



Caerphilly LAF meeting notes

24/02/23

NRW Attendees:

Sarah Tindal (ST) Senior Officer SE People & Places
Robert Campbell (RC) Senior Officer SE Land Management

NRW Apologies:

Geminie Drinkwater (GD) Cwm Carn Forest Drive Project officer

Standard NRW update:

1. NRW Actions from the previous meeting (see below):

2. Updates from NRW:

1. Integrated Engineering: Forest Road repairs ongoing.

2. SE Land Management:

- a. RC: Ioan Williams is standing in as our Land & Asset Manager while David Letellier is away on secondment for 12 months.
- b. RC: New Biodiversity officer in place for 2 years, Elenor Yoxall, her role is focusing on habitat networks and improving the ancient woodland in SE Wales, especially in the Wye valley where we have important sites such as designated areas and ancient semi-natural woodland. She is working on removing invasive species from these areas and improving the condition of the woodlands.
- c. RC: Normal work program under way, Ash die back clearance is a priority, currently quite a lot of work in Cwm Carn. We are also trying to keep PROW's clear as best we can across the patch. Thanks for the reports of issues, please use out SE Team e mail:

coedwigoedd@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

forestsandnaturesoutheast@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

For non 999 (Emergency) urgent or out of hrs incidents / reports use the ICC:

0300 065 3000 (24/7) To enable us to deal with your report as quickly as possible, please provide the following details:

Where is/was the incident taking place? Please provide a grid reference if possible, for example, NT 252 735. Otherwise, you should provide accurate directions / descriptions of the location
What is/was happening?
Who is/was responsible for the incident?
When did the incident take place?

[Natural Resources Wales / Report an incident](#)

Reporting off-road vehicles: contact@gwent.pnn.police.uk Call 101 @gwentpolice

- RC: Gwent Green Grid we will be working with the partnership ongoing.
- RC: PROW survey work on the NRW estate focused on furniture finished.

- RC: Caerphilly Landscape Project: we are working with them on the project delivery in the respective area and routes.
- GD: All planned reinstatement works of PRoW at Abercarn and Cwmcarn are complete.
- GD: 90% of PRoW waymarker posts are now installed at Abercarn and Cwmcarn.
- GD: Installation of PRoW signs on the posts has started.
- GD: Applications for PRoW route modifications on the WGWE have been drafted. Hope to be in a position to submit to Caerphilly/Torfaen in the coming months.
- GD: Plans are being prepared for a series of interconnecting footpaths and a recreational area on the Medart to link up the various carparks around the Forest Drive. Hope to be able to submit planning application and SuDS application for these by Easter, with a view to some works commencing in the autumn subject to approval.
- GD: Contract issued for the strimming of various non-PRoW routes at Cwmcarn and Abercarn 3 times a year – April, July and September (contract already exists for maintenance of PRoW routes).

3. Forest Operations update:

- Relevant FRP's:
Cwm Carn Forest: The new forest resource plan for the Cwmcarn covers 1911Ha and incorporates 4 previous forest design plan units: Cwmcarn, Sirhwyi/Cwm Felinfach, Machen and Llanbradach.

Link: [Natural Resources Wales / Cwmcarn Forest Resource Plan](#)

The Southern Ebbw FRP covers 974 ha and is made up 11 woodlands located in Caerphilly, Newport, Torfaen, and Cardiff local authority areas, to the north of the M4 motorway.

Link: [Natural Resources Wales / Southern Ebbw Forest Resource Plan](#)
- 2023 Forest Operations program:
RC: Coupes have been sold in The Darren, West End & Llanbradach however unlikely to start until after the bird nesting season so July / Aug 23.
- RC: Wylie on pause currently due to the downturn in the timber market. No recommencement date currently.
- If you have any issues on our forestry sites, contact the Forest Operations Team on:

SEForest.operations@naturalresources.wales

4. Reported public Accidents & near misses:

- a. RC: Nil

5. Issues:

- b. RC: NRW 2023-34 Budgets being discussed.

6. Events/ permissions:

- c. RC: Discuss with the LAF relevance of this information.

7. Action points from meetings:

