

# Cystadleuaeth Coetiroedd

Cystadleuaeth Cenedlaethol Cymru

## 2022

# Woodlands Competition

## ADRODDIAD Y BEIRNIAID JUDGES' REPORT

Sioe Frenhinol Cymru  
Royal Welsh Show



## Cyflwyniad Gwobrau

### **Presentation of Awards**

2022 Royal Welsh Show

Confor Marquee - Forestry Section

Tuesday 19 July

3.00p.m.

## Beirniaid

### **Judges**

Mr Chris Jones

Mr Alan Hubbuck

## Adroddiad y Beirniaid – Judges' Report

Woodland owners and managers in South East Wales have responded very well this year with a significant number of entries - 22 in the woodland classes and 39 in the stand classes. Overall, the standard of entries is very high. It is encouraging to see such a good standard of silvicultural management across a wide range of woodlands. We have had entrants in all woodland and stand classes which has demonstrated that there is significant interest in the awards. The woodlands range in size from 1.8 hectares to 857 hectares. There were very fine margins to choose between woodlands especially in Class 3 where there were a number of strong entries. These close margins were also reflected in some of the stand classes.

As judges we have been very pleased to see the recognition of the environmental challenges, both current and in the future, being reflected in the planning and management woodlands. Management that reflects both the role woodlands can play in mitigating climate change but also the need to adapt the woodlands to be resilient in the future.

Much of the silvicultural management that we have seen has demonstrated the importance of the need for simple, well considered, timely interventions at all stages of the trees growth. This in turn has highlighted the fact that there is a need to ensure that there is a resource to both manage and undertake operations in the future – not a foregone conclusion at the moment.

Following on from the judges remarks last year it is good to see the public sector woodlands well represented this year. We have continued to use score sheets for specific items to ensure consistency of judging across all categories.

**Chris Jones and Alan Hubbuck**

### TREFN Y GYSTADLEUAETH - COMPETITION ROTA

- 2021** - **NORTH** – Anglesey, Caernarfon, Denbighshire, Flintshire & Meirionnydd
- 2022** - **SOUTH EAST** – Brecon, Glamorgan & Monmouthshire
- 2023** - **MID** - Cardigan, Montgomeryshire & Radnorshire
- 2024** - **SOUTH WEST** - Carmarthenshire & Pembrokeshire
- 2025** - **Welsh National Competition** – by invitation from the Best Entries of 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024

# MYNEGAW / INDEX

## WOODLAND

Allens Estate  
 Castell Blainllynfi, Treholford Estate  
 Coed Llanfedw  
 Coed Robert  
 Cwm Fagor  
 Fennifach  
 Gethin Forest  
 Glanusk Estate  
 Llanarth Estate Woodlands  
 Llangoed Estate  
 Llanover Estate  
 Llanover Newport Estate  
 Llantrisant Forest Fawr  
 Pen Parc  
 Pwll Coed Cae  
 Tack Wood  
 Tal y Coed  
 Twyn Du  
 Trefeinon Wood  
 Ty Commins Wood  
 Wentwood  
 Wentwood (Gresham)

## FORESTER / MANAGER

Geraint Price - NRW  
 Andrew Sowerby - Pryor & Rickett  
 Andrew Sowerby - Pryor & Rickett  
 Ben Herbert  
 Andrew Sowerby - Pryor & Rickett  
 Robert South - Bronwin & Abbey  
 Geraint Price - NRW  
 Andrew Sowerby - Pryor & Rickett  
 Ben Herbert & Robert South  
 Andrew Bronwin  
 Andrew Bronwin / Ross Murray  
 Ben Herbert / Robert South  
 Geraint Price - NRW  
 Geraint Price - NRW  
 Ed Clark - Tilhill  
 Ben Herbert & Robert South  
 Ed Clark - Tilhill  
 Andrew Sowerby - Pryor & Rickett  
 Andrew Bronwin - Bronwin & Abbey  
 Gavin Townley & Darrell Humber - NRW  
 Ed Clark - Tilhill

## OWNER

Mr & Mrs Blackham  
 Mr & Mrs Winter  
 Thorlux Lighting  
 Harry Legge-Bourke  
 Glasnant Morgan  
 Mr Rob James  
 Gresham House

## CLASS / STAND

4,D,F  
 3,G  
 1,F  
 1  
 3,C,D  
 3,C  
 4,A,D,G  
 3,D,G  
 3,C,F,G  
 4,E  
 4,C,D,E,F,G  
 3,H  
 4,C  
 3,G  
 2,A  
 3,D,F,G  
 3,E,G  
 3,D,F  
 2,D  
 3,F  
 3,D,F,G

# **BROADLEAVED, CONIFER AND MIXED WOOD OR STAND OF TREES (EXCLUDING POPLAR)**

**Dosbarth / Class 1**

**3 Cais / Entries**

**Best Managed Woodland 1 - 10 Hectares**

Castell Blaenllynfi, Treholford Estate  
Coed Llanfedw  
Coed Robert

## **GOLD Coed Robert – 14 hectares**

This is small woodland of mixed conifer and broadleaves with a wide range of species and ages that is managed as a single unit although it consists of some much older trees mixed in with small younger plantations and group plantings. It is managed at an intimate scale with regular small interventions which is important on the wet site type. Management includes intricate thinning and planting by the estate woodland team with some produce being used locally on the Estate. It has extensive biodiversity interest with a number of nest boxes for bats, dormice and birds and a wildlife pond all regularly monitored. Good to see woodlands with this level of detail in the management.

## **SILVER Coed Llanfedw – 7 hectares**

The woodland is being managed carefully to convert a largely single age Western Hemlock block into somewhere for the owners to enjoy whilst maintaining woodland cover. It has recently been thinned carefully to enhance the nature value which is also important to the owner especially as it is adjacent to woodlands with high conservation value. There is an understory of mixed woodland species including shrubs developing. The thinning has produced low volumes of timber but the income has enabled the owner to undertake some under planting to diversify species and also maintain paths and manage failing Ash. It was easy to see the owner's intentions and they must be pleased.

## **BRONZE Castell Blaenllynfi, Treholford Estate – 1.7 hectares**

This woodland, although very small, is extraordinarily challenging to manage as it largely consists of a castle and its moat on which broadleaves have been regenerating for over 80 years. Working closely with CADW to protect the Scheduled ancient Monument a thinning has been undertaken to leave a wide spaced overstory and open areas which need to be regularly strimmed to ensure no regeneration occurs to further impact the integrity of the Scheduled ancient Monument. The site has close neighbours and regular interaction was required.

Pwll Coed Cae  
Trefeinon wood

**GOLD Trefeinon wood – 21 hectares**

A 21 hectare mainly conifer woodland with the owner's main objective being a place of solace. Following the felling of 8 hectares of infected larch the area was restocked with a range of species under the Glastir woodland restoration scheme, main species were Sitka Spruce, and Douglas Fir, along with some European Silver Fir, Weymouth Pine and Coast Redwood an interesting challenge for future management. The Sitka and Douglas Fir are displaying good vigour. Management activities included brash raking, hand and chemical weeding. The judges noted that the owner was happy to tolerate some stock (horses) to graze the woodland which although did not seem to affect the restocked areas badly will require monitoring. Small scale thinning of a stand of Sitka Spruce was also evident. A lot of management activity in a small woodland.

**SILVER Pwll Coed Cae – 28 hectares**

The 28 hectares of woodland on this upland farm, in numerous small blocks along with parkland trees, are a labour of love for the owner who obviously has a passion for his trees and woodlands. The objectives of the owner are increasing biodiversity, amenity and shelter and these are being achieved comfortably. The owner carries out much of the management activities himself assisted by family others for individual tasks like planting. Activities include planting of acorns, fencing, tree safety works and the planting of a wide range of conifer and broadleaf species, which is impressive when the access to the woodland areas is mainly by quad bike. Timber from the woodlands is used on the farm for building works and fuel wood. One of the larger woodland blocks was established on a steep parcel of land that was dangerous to travel by tractor and this epitomises the way the woods are integrated into farm management.

Glanusk Estate (Myarth)  
Cwm Fagor – Thorlux Lighting  
Ty Commins  
Tal y Coed  
Llanover Newport Estate  
Llanarth Estate  
Fennifach  
Pen Parc (NRW)  
Wentwood (Gresham House)  
Twyn Du  
Tack Wood

**GOLD      Tal y Coed – 73 hectares**

This woodland is part of a larger estate set up but managed largely on its own. It has a wide range of species in both conifers and broadleaves and a mixed age structure. Originally an FC wood which has had careful management interventions by an estate team since purchasing. The wood is commercially managed, and it is an important amenity site locally with public and permissive footpaths. There are good quality overstorey broadleaves, mainly oak underplanted with conifer, conifer and broadleaf clearfells and restocks and regular thinning including early thinning to start the conversion to alternative silvicultural systems. There are regular thinning and small scale clearfells on a 2 to 3 year basis and other operations as required including tree shelter removal, weeding, cleaning and pruning of young broadleaves. The estate uses some of the products from the woodland directly. A lot going on in this wood which requires thoughtful management.

**SILVER      Wentwood (Gresham House) – 62 hectares.**

This is the only part of the large Wentwood forest area, which is on fertile soil types, and has recently been purchased by the owners. The woodland is largely conifer which was relatively uniform in age but has been partly felled and restocked over a series of phases. Although the site is all PAWS the owners objectives are commercial and most restocking is of conifer mainly Douglas Fir and Sitka spruce with broadleaves concentrated in the riparians and adjacent to other broadleaves where they can add the most value. The woodland is certified. A significant proportion of the felling has been to remove larch and much of what remains is well thinned 58 year old Norway Spruce an area of which has been under planted with a range of conifer species and has naturally regenerated broadleaves also. There are a lot of access issues in the general area and significant deer pressures. This is a good example of keeping it simple and getting things right first time which in turn produces results.

## **JOINT BRONZE Fennifach - 79 hectares.**

This woodland is prominent in the Usk valley near Brecon and its northern edge runs down to the banks of the river. Much of the woodland is on steep ground and on fertile soils which makes the silviculture challenging. Recently there have been a number of clearfells producing good quality logs which have been restocked and maintained. The management maintains the commercial element of the woodland and also ensures regular maintenance of tracks and rides for owner's access. There is a significant broadleaf element across the woodland including a nice stand of Oak on the lower slope with extensive natural regeneration. This woodland reflects the owners' objectives well and demonstrates good, simple, well timed management.

## **JOINT BRONZE Glanusk Estate (Myarth) - 199 hectares.**

Glanusk Estate has a number of woodland blocks that are important in the landscape and aesthetic and biodiversity are big drivers for the trustees, but it is also important that the woodlands have a financial return and are managed with all this in mind. The Myarth woodlands are moving away from traditional shooting type activities to becoming the backdrop for a range of events which bring large numbers of the public in. The Myarth is almost divided in 2 with broadleaves and PAWS largely concentrated on the south side and productive conifers on the north side. There are a range of species on the north side of the Myarth but is predominantly Douglas Fir of mixed ages. The soils are very fertile and restocking requires timely weeding and cleaning. There is a stand of 58 year old Douglas Fir which is being managed using alternative silvicultural systems and this may lead the way for future management to reflect the changing usage of the block.

## **Dosbarth / Class 4 Best Managed Woodland Over 200 Hectares**

**6 Cais / Entries**

Allens Estate  
Gethin Forest  
Llangoed Estate  
Llanover Estate  
Llantrisant Forest  
Wentwood (NRW)

## **GOLD Llangoed Estate – 245 hectares.**

Traditional private estate comprising of 245 hectares of woodland on fertile soils, which is mainly conifer with broadleaf located to optimise the amenity and biodiversity benefits. Main species are Douglas Fir and Sitka Spruce with high yield classes and the owners are looking to diversify conifer species on a limited basis. The main block of woodland is very prominent in the Wye valley and can be seen as a multi age woodland in response to previous appropriate scale clearfell and restock operations. The woodland, which is certified, has benefited from a long history of sound silvicultural management and



produces a steady income stream for the owners. The value of continuity of contractor resource was also evident on site. The annual thinning programme is about 3000m<sup>3</sup> (with some additional windthrow clearance on top last year). The judges were shown a new mainly conifer woodland creation scheme registered with the carbon code, an outstandingly productive Sitka Spruce stand planted in 2000 which had been thinned twice in 21 years with an average tree size of .0.33m<sup>3</sup> plus recent examples of clearfell, restock and windblow clearance, plus ash tree safety work all done to a high standard. The important story here is that simple silviculture undertaken to a high standard produces multifunctional woodlands.

## **SILVER     Llanover Estate - 249 hectares.**

The woodlands within the Estate consists of over 100 mainly small blocks which are run on a commercial basis whilst emphasising the importance of amenity and biodiversity and in order to manage the woodlands a regular income is required. There is a 5 year thinning programme with some clearfell and restock. The woodland component of the Estate has increased significantly, by nearly 50ha, in recent years with woodland creation. The woodlands are managed using simple, straightforward silvicultural techniques based on doing interventions at the right time which have proved very successful. A third of the estate is in the Brecon beacons National Park and it is an integral part of the community and as such there is a high level of liaison and public engagement. The woods on the Estate are being managed differently in different places due largely to a diversity of drivers, challenges and requirements but as a whole they are well integrated and managed across the board to a good standard.

## **BRONZE     Gethin Forest - 857 hectares.**

A large Welsh Government woodland block in the South Wales valleys managed by NRW. The forest benefits from a good roading network with Sitka Spruce being the main species on the higher ground with mixed conifer species on the slopes and a significant area of ancient semi natural woodland and PAWS lower down. The judges were shown some very good quality p.75 Sitka Spruce which was being converted to continuous cover plus a newly established area a mainly Norway Spruce showing impressive growth and stocking thanks to good establishment practices. Most of the recent restocking has been as a result of clearance of infected larch. There is an annual programme including cleaning and thinning. This certified forest contains over 300 hectares which is leased to Bike Park Wales which currently has 42 mountain bike trails, plus a large visitor centre, café and car parks. This area caters for an average of 500 cyclists daily. The woodland in this area will be converted to maintain permanent woodland cover. The challenges of carrying out operations within this environment were evident however the local staff were positive and professional in their approach.

## STAND CLASS WINNERS

### **Class A – Broadleaf planting or restocking under 10 years old**

Gold Medal Wentwood - NRW

Silver Medal Gethin Forest

### **Class B – Broadleaf woodland 11-40 years old**

Gold Medal Cwm Fagor – Thorlux Lighting

Silver Medal Pwll Coed Cae

### **Class C – Broadleaf woodland over 40 years old**

Gold Medal Fennifach

Silver Medal Llantrisant, Forest Fawr

Bronze Medal Llanarth Estate

### **Class D - Conifer planting or restocking under 10 years old**

Gold Medal Llanover Estate

Silver Medal Gethin Forest

Bronze Medal Wentwood (Gresham House)

### **Class E – Conifer Woodland 11-30 years old**

Gold Medal Llangoed Estate

Silver Medal Tal y Coed

Bronze Medal Llanover Estate

### **Class F - Conifer woodland over 30 years old**

Gold Medal Ty Commins

Silver Medal Llanover Estate

Bronze Medal Wentwood (Gresham House)

### **Class G – Area managed using LISS**

Gold Medal Glanusk Estate

Silver Medal Tal y Coed

Bronze Medal Pen Parc

### **Class H – A Community or Public Access Woodland**

Gold Medal Gethin Forest

Silver Medal Llanover Newport

## **GWOBRAU ARBENNIG - SPECIAL PRIZES**

**SP1 The Milford Silver Medal** awarded to the Best Broadleaf Entry in Stand Classes A, B & C

**WINNER - Fennifach**

**SP2 The Charles Shakerley Memorial Perpetual Challenge Cup** awarded to the Best Conifer Entry in Stand Classes D, E & F

**WINNER - Ty Commins**

**SP3 The EFG Perpetual Challenge Cup** awarded for the Best Entry in Woodland Classes 1, 2, 3 & 4

**WINNER - Llangoed Estate**

**SP4 The Meirion Davies Memorial Perpetual Challenge Cup** awarded to the Best Community Woodland or Public Access Woodland in Stand Class H

**WINNER - Gethin Forest**

**SP5 Cash Prize of £100** awarded for the Best Farm Woodland

**WINNER - Pwll Coed Cae**

**SP6 The RC Williams-Ellis Perpetual Challenge Cup** and awarded to a **Privately Owned Woodland** gaining the highest cumulative number of points for the Stand Classes entered

**WINNER - Llanover Estate**

**SP7 The Wilson Memorial Shield** awarded to the Forester or Manager of a privately owned Woodland gaining the highest cumulative number of points for the Stand Classes entered

**WINNER - Robert South**

**SP8 The Royal Forestry Society of England, Wales and Northern Ireland Gold Medal Certificate** awarded to the Best Entry in all Stand Classes

**WINNER - Ty Commins**

**SP9 The ICF Challenge Trophy** for the **Best Professional Management** in all Woodland Classes

**WINNER - Robert South**