



TIR COED

**Tir Coed Directors Six Monthly  
Report**

April '04 to September '04

## **1. Introduction**

During the last six months, the Tir Coed team has achieved a number of key developments. In May, we settled in to our new main office at Denmark Farm Conservation Centre, near Lampeter. The new location is proving to be useful in strengthening our partnership with Shared Earth Trust and developing new partnerships with local organisations, as well as being a lovely place to work with a woodland on site.

We are now working to a new remit, which was agreed by our Directors earlier this year and which focuses on the social aspects of forestry, working with socially disadvantaged rural communities. We also continue to support the traditional aspects of forestry through events such as our forthcoming timber extraction demonstration in Carmarthenshire.

One of our main strengths is networking and linking skilled people, individuals and organisations as well as providing advice to woodland owners and local contractors. This is something that is not quantifiable, but is effective in developing strong partnership working and promoting the benefits of woodlands to a wider audience. We have also supported a number of projects in areas where we have not worked before, such as Corwen and Llandrindod Wells.

Our key event during the last six months was the Woodland Health Open Day that took place in July in Llanafan. This followed on from last years successful event and involved 18 different organisations.

During the last 6 months, Tir Coed's two Project Officers also delivered the Cydcoed programme in the West Wales area as a temporary agreement to cover a Cydcoed Officer on extended leave. Although this temporarily slowed down some of Tir Coed's work, in the long run it has bolstered Tir Coed's reputation, provided publicity and exposure to our work, increased the capacity of our team and has resulted in a number of key contacts and potential projects for the future.

Our key projects over the last six months have focused on social inclusion and health and well being. Below you will find a summary of our main activities during this period, and an indication of the outputs these activities have created. The sections that follow also indicate which objectives of the *Woodlands for Wales* strategy our activities apply to.

## 2. Key Activities

### Woodland for People

#### Motorbiking in the Woods

A review of the Motorbiking in the Woods project took place in July. One of the key outcomes of the pilot project was that during the last academic year two of the young people on the project returned to school and sat their GCSE exams. The aims of the project continue to be to provide an alternative form of education, and an opportunity to improve self-esteem, communication skills and new practical skills in a woodland setting to young people who are excluded, or in danger of being excluded from school. Basic mechanics, health and safety, bike controls and riding skills are taught by two instructors from south Ceredigion. These will lead to Open College Network qualifications if the course is successfully completed.

It was decided that due to the success of the project Tir Coed would continue to part fund and manage it at a reduced rate for the next academic term. The project is still being held at Tyn Bedw/Cwm Newyddion woods, Pontrhydygroes with assistance from the Forestry Commission's Local Area Manager.

<b>Motorbiking in the Woods</b>	<b>Total Outputs April - Sept '04</b>	<b>Total Costs April - Sept '04</b>
No. young people benefiting	8	£3,192.59
No. young people receiving training	8	
Part-time jobs created (formerly unemployed)	2	
Partnerships formed with groups/organisations	7	
FC Woodland sites used	2	
<i>Outcomes: increased self-confidence and range of skills learnt, improved behaviour of young people.</i>		

### **Den Building**

A two-day den building event was held at Coed Tyllwyd, Llanfarian on 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> June as part of the Small Woods Association's (SWA) Wales Woodland Festival. Forty-five people attended the event including a number of local families. The event resulted in a completed den constructed out of small round wood which is available for community use.

Total cost of the event was £828, but we received a contribution of £400 from SWA so total cost to Tir Coed was £428.

### **Willow Weaving with Gorwelion (Mental Health group)**

A series of willow weaving sessions were conducted with the mental health unit in Aberystwyth during May and June of this year. On average 12 patients took part in the sessions that lasted for eight weeks. Examples of the feedback received were:

*'The classes have given me an appreciation of wood and nature'  
'Being creative is invaluable to the healing process - thank you!'*

Total cost to Tir Coed = £685.

### **Green Wood Working with Rhoserchan (Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit)**

We have worked closely in the past with Rhoserchan, based at Capel Seion and have recently funded a series of wood working sessions with Bob Shaw at Coed Tyllwyd as part of the treatment programme for residents at the unit. These regular monthly sessions were developed after two members of staff at Rhoserchan attended classes at Coed Tyllwyd in basic woodworking and health and safety. This meant that clients could attend woodworking sessions with adequate supervision.

Total cost to Tir Coed = £470.

### Coed Call/Tree Wise

In partnership with the Prince's Trust Cymru, a two-stage programme was organised with three local youth clubs – Pontrhydygroes, Ponterwyd and Penparcau. The first phase involved making instruments out of wood at Graybeards Wood near New Quay. The instruments were then used in the second phase where songs inspired by the forest were written and recorded at the Hafod Estate. A bi-lingual CD was produced and distributed to all those who took part.

Coed Call	Total Outputs April - Sept '04	Total Costs April - Sept '04
No. young people involved	28	Total cost = £1830.00 Contribution from Prince's Trust = £1000 Anticipated cost to Tir Coed = £830.00
No. youth clubs involved	3	
Music produced (CDs)	20	
<i>Outcomes: increased self-confidence and range of skills learnt including using tools, creativity and awareness of woodland environment increased.</i>		

### Tourism, Recreation and Health

#### Multi-user Trail Study - Ystywth Valley

In March, an economic impact assessment was commissioned by Pentir Pumlumon and was completed in June. This involved consultation with local businesses and stakeholders as well as studies of the potential visitor type and a profile of the existing mountainbiking product at Nant-yr-Arian.

In addition, a questionnaire was compiled and used to gather the views of 200 mountain bikers using the trails at Nant-yr-Arian. The next stage is to analyse the results of the users survey and communicate the results of both studies to the Forestry Commission.

## Ystwyth Valley Woodland Health Open Day

On July 25<sup>th</sup> another successful Woodland Health Open Day was organised by Tir Coed in the Ystwyth Valley. Despite torrential rain, over 100 people attended and over 50 participated in guided woodland walks. Activities included: Health displays, woodland walks, orienteering, meditation and chi kung. It is hoped that after the two successful health open days held so far, this will become an annual event.

Health Open Day	Total Outputs 03/04	Total Costs 03/04
No. participating organisations (stalls)	17	£920.00
Participants on woodland walks	50	
Total participants	100	
<i>Outcomes: Young people involved through youth club providing catering, local people attended taster sessions, raising awareness of using woodlands to improve health.</i>		

## Other Projects

Over the past six months we have supported a number of projects through our simple application process. These have included:

- Lovin' the Park - community event in woodland park, Llandrindod Wells, total cost = £890
- Castell Rock - music event using wooden instruments, Aberstwyth, total cost = £300
- 'The Forest' Arts Exhibition, Corwen, total cost = £700
- Brechfa Forest School, grant for purchase of tools, total cost = £599.89
- Disability Trail Arts event, Brechfa, total cost = £455
- Ceredigion Youth Offending Team, purchase of outdoor equipment for use in woodland, total cost = £851

Total cost of 'other' projects = £3,795.89

### **3. Publicity**

The following publicity and promotional activities have taken place over the last six months:

- Press releases covering our events submitted to local papers
- New leaflet professionally produced
- TV coverage on support given to Coed Tyllwyd project, Llanfarian
- Key events being advertised locally
- Attended series of meetings with 'new' organisations
- Presentations on Tir Coed and our work have been conducted at the Wales Woodland Forum (WWF), WWF Community Sub-group, Small Woods Association AGM, Wales Off-Road Motorcycling Conference and Forestry Commission Partnership Working workshops
- Stand at the West Wales Wood Fair and the Shared Earth Trust open day
- Day trip organised to the APF International Forest Machinery Exhibition
- Attending monthly Forestry Commission Social Team meetings

### **4. Staff Development**

Over the last six months one or more members of the Tir Coed team has attended the following courses:

- *Managing Conflict and Compromise* (whole team)
- *Forestry for Non-Foresters* (Vic Williams)
- Website editing (Vic Williams)
- *Engaging People in Forestry* (Vic Williams and Gwyneth Davies)
- Introduction to the Forestry Stewardship Council and certification (whole team)
- First Aid (Ben Maxted)

## **5. Planned Events for 2004-05**

- Woodland Management, Co-operative Working and Tree Nurseries training workshops in Brechfa
- Continued development of the Ystywth Valley Renewable Energy group (meetings have already started taking place)
- Timber extraction demonstration – Dinefwr Park, 20<sup>th</sup> October, in partnership with Coed Cymru, Forestry Commission, Forestry Contracting Association, National Trust and The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales
- Working on two possible projects in New Quay - Maes Y Pwll Community Woodland, in partnership with Ceredigion County Council and New Quay Sports Club
- Training in Basic Chainsaw, Tree Climbing, Instructional Techniques and First Aid for Foresters
- Developing initiatives with Clynfyw Countryside Centre and Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services
- Bench-making with Aberaeron Drop-in Centre
- Timber auction, January
- Publicity drive with articles targeted at certain publications, including Forestry and British Timber and Royal Forestry Society magazines
- Timber extraction demonstration, North Wales, December
- Activities in Gwynedd and Powys

## **6. Future Funding**

As we are now almost half way through our funding period, plans are being made to seek other sources of funding to continue our work beyond 2006. So far we have requested a Grantfinder search from the Forestry Commission's funding team, met with the Sports Council for Wales to discuss possible funding streams and met with an independent fundraiser.

Over the coming months we will gather quotes and proposals from at least three fundraisers on developing a fundraising strategy for Tir Coed.

## 7 Monitoring

### 7.1 Financial

The table below indicates our spending to date for this financial year, broken down by theme as detailed in our three-year plan that was developed when we were granted Rural Recovery Funding.

	Theme	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total 03/04	Budget for 04/05	Progress against 04/05 budget
1	Staff Costs*	216.67	216.67	216.67	486.67	216.67	216.67	1570.02	47875.00	3%
2	Social Inclusion	967.00	290.00	1077.63	1464.96	910.00	910.00	5619.59	10650.00	53%
3	Health & Well Being				80.00	195.00	30.00	305.00	1500.00	20%
4	Recreation					278.00		278.00	staff time	
5	Bio Fuels									
6	Crafts	207.25		828.00				1035.25	8300.00	12%
7	Enterprise				405.00	9.00		414.00	4050.00	10%
8	Miscellaneous	4057.60	2260.36	635.19	367.30	1161.40	4153.05	12634.90	no budget set	
9	Other projects		890.00	1000.00	599.89		470.00	2959.89	34025.00	9%
<b>Total</b>		<b>5448.52</b>	<b>3657.03</b>	<b>3757.49</b>	<b>3403.82</b>	<b>2770.07</b>	<b>5779.72</b>	<b>24816.65</b>	<b>106400.00</b>	<b>23%</b>

\* Please note: the figures under 'Staff Costs' do not include salaries.

## 7.2 Outputs

The table below gives a rough indication of the type and number of outputs our activities have produced over the last six months. For a definition of how these outputs are calculated, please see appendix below.

### Tir Coed Overall Outputs April '04 - March '05

Output	April-June	July-Sept	Total '04-'05
	Q1	Q2	
No. part time jobs created (formerly unemployed)	2	2	2
No. self employed assisted	4	20	24
No. forestry contractors supported	2	8	10
No. unemployed given support	12	12	24
No. training courses held	2	3	5
No. people receiving training	18	47	65
No. young people benefiting	47	43	90
No. women assisted/benefiting	14	10	24
No. vol/community organisations supported	1	9	10
No. demos	0	1	1
No. health promotion events	0	1	1
No. arts events	0	1	2
No. events organised	3	3	3
Total no. attendees at events	94	175	269
No. agencies involved	4	11	15
Partnerships formed with other organisations	14	8	22
FC Woodland sites used	3	3	6
Private Woodland sites used	1	3	4
No. woodland site visits	12	17	29

## Appendix - Output Definitions

<b>Output</b>	<b>Definition</b>
No. P/T jobs created (formerly unemployed)	<i>6 hours (one day) per week</i>
No. self employed assisted	<i>Assistance through subsidised training &amp; information, sub-contracting for events etc, free publicity/opportunity to sell products</i>
No. forestry contractors supported	<i>As above, but specifically contractors already working in forestry</i>
No. unemployed given support	<i>Support through heavily subsidised or free training</i>
No. training courses held	<i>Courses vary in length, level, subject and attendance</i>
No. people receiving training	<i>Total no. of attendees on all courses (may be same on more than one course)</i>
No. young people benefiting	<i>No. young people directly involved in one of our initiatives</i>
No. women assisted/benefiting	<i>No. women directly involved in one of our initiatives</i>
No. vol/community organisations supported	<i>Supported through facilitating activities for their members, working in partnership</i>
No. demos	<i>No. demonstrations facilitated e.g. timber conversion</i>
No. health promotion events	<i>Events promoting woodlands as facility for improving health</i>
No. arts events	<i>No. arts events either held in woodland or with woodland theme</i>
No. events organised	<i>Total number of events organised - usually 1 full or half day, does not include training</i>
No. attendees at events	<i>Total number of participants at all events (may be same at more than one event)</i>
No. agencies involved	<i>Partnerships formed with agencies not vol/comm groups</i>
FC Woodland sites used	<i>No. Welsh Assembly woodland sites used for activities</i>
Private Woodland sites used	<i>No. private woodland sites used for activities</i>
No. woodland site visits	<i>No. site visits made as part of events/project</i>