



GROWING OUR WOODLANDS IN WALES

THE 100,000 HECTARE CHALLENGE

JOHN OSMOND AND STEVIE UPTON

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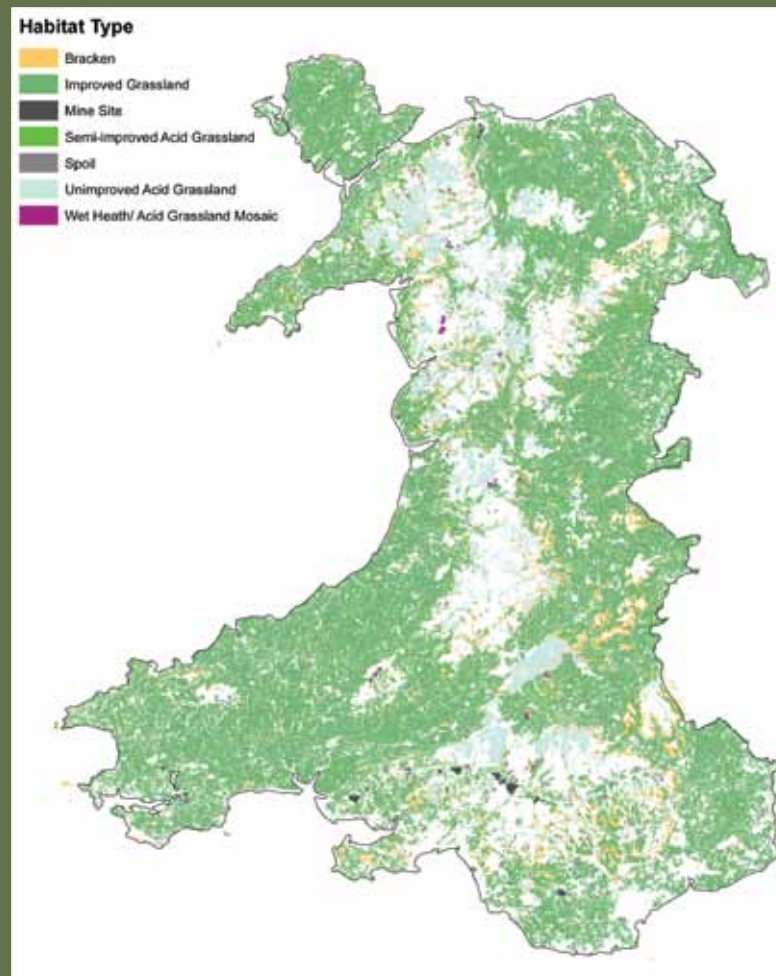
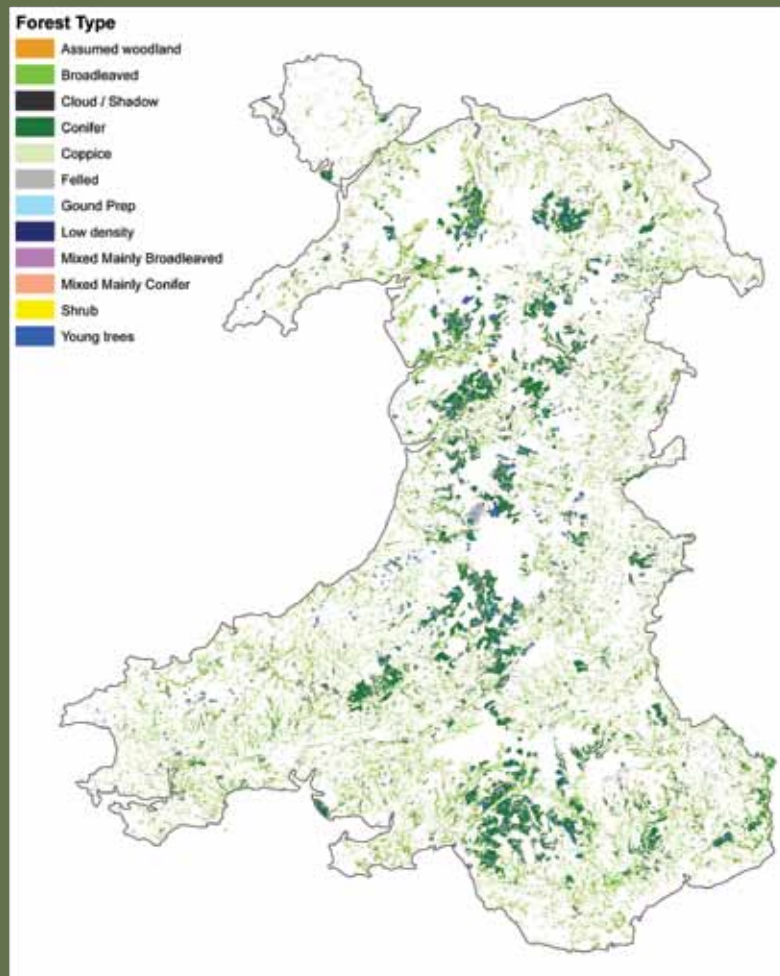


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The woodland cover of Wales

Vegetation types suitable for woodland creation



Source: Forestry Commission Wales

INTRODUCTION

This report engages with the Welsh Government's policy to significantly increase the woodland cover across Wales from the present 14 per cent of the land area to 20 per cent by 2030. Creating new woodland offers many benefits aside from helping mitigate the impact of climate change. The new woodland will consist of mainly native trees and will provide additional wildlife habitat, improve the quality of our landscape and waters and, at the same time, create useful timber products such as fuel and wood as a raw material.

However, increasing Wales' woodland by 100,000 hectares over 20 years presents a major challenge. It will require farmers to plant mixed deciduous and conifer woodlands across suitable parts of largely upland Wales. This will require establishing a new balance between conservation and sustainable development. We will need to weigh the benefits of maintaining existing habitats against the advantages of creating new ones. In addition we will need to return to the practices of former times when woodland management was seen as a natural part of farming culture, rather than being separated from it as is generally the case today.

This report was prepared to inform a conference on these themes, organised by the IWA and Forestry Commission Wales in July 2012, to address the following questions about land use:

- Where should the new woodland be created?
- What is the best way to achieve the land use change being envisaged?
- How can we create a framework that will help us agree on where new woodland is appropriate and where it is not?
- How does creating new woodland fit into other objectives such as economic development, improved water quality and maintaining important non-woodland habitats?

All these questions need to be resolved if the Welsh Government's ambitious target for extending Wales' woodlands is to be achieved. Our report ends with a number of policy suggestions which we hope will be helpful in taking this agenda forward.

THE 100,000 HECTARE CHALLENGE

Wales is one of the least wooded countries in Europe. Woodland covers only 15 per cent of the land area and only 37 per cent of this is broadleaf. The average woodland cover for countries in the European Union is 37 per cent. Forestry Commission figures reveal that Wales is falling behind the rest of the UK in taking advantage of opportunities for woodland restoration. During 2008-09 just 100 hectares of new broadleaved woodland were planted in Wales.¹

In March 2010 the Land Use and Climate Change Group, chaired by Professor Gareth Wyn Jones, reported on how the greenhouse gases produced by Wales' agriculture and forestry could be offset to contribute to the Welsh Government's target of an annual year-on-year 3 per cent emissions reduction. Among the Group's recommendations was a major increase in Welsh woodland from the present 300,000 hectares to about 400,000 hectares by 2030. This would extend the land area of Wales covered by forest from the present 15 per cent to about 20 per cent.

In its response to the Group's report in June 2010, the Welsh Government accepted this recommendation. If achieved, the proposed extension to Wales' woodlands would have four major benefits. It would:

- Achieve a net increase in carbon capture by Wales' forests.
- Produce sustainable material and fuel.
- Improve upland hydrology.
- Provide additional habitat for wildlife.

The new woodland would be mainly deciduous, but with a proportion of conifer species for high quality, enduring end uses. Planting should take place almost entirely on low-fertility, acid upland soils, including bracken-dominated slopes. As the Group recommended:

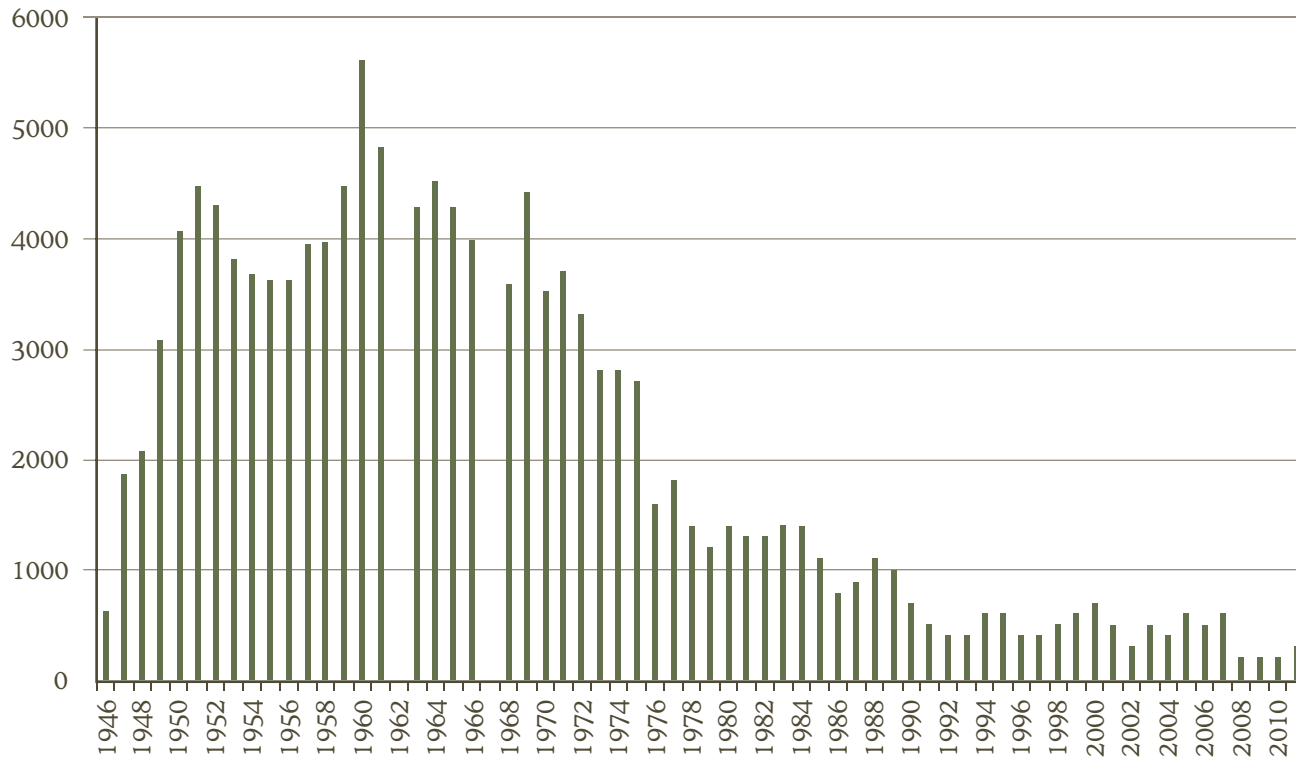
“...the existing and expanded forest, public and private alike, must be managed to provide a sustainable source of fuel-wood and timber alongside other services and products, including the long-term net carbon sink.”²

However, the recommendation presents a major challenge since it would require an average woodland creation rate of 5,000 hectares per year over the time period. At present it is estimated that the annual rate of increase is around 500 hectares. As the Group's report notes, to achieve the extra rate of increase will require “significant economic incentives to deliver”, and “innovative new delivery mechanisms”.³

The scale of the challenge can also be measured by the history of planting in Wales since World War II, as shown in

HECTARES OF NEW PLANTING IN WALES, 1946 – 2011

Source: Forestry Commission Wales



the chart above. In more than half a century the present target of 5,000 hectares has only been reached in one year, in 1960. Moreover, during most of this period the planting was largely of conifers, by in the main, one organisation – the Forestry Commission – and on relatively large tracts of land. In later years, and especially in the 1960s and 1970s, a favourable tax regime encouraged more private investment.

Set against this record, the aim for the coming 20 years is to plant new forests of mixed woodland, by a wide range of

owners – with an average of about two-thirds of the target being planted by farmers – and on relatively small plots of land. So far the average area of new plantations has been just over 3 hectares.

In addressing these challenges a combination of technical, financial and social or psychological questions need to be explored. The technical question is the extent and location of appropriate land that is available in Wales for planting the additional woodlands that are being recommended.

The financial questions revolve around the incentives that can be made available to landowners. These include tax relief, payments for income foregone, and the new Glastir Woodland Creation scheme. As many fiscal levers as possible should be mobilised to persuade farmers, in particular, to sign up to growing more trees on their land. For example, under the Glastir scheme grants can provide up to £9,000 per hectare over a 15-year period. Farmers will remain eligible for the EU single farm payment scheme on land that has been taken out of production through agri-environment schemes and new woodland planting, provided the land was eligible for the single payment in 2008. However, these incentives have to be placed against the prices that farmers can currently get for their lamb and beef. For example, while three years ago lamb prices were between £30 and £40 a head, today they have risen to between £80 and £90. In these circumstances the Glastir scheme is struggling to persuade farmers to look elsewhere for farm income.

This is compounded by the attitudes of many farmers and landowners towards the value of planting trees. There is a view that using land for growing forests is in some way less productive than using it for rearing animals or growing crops. For example, some are reluctant to convert land into forestry because it entails taking land permanently out of food production.

As the Countryside Council for Wales told us, in a response to a consultation we carried out with stakeholders:

“There is a deep-seated separation of ‘forestry’ and ‘farming’ in Wales which has been reinforced by institutional separation over a long period. While most farms in Wales include woodland, many farmers do not see themselves as woodland managers or foresters. The reasons include lack of knowledge and skills, plus economic considerations. There are lower returns on woodlands than grazing or arable land, a potential loss of the capital value of land under woodland compared to farmland, and loss of flexibility. Once land is converted to woodland the expectation (backed up by the Forestry Act) is that woodland will remain as woodland.”⁴

A major challenge is to persuade farmers that tree planting can be integrated into their farming practice to beneficial effect. This may not be as difficult as it sounds. What is required is for farmers to rediscover the practice of a previous era in Welsh farming a few generations ago, when woodland creation and management were seen as an integral part of our farming culture.

NOTES

- 1 <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/news-media/wales/Pages/welsh-assembly-petition.aspx>
- 2 *Land Use Climate Change Report to Welsh Assembly Government*, March 2010, page xxxiv.
- 3 *Ibid.*, pages 56 and 58.
- 4 Response to questionnaire, 24 May 2012.

BENEFITS OF TREE PLANTING

Although the main policy driver for adopting the 100,000 hectare target is climate change mitigation, many other benefits would accrue. Increasing the tree cover across Wales by planting mixed, mainly deciduous woodlands, would enhance our land management in a variety of beneficial ways, including the following:

- More competitive agricultural production through the provision of more shade and shelter, better stock management around streams and steep slopes, better biosecurity, reduced risk of run off, diffuse pollution and waterlogging.
- Reduced risk of flooding where bands or drifts of deep-rooted broadleaves intercept surface run off.
- Enhanced landscapes.
- More woodland, and wood pasture habitats which support a wide variety of species.
- More land suitable for game management.
- More wood production including firewood.

Farming and forestry are generally seen as separate and competing land uses, undertaken by different sets of professionals. In the past, however, the planting of native woodland was an integral part of most farms across Wales to provide timber and fuel. Tree cover was seen as supportive of productive farming,

It provided shade and shelter for animals, and was also part of hedgerows and improved the efficiency of water use by crops.

During the 20th Century, as farming methods intensified and as the Forestry Commission and other estate owners established large conifer plantations, woodlands came to be seen by farmers as an alternative to agriculture rather than an integral part of it. Meanwhile the Common Agricultural Policy support payments provided a powerful incentive to overgraze farm woodlands leading to habitat loss and lack of regeneration.

However, since 2005 farm payments have no longer been linked to livestock numbers, and this has provided an opportunity to restore the links between farmland and woodland. Certainly this is the intention of Welsh Government policy:

“Most of the planned increase in woodland cover in Wales is likely to come from new woodlands on farmland, providing important ecosystem services, such as water management, habitat creation, timber production, and local sources of fuel.”⁵

Farming accounts for around 10 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in Wales. Tree planting will have some benefit in capturing atmospheric carbon. As a renewable energy source wood fuel displaces fossil fuels and reduces the carbon footprint of farms.

However, there are many other ways that woodland

should be seen as compatible with good farming outcomes. Shelterbelts of trees can have a positive effect on pasture growth by increasing water infiltration and reducing evapotranspiration loss. Shelter is an important factor in reducing exposure and improving survival in lambs.

Woodlands on farms can also help mitigate the changing weather patterns that we can expect to occur as a result of climate change in the coming decades. Winter rainfall is projected to increase with a greater frequency of severe rainstorms and gales. Lower summer rainfall is also expected with higher temperatures that will increase heat stress to livestock. In turn this can affect milk yield and herd fertility of dairy animals, and affect the welfare of other livestock. Planting native trees provides important shade for livestock and reduces air temperature.

Buffer strips of trees along watercourses and contour planting of tree and hedges increases water infiltration into the soil, reduces sedimentation and runoff manure and fertilizer following heavy rainfall. It can also improve water quality and reduce risk of flooding.

In a case study in the 2011 UK Ecosystem Assessment report, the benefits of farming were compared with woodland creation across Wales. In the study the value of agricultural production per hectare was measured against the ecosystem services provided by woodlands – timber, carbon storage, and recreation. When all these benefits were taken into account, the study judged that woodland was a more beneficial land use than agriculture across a large proportion of the Welsh landscape. In particular, the report highlighted the benefits of investing in increased woodland resources near the urban areas of southeastern and northeastern Wales.

The study drew attention to the disconnect between where forest cover in Wales is currently most concentrated, in the remote uplands, and where it would have most impact, in lower-lying areas nearer urban centres, and concluded:

“This clearly answers our question regarding why we should incorporate the economic and social values of ecosystem services into decision making. If we fail to do so, the market alone will dictate the allocation of resources. While markets can efficiently allocate goods whose market prices roughly reflect social values, they fail to provide the socially optimal allocation of unpriced non-market goods, including many ecosystem services. Only by directly addressing this failure will markets be corrected to the point that they can be left to provide the goods and services that society both wants and needs.”⁶

In the debate over expanding Wales' woodland cover there is an ongoing tension between the demands of sustainability and conservation. As the Countryside Council for Wales put it:

“The benefits of woodland expansion needs to be set against the range of different ecosystem services that a more open landscape and other habitats can provide...

The 100,000 hectare planting target appears to have been approved without a Welsh Government policy assessment to highlight potential risks in relation to other policies and strategies. From the Countryside Council for Wales's perspective, the greatest risk is that the target increases the pressure to plant on semi-natural habitat, particularly the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan habitat.⁷ This puts at risk the ability of the Welsh Government to meet Outcome 19 of the Environment Strategy: 'The loss of biodiversity has been halted and we can see a definite recovery in the number, range and genetic diversity of species....' The indicators for this outcome are trends in Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats.⁸ The original international target for halting biodiversity loss was 2010, but this was not met and the target has been deferred to 2020.”⁹

Yet there is too often a zero sum game played when the opportunities for planting more woodland in the extensive fridd areas of Wales are set against anticipated habitat loss.¹⁰ The new, largely broadleaf woodlands being proposed by the 100,000 hectare policy will provide new habitats and biodiversity opportunities that will replace the old.

NOTES

- 5 Welsh Government, *Woodlands for Wales*, 2009.
- 6 *The UK National Ecosystem Assessment: Synthesis of the Key Findings*, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, p, 43, 2011.
- 7 The list of habitats and species of Principal Importance to Wales are listed in Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
- 8 Environment Strategy for Wales. 2006.
- 9 Countryside Council for Wales response to a survey carried out as part of this report.
- 10 There is no English translation for 'fridd' which is used to describe the habitats present between the uplands and lowlands of Wales. It is a diverse mixture of grass and heathland with bracken, scrub (often hawthorn and gorse) or rock exposures and may also include flushes, mires, streams and standing water. The fridd zone is difficult to define in terms of a single vegetation community as its primary characteristic is a collection of various habitats. It can perhaps be best described as the mosaic of fragmented and diverse habitats found at the interface of the uplands and lowlands. It is almost exclusively found on slopes, particularly those areas that cannot be effectively farmed due to steepness or the frequency of rock outcrops and scree. Fridd may also develop on previous areas of conifer plantation which has yet to be re-planted.



CASE STUDY—

TREES FOR SHELTER, FUEL AND WILDLIFE

Somerton Farm, Castle Martin, Pembrokeshire

Holly Harris and her husband run the 22 hectare Somerton Farm in Pembrokeshire. They have 23 Dexter suckler cattle, a small flock of chickens and grow their own vegetables. Twenty years ago Mrs Harris planted 2,000 native trees in a two hectare field of limited agricultural value.

Now that field has become a wood that supplies the farmhouse's two wood burning stoves, saving hundreds of pounds a year. It also shelters the farmhouse and the vegetable plot from the fierce coastal winds and provides a sheltered spot for the chickens.

The young woodland has a number of other uses, "I have put stock in it for short periods when I've needed to", says Mrs Harris. "They love it and they do surprisingly little damage." Wildlife is one of Mrs Harris' passions; the new woodland has become a haven for nature.

"It's also a great place for walking dogs. It's where we take folks who come to visit the farm. We're very lucky to have it." Mrs Harris recently acquired a small area of additional land and is keen to find out more about the new Glastir Woodland Creation grants, which offer up to £9,000 per hectare for tree planting. "I'm interested in planting trees that will produce fruits and berries and also quick-growing trees that we can coppice, that we will be able to make use of."



"I'm increasingly aware that, because of climate change, shade and shelter is going to become more important on farms. My message to other farmers and landowners would be 'invest in tree planting now'. When we planted our wood, we never realised how much it would mean to us. It's become such an asset in so many ways. There are lots of problems in the world, and the answer to very many of them is: 'plant more trees'."

"People have come to see our wood and have said to us: 'I wish I'd planted trees years ago, so they'd be like this now'. Hopefully we'll still be around to see this wood when it's 40 years old."

Source: Coed Cadw/Woodland Trust, *Trees for farms in Wales*, 2011.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR PLANTING MORE TREES

Currently the major financial incentives for farmers and landowners to increase their woodland are operated through the Welsh Government's Glastir programme, which can provide grants of up to £9,000 per hectare over a 15-year period. This includes money for establishing the woodland, plus a fencing grant and an income foregone payment, called the Glastir Woodland Creation Premium.

Other potential sources of financial incentives are the taxation system and developing a voluntary carbon market in which companies and individuals voluntarily invest in tree planting to offset the emissions they produce through travel and other activities.

Currently the tax system is broadly neutral so far as forestry is concerned. Income realized through the sale of timber is exempt from income tax. There is no capital gains tax on the gain in value of commercial tree crops and forestry is also exempt from inheritance tax, so long as the land has been owned for at least two years. This is broadly favourable to owners of woodland and also has the advantage of providing a level playing field for foreign investors.

There is the precedent that in the 1970s and 1980s (until 1987) there was tax relief for those investing in forestry, broadly analogous to tax relief on house mortgages, and this did encourage a good deal of private landowners to plant more trees. However, there were problems with tax avoidance and it

seems unlikely that the Treasury will be persuaded to embark on such a course in the present economic climate.

A more promising route for financial incentives to landowners to plant trees might be for individuals and business to pay voluntarily to offset their carbon emissions. For example, according to the Woodland Trust, a £25 donation will create 25 square metres of woodland, enough to capture and store 1 tonne of carbon dioxide during its lifetime. An average car user, who annually travels 9,000 miles producing 3 tonnes of carbon, would therefore have to donate £75 a year to offset these emissions. In July 2011 the UK Government approved a Woodland Carbon Code, which provides a best practice guide for organisations wishing to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere.¹¹

There are obvious difficulties with producing such a voluntary scheme that achieved an impact on any scale. How should the scheme be promoted? How do you bring investors and landowners together? It could be argued, however, that Wales has the advantage of a relatively small scale on which to make a scheme work. To be effective it would need the Welsh Government to take the lead, probably working through the new Single Environmental Body that is being created as a result of the merger of the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency Wales, and Forestry Commission Wales. Certainly, it would be an opportunity to enhance the image of a country whose government has declared sustainable

development to be its central organising principle.

The reality is, however, that for the foreseeable future the grants available under the Welsh Government's Glastir Woodland Creation scheme are likely to be the overwhelmingly important financial mechanism available to persuade farmers, in particular, to plant more trees. In this context it is encouraging that, according to a Forestry Commission Wales survey, undertaken in 2009, nearly three quarters of respondents showed some openness to applying for woodland grants in future.¹² Moreover, 72 per cent of those questioned disagreed with the statement "I have no interest in management of my woodland". And whilst one third felt that managing their woodlands would disrupt the smooth running of their farming operation, 58 per cent disagreed that this would be the case. All this suggests a willingness amongst farmers to consider managing their woodland resources.

Yet of all Better Woodlands for Wales contract holders, only 13 per cent were farmers.¹³ The Welsh Government's Glastir programme, which replaces Better Woodlands for Wales and four other agri-environment schemes, is in part aimed at encouraging work to be undertaken in currently unmanaged farm woodlands.

Two elements of Glastir are particularly targeted at increasing woodland creation and management: the targeted element, which is designed to "deliver significant improvements to the environmental status of a range of habitats, species, soils and water"; and the woodlands element, which will promote woodland creation and management.¹⁴

Under Glastir Woodland Creation, identification of land suitable for planting is made according to classification of all available land as 'red' (unsuitable), 'amber' (potentially suitable) or 'green' (suitable). Rapid implementation of Glastir has meant that a significant amount of land has been classified as unsuitable for planting. There was a lack of time to conduct full surveys and respond to detailed discussions with

other organisations. However, the planting map is now being revisited in an attempt to redesignate parts of these areas as 'amber'. In the longer term it is planned to produce a more sensitive responsive mapping tool.

Questioned about the likely effectiveness of Glastir and the best way to convince landowners to plant trees on their land, Woodland Agents described the mapping system as a constraint on land use that made the 100,000 hectare target "fanciful". However, having compared the existing map with applications to date, Forestry Commission Wales has concluded that the maps might not be the most significant barrier to uptake. There remain areas that are identified both as suitable for planting and in agriculturally marginal, upland or bracken-land locations – which the Land Use and Climate Change Group proposed as the most preferable location for planting – but which have not yet received Glastir grants for woodland creation.

Forestry Commission Wales officials have concluded that there might therefore be an information deficit among potential grant recipients. This view receives some support from the Commission's 2009 survey of farmers. It revealed that 23 per cent of respondents were not aware of previous woodland grant schemes and that 28 per cent might be persuaded to apply for a future grant if they had "more information about what is available". Meanwhile, 83 per cent of respondents agreed with the statement that, "I don't have enough information about what I should do with woodland on my farm".

Other potential barriers identified in the 2009 survey included the lack of available time to manage farm woodlands (identified by 63 per cent of respondents), the prohibitive expense involved in management (48 per cent), and the fact that "trees are not worth enough to harvest" (39 per cent).

Woodland Agents highlighted a reluctance among farmers to convert good quality agricultural land to woodland. However, most farmers appear happy to plant unimproved land. For this to happen, economic returns are undoubtedly



the most important driver for planting, with the removal of obstacles – most particularly bureaucratic ones – as a second critical factor.

In Scotland the Forestry Commission helps to remove such ‘obstacles’ by taking on the tree planting task from start to finish. Once a farmer has expressed an interest in planting an area, the Commission offers to lease that area from the farmer with appropriate provision for access. The Commission then plants the land and maintains it for between 10 and 15 years while paying a rent to the farmer. After that time, the land goes back to the farmer as an established woodland. The scheme would not work for many farmers since it results in their losing their eligibility for the CAP Single Farm Payment. However, it might be of interest to some non-farming owners.

The reality remains that, especially given the present prices for lamb and cattle, incentive payments are unlikely to persuade many farms to plan woodlands on improved land. The aim must therefore be to direct the available resources to persuading farmers to planting on the unimproved land on their farms.

For Glastir woodland creation to be effective, officials involved in the design of the programme stress the “legacy element” of woodlands. They see a need to persuade *young* farmers to realise that there are opportunities for economic and environmental benefits over the longer term. The reduction in use of home-grown wood on farms for fencing and firewood has led to a reduction in the quality of available timber and a disconnection between many farmers and their woods. It will therefore be a challenge to convince farmers that it is worth their while to become involved in woodland activity. Yet unless this challenge is met, the prospect of farmers committing to a 15-year contract for a Glastir woodland risks being prohibitive, especially since immediate economic gain from new woodlands is likely to be limited.

All these constraints go some way to explain why during

the first two years of its operation, to the end of May 2012, the uptake of Glastir woodland creation schemes was relatively small. During that period there were 227 projects where planting took place and for which payment was made, covering 666 hectares – an average of 2.83 hectares per project. In addition another 140 applications were approved during the period, covering a further 516 hectares, but these have yet to be planted. Although this is slow progress in relation to the 20 year 100,000 hectare target, it still represents an advance on what was achieved under the previous Better Woodlands for Wales and Tir Gofal schemes.

NOTES

- 11 The Code provides reassurance to buyers and sellers that the accounting is correctly undertaken and the carbon is secured for the long term. An associated register provides reassurance that areas will not be double sold.
- 12 Forestry Commission Wales, *A survey of farmers with woodland on their land*, 2009.
- 13 Better Woodlands for Wales was the Forestry Commission Wales precursor grant scheme to Glastir. It was tailored to deliver the Welsh Government’s 2009 Woodland Strategy, *Woodlands for Wales*.
- 14 <http://www.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/farming/glastirhome/?lang=en>

CASE STUDY—

FUEL AND CARBON

Upper Nant-y-Felin, Bwlch near Brecon

This is an 80 hectare upland sheep and beef holding in Bwlch near Brecon, farmed by one of Wales' most enterprising young farmers, 27-year-old Matthew Vaughan. It has been fully organic for three years and has 500 ewes and 20 suckler cows.

Keen to make the fullest use of the farm's steep, bracken covered slopes, he has planted around 3,000 mixed hard and softwoods, restored 6,000 metres of hedgerows and created two new orchards, through Tir Gofal. The farm's trees already provide significant financial benefits. Matthew's three wood burning stoves fed exclusively from his own wood provide heat for the farmhouse. This saves £100s a year. Matthew also produces his own heatherings, the hooks of hazel used in hedge-laying.

"I reckon the carbon footprint is going to become increasingly important in the future", he says. "By planting trees I can create a more diverse habitat, reduce the carbon footprint and in the long term, reduce the farm's dependence on materials that need to be bought in. It takes time for trees to establish themselves, and that's all the more reason to start now".

"The Glastir Woodland Creation Grants, of up to £9,000 per ha over 15 years, plus £3.15 per metre of new fencing, look like a great opportunity for farmers. I'm certainly keen



to plant up some of the very steep, bracken-covered slopes at Upper Nant-y-Felin, to make the best possible use of land which has a limited use for agriculture."

Source: Coed Cadw/Woodland Trust, *Trees for farms in Wales*, 2011.



IMPACT OF CAP REFORM

Woodland creation and management sits at the edge of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) since the European Union has no formal powers over forestry. Nevertheless, Glastir (as was Better Woodlands for Wales before it) is funded through European sources. This means that it remains tied to the CAP's policy goals and associated funding criteria.

While Glastir has been designed to operate within the existing policy context, discussions are ongoing about the content of the new CAP, which is due to take effect from 1 January 2014. The early indications are that, as currently envisaged, the proposed reforms do not bode well for woodland creation.

The CAP, which accounts for around 50 per cent of the EU's budget, is divided into two categories, referred to as Pillar 1 and Pillar 2. Spending under Rural Development Regulation is referred to as Pillar 2, and aimed at supporting rural communities to develop and diversify. The range of measures includes: agri-environment (Glastir in Wales), farm adaptation, forestry, processing and marketing of agricultural produce, training and development, and less favoured area support. To secure European funding for Pillar 2 measures Member States (or regions within them) are required to prepare a Rural Development Plan.

Under the projected changes, although at least seven per cent of land on each farm will be designated as ecological reserve, it is also proposed that the proportion of land given over to permanent grassland (land that has been laid to grass for five or more years) should be maintained at the farm-holding level, rather than at the

member state level. Farms will have five per cent flexibility, but any reductions in grassland up to this level will most probably occur to make way for farm tracks, hard-standing or buildings. Anticipating a need for such development, farmers are therefore unlikely to risk using their allowance for the conversion of grassland to woodland.

The previous CAP had a get-out clause for forestry. Grassland could be switched to woodland provided that there were ecological gains. Under the proposed changes to the Direct payments regulations it is likely to prove more difficult to turn grassland into woodland. As a result, and if the reforms are passed, Glastir's woodland creation objectives would become unworkable in their current form.

Meanwhile, another major issue with the current proposals for CAP reform post 2013 is the proposed removal of Income Foregone Payments if farmers choose to plant new woodland. There is no doubt that removing the option of the income foregone payment would act as a disincentive for woodland planting in Wales. The capital value of land immediately falls once it is planted with woodland. If there were to be no continued revenue stream through income foregone payments, then farms would be presented with a disincentive for planting trees.

The Danish Presidency recently proposed a revised text that restores the income foregone elements. This must be supported by the Welsh Government in its negotiations with the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and the European Commission as it will aid Welsh Government achieve its planting targets.

CASE STUDY—

TIMBER AND FARM USE

Hendre Llwyn-y-Main, Llangernyw, North Wales

Robin Crossley, has a successful sheep farm of around 162 hectares at Llangernyw near Llanwrst in the Conwy Valley. He planted 10,000 trees in spring 2009, most native trees like blackthorn and hawthorn, hazel, oak, ash, birch and alder.

Shooting is an important part of the farm business and the trees play a crucial role in providing cover. But it will not just be pheasants that will be found there. Robin is delighted that they will also provide a habitat for wild birds: chaffinches, wagtails, wrens, robins and thrushes to name but a few.

Alongside the native trees, Robin has planted 5000 Christmas trees, as a cash crop. Most of the native woodland planted is made up of field corners and narrow belts. “I see it as a legacy for the future”, he says. “People who come down the road from Llansannan could see nothing 30 years ago. Now they see a wooded landscape, that changes throughout the year.”

Timber also forms part of the farm business. An established 3 ha wood on the farm has good straight trees. These can be felled and milled less than a mile away.

“We used some of our own timber to build a new oak staircase on the farm,” says Robin. “It would have cost over £2,000 to buy the wood. We used our own and it looks great.”

Their farmhouse has three wood burning stoves, and the tops of the trees felled for lumber are more than enough to provide all its heating needs. “My feeling is that

if Welsh farmers are given half decent incentives to create and manage their woodlands, using Glastir money, they’ll respond,” Robin concludes.

Source: Coed Cadw/Woodland Trust, *Trees for farms in Wales*, 2011.





AN ECONOMIC APPROACH TO WOODLAND CREATION

As was the case with Better Woodlands for Wales, Glastir is funded by the European Commission and is hence governed by the need to comply with the current EU Rural Development Regulations. These specifically relate to improvement of the environment and countryside through better land management. The non-economic focus of woodland creation and management programmes is indicated by the nature of the current regulations. For example, fast growing, short rotation coppice species are excluded from grant aid. Funds received under Glastir are officially 'compensation' for producing environmental benefits at the cost of productivity. Given that Glastir woodlands will be under contract as long as 15 years, any significant economic gain from wood is unlikely before this time.

However, those who work with landowners – in Forestry Commission Wales, in the Welsh Government and as Woodland Agents – agree that the economic rationale is a key driver for land use change and management. There is thus a significant tension. Although economic outcomes go hand-in-hand with forestry, for the purpose of grant applications they must be considered as secondary and cannot be actively promoted by the Welsh Government in the lifetime of the grant contract.

Nonetheless, woodlands do have an economic potential and this is calculated to appeal to farmers in their decisions about planting. Forestry Commission Wales already considers the firewood market to be a growing future market, not least because firewood can be produced with relatively less skill and equipment than other products. The Welsh Government's Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science Department acknowledges that there are opportunities to be had from better integrating woodland management with business and enterprise concerns, allowing forestry to engage with commercial interests rather than simply drawing down rural development funding. One such opportunity was the launch in June 2012 of Community Energy Wales, a representative body to promote community-based renewable energy projects. Existing areas of unmanaged trees represent an untapped resource on which communities could draw for the generation of sustainable energy. With appropriate planning and support, there is scope for this resource to contribute both to a reduction in fuel poverty and to increased independence from international fuel markets.

Since the 2005 publication of a report for Scottish Enterprise on the commercial opportunities of wood fuel



heating,¹⁵ active efforts have been made to promote this heating source on the grounds of cost effectiveness, the environmental benefits of using locally produced, low carbon fuel, security of supply, cleanliness and efficiency.¹⁶ Peter Davies, Wales' Commissioner for Sustainable Futures, advocates an approach that similarly advocates emissions reductions alongside carbon sequestration.

NOTES

- 15 Robert Rippengal, *The Commercial Opportunities of Wood Fuel Heating in Scotland*, Scottish Enterprise, 2005.
- 16 See the Use Woodfuel Scotland website at <http://www.usewoodfuel.co.uk>

CASE STUDY—

NEW NATIVE WOODLAND ON A DAIRY FARM: A WINNING COMBINATION

Penllwyncoch Farm, Waungilwen, Llandysul

Huw Williams runs a 60 hectare dairy farm near Llandysul in Carmarthenshire with a herd of 100 dairy cows and 100 followers. He planted 1.5 hectares of new native woodland in 2010, oak, ash, wild cherry and birch with a mixture of shrubs, using a Better Woodlands for Wales grant; and a further 0.53 hectares in 2011, using a Glastir Woodland Creation Grant.

Penllwyncoch has about two hectares of existing Woodland which Huw already makes good use of. He has thinned the wood under the grant scheme and made use of the split oak posts which it has produced. He felled an area of larch about two years ago, using the timber for post and rail and fencing posts on his farm. He also uses his own firewood, saving £100s per year.

From Huw's perspective, planting trees on the farm is about making it more productive: "I've planted trees to make the best use of land that would otherwise be of limited value. I made use of grants to fell a number of existing trees. If I'm going to do that, it's important to plant new ones to take their place."

Huw has found the Better Woodlands for Wales and the Glastir Woodland Creation Grants easy to access, as the paperwork is largely sorted out by a Woodland Creation Officer funded by the Forestry Commission. "Alison Wheeler, who worked on my applications, has been really helpful throughout the process", he says.



"My advice to other farmers is that planting trees is something that's worth looking at. The grant rates currently available are very good. I'm not suggesting that farmers plant up whole fields or huge areas of land. But almost any farm will have field corners and steep areas that would be suitable, that would have little agricultural value, guaranteed!"

"The new Glastir Woodland Creation Grants are a good deal for farmers as they include additional payments for new fencing. So creating a new strip of woodland doesn't just provide a crop of trees in the future, it also provides a new stock-proof fence."

Source: Coed Cadw/Woodland Trust, *Trees for farms in Wales*, 2011.

THE WOODLAND AGENTS

There are about 70 professional Woodland Agents operating in Wales. About twenty of these are active in the private sector and a similar number operate through Coed Cymru in the public sector, mainly advising local authorities. Under the current Glastir Woodland Creation scheme many private sector Woodland Agents will operate as Project Officers, being a point of liaison between the Welsh Government and Forestry Commission Wales on one hand, and farmers and other landholders on the other.

Woodland Agents have a distinctive perspective, midway between the Welsh Government and Forestry Commission Wales and the landowners and various environmental organisations responsible for implementing policy. For the purpose of this study we interviewed a sample of four Agents working in the private sector in different parts of Wales.¹⁷

All four shared broadly the same view about the benefits that can accrue from increasing the woodland cover in Wales - enhanced timber volumes, economic activity, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity – but all were sceptical about the 100,000 hectare target. Most thought a target to enable progress to be measured could be helpful if policies designed to deliver it were in place. However, they did not think that currently this was the case. As Neill Scott, of Newport in Pembrokeshire put it:

“The 100,000 hectare target is completely fanciful given the

land use constraints imposed by the Countryside Council for Wales as shown on the Glastir Woodland Creation mapping. This target reflects the extremely poor advice the Welsh Government is receiving from civil servants.”

David Edwards, of Llandovery, said:

“I don't think the 100 000ha target is close to being realistic with the current policies and incentives.”

All four Agents had clear views about the attitudes and responses of farmers to efforts to persuade them to plant more woodland. David Edwards spoke for all when he said:

“Farmers and other landowners are generally reluctant to convert good agricultural land to woodland. This is especially true of farmers whose families have worked for generations to clear and improve land for agriculture. Where an economic case can be made for woodland creation then farmers and landowners are much more amenable to woodland creation.”

Andrew Bronwin said the important thing was not to put obstacles in the way of farmers considering planting:

“The traffic light maps and general bureaucracy don't help.”

Neill Scott said:

“Farmers are farmers, not woodland owners. Many will be reluctant to plant improved land. The reality is that land values drop by £10,000 a hectare once planted with trees. Compensation payments should reflect this. Most farmers appear happy to plant unimproved land. However, the Countryside Council for Wales will not allow planting on anything other than improved land.”

None of the Management Planners believed that the Glastir scheme would be effective in persuading farmers or other landowners to create more woodland. Neill Scott said it would “ineffective” and Andrew Bronwin “marginal”. David Edwards said:

“Glastir has not been popular with farmers and landowners and the mere mention of the word ‘Glastir’ turns off many farmers. The availability of land under the ‘traffic light’ system is a serious obstacle to woodland creation.”

Mark Potter added:

“Unless it rebrands and displays a greater awareness of commercial needs its effectiveness will be limited.”

Neill Scott said:

“The Ministerial approach of having a target and putting the financial support in place is excellent. However, Environment Agency Wales and the Countryside Council for Wales are against planting unless it is broadleaf species on improved land which is an inefficient use of good land.”

David Edwards said:

“At face value the Woodlands for Wales strategy is coherent. However, in practice it is not being followed. Only certain aspects are being actioned when the success of the strategy relies on actions in combination. For example, productive woodland cover is being reduced as a result of heathland and habitat restoration, and species diversification. These are laudable aims but compensatory planting as required by the strategy is not keeping pace with the losses.”

NOTES

- 17 David Edwards of UPM Tihill, Llandovery; Neill Scott of Forest Management Cymru, Newport, Pembrokeshire; Mark Potter, of Abersenny Ltd, Grosmont, Abergavenny; and Andrew Bronwin, of Andrew Bronwin & Co, Llandrindod.





VIEWS OF THE LANDOWNERS

While the various land owning groups that will be responsible for implementing the Welsh Government forestry strategy are supportive of the need for more trees and the benefits that can be gained, they remain sceptical about what can be achieved. This is especially the case so far as the 100,000 hectare target is concerned. For example, Bernard Llewellyn, Chair of NFU Cymru's Rural Affairs Board described the target as "unrealistic" simply because of the finite amount of land available and the reduced capital value of land planted with trees.

Andrew Gurney, the FUW's Land Use Policy Officer, said having a target was helpful because it provided something to strive towards. However, he, too, questioned whether 100,000 hectares were achievable:

"The record so far is not especially encouraging. Less than 1,000 hectares have been planted in the first two years of the Glastir scheme – which is just 1 per cent of the target. Of course, as time goes on this could improve. We will need a campaign to encourage farmers and other landowners to take up the opportunities under Glastir. It's worth pointing out that there's a lot of existing woodland that is not well managed. Many trees planted over 20 years ago have just been left. These need to be brought back into a proper management regime. This would bring economic benefits. But, of course, it won't contribute to the 100,000 hectare target."

Nicholas Wynne, Consultancy Manager with National Trust Wales suggested that the target was "a nice round figure", while Ben Underwood, Wales Director of the Country Land and Business Association, described it as "unrealistic and arbitrary":

"The Welsh Government have set a target figure without really assessing whether the economic drivers are there to achieve it. They currently are not and since the demise of Better Woodlands for Wales the support for commercial forestry has reduced."

Celia Thomas, Woodland Officer with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park but speaking for National Parks Wales, said:

"The target was set without effective engagement of either key partners or landowners and at a time when changes were also proposed through the Living Wales programme, that have involved a total restructuring of the bodies that will be involved in delivering this target. The timescale and scale of the proposal has not been considered in relation to these changes. With CAP reform now also on the horizon, major changes to land use are unlikely to be considered by farmers and landowners, who would need to take a longer view when considering trees and woodland rather than an annual cropping cycle which is more flexible."

There were clear views about the attitudes of farmers and how to influence them. Ben Underwood commented:

“To be honest tree planting is not on the radar of most farmers and landowners. Why would it be? The demand for food is as great as it’s ever been and commodity prices are buoyant in the main. Taking land out of food production for forestry is not a profitable proposition.”

Andrew Gurney, of the FUW agreed. “It’s not so much that farmers are resistant to planting woodland,” he said “It’s just that most of them are not even considering it”:

“At present farmers are getting high returns for their lamb and beef production. That’s where their attention and efforts are focused. Farmers follow the prices. For instance, three years ago lamb was fetching around £30 and £40 a head whereas today its between £80 and £90. So if farmers are to be persuaded to divert some of their time and land to tree planting there has to be a realistic offsetting of their costs and income foregone. And, of course, trees are for the long-term, requiring 30 or 40 years before a direct income can be realised. Meanwhile, that land could have been used for grazing.”

Tom Packham, Estates Business Manager with Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, said that tenant farmers were in an especially difficult position when considering whether to engage with forestry:

“Tenant farmers do not have sufficient security of tenure to engage in forestry. Their landlords will be those who take it up, and a preliminary to that will be for tenants to be induced to relinquish land to their landlords. For owner-occupier farmers the gross margin (net of grant) per hectare of forestry, from year one, will have to equate to the gross margin (net of grant) foregone from, say, sheep. For

landlords the net return from forestry will have to exceed the rent from farming or grazing.”

Nicholas Wynne, of National Trust Wales summed up the position as follows:

“If we attach a £ sign to the change then it’s going to be very difficult to persuade a significant number of farmers to move into forestry. The only way will be to persuade them that they will gain a mixed range of benefits from moving into trees – from creating shelter belts, to gaining a cheap energy source and improving biodiversity. No one is going to change just because the government has announced a target. Financial incentives, especially for capital costs, will be crucial.”

Andrew Gurney, of the FUW, said:

“The constant change to agri-environmental schemes in recent years has not been helpful. There were amendments to the Glastir scheme almost from week to week when it was being developed. The result has been constant instability that doesn’t instil confidence in those who might be contemplating planting woodlands. Glastir hasn’t got off to a good start with farmers who have a pretty negative perception of it. The reality is that there have been two years of negative press around the operation of Glastir. The previous Tir Gofal scheme was better because its payments were made up front for work carried out. Under Glastir payments are made for income foregone and may take up to three to four years before the costs of carrying out works are recovered.”

There was widespread agreement that support for tree planting could be made more effective if it was undertaken in ways that integrated it with mainstream farming practices. Nicholas Wynne said that Glastir payments should be structured in ways

that built woodland management into the culture of farm management. Bernard Llewellyn, of the NFU, suggested that planting should be promoted in ways that facilitated modern farming techniques, giving the cultivation of hedgerows as an example. As he put it:

“Hedgerows need to be considered not only in terms of their habitat and biodiversity opportunities but in terms of providing economic returns from coppicing and timber production.”

Andrew Gurney, of the FUW, said:

“Some practical demonstrations and case studies of how the benefits of forestry are experienced in the real life scenarios, effectively communicated to farmers, would be useful. At present, for many farmers the benefit that they might get from planting trees on their land is largely theoretical.”

Celia Thomas, of National Parks Wales, said we should be more creative in the ways we introduced trees into our landscape:

“Rather than thinking of large areas of new densely planted trees we should be looking for ways of getting trees into our countryside that deliver multiple benefits. So a menu of small firewood copses, a good lot of hedgerow trees, shelter woods, parkland or scattered wood pasture trees, or trees planted to limit erosion or flooding would be better than losing six acres of productive land on your 100 acre holding.”

She suggested we should be thinking about numbers of trees planted, rather than areas of woodland. At present grant-aided tree planting was based on planting around 2,000 trees per hectare, which was probably too high. It might be more effective to provide farmers with a target of numbers of

trees to plant rather than acreage to cover. If subsidies were based on the number of trees planted then farmers would be encouraged to see planting as not involving taking good land out of production. Planting could then be more easily regarded as contributing to farm income:

“Instead of planting 12.5 acres a 200 acre holding could be required to plant 500 trees, five for every two acres. A ten-acre field would only need 25 trees that could be spread within hedges, in corners, perhaps as a shelterbelt or at a water’s edge. Spread out to allow a ten metre spread at maturity the same area would be achieved. Ironically this could also be more affordable. This way we could achieve more wood pasture and other multiple land uses such as grazed orchards. In addition more alternative systems such as the currently popular forest gardens and permaculture could be supported.”

In terms of the overall policy there was widespread support for the proposals put forward in the Woodlands for Wales strategy. However, forestry had suffered from it being seen as a separate undertaking from farming. It would be desirable to have the two industries administered under a single banner. Yet under the current proposed arrangements this could not happen. Agriculture and Glastir would remain within the Welsh Government, while the administration of forestry would be incorporated with the Single Environmental Body. As Bernard Llewellyn of the NFU put it:

“Inter-departmental issues and communication need to be resolved as soon as possible.”



THE ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBYISTS

Perhaps unsurprisingly environmental lobbying organisations generally have more positive attitudes towards the target of planting an extra 100,000 hectares of woodland in Wales than those actually responsible for making it happen. At the same time they are critical of many of the policy levers currently available to assist with reaching the target and have strong views about ways these need to be changed. In assessing the outlook of the sector the representatives of the following organisations were interviewed:

Mike Townsend, a consultant with the Woodland Trust, which aims to work with others to plant more trees and protect native woodlands.

David Jenkins, Director of Coed Cymru that campaigns to heighten awareness of native woodlands.

Becky Hulme, a Project Officer with Tir Coed – an alliance of countryside organisations to promote woodland-related facilities.

Raoul Bhambral, Advocacy Officer with Wales Environment Link – the umbrella body for environmental and countryside non-governmental organisations in Wales.

Mike Wood, UK Forestry Policy Officer, and Arfon Williams, Countryside Manager, with RSPB Cymru.

Their generally benign view about the 100,000 hectare target was tempered with an awareness of the difficulties in achieving it. As the Woodland Trust stated:

“The target is realistic in the sense that from the perspective of land use classification, land is available which could be planted with trees. The difficulty is whether it is realistic socially and culturally, given the historical context of forestry in Wales, the structure of farming and the traditions of land use. These factors need to be built into the narrative supporting the target and in to consideration of how it is delivered in the landscape, which may not be represented by the traditional forestry model of plantation, but more by an integration of trees and smaller woodlands into the farmed landscape.”

Tir Coed said that having a target was helpful to drive progress towards achieving additional woodland coverage but cautioned against a re-run of low value conifer plantings:

“The target is not realistic given present levels of new planting. A holistic and well motivated driving force is required to make the target into a reality.”

Coed Cymru struck a slightly different note:

“The target is realistic as long as we recognise that most of the increase will be achieved by natural colonisation, a process which has seen a doubling of native woodland in Wales since 1980. The resulting woodlands may not resemble the plantations of the 20th Century but they will serve our purposes much better.”

The RSPB noted:

“The target could be unhelpful if it drives environmentally unsustainable forestry practices, as well as diverting attention from improving the biodiversity and public benefit value of existing woodlands.”

The Wales Environment Link was concerned that biodiversity requirements should be at the forefront of any woodland expansion planning:

“It is essential that any increase is delivered sensitively, with the right tree in the right place. We mean by this that there needs to be a system to ensure that tree planting is not funded in locations where it is likely to damage or degrade valuable UK Biodiversity Action Plan wildlife habitats and species, and that there should be much greater support for the planting of native than exotic species. We would go further, by setting a long-term aim to double the area of native woodland in Wales. Native woodland can be viewed as a model land use for sustainable development, providing many and varied benefits in environmental, social and economic terms.”

There was a widely shared view amongst the respondents that, if approached in the right way, farmers could be encouraged to plant more trees. As David Jenkins, of Coed Cymru, put it:

“Every farmer I know wants to plant some trees. All we have to do is make it easy for them and ensure that their early efforts are successful. They will not give up their best land and we should not be encouraging this. Recent policy has sought to displace agriculture with trees. This is the wrong approach. Every farm has awkward areas in dingles, along stream-sides and around buildings where trees would thrive and provide benefit to the farmer, to the wider public and to the environment. Often these are small areas, which fall below the threshold of the current grants. The need for hand-holding in the early stages is often overlooked. Tree planting is a progressive affliction, which is highly contagious. Early success is everything.”

Mike Townsend, of the Woodland Trust, said:

“There has traditionally been antipathy towards forestry from farmers. This reflects the large-scale afforestation model, which is often seen as an alternative and antagonistic land use to farming. The model for woodland creation needs to be transformed to one where trees and woodland are integrated into farming systems in ways which help support husbandry and production through helping farming to adapt to climate change and other factors that are putting pressure on farming. The Pontbren farmers in Powys provide an example of the sort of model which is likely to have greater acceptance by farmers generally.¹⁸ Our own woodland creation model in Wales is based on the principle of integration into farming systems, rather than their wholesale displacement.¹⁹”

“There is strong anecdotal evidence that once a farmer starts planting trees he or she is likely to go on doing so. The challenge therefore is to find a way of getting him started. In this regard we believe there is a crucial need for a simpler scheme to provide attractive support for the planting of

very small areas of woodland within the farmed landscape, smaller areas than currently allowed under Glastir's woodland creation scheme and in narrower belts, with minimum bureaucracy and fuss."

Raoul Bhambral, of Wales Environment Link, referred to the same point, urging that the Welsh Government and Forestry Commission should revisit the area size limits for eligibility for Glastir grants and reduce them:

"While the Glastir woodland creation scheme provides fairly generous grants for planting in certain circumstances, areas of land over 0.25 hectares (the limit is due to go up to 0.5 hectares in 2013) and shelterbelts over 12 metres in width, little or no support is available for planting smaller areas of trees. This is a key weakness and we have a real opportunity now to change the scheme to support planting smaller areas. The best way to persuade farmers to plant trees on a wider scale is to encourage them to plant on a smaller scale first."

Other barriers to encouraging more tree planting were listed by the respondents as:

- The planting traffic-light opportunities map, which enforces an over-cautious approach towards new woodland creation, even with regard to small areas of native woodland.
- The threat to income forgone payments in the Welsh Government's new Rural Development Plan.
- The rise in food prices and uncertainty about the future of government support for agriculture.

The Woodland Trust stated:

"We would like to see an agri-environmental scheme which would encourage farmers across Wales to emulate the example of the Pontbren scheme and to see trees and woodland as part of a productive farmed landscape. This would include the promotion of the many benefits of woodland pasture. Such a scheme would go with the grain of the farming practices, encouraging farmers to do what is actually in their own interests in the first place."

NOTES

18 www.pontbrenfarmers.co.uk/

19 www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/planttrees/help-advice/

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 1— If the 100,000 hectare target is to be achieved, areas of unimproved, marginal land across Wales will need to be planted. These are the ffridd habitats where the uplands and lowlands meet. In turn this will require a more holistic approach to the inherent tension between the requirements of sustainability on the one hand and conservation on the other. There needs to be a recognition that new woodlands in the ffridd areas will create new habitats and new biodiversity opportunities.
- 2— The traffic light mapping of Wales should be revisited to achieve a better balance between the demands of sustainability – to be enhanced by the 100,000 hectare woodland expansion – and the current greater emphasis on conservation of existing habitats.
- 3— On climate change mitigation, emphasis should be placed on CO₂ reduction from economic usage of timber, alongside carbon sequestration.
- 4— Farmers are more likely to embark on tree planting if they can be persuaded that it can be integrated into their overall farming culture and practice, rather than as a separate activity.
- 5— Recalibrate the Welsh woodland target to include a focus on the number of trees planted per hectare alongside the target of the overall number of hectares to be planted. This could recommend the number of trees per hectare that would maximise connection of woodland management with the culture of farming.
- 6— Restructure Glastir to emphasise a holistic approach to farming and woodland management. Emphasise pull of economic returns alongside push from Glastir payments. Land currently within the former Tir Gofal programme should be allowed to exit early in order to enter the Glastir Woodland Creation scheme.
- 7— There should be smaller entry for grant eligibility to Glastir below the current 0.25 hectare, soon to become 0.5 hectare, cut-off. This would encourage more farmers to start engaging with woodland management.
- 8— There is a need for greater support for farmers in putting together woodland planting proposals.
- 9— Consideration should be given to find ways of supporting farmers to undertake short rotation coppicing as a way of encouraging the development of a renewable energy source, so reducing carbon emissions, and also encouraging the integration of woodland management with mainstream farming.
- 10— The lead organisation for promoting the expansion of Welsh woodlands should be the new Single Environmental Body.



**TYFU'N
COETIROEDD
YNG NGHYMRU**

HER Y 100,000 HECTAR

JOHN OSMOND A STEVIE UPTON

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**TYFU'N
COETIROEDD
YNG NGHYMURU**

HER Y 100,000 HECTAR

JOHN OSMOND A STEVIE UPTON



Mae'r Sefydliad Materion Cymreig yn bodoli i hybu gwaith ymchwil safonol a thrafodaeth hyddysg sy'n effeithio ar les cymdeithasol, gwleidyddol ac economaidd Cymru. Mae'n gorff annibynnol nad yw'n gefnogol i unrhyw garfan wleidyddol nac economaidd benodol. Yr unig fudd sydd o ddiddordeb i ni yw gweld Cymru'n ffynnu fel gwlad i weithio ac i fyw ynddi. Cawn ein cyllido gan ystod o sefydliadau ac unigolion, yn cynnwys Ymddiriedolaeth Elusenol Joseph Rowntree, Sefydliad Esmée Fairbairn a Sefydliad Waterloo a PricewaterhouseCoopers. Am ragor o wybodaeth am y Sefydliad Materion Cymreig, ei gyhoeddiadau a sut i ymuno, naill ai fel unigolyn neu gefnogydd corfforaethol, cysylltwch â:

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YR AWDURON

John Osmond yw Cyfarwyddwr y Sefydliad Materion Cymreig, ac mae wedi ysgrifennu'n eang ar wleidyddiaeth a pholisi, diwylliant a datganoli Cymreig. Yn gyn-newyddiadurwr a chynhyrhydd teledu mae'n Gymrawd Prifysgol Fetropolitan Caerdydd ac wedi derbyn MA er anrhydedd gan Brifysgol Cymru.

Mae **Stevie Upton** yn Swyddog Ymchwil yn y Sefydliad Materion Cymreig. Mae'n canolbwytio'n bennaf ar addysg a pholisi economaidd rhanbarthol. Yn ddiweddar cyhoeddodd y Sefydliad Materion Cymreig astudiaeth o bwys o'i heiddo, *Making a Difference at Key Stage 3: learning from five successful schools*.

Cefnogwyd gan



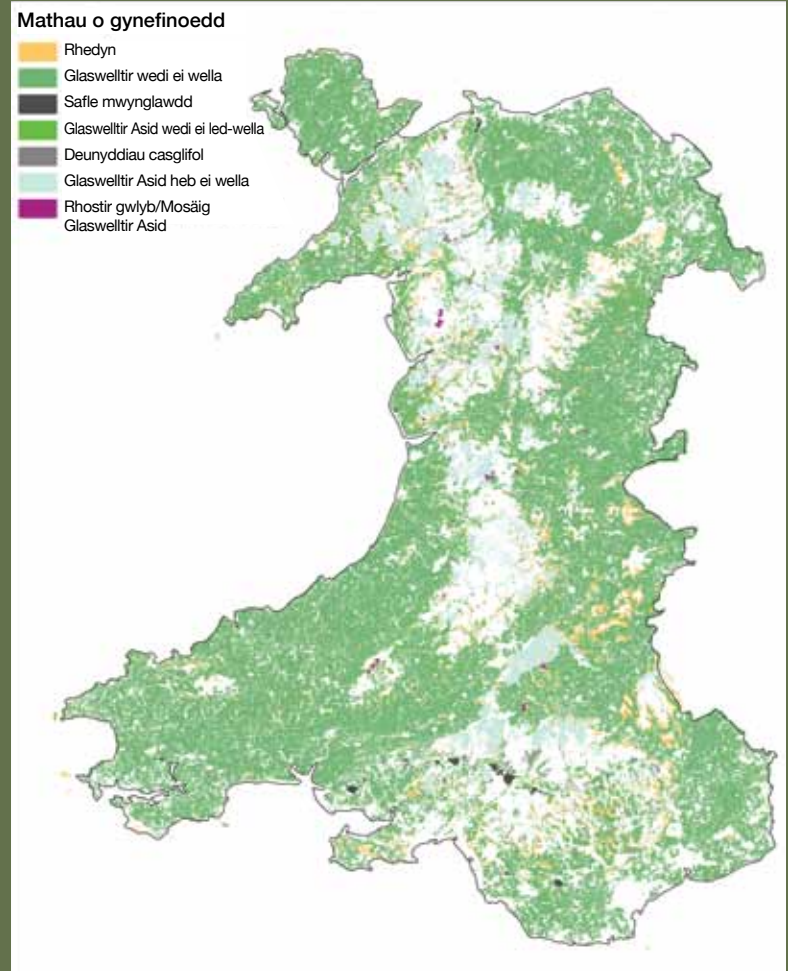
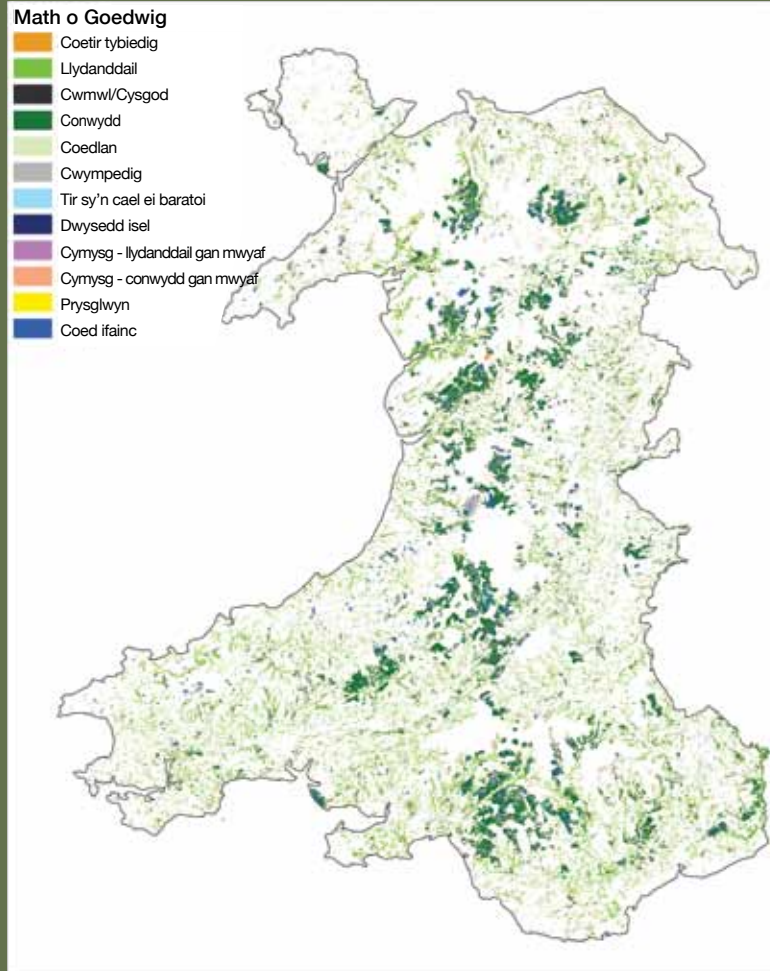
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CYNNWYS

- Rhagymadrodd
5
- 1— Her y 100,000 hectar
6
- 2— Manteision plannu coed
9
- 3— Cymhellion ariannol ar gyfer
plannu mwy o goed
13
- 4— Effaith diwygio PAC
19
- 5— Ymagwedd economaidd
tuag at greu coetir
22
- 6— Asiantwyr coetiroedd
25
- 7— Barn tîrfeddianwyr
29
- 8— Lobiwyr amgylcheddol
33
- 9— Goblygiadau polisi
36

Gorchudd Coetir Cymru

Mathau o lystyfiant addas ar gyfer coetir



RHAGYMDRODD

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn ymwneud â pholisi Llywodraeth Cymru i gynyddu coetiroedd Cymru'n sylweddol o'r 14 y cant o dir sydd eisoes yn goetir, i 20 y cant erbyn 2030. Mae creu coetir yn cynnig llawer o fanteision heblaw helpu i leihau effaith newid yn yr hinsawdd. Bydd y coetir newydd yn cynnwys yn bennaf goed brodorol, a bydd yn darparu cynefinoedd ychwanegol i fywyd gwylt, yn gwella ansawdd ein tirwedd a'n dyfroedd ac, ar yr un pryd, yn darparu cynhyrchion coed defnyddiol fel tanwydd a phren fel deunydd crai.

Fodd bynnag, mae cynyddu coetiroedd Cymru o 100,000 hectar dros 20 mlynedd yn cyflwyno her fawr. Bydd gofyn i ffermwyr blannu cyfuniad o goetiroedd collddail a chonwydd ar draws ardaloedd addas, yn bennaf ar uwchdiroedd Cymru. Bydd hyn yn gofyn am sefydlu cytbwysedd newydd rhwng cadwraeth a datblygu cynaliadwy. Bydd arnom angen pwysu a mesur manteision cynefinoedd presennol yn erbyn y manteision o greu rhai newydd. Hefyd bydd angen i ni fynd yn ôl at arferion y gorffennol pan yr oedd rheolaeth coetiroedd yn cael ei weld fel rhan o ddiwylliant ffermio, yn hytrach na mater ar wahân, fel y caiff ei ystyried yn gyffredinol heddiw.

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn i drwytho cynhadledd yn y themâu hyn, a drefnwyd gan y Sefydliad Materion Cymreig a Chomisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru yng Ngorffennaf 2012, i fynd i'r afael â'r cwestiynau canlynol am ddefnydd tir:

- Ble ddylid creu coetiroedd newydd?
- Beth yw'r ffordd orau o gyflawni'r newid mewn defnydd tir a ragwelir?
- Sut fedrwn ni greu fframwaith a fydd yn ein helpu i gytuno ar ba fannau sy'n addas ac yn anaddas ar gyfer coetir newydd?
- Sut y mae creu coetir newydd yn ffitio mewn i amcanion eraill megis datblygu economaidd, gwelliant yn ansawdd dŵr, a chynnal cynefinoedd pwysig nad ydynt yn goetiroedd?

Mae angen ateb yr holl gwestiynau hyn os ydyw targed uchelgeisiol Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer ehangu coetiroedd Cymru i'w gyflawni. Mae'n hadroddiad yn gorffen gyda nifer o awgrymiadau polisi a fydd, gobeithio, yn ddefnyddiol ar gyfer symud yr agenda hwn yn ei flaen.

HER Y 100,000 HECTAR

Cymru yw un o'r gwledydd lleiaf coediog yn Ewrop. Dim ond 15 y cant o'r tir a orchuddir gan goetir, a dim ond 37 y cant o hwn sy'n llydanddail. Ar gyfartaledd y maint o dir a orchuddir gan goetir yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd yw 37 y cant. Datgela ffigurau'r Comisiwn Coedwigaeth bod Cymru ar ei hôl hi mewn cymhariaeth â gweddill y DU yn ei hymgais i fanteisio ar y cyfleoedd i adfer coetir. Yn ystod 2008-09 dim ond 100 hectar o goetir llydanddail newydd a blannwyd yng Nghymru.¹

Ym Mawrth 2010 mewn adroddiad gan Grŵp Defnydd Tir a Newid Hinsawdd, a gadeiriwyd gan yr Athro Gareth Wyn Jones, nodwyd sut y gellid gwrthbwysu'r nwyon tai gwyrdr a gynhyrchir gan amaeth a choedwigoedd Cymru i gyfrannu tuag at darged Llywodraeth Cymru o 3 y cant o leihad mewn allyriadau'n flynyddol, flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn. Un o argymhellion y Grŵp oedd y dylid cynyddu coetiroedd Cymreig yn sylweddol, o'r 300,000 hectar presennol i tua 400,000 hectar erbyn 2030. Byddai hyn yn ehangu'r ardal a orchuddir gan goedwigoedd yng Nghymru o'r 15 presennol i tua 20 y cant.

Wrth ymateb i adroddiad y Grŵp ym Mehefin 2010, derbyniodd Llywodraeth Cymru'r argymhelliad hwn. Petai'n cael ei wireddu, byddai'r lledaeniad arfaethedig yng nghoetiroedd Cymru'n arwain at bedwar o fanteision pwysig. Byddai'n:

- Ennill cynnydd net mewn dal carbon gan goedwigoedd Cymru.
- Cynhyrchu deunydd a thanwydd cynaliadwy.
- Gwella hydroleg uwchdir.
- Darparu cynefinoedd ychwanegol ar gyfer bywyd gwyllt.

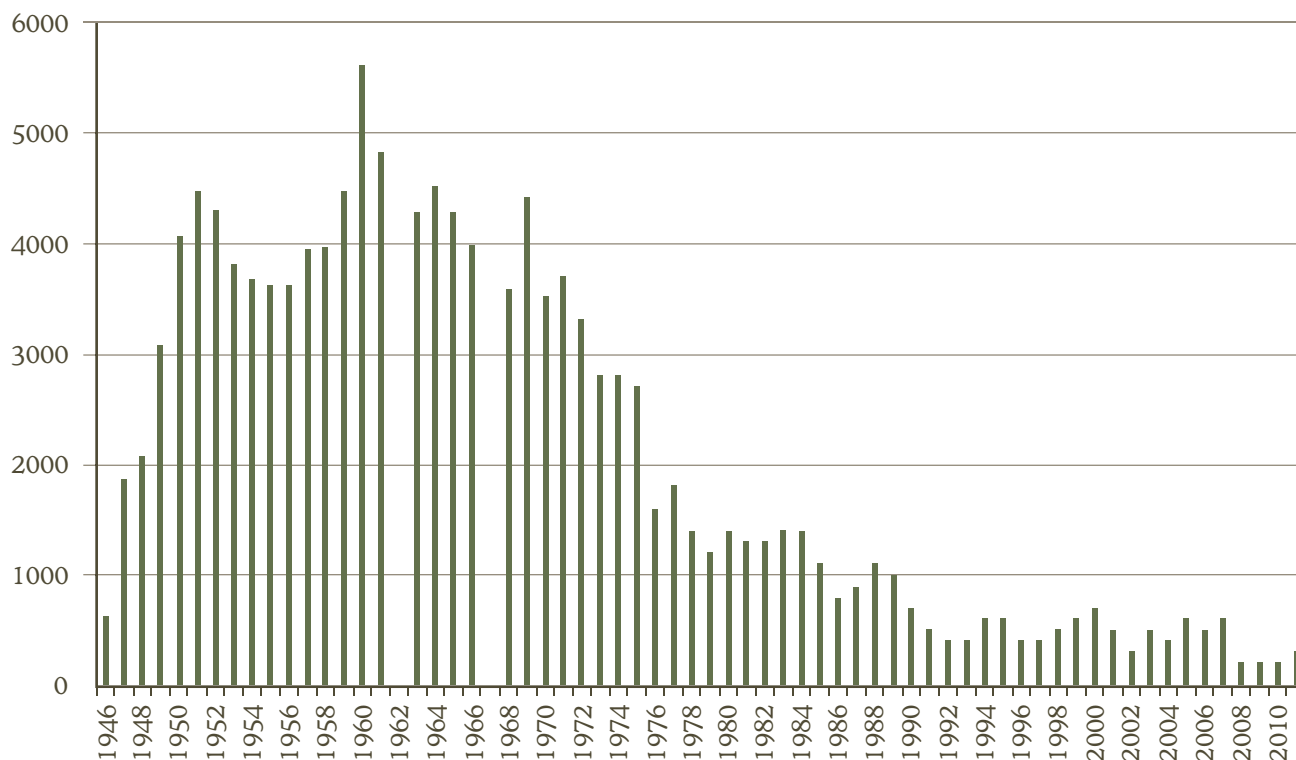
Yn bennaf, collddail fyddai'r coetir newydd, ond gyda chyfran o rywogaethau conwydd ar gyfer defnydd ansawdd uchel, parhaol. Dylent gael eu plannu bron yn gyfan gwbl ar briddoedd uwchdir asid, isel mewn ffrwythlondeb, yn cynnwys llethrau rhedynog. Fel yr argymhellodd y Grŵp:

“...rhaid i'r coedwigoedd presennol a'r rhai ehangedig, cyhoeddus a phreifat fel ei gilydd gael eu rheoli mewn dull a fydd yn darparu ffynhonnell gynaliadwy o goed tân a phren ochr yn ochr â gwasanaethau a chynhyrchion eraill, yn cynnwys dalfa garbon tymor hir.”²

Fodd bynnag, mae'r argymhelliad yn cyflwyno her fawr gan y byddai'n gofyn am greu, ar gyfartaledd, 5,000 hectar o goetir y flwyddyn dros y cyfnod hwnnw. Ar hyn o bryd amcangyfrifir mai tua 500 hectar yw'r cynnydd blynyddol. Fel y nodir gan adroddiad y Grŵp, i wireddu'r raddfa ychwanegol o gynnydd bydd angen “cymhellion arwyddocaol economaidd i'w gyflawni”, a “mecanweithiau cyflawni arloesol a newydd”.³

HECTARAU O BLANNU NEWYDD YNG NGHYMRU, 1946-2011

Ffynhonnell: Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru



Gellir hefyd fesur maint yr her drwy edrych ar hanes plannu yng Nghymru ers yr Ail Ryfel Byd, fel y dangosir yn y siart uchod. Mewn mwy na hanner canrif dim ond mewn un flwyddyn y cyrhaeddwyd y targed presennol o 5,000, sef 1960. Hefyd, yn ystod y rhan fwyaf o'r cyfnod hwn conwydd oedd y mwyafrif a blannwyd, yn bennaf gan un corff - Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru - ac ar ddarnau cymharol fawr o dir. Yn y blynyddoedd olynol, yn arbennig y 1960au a'r 1970au, anogwyd mwy o fuddsoddiad preifat gan gyfundrefn dreth ffafriol.

O'i osod yn erbyn y cofnod hwn, y nod yn yr 20 mlynedd nesaf fydd plannu coedwigoedd newydd o goetir cymysg, gan ystod eang o berchnogion - gyda rhyw ddau draean o'r targed, ar gyfartaledd, yn cael eu plannu gan ffermwyr - ac ar ddarnau cymharol fychan o dir. Hyd yn hyn, rhyw 3 hectar ar gyfartaledd fu'r ardaloedd ar gyfer planhigfeydd newydd.

Wrth fynd i'r afael â'r sialensiau hyn mae angen archwilio cyfuniad o gwestiynau technegol, ariannol a chymdeithasol neu seicolegol. Y cwestiwn technegol yw maint

a lleoliad tir addas sydd ar gael yng Nghymru ar gyfer plannu'r coetiroedd ychwanegol a argymhellir.

Mae'r cwestiynau ariannol yn troi o gwmpas y cymhellion y gellir eu cynnig i dirfeddianwyr. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys gostyngiad mewn trethi, taliadau am incwm rhagweladwy a'r cynllun newydd Creu Coetir Glastir. Dylid gwneud popeth sy'n bosib i berswadio ffermwyr, yn arbennig, i gytuno i dyfu mwy o goed ar eu tir. Er enghraifft, o dan y cynllun Glastir gellir rhoi grantiau i fyny at £9,000 yr hectar dros gyfnod o 15 o flynyddoedd. Bydd ffermwyr yn parhau yn gymwys i dderbyn arian cynllun taliadau sengl yr UE ar dir nas cynhyrchir mwyach drwy gynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd a phlannu coetir newydd, ar yr amod bod y tir yn gymwys ar gyfer y taliad sengl yn 2008. Fodd bynnag, mae'n rhaid gosod y cymhellion hyn yn erbyn y prisiau y medr ffermwyr eu cael ar hyn o bryd am eu cig oen a'u heidion. Er enghraifft, tra'r oedd prisiau ŵyn dair blynedd yn ôl rhwng £30 a £40 y pen, heddiw maent wedi codi i rhwng £80 a £90. Yn yr amgylchiadau hyn mae'r cynllun Glastir yn ei chael hi'n anodd perswadio ffermwyr i edrych i fannau eraill am incwm fferm.

Cymhlethir hyn gan agweddau llawer o ffermwyr a thirfeddianwyr tuag at werth plannu coed. Teimlir bod defnyddio tir ar gyfer tyfu coedwigoedd mewn rhyw ffordd yn llai cynhyrchiol na'i ddefnyddio i fagu anifeiliaid a thyfu cnydau. Er enghraifft, mae rhai yn amharod i droi tir yn goedwig oherwydd bod hyn yn golygu rhoi'r gorau i gynhyrchu bwyd yn barhaol ar y tir hwnnw.

Fel y dywedodd Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru wrthym, mewn ymateb i ymgynghoriad a gynaliasom gyda budd-ddeiliaid:

“Mae yna wahaniad mawr rhwng ‘coedwigaeth’ a ‘ffermio’ yng Nghymru sydd wedi ei atgyfnerthu gan wahaniad sefydliadol dros gyfnod hir. Tra bo'r rhan fwyaf o ffermydd yng Nghymru'n cynnwys coetir, mae llawer o ffermwyr nad ydynt yn gweld eu hunain fel rheolwyr coetir neu goedwigoedd. Mae'r rhesymau'n cynnwys diffyg gwybodaeth a sgiliau ynghyd ag ystyriaethau economaidd. Mae coetiroedd yn llai proffidiol na thir pori neu dir â'r gyda'r posibilrwydd o golled yng ngwerth y tir o dan goetir o'i gymharu â thir ffermio, a hefyd lai o hyblygrwydd. Unwaith y bydd tir wedi ei droi yn goetir, yr hyn a ddisgwylir (gyda chefnogaeth y Ddeddf Coedwigaeth) yw y bydd coetir yn aros yn goetir.”⁴

Her o bwys yw perswadio ffermwyr y gellir cyfuno plannu coed a'u harferion ffermio mewn dull manteisiol. Efallai nad yw hyn mor anodd ag y mae'n swnio. Yr hyn sy'n ofynnol yw i ffermwyr aildarganfod yr arfer a fodolai mewn ffermio Cymreig rai cenedlaethau'n ôl, pan y gwelwyd creu a rheoli coetir fel rhan annatod o ddiwylliant ffermio.

NODIADAU

- 1 <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/news-media/wales/Pages/welsh-assembly-petition.aspx>
- 2 Adroddiad Grŵp Defnydd Tir a Newid Hinsawdd i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, Mawrth 2010, tud xxxiv.
- 3 *Ibid.*, tudalennau 56 a 58.
- 4 Ymateb i holiadur, 24 Mai 2012.

MANTEISION PLANNU COED

Er mai lliniaru newid hinsawdd yw'r prif ysgogydd polisi ar gyfer mabwysiadu'r 100,000 hectar fel targed, byddai llawer o fanteision eraill yn deillio ohono. Byddai gorchuddio mwy o dir Cymru â choed trwy blannu coetiroedd cymysg, collddail yn bennaf, yn gwella'n rheolaeth tir mewn amryw o ddulliau manteisiol, yn cynnwys y rhai a ganlyn:

- Cynnyrch amaethyddol mwy cystadleuol drwy ddarparu mwy o fannau cysgodol, gwell rheolaeth stoc o gwmpas nentydd a llethrau serth, gwell bioddiogelwch, llai o berygl oddi wrth ddŵr ffo, llygredd tryledol a mannau dyfirlawn.
- Llai o lifogydd lle mae bandiau neu luwchfeydd o lydanddail dwfn yn atal dŵr-ffo arwynebol.
- Gwell tirwedd.
- Mwy o goetir a thir pori coediog sy'n cefnogi amrywiaeth eang o rywogaethau.
- Mwy o dir addas ar gyfer rheoli helwriaeth.
- Mwy o gynhyrchu coed yn cynnwys coed tân.

Fel rheol mae ffermio a choedwigaeth yn cael eu gweld fel dau fath o ddefnydd tir sydd ar wahân ac yn cystadlu yn erbyn ei gilydd, yn cael eu rheoli gan setiau gwahanol o bobl broffesiynol. Yn y gorffennol, fodd bynnag, roedd plannu coetiroedd naturiol yn rhan annatod o'r rhan fwyaf o ffermydd ar draws Cymru ar gyfer cyflenwi pren a thanwydd. Ystyriwyd coed fel elfen gefnogol

i ffermio cynhyrchiol. Roedd yn darparu cysgod i anifeiliaid, a hefyd yn rhan o gloddiau ac yn gwella effeithlonrwydd y defnydd a wnaed o ddŵr gan gnydau.

Yn ystod yr 20fed ganrif, wrth i ddulliau ffermio ddwysáu ac wrth i'r Comisiwn Coedwigaeth a pherchnogion eraill ystadau sefydlu planhigfeydd conwydd mawr, dechreuodd ffermwyr edrych ar goetiroedd fel gweithgaredd amgen i ffermio yn hytrach nag fel rhan ohono. Yn y cyfamser yr oedd cymorthdaliadau'r Polisi Amaethyddol Cyffredinol yn gymhelliad pwerus i or-bori coetiroedd fferm gan arwain at golli cynefinoedd a diffyg adfywiad.

Fodd bynnag, ers 2005 nid yw taliadau fferm bellach wedi eu cysylltu â niferoedd stoc, a hyn wedi rhoi cyfle i adfer y cysylltiadau rhwng tir fferm a choetir. Yn sicr dyma fwriad polisi Llywodraeth Cymru:

“Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r cynnydd a gynllunnir ar gyfer gorchudd coetir yng Nghymru'n debygol o ddod o goetiroedd newydd ar dir fferm, gan ddarparu gwasanaethau ecosystem pwysig, fel rheoli dŵr, creu cynefin, cynhyrchu pren, a ffynonellau lleol o danwydd.”⁵

Mae ffermio'n cyfrif am tua 10 y cant o allyriadau nwyon tŷ gwydr yng Nghymru. I raddau bydd plannu coed yn llesol mewn dal carbon atmosfferig. Fel adnodd ynni adnewyddadwy

mae tanwydd coed yn disodli tanwydd ffosil ac yn lleihau ôl traed carbon ar ffermydd.

Fodd bynnag, mae yna lawer o ffyrdd eraill o edrych ar goetir fel elfen gydnaws ac un sy'n cyfrannu at ganlyniadau ffermio da. Gall lleiniau cysgodol o goed gael effaith gadarnhaol ar dyfiant porfa drwy gynyddu ymdreiddiad dŵr a lleihau colli anwedd-drydarthiad. Mae cysgod yn ffactor bwysig ar gyfer lleihau oerfel a gwella goroesiad ŵyn.

Gall coetiroedd ar ffermydd hefyd helpu i liniaru patrymau tywydd cyfnewidiol y gallwn ddisgwyl eu gweld fel canlyniad i newid hinsawdd yn y degawdau nesaf. Rhagwelir cynnydd mewn glawiad gaeaf ynghyd â chynnydd yn amllder stormydd glaw a chorwyntoedd. Hefyd, disgwylir llai o law yn yr haf ynghyd â thymheredd uwch a fydd yn cynyddu stres gwres ymysg anifeiliaid fferm. Yn ei dro gall hyn effeithio ar gnydau llaeth a ffrwythlondeb mewn gwartheg godro, gan effeithio ar gyflwr anifeiliaid eraill. Mae plannu coed brodorol yn darparu cysgod pwysig i anifeiliaid fferm ac yn gostwng tymheredd yr awyr.

Mae lleiniau byffer o goed ar hyd cyrsiau dŵr a phlannu coed a chloddiau'n gyfuchlunol yn cynyddu ymdreiddiad dŵr i'r pridd, yn lleihau gwaddodi a gwrtaith-ffo yn dilyn glaw trwm. Gall hefyd wella ansawdd dŵr a lleihau peryglon llifogydd.

Mewn astudiaeth achos yn yr adroddiad 'UK Ecosystem Assessment' yn 2011, ceir asesiad o fanteision ffermio mewn cymhariaeth â chreu coetir ar draws Cymru. Mae'r astudiaeth yn mesur gwerth hectar o gynnyrch amaethyddol yn erbyn y gwasanaethau ecosystem a ddarperir gan goetiroedd - pren, storio carbon, a gweithgareddau hamdden. A chadw mewn golwg yr holl fanteision hyn, daeth yr astudiaeth i'r casgliad bod defnyddio tir ar gyfer coetir yn fwy llesol na'i ddefnyddio fel tir amaeth ar draws rhannau helaeth o'r dirwedd Gymreig. Yn arbennig, tanlinellodd yr adroddiad fanteision buddsoddi mewn mwy o adnoddau coetir ger ardaloedd trefol yn ne ddwyrain a gogledd ddwyrain Cymru.

Tynnodd yr astudiaeth sylw at y datgysylltiad rhwng mannau

lle gwelir y mwyafrif o goetir ar hyn o bryd yng Nghymru, ar uwchdiroedd anghysbell, a'r mannau lle byddai ganddo'r effaith mwyaf, mewn ardaloedd ar lefelau is ger canolfannau trefol, gan grynhoi fel hyn:

“Mae hyn yn amlwg yn ateb ein cwestiwn parthed pam y dylem ymgorffori gwasanaethau gwerthfawr economaidd a chymdeithasol yn y broses o wneud penderfyniadau. Os methwn wneud hyn, y farchnad yn unig a fydd yn datgan dosbarthiad adnoddau. Tra bo'r farchnad yn medru dosbarthu cynnyrch â'u prisiau yn y farchnad yn adlewyrchu i raddau werthoedd cymdeithasol, nid ydynt yn medru darparu dosbarthiad cymdeithasol optimaidd nwyddau heb brisiau nad ydynt ar gyfer y farchnad. Dim ond drwy fynd i'r afael yn uniongyrchol â'r methiant hwn y bydd marchnadoedd yn cael eu cywiro i'r pwynt lle gallant gael eu gadael i ddarparu nwyddau a gwasanaethau y mae cymdeithas eu heisiau a'u hangen.”⁶

Yn y ddadl ynghylch ehangu coetir Cymru mae tensiwn parhaus yn bodoli rhwng galwadau cynladwyedd a chadwraeth. Fel y dywedodd Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru:

“Mae angen gosod manteision ehangu coetir yn erbyn yr ystod o wahanol wasanaethau ecosystem y gall tirwedd fwy agored a chynefinoedd eraill eu darparu...

Ymddengys bod y targed plannu 100,000 hectar wedi ei gymeradwyo heb asesiad polisi gan Lywodraeth Cymru i amlygu'r peryglon posibl mewn perthynas â pholisiau a strategaethau eraill. O safbwynt Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, y perygl mwyaf yw bod y targed yn cynyddu'r pwysau i blannu ar gyfeir rhannol-naturiol, yn arbennig yng nghyfeir Cynllun Gweithredu Bioamrywiaeth y DU.⁷ Mae hyn yn peryglu gallu Llywodraeth Cymru i gwrdd â Chanlyniad 19 y Strategaeth

Amgylcheddol: "Mae colli bioamrywiaeth wedi ei atal a gallwn weld adferiad pendant yn nifer, amrediad ac amrywiaeth genetig rhywogaethau..." Y dangosyddion ar gyfer y canlyniad hwn yw tueddiadau yn rhywogaethau a chynfinoedd Cynllun Gweithredu Bioamrywiaeth y DU.⁸ Y target rhyngenedlaethol gwreiddiol ar gyfer atal colli bioamrywiaeth oedd 2010, ond ni lwyddwyd i gwrdd â'r targed ac mae wedi ei ohirio tan 2020.⁹"

Eto yn rhy aml mae yna gêm ddi-sw m yn cael ei chwarae pan osodir y cyfleoedd ar gyfer plannu mwy o goetir ar ffriddoedd eang Cymru yn erbyn yr hyn a ragwelir fel colli cynefinoedd. Bydd y coetiroedd newydd sy'n cael eu cynnig gan y polisi 100,000 hectar, llydanddail yn bennaf, yn darparu cynefinoedd newydd a chyfleoedd bioamrywiaeth a fydd yn disodli'r hen.¹⁰

NODIADAU

- 5 Llywodraeth Cymru, *Coetiroedd i Gymru*, 2009.
- 6 *The UK National Ecosystem Assessment: Synthesis of the Key Findings*, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, p, 43, 2011.
- 7 Gweler rhestr o gynefinoedd a rhywogaethau pwysig iawn yn Adran 42 o Ddeddf yr Amgylchedd Naturiol a Chymunedau Gwledig 2006.
- 8 Strategaeth Amgylcheddol ar gyfer Cymru. 2006.
- 9 Ymateb Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru i arolwg a wnaethpwyd fel rhan o'r adroddiad hwn.
- 10 Nid oes gair Saesneg am 'ffridd' a ddefnyddir i ddisgrifio cynefinoedd sy'n bodoli rhwng ucheldiroedd ac iseldiroedd. yng Nghymru. Mae'n amrywiaeth o laswelltir a rhostir gydag amlygiadau o redyn, prysgwydd (draenen wen a grug yn aml) neu greigiau, a gall hefyd gynnwys llaciau, gwern, nentydd a dŵr llonydd. Mae'n anodd diffinio ffridd yn nhermau cymuned llystyfiant sengl gan mai ei phrif nodwedd yw casgliad o wahanol gynefinoedd. Efallai mai'r ffordd orau o'i disgrifio yw fel brithwaith o gynefinoedd tameidiog ac amrywiol y gellid dod o hyd iddynt ar ryngwyneb ucheldiroedd ac iseldiroedd. Yr unig lefydd y gellid dod o hyd iddynt, mewn gwirionedd, yw ar lechweddau, yn arbennig yn yr ardaloedd hynny na ellid eu ffermio'n effeithiol oherwydd eu serthni neu amllder brigiadau o greigiau a sgri. Gall ffriddoedd hefyd ddatblygu ar ardaloedd a fu gynt yn blanhigfeydd conwydd sydd eto i'w hail-blannu.



COED AR GYFER LLOCHES, TANWYDD A BYWYD GWYLLT

Fferm Somerton, Castell Martin, Sir Benfro

Mae Holly Harris a'i gŵr yn rhedeg Fferm Somerton, 22 hectar, yn Sir Benfro. Mae ganddynt 23 o wartheg sugno Dexter, haid fechan o ieir ac maent yn tyfu eu llysiau eu hunain. Ugain mlynedd yn ôl plannodd Mrs Harris 2,000 o goed brodorol mewn cae dau hectar prin ei werth yn amaethyddol.

Bellach mae'r cae hwnnw wedi dod yn goedlan sy'n cyflenwi dwy stôf llosgi coed y ffermdy, gan arbed cannoedd o bunnoedd y flwyddyn. Mae'n cysgodi'r ffermdy a'r gwely llysiau rhag gwyntoedd egr yr arfordir hefyd ac yn darparu llecyn cysgodol i'r ieir.

Mae sawl defnydd arall i'r goedlan ifanc. "Rwyf wedi rhoi stoc yno am gyfnodau byr pan oedd angen i mi wneud hynny", medd Mrs Harris. "Maen nhw wrth eu bodd yno ac mae'n syndod cyn lleied o ddifrod maen nhw'n ei wneud." Mae bywyd gwyllt yn un o'r pethau y mae Mrs Harris yn frwd yn ei gylch; mae'r goedlan newydd wedi dod yn noddfa i natur.

"Mae'n lle guych i fynd a'r cŵn am dro hefyd. Dyma ble 'da ni'n mynd â phobl sy'n dod i ymweld â'r fferm. Rydym yn ffodus iawn ohono." Prynodd Mrs Harris ddarn bach o dir ychwanegol yn ddiweddar, ac mae'n awyddus i gael guwybod mwy am grantiau Creu Coetir Glastir, sy'n cynnig hyd at £9,000 yr hectar am blannu coed. "Mae gen i ddi-ddordeb mewn plannu coed fydd yn tyfu ffrwythau ac aeron a phrysglwyni sy'n tyfu'n gyflym hefyd, coed y byddwn yn gallu gwneud defnydd ohonynt."



"Rwyf yn fwy a mwy ymwybodol, oherwydd y newid yn yr hinsawdd, fod cysgod a lloches yn mynd i ddod yn fwy puysig ar ffermydd. Fy neges i ffermwyr a thirfeddianwyr eraill fyddai 'buddsoddwch mewn plannu coed yn awr'. Pan wnaethon ni blannu ein coedlan, wnaethon ni erioed sylweddoli cymaint y byddai'n ei olygu i ni. Mae wedi tyfu'n fath gaffaeliad mewn cymaint o ffyrdd. Mae yna lawer o broblemau yn y byd, a'r ateb i lawer ohonyn nhw ydyw: 'plannu mwy o goed'."

"Mae pobl wedi dod i weld ein coedlan ac wedi dweud wrthym: 'Byddai'n dda gennyf fod wedi plannu coed flynyddoedd yn ôl, fel y bydden nhw fel hyn yn awr'. Gobeithio y byddwn yn dal o gwmpas i weld y goedlan 'ma pan fydd yn 40 mlwydd oed."

Ffynhonnell: Coed Cadw, Coed i ffermydd yng Nghymru, 2011

CYMHELLION ARIANNOL AR GYFER PLANNU MWY O GOED

Ar hyn o bryd argymhellir ffermwyr a thirfeddianwyr i gynyddu eu coetir yn bennaf drwy raglen Glastir Llywodraeth Cymru, sy'n medru rhoi i fyny at £9,000 yr hectar dros gyfnod o 15 mlynedd. Mae'r swm hwn yn cynnwys arian ar gyfer sefydlu coetir ynghyd â grant ffensio a thaliad incwm rhagweladwy sef Premiwm Creu Coetir Glastir.

Cymhellion ariannol eraill posibl yw'r system dreth a datblygiad marchnad garbon wirfoddol lle mae cwmnïau ac unigolion yn buddsoddi'n wirfoddol mewn plannu coed i wrthbwysu'r allyriadau a gynhyrchir ganddynt drwy deithio a gweithgareddau eraill.

Ar y cyfan, mae'r system dreth sy'n ymwneud â choedwigaeth ar hyn o bryd yn niwtral. Nid oes rhaid talu treth ar incwm a sylweddolir drwy werthu coed. Nid oes treth enillion cyfalaf ar y cynnydd yng ngwerth cnydau coed masnachol, ac mae coedwigaeth hefyd wedi ei heithrio o dreth etifeddiant, ar yr amod fod y tir wedi bod yn eiddo i'r perchennog am o leiaf ddwy flynedd. Ar y cyfan mae hyn yn ffafriol i berchnogion coetir ac mae cysondeb yr amodau hefyd yn fanteisiol i fuddsoddwyr tramor.

Yn y 1970au a'r 1980au (hyd 1987), cafwyd rhagesiampl o ostyngiad treth i'r rhai'n buddsoddi mewn coedwigaeth, tebyg iawn i'r gostyngiad treth ar forgeisiau tai, ac fel canlyniad anogwyd nifer sylweddol o dirfeddianwyr preifat i blannu mwy o goed. Fodd bynnag, cafwyd problemau'n ymwneud ag osgoi

treth ac mae'n bur annhebyg y caiff y Trysorlys ei berswadio i weithredu ar hyd yr un llinellau yn yr hinsawdd economaidd sydd ohoni.

Dichon mai llwybr mwy addawol ar gyfer creu cymhellion ariannol i dirfeddianwyr blannu coed fyddai i unigolion a busnesau dalu'n wirfoddol er mwyn gwrthbwysu'u hallyriadau carbon. Er enghraifft, yn ôl Coed Cadw, bydd rhodd o £25 yn creu 25 metr sgwâr o goetir, digon i ddal a storio 1 tonn fetrig o garbon deuocsid yn ystod ei fywyd. Ar gyfartaledd, byddai'n rhaid i ddefnyddiwr car sy'n teithio 9,000 milltir y flwyddyn, gan gynhyrchu 3 tonn fetrig o garbon, roi £75 y flwyddyn i wneud iawn am yr allyriadau hyn. Yng Ngorffennaf 2011 cymeradwyodd Llywodraeth y DU God Carbon Coetir, sy'n rhoi canllawiau arfer da i gyrff sy'n dymuno gwaredu CO₂ o'r atmosffer.¹¹

Mae yna anawsterau amlwg mewn cynhyrchu'r fath gynllun gwirfoddol, effeithiol ar raddfa eang. Sut y dylid hyrwyddo'r cynllun? Sut mae dwyn buddsoddwyr a thirfeddianwyr at ei gilydd? Gellid dadlau, fodd bynnag, y gellid gwneud i'r cynllun weithio yng Nghymru am fod iddo fanteision graddfa fechan. I fod yn effeithiol Llywodraeth Cymru fyddai'n arwain y maes, gan weithio, mwy na thebyg drwy'r Corff Amgylcheddol Sengl newydd sy'n cael ei greu fel canlyniad i gyfuniad Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, Asiantaeth Amgylcheddol Cymru a Chomisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru. Yn sicr, byddai'n gyfle

i hyrwyddo delwedd gwlad â'i llywodraeth wedi datgan datblygu cynaliadwy fel ei brif egwyddor drefniadol.

Y gwir yw, fodd bynnag, mai'r grantiau sydd ar gael o dan Creu Coetir Glastir Llywodraeth Cymru fydd y mecanwaith ariannol pwysicaf o bell ffordd ar gyfer perswadio ffermwyr, yn arbennig, i blannu rhagor o goed yn y dyfodol agos. Yn y cyddestun hwn mae'n galonid i wybod bod bron i dri chwarter yr ymatebyddion, yn ôl arolwg Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru, yn 2009, wedi mynegi peth parodwydd i wneud cais am grantiau coetir yn y dyfodol.¹² Hefyd, anghytunodd 72 y cant o'r rhai a holwyd â'r datganiad "Does gen i ddim diddordeb mewn rheoli fy nghoetir". A thra'r oedd un traean yn teimlo y byddai rheoli eu coetir yn amharu ar hwylustod rhedeg eu ffermydd, anghytunodd 58 y cant mai dyna a fyddai'r achos. Mae hyn i gyd yn awgrymu parodwydd ymhlith ffermwyr i ystyried rheoli eu hadnoddau coetir.

Eto, o holl ddalwyr contractau Coetiroedd Gwell i Gymru, dim ond 13 y cant oedd yn ffermwyr.¹³ Yn rhannol mae rhaglen Glastir Llywodraeth Cymru, sydd wedi disodli Gwell Coetiroedd i Gymru a phedwar cynllun arall amaeth-amgylcheddol, wedi ei anelu at annog gwaith i gael ei wneud mewn coetiroedd fferm nad ydynt ar hyn o bryd yn cael eu rheoli.

Mae dwy o elfennau Glastir wedi eu targedu'n arbennig at gynyddu creu a rheoli coetir: yr elfen sydd wedi ei dylunio i "gyflenwi gwelliannau arwyddocaol i statws amgylcheddol ystod o gynefinoedd, rhywogaethau, priddoedd a dŵr"; a'r elfen goetir, a fydd yn hybu creu a rheoli coetir.¹⁴

O dan y cynllun Creu Coetir Glastir, mae penderfynu pa dir sy'n addas ar gyfer plannu yn cael ei wneud yn ôl dosbarthiad yr holl diroedd sydd ar gael fel 'coch' (anaddas), 'ambr' (addas o bosib), neu 'gwyrd' (addas). Mae gweithrediad cyflym Glastir wedi golygu bod llawer o diroedd wedi eu dosbarthu fel rhai sy'n anaddas ar gyfer plannu. Gan na chafwyd amser i wneud arolygon llawn, dewisodd y cyrff a ymatebodd, ac yn arbennig Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru,

ddynodi ardaloedd eang fel rhai na ddylid plannu arnynt. Fodd bynnag, mae'r map plannu yn awr yn cael ei adolygu mewn ymgais i ail-ddynodi rhannau o'r ardaloedd hyn fel rhai 'ambr'. Yn y tymor hwy cynllunnir cynhyrchu offer mapio ymatebol mwy sensitif.

Pan ofynnwyd i Asiantwyr Coetir am effeithiolrwydd tebygol Glastir a'r ffordd orau o argymhell tirfeddianwyr i blannu coed ar eu tir, disgrifiasant y system fapio fel un oedd yn cyfyngu defnydd tir, a hyn yn gwneud y targed o 100,000 hectar yn "ffansiol". Fodd bynnag, ar ôl cymharu'r map presennol â'r ceisiadau hyd yn hyn, daeth Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru i'r casgliad nad y mapiau oedd y rhwystr pennaf. Mae ardaloedd yn dal ar gael sydd wedi eu henwi fel rhai addas ar gyfer plannu ac sydd mewn manau amaethyddol ymylol, uwchdir neu leoliadau tir-rhedyn – a gynigiwyd gan y Grŵp Defnydd Tir a Newid Hinsawdd fel y lleoliadau gorau ar gyfer plannu – ond nad ydynt eto wedi derbyn grantiau Glastir ar gyfer creu coetir.

Mae swyddogion Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru wedi dod i'r casgliad y gallai, felly, fod diffyg gwybodaeth ymhlith y rhai a fedrai dderbyn grantiau. Mae peth cefnogaeth i'r farn hon yn yr arolwg a wnaed yn 2009 gan y Comisiwn ar ffermwyr. Datgelodd nad oedd 23 y cant o'r ymatebyddion yn ymwybodol o'r cynlluniau grant coetir oedd yn bodoli cyn hyn ac y gellid, efallai, berswadio 28 y cant i wneud cais am grant yn y dyfodol petai ganddynt "fwy o wybodaeth am yr hyn sydd ar gael". Yn y cyfamser, cytunodd 83 y cant o ymatebyddion â'r datganiad: "Nid oes gennyf ddigon o wybodaeth am yr hyn y dylwn i fod yn ei wneud â choetir ar fy fferm".

Ymhlith y rhwystrau eraill posib a enwid yn arolwg 2009 yr oedd prinder amser i reoli coetiroedd fferm (a enwid gan 63 y cant o'r ymatebyddion), y gost waharddol o reoli'r coetir (48 y cant), a'r ffaith nad yw "coed yn werth digon i'w cynaeafu" (39 y cant).

Amlygodd Asiantwyr Coetir amharodwydd ymhlith ffermwyr i droi tir amaeth da yn goetir. Fodd bynnag,



ymddengys y rhan fwyaf o ffermwyr yn hapus i blannu ar dir nad yw wedi ei wella. I hyn ddigwydd, y sbardun pwysicaf ar gyfer plannu, heb amheuaeth, yw enillion economaidd, gyda symud rhwystrau o'r neilltu - yn arbennig y rhai biwrocraidd – yn ail ffactor gritigol.

Yn yr Alban mae'r Comisiwn Coedwigaeth yn helpu i symud y fath 'rwystrau' drwy ysgwyddo'r dasg o blannu coed o'r dechrau i'r diwedd. Yn union ar ôl i ffermwr fynegi parodrwydd i blannu ardal o dir, mae'r Comisiwn yn cynnig cymryd y tir hwnnw ar les oddi wrth y ffermwr ynghyd â darpariaeth addas ar gyfer mynediad. Wedyn mae'r Comisiwn yn plannu'r tir ac yn gofalu am yr ardal am rhwng 10 a 15 mlynedd tra'n talu rhent i'r ffermwr. Ni fyddai'r cynllun yn gweithio i lawer o ffermwyr gan y byddent yn colli eu cymhwyster ar gyfer derbyn Taliad Sengl PAC. Fodd bynnag, gallai fod o ddiddordeb i rai perchnogion nad ydynt yn ffermio.

Ond y gwir yw, bod taliadau cymhellant, yn arbennig o gofio'r prisiau presennol am ŵyn a gwartheg yn annhebygol o berswadio llawer o ffermydd i blannu coetiroedd ar dir sydd wedi ei wella. Rhaid defnyddio'r adnoddau sydd ar gael, felly, i berswadio ffermwyr i blannu ar dir nad yw wedi ei wella ar eu ffermydd.

I'r cynllun Creu Coetir Glastir fod yn effeithiol, mae'r swyddogion sy'n creu'r cynllun yn pwysleisio "elfen etifeddiaeth" coetiroedd. Maent yn gweld yr angen i berswadio ffermwyr *ifainc* i sylweddoli bod iddynt fanteision economaidd ac amgylcheddol yn y tymor hir. Mae'r lleihad yn y defnydd o goed cartref ar ffermydd ar gyfer ffensio a choed tân wedi amharu ar ansawdd y pren sydd ar gael, a'r cysylltiad rhwng llawer o ffermwyr a'u coedwigoedd wedi mynd i golli. Bydd argyhoeddi ffermwyr ei bod yn fuddiol iddynt ymgyfrannu mewn gweithgaredd coetir, felly, yn dasg herfeiddiol. Eto, os na ellir cwrdd â'r her hon, mae'r tebygrwydd y bydd ffermwyr yn ymrwymo i gontract coetir Glastir 15 mlynedd mewn perygl o fod yn waharddol, yn arbennig o gofio mai prin, yn y tymor byr,

fydd enillion economaidd coetiroedd newydd.

Mae'r holl rwystrau hyn, i raddau, yn egluro pam na ddangoswyd llawer o ddiddordeb mewn cynlluniau Creu Coetir Glastir yn ystod dwy flynedd gyntaf ei weithrediad, hyd ddiwedd Mai 2012. Yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw roedd 227 o brosiectau plannu, y rhoddwyd tâl amdanynt, yn gorchuddio 666 hectar - 2.83 hectar y prosiect ar gyfartaledd. Hefyd, cymeradwywyd 140 o geisiadau eraill yn ystod y cyfnod, yn gorchuddio 516 hectar ychwanegol, ond nid yw'r rhain eto wedi eu plannu. Er mai araf yw'r broses mewn perthynas â'r targed 100,000 hectar mewn 20 mlynedd, mae'n dal yn welliant ar yr hyn a gyflawnwyd o dan gynlluniau blaenorol Gwell Coetiroedd i Gymru a Tir Gofal.

NODIADAU

- 11 Mae'r Cod yn rhoi sicrwydd i brynwyr a gwerthwyr bod y cyfrifyddu yn gywir, a'r carbon yn ddiogel yn y tymor hir. Mae cofrestr gysylltiol yn sicrhau na fydd ardaloedd yn cael eu dwbl werthu.
- 12 Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru: *Arolwg o ffermwyr â choetir ar eu tir*, 2009.
- 13 Cynllun grantiau Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru a ragflaenodd Glastir oedd Gwell Coetiroedd i Gymru. Cafodd ei deilwra i gyflenwi Strategaeth Goetir 2009 Llywodraeth Cymru, *Coetiroedd i Gymru*.
- 14 <http://www.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/farming/glastirhome/?lang=en>

ASTUDIAETH ACHOS —

TANWYDD A CHARBON

Upper Nant-y-Felin, Bwlch ger Aberhonddu

Fferm ddefaid a biff ucheldir 80 hectar yw Upper Nant-y-Felin ym Mwlch ger Aberhonddu, yn cael ei ffermio gan un o ffermwyr ifainc mwyaf blaengar Cymru, Matthew Vaughan sy'n 27 mlwydd oed. Mae wedi bod yn gyfan gwbl organig am dair blynedd ac mae ganddo 500 o famogiaid ac 20 o fuchod sugno

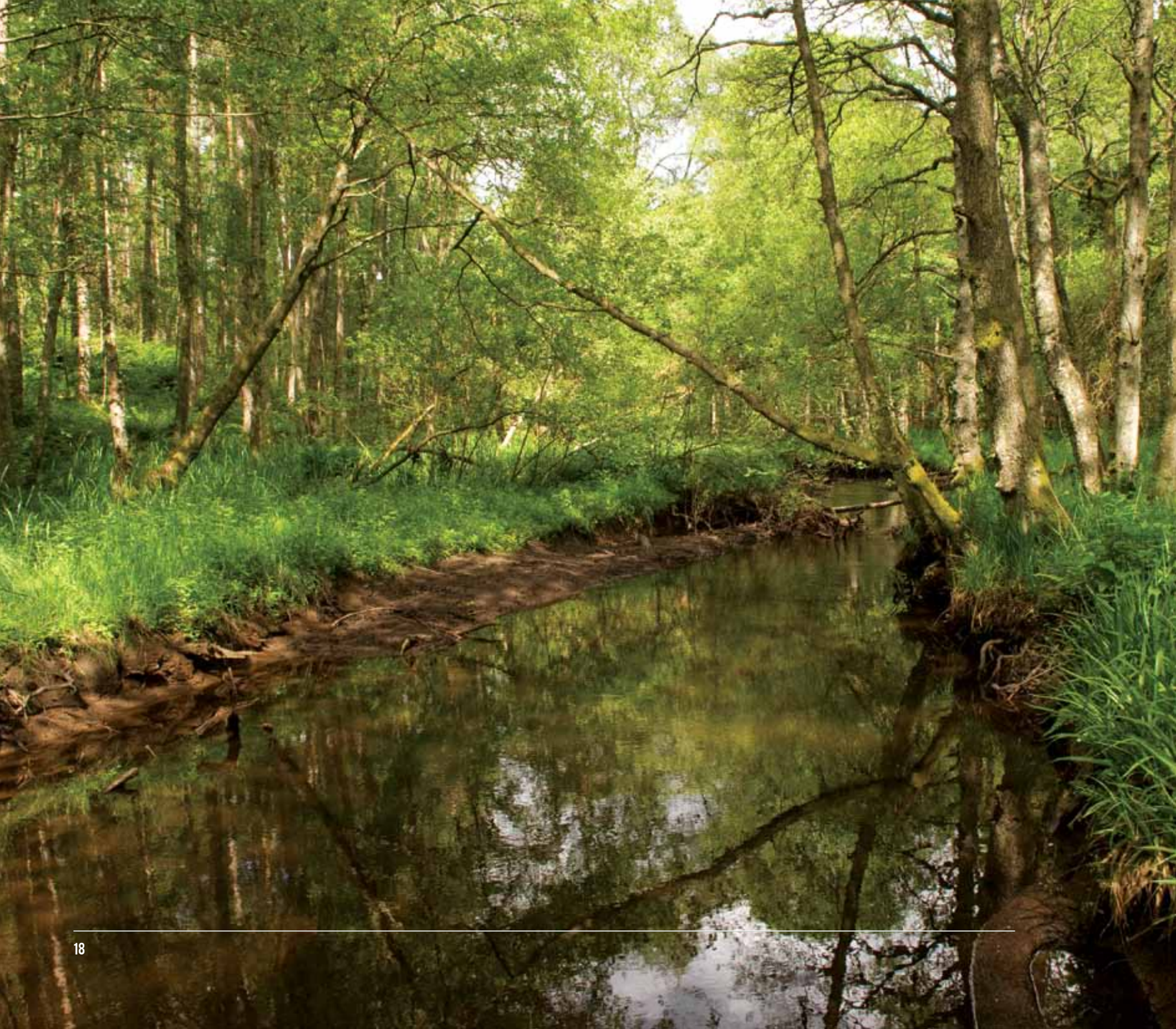
Er mwyn gwneud defnydd llawn o lechweddau serth rhedynog y fferm mae Matthew wedi plannu cyfuniad o tua 3,000 o goed pren caled a meddal cymysg, wedi adfer 6,000 metr o wrychoedd ac wedi creu dwy berllan newydd drwy Tir Gofal. Mae coed y fferm eisoes wedi dod â manteision ariannol arwyddocaol. Mae tair stôf llosgi coed Matthew yn cael eu bwydo'n gyfan gwbl gan ei bren ei hunan ac yn cynhesu'r holl ffermdy. Mae hyn yn arbed cannoedd o bunnoedd y flwyddyn. Mae Matthew hefyd yn cynhyrchu ei fachau cyll ei hunan, sy'n cael eu defnyddio wrth blygu gwrychoedd.

“Mi dybiaf fod ôl troed carbon yn mynd i ddod yn fwyfuywysig yn y dyfodol”, meddai. “Trwy blannu coed gallaf greu cynefin mwy amrywiol, lleihau'r ôl troed carbon ac yn y tymor hir, leihau dibyniaeth y fferm ar ddefnyddiau pren y mae angen eu prynu i mewn. Mae'n cymryd amser i goed sefydlu eu hunain, ac mae hynny'n fwy fyth o reswm dros ddechrau'n awr”.



“Mae Grantiau Creu Coetir Glastir o hyd at £9,000 yr hectar dros 15 mlynedd, ynghyd â £3.15 y metr am ffensys newydd, yn edrych yn gyfle gwych i ffermwyr. Rwyf i'n sicr yn awyddus i blannu rhai o'r llethrau rhedynog, serth iawn yn Upper Nant-y-Felin, i wneud y defnydd gorau posib o dir sy'n gyfyng ei ddefnydd ar gyfer amaethyddiaeth.”

Ffynhonnell: Coed Cadw. Coed ar gyfer ffermydd yng Nghymru, 2011



EFFAITH DIWYGIO PAC

Saif creu a rheoli coetir ar ymylon y Polisi Amaethyddol Cyffredin (PAC) gan nad oes gan yr Undeb Ewropeaidd bwerau ffurfiol dros goedwigaeth. Er hynny, ariennir Glastir (fel Coetiroedd Gwell i Gymru a ddaeth o'i flaen) gan ffynonellau Ewropeaidd. Golyga hyn ei fod yn dal ynghlwm wrth amcanion polisi PAC a'i feini prawf ariannu cysylltiedig.

Tra bo Glastir wedi ei ddylunio i weithredu o fewn cyd-destun y polisi cyfredol, mae trafodaethau'n dal i fynd ymlaen ar gynnwys y PAC newydd, sydd i fod i ddod yn weithredol o 1 Ionawr 2014. Yn ôl yr arwyddion cynnar, fel y'i gwelir ar hyn o bryd, nid yw'r diwygiadau arfaethedig yn argoeli'n dda ar gyfer creu coetir.

Mae PAC, sy'n cyfrif am tua 50 y cant o gyllideb yr UE, wedi ei rannu'n ddau gategori, y cyfeirir atynt fel Piler 1 a Philer 2. Cyfeirir at wariant o dan Reoliad Datblygu Gwledig fel Piler 2, a'i fwriad yw cefnogi cymunedau gwledig mewn gweithgareddau datblygu ac arallgyfeirio. Mae'r ystod o fesurau'n cynnwys: amaeth-amgylchedd (Glastir yng Nghymru), addasu ffermydd, coedwigaeth, prosesu a marchnata cynnyrch amaethyddol, hyfforddi a datblygu, a rhoi cymorth i ardaloedd llai ffafriol. I sicrhau arian Ewropeaidd ar gyfer mesurau Piler 2 mae'n ofynnol i Aelod-wladwriaethau (neu ranbarthau o'u mewn) baratoi Cynllun Datblygu Gwledig.

O dan y newidiadau arfaethedig, er y bydd o leiaf saith y cant o'r tir ar bob fferm yn cael ei ddynodi fel gwarchodfa ecolegol, cynigir hefyd y dylai'r gyfran o dir sy'n cael ei ddefnyddio fel glaswelltir parhaol (tir sydd wedi bod yn laswelltir am bum mlynedd a mwy) gael ei gadw ar lefel daliad fferm yn hytrach nag ar lefel aelod-wladwriaeth. Bydd gan ffermydd bump y cant o hyllygrwydd,

ond bydd unrhyw leihad mewn glaswelltir i fyny at y lefel hwn, mwy na thebyg yn digwydd i wneud lle i lwybrau fferm, wynebau caled neu adeiladau. Gan ragweld yr angen am y fath ddatblygiad, mae ffermwyr felly'n annhebygol o gymryd y risg o ddefnyddio'u lwfans ar gyfer troi glaswelltir yn goetir.

Roedd gan y PAC blaenorol gymal eithrio ar gyfer coedwigaeth. Gellid newid glaswelltir yn goetir ar yr amod fod yna enillion ecolegol. O dan y newidiadau arfaethedig i'r rheoliadau Taliadau Uniongyrchol mae'n debygol y bydd yn fwy anodd troi glaswelltir yn goetir. Fel canlyniad, ac os bydd y diwygiadau'n cael eu pasio, byddai amcanion creu coetir Glastir yn dod yn amhosib eu gweithredu yn eu ffurf bresennol.

Yn y cyfamser, mater arall o bwys ynglŷn â'r cynigion presennol ar gyfer diwygio PAC ar ôl 2013 yw dilead arfaethedig Taliadau Incwm rhagweladwy os bydd ffermwyr yn penderfynu plannu coetir newydd. Heb amheuaeth byddai dileu'r opsiwn taliadau incwm rhagweladwy yn arwain at amharodrwydd i blannu coetir yng Nghymru. Mae gwerth cyfalafol tir yn disgyn y funud y caiff coetir ei blannu arno. Yn absenoldeb ffrwd barhaus o refeniw drwy daliadau incwm rhagweladwy yna byddai ffermwyr yn teimlo'n amharod i blannu coed.

Yn ddiweddar cynigiodd Arlywyddiaeth Denmarc destun diwygiedig sy'n adfer elfennau incwm rhagweladwy. Rhaid i hyn gael ei gefnogi gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn ei thrafodaethau gyda'r Adran Amgylchedd Bwyd a Materion Gwledig a'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd gan y byddai hynny'n helpu Llywodraeth Cymru i wireddu ei thargedau plannu.

PREN A'I DDEFNYDD AR FFERM

Hendre Llwyn-y-Main, Llangernyw, gogledd Cymru

Mae gan Robin Crossley fferm ddefaid lwyddiannus sy'n tua 162 hectar o faint. Plannodd 10,000 o goed yng ngwanwyn 2009, y rhan fwyaf yn goed brodorol fel drain duon a drain gwynion, cyll, derw, ynn, bedw a gwern. Mae saethu'n rhan bwysig o fusnes y fferm ac mae'r coed yn chwarae rhan dyngedfennol wrth ddarparu cyfar. Ond nid ffesantod yn unig fydd i'w cael yno. Mae Robin wrth ei fodd y byddant yn darparu cynefin ar gyfer adar gwylt hefyd: y ji-binc, siglen, dryw, robin goch a'r fronfraith i enwi ond ychydig.

Yn ymyl y coed brodorol, mae Robin wedi plannu 4000 o goed Nadolig, fel cnwd gwerthu. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r coetir brodorol a blannwyd wedi'i ffurfio o gorneli caeau a lleiniau cul. "Rwyf yn ei weld fel cymynrodd i'r dyfodol", meddai. "Ni allai pobl oedd yn dod i lawr y ffordd o Lansannan weld dim 30 mlynedd yn ôl. Rwan maen nhw'n gweld tirwedd goediog, sy'n newid trwy'r flwyddyn."

Mae pren yn ffurfio rhan o fusnes y fferm hefyd. Mae coedlan 3 hectar sefydlog ar y fferm â choed syth da. Gall y rhain gael eu torri a'u melino llai na milltir i ffwrdd. "Bu inni ddefnyddio rhywfaint o'n coed ein hunain i adeiladu grisiau derw newydd ar y fferm," medd Robin. "Byddai wedi costio dros £2000 i brynu'r pren. Fe wnaethom ddefnyddio ein pren ein hunain ac mae'n edrych yn wych."

Mae gan y ffermdy dair stôf sy'n llosgi coed, ac mae brigau'r coed a dorrid ar gyfer coed defnydd yn fwy na digon

i ddarparu ei holl anghenion gwresogi. Ac meddai wrth gloi: "Rwy'n teimlo os caiff ffermwyr Cymru gymhellion hanner boddhaol i greu a rheoli eu coetiroedd, gan ddefnyddio arian Glastir, y byddan nhw'n ymateb."

Ffynhonnell: Coed Cadw: *Coed ar gyfer ffermydd yng Nghymru*, 2011.





YMAGWEDD ECONOMAIDD TUAG AT GREU COETIR

Fel yn achos Coetiroedd Gwell i Gymru, ariennir Glastir gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ac mae'n cael ei reoli, felly, gan yr angen i gydymffurfio â rheoliadau cyfredol Datblygu Gwledig yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Mae'r rhain yn benodol berthnasol i wella'r amgylchedd a chefn gwlad drwy wella dulliau o reoli tir. Mae'r rheoliadau presennol yn dangos nad budd economaidd yw ffocws rhaglenni creu a rheoli coetir. Er enghraifft, mae rhywogaethau coedlan cylchdro byr sy'n tyfu'n gyflym wedi eu heithrio o'r cymorth grant. Yn swyddogol, 'iawndal' am gynhyrchu manteision amgylcheddol ar draul cynhyrchiant yw'r arian a dderbynnir o dan Glastir. O gofio y bydd coetiroedd Glastir o dan gontract am gyhyd â 15 mlynedd, prin y gellid disgwyl enillion economaidd arwyddocaol cyn diwedd y cyfnod hwn.

Fodd bynnag, mae'r rhai hynny sy'n gweithio gyda thirfeddianwyr - yn y Comisiwn Coedwigaeth, yn Llywodraeth Cymru ac fel Asiantwyr Coetir - yn cytuno bod rhesymeg economaidd yn sbardun allweddol yng nghydestun newid defnydd a rheolaeth tir. Mae yna felly densiwn arwyddocaol. Er bod canlyniadau economaidd yn mynd law yn llaw â choedwigaeth, yn achos ceisiadau am grantiau mae'n rhaid eu hystyried fel eilbeth ac ni allant gael eu

hybu'n egnïol gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn ystod bywyd y contract grant.

Er hynny, mae gan goetiroedd botensial economaidd, wedi ei gyfrifo mewn dull a fydd yn apelio at ffermwyr wrth iddynt wneud penderfyniadau ynglŷn â phlannu. Mae Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru eisoes yn ystyried y farchnad coed tân fel un a fydd yn tyfu yn y dyfodol, ac nid y lleiaf o'r rhesymau yw bod hwn yn weithgaredd nad oes angen llawer o sgiliau nac offer i'w gyflawni mewn cymhariaeth â chynhyrchion eraill. Mae Adran Busnes, Menter, Technoleg a Gwyddoniaeth Llywodraeth Cymru'n cydnabod y cyfleoedd a fedrai ddeilio o wella'r cyfuniad rhwng rheolaeth coetir a materion busnes a menter, gan ganiatáu i goedwigaeth ymgysylltu â buddiannau masnachol yn hytrach na thynnu i lawr arian datblygu gwledig. Cafwyd un cyfle o'r fath ym Mehefin 2012 yn lansiad Ynni Cymunedol Cymru, corff sy'n hybu prosiectau ynni adnewyddadwy yn y gymuned. Ar hyn o bryd mae ardaloedd o goed nad ydynt yn cael eu rheoli yn cynrychioli adnodd ddigyffwrdd a fedrai ddarparu ynni cynaliadwy i gymunedau. Gyda chynllunio a chefnogaeth addas, mae cyfle i'r adnodd hwn gyfrannu tuag at leihau tlodi ynni a hefyd leihau dibyniaeth ar farchnadoedd ynni rhyngwladol.



Ers cyhoeddi adroddiad ar gyfer Scottish Enterprise yn 2005 ar gyfleoedd masnachol gwresogi tanwydd coed¹⁵, gwnaethpwyd ymdrechion egnïol i hybu'r math hyn o wresogi ar sail cost effeithiolrwydd, manteision amgylcheddol defnyddio tanwydd carbon isel a gynhyrchir yn lleol, sicrwydd cyflenwad, glendid ac effeithlonrwydd.¹⁶ Mae Peter Davies, Comisiynydd Dyfodol Cynaliadwy Cymru yn argymhell ymagwedd sy'n hyrwyddo lleihad mewn allyriadau ochr yn ochr â dal a storio carbon.

NODIADAU

- 15 Robert Rippengal, *The Commercial Opportunities of Wood Fuel Heating in Scotland*, Scottish Enterprise, 2005.
- 16 Gweler gwefan Use Woodfuel Scotland: <http://www.usewoodfuel.co.uk>

COETIR BRODOROL NEWYDD AR FFERM LAETH: CYFUNIAD LLWYDDIANNUS

Fferm Penllwyncoch, Waungilwen, Llandysul



Mae Huw Williams yn rhedeg fferm laeth 60 hectar ger Llandysul yn Sir Gaerfyrddin gyda buches o 100 o fuchod godro a 100 o wartheg ifainc. Plannodd 1.5 hectar o goetir brodorol newydd yn 2010 gan ddefnyddio grant Coetiroedd Gwell i Gymru (BWW); derw, ynn, ceirios duon a bedw gyda chymysgedd o lwyni. Bydd yn plannu 0.53 hectar arall yn 2011 gan ddefnyddio Grant Creu Coetir Glastir.

Mae tua 2 hectar o goetir eisoes mewn bod yn Penllwyncoch ac mae Mr Williams yn gwneud defnydd da ohono'n barod. Mae e wedi teneuo'r goedlan dan y cynllun grant ac wedi gwneud defnydd o'r pyst derw hollt y mae wedi'u cynhyrchu. Torrodd ddarn o goed llarwydd tua dwy flynedd yn ôl, gan ddefnyddio'r coed ar gyfer pyst rheiliau a physt ffensio at ei ddefnydd ei hun. Mae'n defnyddio ei goed tân ei hun hefyd, gan arbed cannoedd o bunnoedd y flwyddyn.

O safbwynt Mr Williams, mae a wnelo plannu coed ar y fferm â'i gwneud yn fwy cynhyrchiol: "Rwyf wedi plannu coed i wneud y defnydd gorau o dir a fyddai fel arall yn gyfyng ei werth. Fe wnes i ddefnydd o grantiau i dorri nifer o'r coed oedd mewn bod. Os wyf am wneud hynny, mae'n bwysig plannu rhai newydd i gymryd eu lle."

Mae Mr Williams wedi cael Grantiau BWW a Chreu Coetir Glastir yn hawdd cael gafael arnynt, gan fod y gwaith papur yn cael ei drefnu i raddau helaeth gan Swyddog Creu Coetir sy'n cael ei ariannu gan y Comisiwn Coedwigaeth. "Bu Alison Wheeler, a fu'n gweithio ar fy ngheisiadau, yn wirioneddol gymwynasgar trwy gydol y broses", meddai.

"Fy nghyngor i ffermwyr eraill ydyw bod plannu coed yn rhywbeth sy'n werth ei ystyried. Mae'r cyfraddau grant sydd ar gael ar hyn o bryd yn dda iawn. Nid fy mod yn awgrymu bod ffermwyr yn plannu caeau cyfan neu ddarnau enfawr o dir. Ond bydd gan bron unrhyw fferm gorneli caeau a llefydd serth a fyddai'n addas, sydd o fawr ddim gwerth yn amaethyddol yn sicr!"

"Mae Grantiau Creu Coetir newydd Glastir yn fargen dda i ffermwyr gan eu bod yn cynnwys taliadau ychwanegol ar gyfer ffensys newydd. Felly mae creu rhimyn newydd o goetir nid yn unig yn darparu crwd o goed yn y dyfodol, mae'n darparu ffens newydd sy'n dal stoc hefyd."

Ffynhonnell: Coed Cadw, *Coed i ffermydd yng Nghymru*, 2011.

YR ASIANTWYR COETIR

Mae tua 70 o Asiantwyr Coetir proffesiynol yn gweithredu yng Nghymru. Mae tua ugain o'r rhain yn weithgar yn y sector preifat a nifer tebyg yn gweithredu drwy Coed Cymru yn y sector cyhoeddus, yn bennaf fel cynghorwyr i awdurdodau lleol. O dan gynllun presennol Creu Coetir Glastir bydd llawer o Asiantwyr Coetir preifat yn gweithredu fel Swyddogion Prosiect, fel pwynt cyswllt rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru a Chomisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru ar y naill law, a ffermwyr a thirfeddianwyr eraill ar y llaw arall.

Mae gan Asiantwyr Coetir bersbectif neilltuol, hanner ffordd rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru a Chomisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru a'r thirfeddianwyr a'r gwahanol gyrff amgylcheddol sy'n gyfrifol am weithredu polisi. Ar gyfer yr astudiaeth hon cynaliasom gyfweiliadau â sampl o bedwar Asiant yn gweithio yn y sector preifat mewn gwahanol rannau o Gymru.¹⁷

Roeddent ill pedwar mwy neu lai'n gytûn eu barn ar y manteision a fedr ddeillio o ehangu'r tir a orchuddir gan goetir yng Nghymru - mwy o bren, gweithgaredd economaidd, dal a storio carbon, a bioamrywiaeth - ond yr oeddent i gyd yn amheus eu hagwedd tuag at y targed 100,000 hectar. Credai'r mwyafrif y gallai targed ar gyfer galluogi mesur cynnydd fod yn ddefnyddiol petai polisiâu yn eu lle i'w gyflenwi. Fodd bynnag, yr oeddent yn amheus ai dyna'r sefyllfa ar hyn o bryd. Fel y dywedodd Neill Scott, o Gasnewydd yn Sir Benfro:

“Mae'r targed 100,000 hectar yn ffansiol o gofio'r rhwystrau a osodwyd ar ddefnydd tir gan Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, fel y dangoswyd ar fapio Creu Coetir Cymru. Mae'r targed hwn yn adlewyrchu'r cyngor gwael iawn sy'n cael ei dderbyn gan Lywodraeth Cymru oddi wrth weision sifil.”

Meddai David Edwards, o Lanymddyfri:

“Dwi ddim yn credu bod y targed 100,000 hectar yn agos at yr hyn sy'n realistig gyda'r polisiâu a'r cymhellion presennol.”

Roedd y pedwar Asiant yn glir eu barn am agweddau ac ymatebion ffermwyr i'r ymdrechion i'w perswadio i blannu mwy o goetir. Siaradodd David Edwards ar ran pob un ohonynt pan ddywedodd:

“Ar y cyfan mae ffermwyr a thirfeddianwyr eraill yn amharod i droi tir amaeth da yn goetir. Mae hyn yn arbennig o wir am ffermwyr â'u teuluoedd wedi gweithio dros genedlaethau i glirio a gwella tir ar gyfer amaeth. Lle gellir cyflwyno dadl economaidd o blaid creu coetir, wedyn mae ffermwyr a thirfeddianwyr yn llawer mwy agored i'r syniad o greu coetir.”

Dywedodd Andrew Bronwin mai'r peth pwysig oedd peidio rhoi rhwystrau yn ffordd ffermwyr oedd yn ystyried plannu coetir:

“Nid yw'r mapiau goleuadau traffig a'r fiwrocratiaeth gyffredinol yn helpu.”

Meddai Neill Scott:

“Ffermwyr yw ffermwyr, nid perchnogion coetir. Bydd llawer yn amharod i blannu ar dir wedi ei wella. Y gwir yw, fod gostyngiad o £10,000 yr hectar mewn gwerth tir unwaith y caiff coed eu plannu arno. Dylai iawndaliadau adlewyrchu hyn. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o ffermwyr yn ymddangos yn hapus i blannu ar dir heb ei wella. Fodd bynnag nid yw Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru'n caniatáu plannu ar unrhyw dir heblaw tir wedi ei wella.”

Nid oedd un o'r Cynllunwyr Rheolaeth yn credu y byddai'r cynllun Glastir yn llwyddo i berswadio ffermwyr a thirfeddianwyr eraill i greu mwy o goetir. Dywedodd Neill Scott y byddai'n “aneffeithiol” ac ym marn Andrew Bronwin, “ymylol” fyddai. Meddai David Edwards:

“Nid yw Glastir wedi bod yn boblogaidd gyda ffermwyr a thirfeddianwyr ac mae clywed y gair 'Glastir' yn creu adwaith negyddol ymhlith llawer o ffermwyr. Mae argaeledd tir o dan y system 'golau traffig' yn rhwystr difrifol i greu coetir.”

Ychwanegodd Mark Potter:

“Os na chaiff ei ail-frandio gan ddangos mwy o ymwybyddiaeth o anghenion masnachol bydd ei effeithiolrwydd yn gyfyng.”

Meddai Neill Scott:

“Mae dymuniad Gweinidogion i gael targed a rhoi'r

gefnogaeth ariannol yn ei lle yn ardderchog. Fodd bynnag, mae Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru a Chyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru yn erbyn plannu oni bai ei fod yn rhywogaeth lydanddail ar dir wedi ei wella sy'n ddull aneffeithlon o ddefnyddio tir da.”

Meddai David Edwards:

“Ar yr olwg gyntaf mae strategaeth Coetiroedd i Gymru'n rhesymegol. Fodd bynnag, yn ymarferol nid yw'n cael ei ddilyn. Dim ond rhai agweddau sy'n cael eu gweithredu pan fydd llwyddiant y strategaeth yn dibynnu ar gyfuniad o weithrediadau. Er enghraifft, mae gorchudd coetir cynhyrchiol yn cael ei leihau fel canlyniad i adferiad rhostir a chynefinoedd, ac amrywiad rhywogaethau. Mae'r rhain yn amcanion canmoladwy ond nid yw plannu ad-daliadol, fel sy'n ofynnol gan y strategaeth yn cyd-fynd â'r colledion.”

NODIADAU

- 17 David Edwards o UPM Tihill, Llanymddyfri; Neill Scott o Forest Management Cymru, Trefdraeth Sir Benfro; Mark Potter, o Abersenny Ltd., Y Grysmwnt Abergafenni; ac Andrew Bronwin, o Andrew Bronwin & Co, Llandrindod.





BARN TIRFEDDIANWYR

Tra bo'r gwahanol grwpiau sy'n berchen tiroedd a fydd yn gyfrifol am weithredu strategaeth coedwigaeth Llywodraeth Cymru'n gefnogol i'r angen am fwy o goed a'r manteision y gellir eu hennill, maent yn parhau yn amheus am yr hyn y gellir ei gyflawni. Mae hyn yn arbennig o wir yn eu hagwedd tuag at y targed 100,000 hectar. Er enghraifft, disgrifwyd y targed gan Bernard Llewellyn, Cadeirydd Bwrdd Materion Gwledig NFU Cymru fel un "afrealistig", yn syml iawn oherwydd prinder y tir sydd ar gael a'r lleihad yng ngwerth cyfalafol y tir y plennir coed arno.

Dywedodd Andrew Gurney, Swyddog Polisi Defnydd Tir yr FUW bod cael targed yn ddefnyddiol am ei fod yn rhoi rhywbeth i anelu ato. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd yntau hefyd, yn cwestiynu p'un ai oedd 100,000 hectar yn gyraeddadwy ai peidio:

"Nid yw'r record hyd yn hyn yn rhyw galonogol iawn. Mae llai na 1,000 o hectarau wedi eu plannu yn nwy flynedd gyntaf cynllun Glastir - sef dim ond 1 y cant o'r targed. Wrth gwrs, wrth i amser fynd yn ei flaen gallai hyn wella. Bydd amom angen ymgyrch i annog ffermwy'r a thirfeddianwyr eraill i fanteisio ar y cyfleod o dan Glastir. Mae'n werth nodi bod yna lawer o goetir yn bodoli ar hyn o bryd nad yw'n cael ei reoli'n effeithiol. Mae llawer o goed a blannuwyd dros yr 20 mlynedd diwethaf heb gael unrhyw sylw. Mae angen dod â'r rhain yn ôl i'r gyfundrefn reoli briodol. Byddai hyn yn dod â manteision economaidd. Ond, wrth gwrs, ni fydd yn cyfrannu at y targed 100,000 hectar."

Awgrymodd Nicholas Wynne, Rheolwr Ymgynghorol gydag Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol Cymru bod y targed yn "ffigwr crwn hyfryd", tra'i disgrifwyd gan Ben Underwood, Cyfarwyddwr Cymdeithas Tir a Busnesau Cefn Gwlad Cymru fel un "afrealistig a mympwyol":

"Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gosod targed heb asesu mewn gwirionedd a ydyw'r sbardunau economaidd yn bodoli i'w gyflawni. Ar hyn o bryd nid ydynt, ac ers dilead Coetiroedd Gwell i Gymru mae'r gefnogaeth i goedwigaeth fasnachol wedi lleihau."

Dywedodd Celia Thomas, Swyddog Coetiroedd gyda Pharc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro, ond a oedd yn siarad ar ran Parciau Cenedlaethol Cymru:

"Gosodwyd y targed heb sicrhau ymgyfraniad effeithiol un o'r ddau bartner allweddol na thirfeddianwyr ac ar adeg pan yr oedd newidiadau hefyd yn cael eu cynnig drwy'r rhaglen Cymru Fyw, sydd wedi golygu ail-strwythuro'n gyfan gwbl y cyrff a fydd yn ymgyfrannu yng nghyflawniad y targed hwn. Nid yw'r raddfa amser na graddfa'r cynnig wedi eu hystyried mewn perthynas â'r newidiadau hyn. Gyda diwygiad PAC hefyd ar y gorwel, mae'n annhebyg yr ystyrir newidiadau mawr yn nefnydd tir gan ffermwy'r a thirfeddianwyr, a fyddai'n teimlo'r

angen i edrych o hirbell wrth ystyried coed a choetir yn hytrach na chylchdro blynyddol crydio sy'n fwy hyblyg."

Roedd yna farn glir am agweddau ffermwyr a sut i ddylanwadu arnynt. Meddai Ben Underwood:

"I fod yn onest nid yw plannu coed ar radar y rhan fwyaf o ffermwyr a thirfeddianwyr. Pam ddylai fod? Mae'r galw am fwyd mor fawr ag erioed ac mae prisiau nwyddau ar y cyfan yn dda. Nid yw tynnu tir allan o gynhyrchu bwyd er mwyn creu coedwig yn gynnog profidiol."

Roedd Andrew Gurney, o'r FUW yn cytuno. "Nid amharodrwydd ffermwyr i blannu coetir yw'r brif ystyriaeth, meddai. Mewn gwirionedd nid ydyw'r rhan fwyaf ohonynt hyd yn oed wedi meddwl am y fath beth":

"Ar hyn o bryd mae ffermwyr yn cael enillion da am gynhyrchu cig oen ac eidion. Dyna ffocws eu sylw a'u hymdrechion. Mae ffermwyr yn dilyn y prisiau. Er enghraifft, dair blynedd yn ôl roedd ŵyn yn gwerthu am £30 a £40 y pen tra'u bod heddiw rhwng £80 a £90. Felly, os ydyw ffermwyr i gael eu perswadio i ddargyfeirio peth o'u hamser a'u tir i blannu coed mae'n rhaid sicrhau eu bod yn derbyn iawndal realistig i'w osod yn erbyn eu costau a'u hincwm rhagweladwy. Ac wrth gwrs, prosiect tymor hir yw coed sydd ag angen 30 neu 40 mlynedd cyn y gellir sylweddoli incwm uniongyrchol. Yn y cyfamser, gellid bod wedi defnyddio'r tir hwnnw fel tir pori."

Dywedodd Tom Packham, Rheolwr Busnes Ystadau Dŵr Cymru bod ffermwyr tenant mewn sefyllfa arbennig o anodd wrth ystyried a ddylent ymddiddori mewn coedwigaeth:

"Nid oes gan ffermwyr tenant ddigon o sicrwydd daliadaeth i ymhél â choedwigaeth. Eu landlordiaid fydd y rhai fydd yn ei weithredu, a chyn hynny bydd rhaid perswadio tenantiaid i

roi'r gorau i dir gan eu landlordiaid. I ffermwyr sy'n berchen eu ffermydd rhaid i'r gorswm crynswth (net o'r grant) yr hectar o goedwig, o'r fluyddyn gyntaf, fod yn gyfartal â'r gorswm crynswth (net o'r grant) yr hectar o goetir a gollwyd, dyweder, ar ddefaid. I landlordiaid bydd rhaid i'r enillion net ar goedwigaeth fod yn fwy na'r rhent o ffermio neu bori."

Daeth Nicholas Wynne, o Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol Cymru i'r casgliad canlynol:

"Os yr ydym yn mynd i roi arwydd £ wrth y newid, yna mae'n mynd i fod yn anodd iawn perswadio nifer arwyddocaol o ffermwyr i symud i faes coedwigaeth. Yr unig ffordd fydd drwy eu darbuyllo y byddant yn ennill amrediad cymysg o fanteision drwy blannu coed - yn amrywio o greu lleiniau o lochesau i ennill ffynhonnell rad o danwydd a gwella bioamrywiaeth. Does neb yn mynd i newid yn unig am fod y llywodraeth wedi datgan targed. Bydd cymhellion ariannol, yn arbennig gostau cyfalaf, yn allweddol."

Meddai Andrew Gurney, o'r FUW:

"Nid yw'r newidiadau cyson mewn amaeth-amgylchedd yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf wedi bod yn ddefnyddiol. Bu newidiadau i'r cynllun Glastir bron o wythnos i wythnos pan yr oedd yn cael ei ddatblygu. Fel canlyniad crëwyd ansefydlogrwydd nad yw'n rhoi hyder i'r rhai a allai fod yn ystyried plannu coetiroedd. O'r cychwyn felly ni wnaeth argraff dda ar ffermwyr sy'n negyddol eu hamgyffrediad ohono. Y gwir yw, bod Glastir wedi cael dwy flynedd o sylw negyddol yn y wasg. Roedd cynllun blaenorol Tir Gofal yn well oherwydd bod ei daliadau'n cael eu gwneud yn brydlon am waith a wnaethpwyd. O dan Glastir mae'r taliadau'n cael eu gwneud am incwm rhagweladwy a gallai gymryd tair i bedair blynedd cyn i gostau'r gwaith a wnaethpwyd gael eu hadennill."

Yr oedd cytundeb cyffredinol y gellid gwneud cefnogaeth i blannu coed yn fwy effeithiol petai'n cael ei wneud mewn ffyrdd oedd yn ei gyfuno ag arferion ffermio prif ffrwd. Dywedodd Nicholas Wynne y dylai taliadau Glastir gael eu ffurfio mewn dulliau oedd yn cynnwys rheolaeth coetir fel rhan o ddiwylliant rheolaeth fferm. Awgrymodd Bernard Llewellyn, o'r NFU, y dylai plannu gael ei hyrwyddo mewn dulliau oedd yn hwyluso technegau ffermio modern, gan roi trin gwrychoedd fel enghraifft. Fel y dywedodd:

“Mae angen ystyried gwrychoedd nid yn unig yn nhermau eu cynefin a chyfleodd bioamrywiaeth ond yn nhermau'r enillion economaidd a fedr ddeillio o drin coedlannau a chynhyrchu pren.”

Meddai Andrew Gurney, o'r FUW:

“Byddai dangos manteision coedwigaeth i ffermwyr mewn dull effeithiol drwy enghreifftiau ymarferol o fywyd go iawn ac astudiaethau achos yn ddefnyddiol. Ar hyn o bryd, i lawer o ffermwyr, theoretig ar y cyfan yw'r manteision y gallent eu cael drwy blannu coed ar eu tir.”

Dywedodd Celia Thomas, o Barciau Cenedlaethol Cymru, y dylai'n dulliau o gyflwyno coed i mewn i'n tirwedd fod yn fwy creadigol:

“Yn hytrach na meddwl am blannu ardaloedd eang o goed newydd trwchus dylem fod yn edrych ar ddulliau o gael coed i mewn i'n hardaloedd gwledig sy'n dod ag amryfal fanteision. Felly byddai amrywiaeth o goedlannau coed tân, nifer da o wrychoedd, coedwigoedd cysgodol, parciau neu wasgariad o goetir pori yn well na cholli chwe chyfer o dir cynhyrchiol ar eich daliad 100 cyfer.”

Awgrymodd y dylem fod yn meddwl am y niferoedd o goed a blannwyd, yn hytrach nag ardaloedd o goetir. Ar hyn o bryd

roedd plannu coed drwy gymorth grant yn seiliedig ar blannu tua 2,000 o goed yr hectar, oedd o bosib yn ormod.

Efallai y byddai'n fwy effeithiol i roi i ffermwyr darged o niferoedd o goed i'w plannu'n hytrach na'r maint o dir i'w orchuddio. Petai cymorthdaliadau'n seiliedig ar nifer y coed a blannwyd yna byddai ffermwyr yn cael eu hannog i weld plannu fel gweithgaredd nad oedd yn ymwneud â cholli tir da cynhyrchiol. Byddai'n haws wedyn i weld plannu fel gweithgaredd oedd yn cyfrannu tuag at incwm fferm:

“Yn lle plannu 12.5 cyfer gellid ei gwneud yn ofynnol i ddaliad 200 cyfer blannu 500 coeden, pump am bob dau gyfer. Dim ond 25 coeden fyddai eu hangen ar gae deg-cyfer a gallent gael eu gwasgaru o fewn gwrychoedd, mewn corneli, efallai fel llain gysgodol neu ar ymyl dŵr. Wedi eu gwasgaru i ganiatáu lledaeniad o ddeng metr ar ôl aeddfedu byddai'r un maint o ardal yn cael ei gwireddu. Yn eironig gallai hyn hefyd fod yn fwy fforddiadwy. Yn y modd hwn galleml ennill mwy a mwy o goetir pori a dulliau eraill amryfal o ddefnyddio tir fel perllannau pori. Hefyd gellid cefnogi systemau amgen fel y gerddi coedwig a'r permaddiwylliant sydd mor boblogaidd ar hyn o bryd.”

Yn nhermau polisi cyffredinol roedd cefnogaeth eang i gynigion a gyflwynwyd yn strategaeth Coetiroedd i Gymru. Fodd bynnag, roedd coedwigaeth wedi dioddef oherwydd ei fod yn cael ei weld fel gweithgaredd ar wahân i ffermio. Peth dymunol fyddai gweld y ddau ddiwydiant yn cael eu gweinyddu o dan faner sengl. Eto o dan y trefniadau arfaethedig ni allai hyn ddigwydd. Byddai Amaeth a Glastir yn aros o fewn Llywodraeth Cymru, a gweinyddiaeth coedwigaeth yn cael ei ymgorffori yn y Corff Amgylchedd Sengl. Fel y dywedodd Bernard Llewellyn o'r NFU:

“Mae angen datrys materion rhyngadrannol a chyfathrebu cyn gynted â phosib.”



Y LOBÏWYR AMGYLCHEDDOL

Efallai nad yw'n beth syn bod gan sefydliadau lobïo ar y cyfan agweddau mwy positif tuag at y targed o blannu 100,000 hectar ychwanegol o goetir yng Nghymru na'r rhai hynny a fydd yn gyfrifol am ei weithrediad. Ar yr un pryd maent yn feirniadol o lawer o'r polisiâu sydd ar gael ar hyn o bryd i helpu i gyrraedd y targed ac mae ganddynt deimladau cryf am y dulliau sydd eu hangen i'w newid. Wrth asesu dyfodol y sector cynhaliwyd cyfweiliadau gyda chynrychiolwyr y sefydliadau canlynol:

Mike Townsend, ymgynghorydd gyda Coed Cadw, sy'n anelu at weithio gydag eraill i blannu mwy o goed ac amddiffyn coetiroedd brodorol.

David Jenkins, Cyfarwyddwr Coed Cymru sy'n ymgyrchu dros gynyddu ymwybyddiaeth o goetiroedd brodorol.

Becky Hulme, Swyddog Prosiect gyda Tir Coed - cynghrair o sefydliadau gwledig i hybu cyfleusterau sy'n ymwneud â choetir.

Raoul Bhambral, Swyddog Adfocatiaeth gyda Cyswllt Amgylchedd Cymru - corff mantell sefydliadau amgylcheddol a gwledig anllywodraethol yng Nghymru.

Mike Wood, Swyddog Polisi Coedwigoedd y DU, ac Arfon Williams, Rheolwr Cefn Gwlad gyda RSPB Cymru.

Ei eu bod yn gyffredinol o blaid y targed 100,000 hectar, cymredolwyd eu hagwedd gan eu hymwybyddiaeth o'r anhawster o'i wireddu:

“O bersbectif dosbarthu defnydd tir mae'r targed yn realistig yn yr ystyr bod tir ar gael y gellid plannu coed arno. Y cwestiwn anodd yw a ydyw'n realistig o safbwynt cymdeithasol a diwylliannol o gofio cyd-destun hanesyddol coedwigaeth yng Nghymru, strwythur ffermio a thraddodiadau defnydd tir. Mae angen adeiladu'r ffactorau hyn i mewn i'r naratif sy'n cefnogi'r targed ac i'r ystyriaeth o sut y caiff ei gyflwyno yn y dirwedd, na fydd o reidrydd yn cael ei gynrychioli gan fodel plannu traddodiadol coedwigaeth, ond yn fwy gan gyfuniad o goed a choetiroedd llai fel rhan o'r dirwedd a ffermir.”

Dyweddodd Tir Coed ei bod yn ddefnyddiol i gael targed i hyrwyddo'r symudiad tuag at wireddi gorchudd coetir ychwanegol ond rhybuddiasant yn erbyn ail-redeg plannu conwydd isel eu gwerth:

“Nid yw'r targed yn realistig o gofio lefelau presennol plannu newydd. Mae angen anogaeth holistig a chymhellgar i droi'r targed yn realiti.”

Trawodd Coed Cymru nodyn gwahanol:

“Mae'r targed yn realistig cyn belled â'n bod yn cydnabod y bydd y rhan fwyaf o'r cynnydd yn cael ei ennill drwy gytrefu naturiol, proses sydd wedi gweld coetir brodorol yn dyblu yng Nghymru ers 1980. Efallai nad yw'r coetir sy'n deillio o hyn yn gyffelyb i blanhigfeydd yr 20fed ganrif ond byddant yn ateb y diben yn llawer gwell.”

Dywedodd yr RSPB:

“Gallai'r targed fod yn anffwyddiol os bydd yn arwain at arferion coedwigaeth anghynaliadwy, yn ogystal â dargyfeirio sylw oddi wrth wella bioamrywiaeth a gwerth coetiroedd cyfredol i'r cyhoedd.”

Roedd Cyswllt Amgylchedd Cymru'n pryderu na fyddai gofynion bioamrywiaeth yn cael blaenoriaeth mewn unrhyw gynlluniau i ehangu coetiroedd:

“Mae'n hanfodol bwysig bod unrhyw gynnydd yn cael ei weithredu mewn dull sensitif, gyda'r goeden iawn yn y lle iawn; hynny yw, mae angen system i sicrhau nad yw plannu coed yn cael ei ariannu mewn lleoliadau lle mae'n debygol o niweidio neu ddiraddio cynefinoedd bywyd gwylt a rhywogaethau Cynllun Gweithredu Bioamrywiaeth y DU, a dylai fod llawer mwy o gefnogaeth i blannu rhywogaethau brodorol na rhai egsotig. Buasem yn mynd ymhellach, drwy osod dyblu ardal coetir brodorol yng Nghymru fel amcan tymor hir. Gellir gweld coetir brodorol fel dull delfrydol o ddefnyddio tir ar gyfer datblygu cynaliadwy, gan ddod â llawer o fanteision amrywiol yn nhermau amgylcheddol, cymdeithasol ac economaidd.”

Cytunodd llawer o'r ymatebyddion y gellid, drwy ymagwedd briodol, annog ffermwyr i blannu mwy o goed. Fel y dywedodd David Jenkins, o Coed Cymru:

“Mae pob ffermwr dwi'n eu hadnabod eisiau plannu rhai coed. Y cyfan sy'n rhaid i ni ei wneud yw hwyluso'u gwaith a sicrhau bod eu hymdrechion cynnar yn llwyddiannus. Ni fyddant yn ildio eu tir gorau ac ni ddylem eu hannog i wneud hynny. Mae polisi diweddar wedi dymuno gweld coed yn disodli amaeth. Mae hon yn ymagwedd anghywir. Mae gan bob fferm ardaloedd lletchwith mewn pantiau, wrth ymyl nentydd ac o gwmpas adeiladau lle byddai coed yn ffynnu ac yn dod â manteision i'r ffermwr, i'r cyhoedd yn gyffredinol ac i'r amgylchedd. Yn aml mae'r rhain yn ardaloedd bychain, sy'n syrthio o dan drothwy'r grantiau presennol. Mae'r angen i ddal dwylo yn y cyfnodau cynnar yn aml yn cael ei anwybyddu. Mae plannu coed yn gystudd cynyddol, sy'n hynod o heintus. Mae'r cwbl yn dibynnu ar lwyddiant cynnar.”

Dywedodd Mike Townsend, o Coed Cadw:

“Yn draddodiadol, negyddol fu agwedd ffermwyr tuag at goedwigaeth. Mae hyn yn adlewyrchu'r model coedwigaeth graddfa-eang, a welir yn aml fel defnydd tir amgen a gelyniaethus i ffermio. Mae angen newid y model creu coetir i un lle mae coed a choetir yn cael eu cyfuno â systemau ffermio mewn dulliau sy'n cynorthwyo hwsmonaeth a chynhyrchiad drwy helpu ffermwyr i addasu i newid hinsawdd a ffactorau eraill sy'n rhoi pwysau ar ffermio. Mae ffermwyr Pontbren ym Mhowys yn rhoi esiampl o'r math o fodel sy'n fwy tebygol o gael ei dderbyn gan ffermwyr yn gyffredinol.¹⁸ Mae ein model creu coetir ni yng Nghymru wedi ei seilio ar egwyddor ymdoddi i mewn i systemau ffermio, yn hytrach na'u disodli'n gyfangwbl.¹⁹”

“Mae yna dystiolaeth anecdotal cryf sy'n dangos bod ffermwyr, ar ôl dechrau plannu coed, yn debygol o barhau i wneud hynny. Yr her, felly, yw darganfod ffyrdd o'u cael

i furw ati. Yn hyn o beth, credun bod angen difrifol am gynllun mwy syml sy'n rhoi cymorth deniadol i ffermwyr blannu ardaloedd bach o goetir o fewn y dirwedd sy'n cael ei ffermio, llai na'r rhai sydd ar hyn o bryd yn cael eu caniatáu o dan gynllun Creu Coetir Glastir, ac mewn lleiniau culach, gyda chyn lleied â phosib o fiwrocratiaeth a ffwdan."

Cyfeiriodd Raoul Bhambral, o Cyswllt Amgylcheddol Cymru, hefyd at hyn, gan annog Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Comisiwn Coedwigaeth i edrych eto ar y terfynau maint ardal ar gyfer cymhwyster i dderbyn grantiau Glastir, a'u lleihau:

"Tra bo cynllun Creu Coetir Glastir yn rhoi grantiau ar gyfer plannu o dan amgylchiadau arbennig, ardaloedd o dir dros 0.25 hectar (mae'r terfyn hyn i godi i 0.5 yn 2013) a lleiniau cysgodol dros 12 metr o led, ychydig iawn o gefnogaeth sydd i'w gael ar gyfer plannu ardaloedd llai o goed. Mae hwn yn wendid allweddol ac mae gennym gyfle gwirioneddol yn awr i newid y cynllun i gefnogi plannu ardaloedd llai. Y ffordd orau o berswadio ffermwyr i blannu coed ar raddfa ehangach yw drwy eu hannog i ddechrau drwy blannu ar raddfa lai."

Rhestrodd yr ymatebyddion y rhwystrau canlynol fel rhai sy'n amharu ar blannu mwy o goed:

- Y map cyfleoedd plannu golau-traffig, sy'n gorfodi ymagwedd or-ofalus tuag at greu coetir newydd, hyd yn oed mewn ardaloedd bach o goed brodorol.
- Bygythiad i daliadau incwm rhagweladwy yng Nghynllun Datblygu Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru.
- Y cynnydd ym mhrisiau bwyd ac ansicrwydd am ddyfodol cefnogaeth y llywodraeth i amaeth.

Meddai Coed Cadw:

"Hoffem weld cynllun amaeth-amgylchedd a fyddai'n annog ffermwyr ar draws Cymru i efelychu enghraifft cynllun Pontbren ac i edrych ar goed a choetir fel rhan o dirwedd cynhyrchiol fferm. Byddai hyn yn cynnwys hyrwyddo manteision niferus coetir pori. Byddai'r fath gynllun yn cyd-fynd ag arferion ffermio, gan annog ffermwyr i wneud yr hyn sydd yn ei hanfod, yn y lle cyntaf, o fudd iddynt hwy."

NODIADAU

- 18 www.pontbrenfarmers.co.uk/
- 19 www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/planttrees/help-advice/

GOBLYGIADAU POLISI

- 1— Os ydyw'r targed 100,000 hectar i'w wireddu, bydd angen plannu ardaloedd o dir ymylol heb ei wella ar draws Cymru. Dyma'r ffriddoedd lle mae'r ucheldir a'r iseldir yn cwrdd. Bydd hyn yn gofyn am ymagwedd fwy holistig tuag at y tensiwn annatod rhwng gofynion cynaliadwyedd ar yn un llaw a chadwraeth ar y llaw arall. Mae angen cydnabod y bydd y coetiroedd newydd yn y ffriddoedd yn creu cynefinoedd newydd a chyfleodd bioamrywiaeth newydd.
- 2— Dylid ail-ymweld â'r mapio goleuadau traffig yng Nghymru er mwyn ennill gwell cytbwysedd rhwng galwadau cynaliadwyedd – sydd i'w gynyddu yn sgil ehangu coetiroedd i orchuddio ardal 100,000 hectar – a'r pwyslais mwy ar hyn o bryd ar gadw cynefinoedd sy'n bodoli eisoes.
- 3— Yng nghyd-destun lliniaru newid yn yr hinsawdd dylid rhoi pwyslais ar leihad CO₂ drwy ddefnydd economaidd o bren, ochr yn ochr â dal a storio carbon.
- 4— Mae ffermwyr yn fwy tebygol o fynd ati i blannu coed os cânt eu perswadio y gellir ei ymdoddi i mewn i'w diwylliant ac arfer ffermio cyffredinol, yn hytrach nag fel gweithgaredd ar wahân.
- 5— Ailgalibro targed coetir Cymru i gynnwys ffocws ar y nifer o goed a blennir yr hectar ochr yn ochr â'r targed sy'n nodi'r nifer o hectarau i'w plannu. Gallai hyn gymeradwyo'r nifer o goed yr hectar a fyddai'n maximeiddio'r cysylltiad rhwng rheolaeth coetir a'r diwylliant ffermio.
- 6— Ail-strwythuro Glastir i bwysleisio ymagwedd holistig tuag at ffermio a rheolaeth coetir. Pwysleisio atyniad enillion economaidd ochr yn ochr â hwb drwy gyfrwng taliadau Glastir. Dylid caniatáu i'r tir sydd ar hyn o bryd o fewn y rhaglen flaenorol, Tir Gofal, adael yn gynnar er mwyn cael ei gynnwys yn y cynllun Creu Coetir Glastir.
- 7— Dylid lleihau'r 0.25 hectar presennol sydd ei angen i fod yn gymwys i dderbyn grant Glastir, sy'n mynd i gael ei gynyddu i dorbwynt o 0.5 hectar. Byddai hyn yn annog mwy o ffermwyr i fynd ati i ymddiddori yn rheolaeth coetir.
- 8— Mae angen mwy o gefnogaeth i ffermwyr wrth iddynt osod at ei gilydd gynigion plannu coetir.
- 9— Dylid ystyried darganfod mwy o ffyrdd o gefnogi ffermwyr i ymgymryd â choedlannau cylchdro byr fel ffordd o annog datblygiad ffynhonnell ynni adnewyddadwy, a thrwy hynny leihau allyriadau carbon a hefyd annog cyfuno rheolaeth coetir a ffermio prif ffrwd.
- 10— Y Corff Amgylcheddol Sengl yw'r sefydliad a ddylai fod yn bennaf gyfrifol am hyrwyddo lledaeniad coetir Cymru.