particular. He decided to visit Ireland as it has a similar climate and soils to Wales and visited Denmark as it has a very large Christmas tree industry.

During his visit, David was eager to:

- Learn about their methods of production
- Gain a better understanding of the industry as a whole
- Meet companies involved within the industry
- See the management of trees for production of Noble Fir foliage

Following on from his Management Exchange experience, David planted some Noble Fir specifically for foliage, researching which ones were best suited to his climate and soil type beforehand.

Click [here](#) to read David's report.

Mentoring

We have **7 Forestry Mentors** on the framework



Click here for [Alwyn's profile](#)



Click here for [Chris' profile](#)



Click here for [David's profile](#)



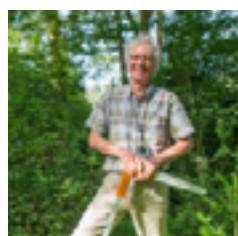
Click here for [Huw's profile](#)



Click here for [Ioan's profile](#)



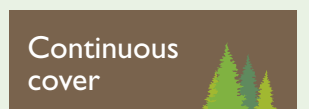
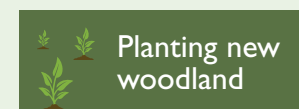
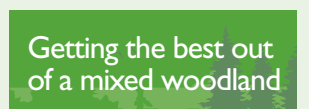
Click here for [Neil's profile](#)



Click here for [Phil's profile](#)

6% of mentees are being mentored on forestry/woodland issues

Topics discussed:



Venture



4 OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE FORESTRY

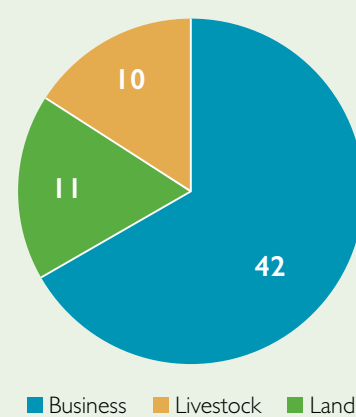


2 FORESTRY SEEKERS

Training

There have been 4 application windows between October 2019 and September 2020 with **878** instances of training delivered during this period. Of this number, **63** instances could potentially fall into the Forestry sector.

Individuals trained in Forestry Sector



The most popular courses within each theme included:



E-learning

Some of the e-learning courses completed within this period relating to the Forestry sector:



For more information on e-learning, please visit the [website](#).

