



**CCFG Wales Field Visit to Coed Nant yr Eira  
Thursday 27th September 2018  
09.30-16.00**

This visit will be at Coed Nant yr Eira, a 300-hectare forestry plantation in conversion to continuous cover forestry lying between Llanerfyl and Talerddig in Powys. The plantation was established in 1968, 1969 and 1970 as a Sitka and Norway spruce monoculture. The property is managed by Phil Morgan FICFor.

The woodland lies on the edge of the Llanbrynmair uplands at an altitude of between 200 and 400 metres above sea level. The strong differences in topography provide a variety of extreme soil conditions and site types from deep peat on the plateau, well drained upland brown earths on the sloping areas and wet, flushed, heavy gley soils and peats on the lower valley bottoms. The variety of site types has created a range of opportunities in response to patchy blow events of various sizes resulting in a mosaic of irregular small coupes and selection stands.

The property has a long tradition of conversion to continuous cover forestry despite the very challenging site conditions. Talis Kalnars was one of the early managers who carried out very extensive thinning operations and who cleared patches of blow to provide the mosaic effect that is now typical of the forest. The present policy is to continue with this adaptive approach clearing any blown volume as part of regular thinning interventions or as small coupes following more severe wind events.

Early blown areas did not regenerate easily due to the age of the crop, poor mast years and to competitive weed growth on the wet lower ground. These areas have been re-stocked, planted as intimate mixtures comprising 8 broadleaved species and 5 conifer species in the mix. The present re-stocking program now accepts the addition of natural regeneration of Sitka spruce and occasional other species. Enrichment planting is providing species diversity under some of the mature stands where target dimension felling is taking place.

Nant yr Eira has a long history of timber production which continues thanks to a track infrastructure providing access to stands. First thinnings produced early sources of income and initiated the conversion to more irregular stand structures. The second and third thinnings increased bar and log breakout while selective felling now provides 85% log material. The management plan is to increase timber production to a level which equates with the annual increment of the forest, approximately 4,400 m<sup>3</sup> per annum. This will provide a regular income to the owner as well as a steady source of forest employment. A forest inventory was undertaken in 2014, using the Irregular Silviculture Network (ISN) protocol, to determine the growing stock and to establish a baseline from which to monitor the condition of the forest; the inventory will be repeated in 2019. Individual stands of particular interest are also monitored using the Abbreviated ISN protocol.

The irregular stand structures provide a magnificent forest landscape with both internal and external views. The Cambrian Mountains Long Distance path runs through the property and permissive access is granted to local walkers. Continuous cover provides the continuity which is required to allow timber quality, ecosystems and habitats to develop in complexity and to increase in value, allowing Nant yr Eira to be diverse, resilient, productive and a beautiful place.

### **Meeting point**

At the forest entrance. Forest road bell-mouth near Cwmdrwen Farm, Llanerfyl, Powys

Post code: SY21 0JJ

Grid reference: SH 959 055

### **Time**

9.30am for 10.00am start

**Please bring** suitable outdoor clothing and clean footwear suitable for walking on rough ground as well as your packed lunch which we would advise you to keep about you at all times.

### **Booking**

People interested in attending this visit are asked to let the CCFG administrator know either by email [administrator@ccfg.org.uk](mailto:administrator@ccfg.org.uk) or by telephone on 01309 641133. Please note that the number of attendees will be limited to 40 and a first come, first served booking system will be adopted. Once this ceiling has been reached, any additional attendees will be placed on a waiting list. The field trip is free for CCFG members and students and £15 for guests.