

GLASU PROJECT ON ASSESSING THE INTEREST AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ESTABLISHING LOCAL PROVENANCE TREE NURSERIES IN POWYS



Ashfield Local Provenance Tree Nursery, Howey in July 2003

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NOVEMBER 2003**

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1. Introduction to the Glasu report on local provenance tree and shrub nurseries

1.1. The use of local provenance trees and shrubs

There are a number of reasons why organisations and individuals prefer to use local provenance tree and shrub nurseries.

1. Trees and shrubs collected from proven locally collected seed are considered to be better adapted to local conditions especially altitude
2. The genetic integrity of populations of native species is maintained.
3. There is a reduced risk of spreading disease if trees are locally grown
4. There are reduced environmental and transport costs by reducing the numbers of trees and shrubs imported from Europe.
5. Local businesses are supported and money is kept within the local economy
6. Specialist nurseries eg employing people with learning difficulties, community nurseries can be supported

The use of local provenance stock is supported by a number of government policies. These are:-

- Welsh Assembly Government – Commitment to increase area of the Forestry Commission estate, especially marginal uplands to broadleaf cover, as part of the restocking programme
- National Assembly for Wales Strategy for Trees and Woodlands
- UK Forest Standard
- Certification Standard for the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme
- FC Wales grants and licences especially adjacent to existing ancient woodlands
- Tir Gofal – use of native provenance stock where available and practicable
- Highways Directorate road planting schemes (Biodiversity strategy)

1.2. Background to the Glasu report

The Glasu tree nursery project was set up as a consequence of a number of meetings and reports in 2003.

In January 2003, a development plan was written for Glynllifon tree nursery, a local provenance tree nursery, which is owned and managed by Gwynedd Council. The development plan looked at the future development of the tree nursery including its twelve satellite tree nurseries which grow trees for Glynllifon. The Glasu report on setting up tree nurseries in Powys took the Glynllifon tree nursery with its satellite nurseries as its model.

In March 2003, there was a meeting in Llandrindrod Wells with the Forestry Commission, Countryside Council for Wales, Glasu, representatives from Ashfield tree nursery and interested individuals. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the future of Ashfield tree nursery, a local provenance tree nursery near Llandrindrod Wells, and to discuss the provision of local provenance trees and shrubs in Powys. There was support from

organisations especially Tir Gofal and the Forestry Commission to support local provenance tree nurseries where possible.

In June 2003, a feasibility study was commissioned by the Forestry Commission to assess the existing supply and demand of local provenance trees and shrubs in Powys. From the feasibility study, the existing demand for trees and shrubs in Powys in 2003-4 is set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Demand for trees and shrubs in Powys in 2003-4

SCHEMES	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF TREES/SHRUBS
Tir Gofal hedgerow renovation schemes	240,000
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) schemes	52,000
Woodland Grant Schemes	104,000
Forestry Commission Riverine scheme (1993-6)	120,000
Forestry Commission restocking requirement	175,000
TOTAL	691,000

Table 1 shows that the total demand in Powys is for 691,000 trees and shrubs annually. Of this, 292,000 are for Tir Gofal and ESA hedgerow renovation schemes which are mainly hedging plants including hawthorn, hazel, holly and blackthorn. The other schemes (Woodland Grant Schemes, Riverine schemes and Forestry Commission restocking) require broadleaves especially sessile oak, ash, downy birch and rowan.

The feasibility study also looked at the main tree nurseries which are growing local provenance trees and shrubs in Wales. These nurseries are:-

- **Dingle Nurseries near Welshpool**
Dingle Nurseries is the only wholesale nursery in Powys and it supplies three million trees annually especially to the landscaping industry. 2.5 million trees are imported from Europe and the remaining 0.5 million trees are grown locally and the seed is supplied by a seed house in Shropshire.
- **Carmarthen Tree Nursery near Carmarthen**
Grows 150,000+ cell grown trees annually and has a reputation for growing high quality cell grown trees. The owner collects seed from identified ancient woodlands mainly in south and west Wales.
- **Ystwyth Tree Nursery near Aberystwyth**
Established fourteen years ago and is located in Hafod Forest Estate. The owner and his wife grow 100,000 trees and shrubs annually. The owner collects seed from ancient woodlands within a 12 mile radius of Aberystwyth.
- **Glynllifon Nursery near Caernarfon**
The nursery is owned and managed by Gwynedd Council and provides a service to people who want to plant locally sourced trees and shrubs for woods and hedging schemes. The nursery sells around 80,000 trees and shrubs annually. Glynllifon has helped to set up a network of twelve satellite nurseries in North Wales which supply trees to Glynllifon.

- **Maelor Nursery near Whitchurch**

Large wholesale tree nursery which grows 12 million trees and shrubs annually mainly for landscape and road schemes and large planting schemes. The nursery collects its own seeds from known woods and hedges. The nursery only accepts orders over £2,000.

2. Glasu tree nursery report

2.1 The main objectives for the Glasu report

The main objectives for the Glasu report were to:-

- **Find the level of interest from individuals in setting up tree nurseries**
- **Assess the existing provision for training people in Powys**
- **Find out what existing business support there is for establishing new tree nurseries**
- **Find ways of linking the demand for local provenance trees with existing and future supply**
- **Find ways to take the tree nursery project forward**

2.2. Introduction to the Glasu report

The first part of the project was to contact individuals who are potentially interested in setting up a tree nursery. A leaflet on setting up tree nurseries was designed and printed. The leaflet (Appendix 1) was distributed at the Royal Welsh Show in July 2003 on the Glasu, Forestry Commission and Coed Cymru stands. The leaflets were also distributed at the Powis Woodfair in September 2003 and at a Farming Connect open day at Carno on 18th September 2003. The other main source of contacting individuals was to place advertisements in the Brecon and Radnor Express and in the County Times in September 2003. Additional people were informed as a result of contact with Farming Connect, Coed Cymru and Forestry Commission officers. Another useful way of informing people was through a Forest Education Initiative mailshot.

The second part of the project was to find out about the existing support for tree nurseries. A number of organisations - Welsh Development Agency (Environmental Goods and Services and the Timber II project), Forestry Commission, Countryside Council for Wales and Glasu - were contacted and asked about the existing grant support for new and existing tree nurseries

in Wales. To assess training requirements, one college (Coleg Powys in Brecon) was visited and several colleges were contacted. Training bodies (ELWa, Joint Development Initiative) were contacted to assess the existing level of training provision for tree nurseries.

2.3 Analysis of individuals who want to set up tree nurseries

In total, 49 people contacted the Glasu project and expressed an interest in setting up a tree nursery. Of these 49 people, 44 were based in Powys and 5 were from outside Powys (two from Monmouthshire, two from Ceredigion and one from Shropshire). These people had heard about the project from a variety of sources which is shown in Table 2. There was a great deal of interest as a result of the advertisement in the Brecon and Radnor Express and also there was good success from leaflet distribution especially at the Royal Welsh Show. One of the Coed Cymru officers was very interested in the project and provided a list of useful contacts. The Glasu office was very helpful at passing on information about the project and several people on the tree nursery list have been involved in other Glasu projects.

Table 2: How individuals found out about the Glasu tree nursery project

Sources of information	Number of people
Leaflets distributed at the Royal Welsh Show	7
Leaflets distributed at the Powis Woodfair	2
Farming Connect Day at Carno	2
Farming Connect advisers	1
Coed Cymru advisers	9
Forestry Commission officers	2
Glasu office	6
Leaflets sent out through the Forestry Education Initiative mailshot	4
Advert in the County Times	2
Advert in the Brecon and Radnor Express	9
From existing tree nurseries	1
Word of mouth	4

The geographical distribution of the individuals who want to set up tree nurseries in Powys was very scattered which shows that the people had heard about the project throughout the county. However there was very strong interest from people around Brecon and around Newtown and there was less interest from people in the west of the county (Machynlleth) and to the north of the county (Welshpool).

Table 3 shows the geographical distributions of the individuals who want to set up tree nurseries. The geographical location is taken as the nearest postal town to the individual.

Table 3: Geographical distribution of individuals who want to set up tree nurseries

Nearest town in Powys	Number of people	Nearest town in Powys	Number of people
Brecon	10	Llanfyllin	1
Builth Wells	2	Llanidloes	3
Crickhowell	2	Machynlleth	2
Hereford	1	Newtown	9
Kington	2	Rhayader	4
Llandrindrod Wells	6	Welshpool	3

The majority of individuals who wanted more information about setting up tree nurseries were smallholders (30) who have less than 20 hectares ground and get their income from a variety of sources. A number of farmers (12) expressed interest in the project as an additional income on the farm. Two existing nurseries in the south of the county were also interested in the project as a form of diversification especially during the winter months. One nursery grows herbaceous perennials and the other nursery grows organic soft fruits. One estate near Llandrindrod Wells was very interested in growing trees in their walled garden.

A list of all the individuals who expressed an interest in setting up tree nurseries is set out in Table 4.

Table 4: Individuals who have contacted the project about setting up a tree nursery

	Contact	Address	Phone	Email	Source of information	Details
1.	Jon Davies	Cwrty Castell, Libanus, Brecon	01874-638108	Jondavies001@aol.com	Leaflet at Royal Welsh	Ground at 1,000 ft
2.	Rose Kent	Pen Twyn, Llangenny, Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1HD	01873-810547	sugarloaf@mac.com	Leaflet at Royal Welsh	
3.	Pam Jones,	Coed Cochion, Llandefalle, BRECON LD3 ONR	07980 843090	-	Welsh organic information service	Grown 3,000 trees in the past
4.	Richard Norgate	Felin Senni, Heol Senni, Brecon, Powys LD3 8SU	01874-638018	felinsenni@aol.com	Royal Welsh	Has 14 acres of land and interested in growing trees in a polytunnel and semi-standard trees
5.	Beryl Smith,	Goetref, Bwlch-y-fan, Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6NS	01686-430314	www.crafts.midwales.co.uk	Organic vegetable shop in Llanidloes	Set up as complimentary business to growing herbs
6.	D.E. Jones,	Cilmeri, Pontrhdygroes, Ceredigion SY25 6DJ	01974-282295		John Rainbow	
7.	Colin Gardiner	Gellirhyd Farm, Llangenny, Crickhowell, Powys NP81 1HF	0183-810466		Royal Welsh leaflet	Has been growing trees for a number of years and would consider growing for others as well
8.	Mrs. C.M. Jukes	Hafod-y-Dafal Farm, Aberberg, Gwent NP13 2ER	01495-371723	howell@hafodafal.demon.co.uk	Royal Welsh?	Farmer's wife who is interested in growing trees
9.	Dereck Turner	Development Officer - Working Futures, Business Centre, Old Town Hall, Temple Street, Llandrindrod Wells LD15DL	01597-824777	dereckt@powys.gov.uk	Glasu	Development Officer who is interested in encouraging a mental health group to set up a tree nursery at Ashfield

	Contact	Address	Phone	Email	Source of information	Details
10.	Paul McCue	Hengae, Aberllefenni, Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9SB	01654-761764	Nicola@vanuatau.freeserve.co.uk	Leaflet	Moved into area and interested in growing trees/willows
11.	Jim Ralph	Forestry Commission, Llanidloes, Powys	01686-411043	Jim.Ralph@forestry.gsi.gov.uk	Member of the Sterling Group	Area manager for Hafren Forest District and is working of the Forestry Commission Riverine Habitats project. Would prefer to use locally sourced trees and shrubs
12.	Joel Durrell	Coleg Powys, Penllan, Brecon, Powys LD3 9SE	01497-625252 or 07752-236773	joel.durrell@coleg-powys.ac.uk	Was told about Joel by Paul Martin	Growing trees at Coleg Powys for people with learning difficulties
13.	Tom and Mel Chandler	The Neuadd, Dolfor, Newtown, Powys SY16 4JR	01686	Melchandler01@hotmail.com or tom.chandler2@btopenworld.com	Forest Education Initiative mailshot	Tom has set up Conservation in Action and Mel is a Forest School Leader
14.	Mr. Barrowclift	Ffinant Isaf, Llanwyddelan, Newtown, Powys SY16 3BU	01686-650219	-	Forest Education Initiative mailshot	Enjoys growing from seed and want to develop this into a business
15.	Ruth Brocklehurst	Plas Esgair, Pantperrog, Machynlleth, SY20 9AY	01654-700065	tarrenygesail@lineone.net	Leaflet at Essential Earth	Want to grow for use at Plas Esgair; as part of Elemental Earth; local voluntary organisations
16.	Bob and Jeni Griffiths	Glanirfon Bungalow, Llanwtyd Bungalow, Powys LD5 4AF	01591-610458		Mike Richards, Coed Cymru	Set up small tree nursery in mid 1990s - now grow mainly hazel from cuttings
17.	Aled Morris	Belan, Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys	01938-810345		David Jenkins	Has been growing trees for 2 years for the Pont Bren scheme

	Contact	Address	Phone	Email	Source of information	Details
18.	Pam Evans	Tan-y-Gadair Nursery, Llanfyllin, Powys SY22 5LD	01691-648555	geoffrey@alfred1953. fsnet.co.uk	Leaflet	Recently moved to Llanfyllin and already has a polytunnel
19	Gareth Davies	12 Great Oak Street, Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6JB	01686-413222	gareth@ perpetualearth.com	Jim Ralph	Considering idea of setting up tree nursery in conjunction with organic veg scheme
20	Peter Hillington and Marian Walpole	Hillington, White Grit, Nr. Minsterley, SY5 0JL (in Wales)	01588-650247	pholmes37@hotmail.com	Farming Connect at Carno	Are planting up shelterwoods and are considering growing their own trees
21.	David and Sue Jones	Dyffryn, Aberhafesp, Newtown, Powys SY16 3JD	01686-688817	-	Through Forest Education Initiative leaflet	Interested in growing trees especially has time in winter
22.	John Williams	Coed Trefe, Aberhafesp, Newtown			Given name by David Jones, Dyffryn	Has son with learning difficulties
23.	Rob Marsh	Rob Marsh Woodland Services, Trafalgar, Clarach Road, Borth, Ceredigion SY24 5LN	01970871951 07760 421946	rob@stumpmonkey.com	Leaflet	Interested in buying wood and having a tree nursery
24.	Paul Leverett	Fron Dolfor, Aberbechan	01686-625197		Jane Tibbott, Tir Gofal and Hannah Fawcett, Coed Cymru	Interested to have someone else to run a tree nursery on his site. Already running an organic vegetable scheme.
25.	Huw Lloyd	Penrheolas, Clydach North, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 0LL	01873-832222		Forest Education Initiative?	Interested in developing broadleaved woodland and conservation. Keen to start the nursery as soon as possible
26.	Anna Smith	c/o Wilmot, High Street, Llandrindrod Wells, Powys LD1 6AG	07833-142-587	-	Glasu	Growing willows for Dingle. Interested to grow more trees

	Contact	Address	Phone	Email	Source of information	Details
27.	Dorienne Robinson,	5 Wye View Terriew, Rhayader, Powys LD6 5BE	01597-810871	-	Andy Dodgson, Coed Cymru	Getting 2 x 72' tunnels for the organic box scheme. Very enthusiastic
28.	Julian Jones, Radnor Wildlife Trust	Warwick House, High Street, Llandrindrod Wells LD1 6AG	01597-823298	-	Andy Dodgson, Coed Cymru	Has a nursery which has been run down and they would like support to renovate it
29.	Mrs. Julian Gibson-Watt	Doldowlod, Llandrindrod Wells LD16HF	01597-860208		Andy Dodgson (Daniel Butler), Coed Cymru	Very interested in growing trees in walled garden
30.	Philip Bowen	Penlanole, Llanwrthwl, Llandrindrod Wells, Powys LD1 6NN	01597-810266	Shakespeare. link@ virgin.net	Andy Dodgson, Coed Cymru	Very interested in managing apple orchards
31.	Jon Kean	Tankerville Farm, Pennerley, Shropshire SY5 0NB		jonkean@ic24.net	Powis Woodfair	Has 5 acres grassland close to Stipersones
32.	Andrew Davies	Cefnmaescar, Sennybridge, Powys LD3 8SW	01874-634378		Leaflet	Wants to grow trees for shelter and to replant woodland
33	Alan Watson	Rhos Farm, Llanbadarn-fynydd, Llandrindrod Wells, Powys LD1 6YN	01597-840631		Brecon & Radnor Express	Interested in setting up new business on farm
34.	Sian Fromant,	Llanerchir, Bryngwyn, KINGTON HR5 3QZ	01497-851209	-	Brecon & Radnor Express	Have organic soft fruit business and interested in diversifying especially in winter
35.	Mike Ford	Brecon Nurseries, Llangasty, Brecon LD3 7PX	01874-730169	-	Brecon & Radnor Express	Has herbaceous nursery and interested in diversifying

	Contact	Address	Phone	Email	Source of information	Details
36.	Philip Davies,	Riandi, Crickadarn, Builth Wells LD2 3AJ	01982-561231	-	Brecon & Radnor Express	Grows organic vegetables
37.	Mrs. Wheeler	Cae Melyn, Bwlch Road, BRECON LD3 0BN	01874-754274	-	Brecon & Radnor Express	Smallholding - interested in diversifying
38.	John Randall	The Coach House, Cwynghordy Farm, Pennorth, Brecon LD3 7DX	07711408872	-	Brecon & Radnor Express	Smallholding
39.	David and Jan Jenkins	The Clyn, Elan Village, Rhayader, Powys	01597-810120	TheClyn@freezone.co.uk	Andy Dodgson	Interested in growing trees in the Elan Valley
40.	Mr. and Mrs. F. Lee	Cenarth Mill, Pantydwr, Rhayader, Powys LD6 5			Jan Jenkins (sister)	
41.	Sue Davies	Lower Cil-Haul, Cwm Golau, Welshpool, Powys SY21 9EY	01938-810581		County Times	Farmer growing oaks from wood on farm
42.	Miss Baskerville	Neuadd Fadog, Llangynog, Builth Wells, Powys LD1 3LA	01982-552749	-	Brecon & Radnor Express	Smallholder interested in growing trees
43.	Martin Fraser and Ann Small	Blaen Camlais bach, Libanus, BRECON LD3 8NR	01874-638827	-	Brecon & Radnor Express	Farmer interested in growing trees
44.	Phil and Les Bowen	Upper Llanshiver Farm, Briley, Whitney-on-Wye HR3 6HN	01497-851254	-	Brecon & Radnor Express	Farmer interested in growing trees
45.	Beryl Whittingham	Woodville, Abermule, Newtown SY15 6JY	01686-630329	-	County Times	Smallholder (27 acres) who is interested in growing trees with her grandson and his girlfriend. Has an area of habitat where seeds can be collected from

	Contact	Address	Phone	Email	Source of information	Details
46.	Callum Campbell	Arfryn, Carno, Powys	01686 420368 07887 923052	-	Leaflet	
47.	Mrs. Sheila Cowling	Ffynnon-y-Gwyddau, Trecastle, Brecon LD3 8YA	01874-638102	-	Brecon & Radnor Express	Interested in growing trees and grown trees in the past
48.	Rita Morgan	Brook House, Dolau, Llandrindrod Wells LD1 5TB	01597-850054	-	Saw Glasu at the Royal Welsh	Already growing vegetables through a Glasu project
49.	Mair Wells	Graig, Llidiart-y-Waen, Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6JT	01686-412552	mair@llanidloes.net	Bought trees from Ashfield tree nursery	
50.	Phil and Sandy Evans	Montomery, Powys	01686-668936/ Fax - 01686-668936		Visited during FC feasibility study	Established nursery growing local provenance trees for Dingle. Need assistance with grant support
51.	Mr. R. Bott	Ysguborneydd, Llanfache, Brecon LD3 ONS			Brecon & Radnor Express	Looking at various options for the land
52.	Richard Lewis	Middle Ninfa Farm, Llanellen, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 9LE	01873 854 662		Glasu	Growing native trees but wants an outlet for selling which is independent of the major nurseries
53.	Graham and Wendy Thorner	Pant y dwr Cottage, Llidiartywaun, Llanidloes SY18 6JT	01686 313022		Andy Dodgson, Coed Cymru	

Individuals in green are outside Powys

2.4. Site visits to individuals who want to set up tree nurseries

In September 2003, as part of the Glasu project, ten individuals in Powys who had expressed an interest in setting up a tree nursery were visited (see sections 2.5.1.-2.5.8.) as well as a farmer near Llanfair Caereinion and a lecturer from Coleg Powys who had already set up tree nurseries. In addition, I went to see a husband and wife team on the Llyn Peninsula who had set up a tree nursery in February 2003 as part of the Glynllifon tree nursery network.

The purpose of going to see these individuals was to get a better idea of why people want to set up a tree nursery, what is their main income, what are they growing already (eg trees, vegetables, flowers) and where are they located. The findings from the visits were that:-

- **"Green fingers"**
Six individuals were already growing trees, herbaceous perennials and vegetables successfully mainly in polytunnels or glasshouses. One farmer was restocking a forest with the trees he grew and had had a grant from the Forestry Commission and a lady grew trees for willow making. This demonstrated that the majority of these individuals had the ability to grow trees. Only one farmer had never grown trees and as a result was unsure whether he would be able to set up a tree nursery.
- **"Innovation"**
The majority of people who were visited show ingenuity about how they grew their vegetables, flowers or trees. One man had an engineering background and had set up a watering system on a timer. A lecturer from Coleg Powys was growing excellent trees using his own compost. The farm from Llanfair Caereinion was experimenting with a woodchip composting system and wanted to grow trees in raised beds.
- **Rural locations**
The majority of people live in very rural locations - most of the individuals live on farms and smallholdings. One lady lived in a smallholding two miles down a track with three gates. The majority of these people live in these beautiful isolated locations by choice and would prefer to get a living from working at home rather than travelling away to get work.
- **Supplement income**
The majority of the people get their income from a variety of sources. One lady is a willow maker and her income was derived from making baskets, running willow courses and teaching information technology at a local college. She wants to grow trees to supplement her income.

Profiles of eight individuals who were visited during the Glasu report are set out in Sections 2.5.1.-2.5.8.

2.4.1. Beryl Smith, Bwlch-y-fan, Llanidloes



Location:

The smallholding is located 5 miles north of Llanidloes and 4 miles north west of Llyn Clywedog. The smallholding is on exposed ground at 350m above sea level.

What are Beryl's reasons for growing trees?

- Supplement existing income of teaching basket making skills, selling baskets, selling herbs, teaching IT. Would prefer to work from home
- Very keen on growing trees and already grows herbs to sale and 500 trees annually.

What existing tree nursery facilities are there?

None at present. Beryl knows where she wants to locate the polytunnel

What are the proposals for setting up a tree nursery

Beryl wants a polytunnel to grow trees which she will sell locally. She also wants to grow organic trees.

Are there any existing markets for selling trees?

Beryl has not explored any markets for selling trees. There may be scope to put up an advertisement in organic vegetable shop in Llanidloes.

What support would be useful?

- **Financial** It would be difficult for Beryl to find part of the funding to set up a polytunnel. She would also need financial support for irrigation
- **Training** She is very keen to go on a course to learn more about growing trees
- **Marketing** She will need help with grading and selling the trees and shrubs

What are possible problems with setting up a tree nursery

There is a shortage of water in a hot summer - she will need to have a water storage system.

2.4.2. Aled Morris, Belan, Llanfair Caereinion



Location:

The farm is located 2 miles due west of Llanfair Caereinion and 10 miles west of Welshpool. The farm is upland hill farm with mainly sheep and is part of the Pont Bren group of farms

What are Aled's reasons for growing trees?

- Supplement existing income from farming and reduce the costs of buying in trees
- Wants to plant back trees and shrubs on his farm sourced from seeds collected locally
- Enjoys germinating seeds and growing on trees

What existing tree nursery facilities are there?

There is a 14' x 24' polytunnel and a windshelter. There is additional ground around the polytunnel where trees have been hardened off. He received a £2,500 Millenium Lottery grant to put up the polytunnel and windshelter. Grow the trees in compost made at Pont Bren.

What are the proposals for the tree nursery

Aled is growing approximately 1,000 trees annually. He wants to expand the nursery and is looking at growing trees in raised beds.

Are there any existing markets for selling trees?

Aled and his brother plant all the trees they grow for woods and hedges on their farms. There is potential to sell to other farmers in the area especially those in Tir Gofal.

What support would be useful?

- **Financial** Grant support would be useful for making raised beds, irrigation pipes and for employing a part time worker to help especially at busy times on the farm
- **Training** Aled wants to learn more especially about stratification and information technology in relation to his tree nursery

What are the problems with running a tree nursery

It is difficult to manage the tree nursery at busy times of year on the farm and in 2003, some of the trees were scorched by the sun.

2.4.3. David Barrowclift, Llanwyddelan, Newtown



Location:

The smallholding is located 3 miles south west of Llanfair Caereinion and 7 miles north of Newtown in a sheltered location.

What are the reasons for growing trees?

- Enjoys growing herbaceous perennial which he sells to a local caravan park
- Has a smallholding with livestock so does not want to work away from home
- Wants to have an additional source of revenue

What existing tree nursery facilities are there?

Has 18' x 100' polytunnel with watering system for growing herbaceous perennials. The watering system is on timer which Mr. Barrowclift (who was an engineer) fitted himself. He is very interested in using woodchip generated from the Cefn Coch machinery ring to make compost.

What are the proposals for the tree nursery

He is keen to grow trees but needs guidance. He has grown trees from seed in the past.

Are there any existing markets for selling trees?

He has are no existing markets although he has found a good outlet for selling his plants. He is in the Cefn Coch machinery ring and thinks he could sell trees through that.

What support would be useful?

- **Financial** Mr. Barrowclift would require a grant (50%) to help with the capital costs of establishing a tree nursery
- **Training** Needs more knowledge on setting up a tree nursery and finding out about local seed sources. A training day and trip to visit tree nurseries would be very useful
- **Marketing** Needs help to sell the trees
-

What are the problems with running a tree nursery

Needs good support and guidance at the start of the project.

2.45.4. Joel Durrell, Coleg Powys, Brecon



Location:

The tree nursery is located in the Coleg Powys campus at Brecon. It is run by Joel Durrell who is a lecturer at the college as well as the farm manager.

What are the reasons for growing trees?

- To teach people with learning difficulties skills on how to grow trees. The trees have grown very well and Joel says that the clients enjoy the courses.

What existing tree nursery facilities are there?

One 18' x 50' polytunnel with wooden staging.

What are the proposals for the tree nursery

Joel wants to continue with growing trees at the college and would be very pleased if courses on growing trees were run from the tree nursery.

Are there any existing markets for selling trees?

Joel does not want to sell the trees but is very happy to give them to good homes. The purpose of running the nursery is for teaching.

What support would be useful?

- **Training** The tree nursery at Coleg Powys would be a good location for running training courses.

What are the problems with running a tree nursery

The main problem is that Joel is very busy with his duties as lecturer and farm manager. However he still manages to grow (and get others to grow) trees very successfully.

2.4.5. Richard Norgate, Heol Senni, Brecon



Location:

The smallholding is located 5 miles south of Sennybridge and 12 miles south west of Brecon in the Brecon Beacons National Park. The holding is an old mill and is in a very sheltered location by Afon Senni.

What are the reasons for growing trees?

- Richard and his wife enjoy growing vegetables and soft fruit
- Has 14 acres ground which he wants to put down to trees

What existing tree nursery facilities are there?

Small polytunnel with watering system where they grow vegetables and soft fruit throughout the year.

What are the proposals for the tree nursery

Would be happy to put up an additional polytunnel for growing trees but need a great deal of help and guidance

Are there any existing markets for selling trees?

Need guidance on markets. Interested in growing half standard trees for urban planting market in the South Wales valleys.

What support would be useful?

- **Financial** Would be helpful but not essential
- **Training** High priority to get training on setting up a tree nursery
- **Co-ordinator** Need ongoing support and advice on growing trees
- **Marketing** Needs guidance to sell the trees

What are the problems with running a tree nursery

Needs good support and guidance especially at the start of the project.

2.4.6. Rose Kent, Llangenny, Crickhowell



Location:

Pen-twyn is located outside the village of Llangenny and is three miles to the east of Crickhowell and 8 miles to the north west of Abergavenny. Rose is a farmer's wife and is interested in trees and woodlands. The farm has a native woodland which has been fenced out and managed. The Kents have recently purchase a sawmill to manage the woods using a Timber II grant.

What are the reasons for growing trees?

- Wants to run a business from home
- Very interested in growing trees but does not have not practical experience

What existing tree nursery facilities are there?

There are no existing facilities but the farm has flatter ground by the wood where a polytunnel could be located.

What are the proposals for the tree nursery

Would be keen to put up a polytunnel for growing trees but need a great deal of help and guidance

Are there any existing markets for selling trees?

Need guidance on markets- there is a potential market for growing trees and hedging plants for Tir Gofal schemes.

What support would be useful?

- **Financial** Need capital works grant to start the tree nursrey
- **Training** High priority to get training on setting up a tree nursery
- **Co-ordinator** Needs ongoing support and advice on growing trees
- **Marketing** Needs advice to sell the trees

What are the problems with running a tree nursery

Needs good support and guidance especially at the start of the project.

2.4.7. Pam Jones, Llandefalle, Brecon (with Anna Smith who grows willow and is based at Llandrindrod Wells)



Location:

Coch Cochion is in a very rural location 10 miles south of Builth Wells and 10 miles north east of Brecon. The smallholding is 2 miles up a bumpy track (with three gates) north of the hamlet of Ponde.

What are the reasons for growing trees?

- Has grown trees in the past and is keen to get an income from growing and selling trees
- Wants to stay on her smallholding rather than travel away to get work
- Is an organic grower and would want to grow the trees organically

What existing tree nursery facilities are there?

There is a small polytunnel on the smallholding which is over-run with vegetables.

What are the proposals for the tree nursery

Would be keen to put up a polytunnel for growing trees but needs financial support and some help and guidance.

Are there any existing markets for selling trees?

Need guidance on markets especially the specialist organic market.

What support would be useful?

- **Financial** Need capital works grant to start the tree nursery
- **Training** Would like training on certain aspects of running a tree nursery
- **Co-ordinator** Needs ongoing support and advice on growing trees
- **Marketing** Needs advice to sell the trees

What are the problems with running a tree nursery

The smallholding is in a very rural location and therefore there are higher transport costs. However Pam is a very resourceful individual and will overcome these difficulties.

2.4.8. Sion and Belinda Hughes, Rhiw, Pwhelli



Location:

The tree nursery is located 5 miles to the east of Aberdaron and 10 miles west of Pwllhelli on the Llyn Peninsula.

Purpose of the visit

The reason for visiting the Hughes was to look at their local provenance tree nursery which they have successfully established. The Hughes are part of the Glynllifon tree nursery satellite network and are supported by Glynllifon tree nursery. The Hughes have a smallholding with sheep which is their main income. Two years ago, they desperately needed an additional income and they decided to grow trees. Belinda already grows organic vegetables with great success.

I visited the nursery with Geraint Jones in September 2003. Geraint was the nursery manager at Glynllifon (he is now the Conwy Coed Cymru officer) and he went to visit the nursery in the capacity of co-ordinator to find out how the Hughes are managing. Geraint had been vital in supporting the Hughes in their business and providing technical advice for the Hughes on how to collect seed, process seed and grow trees. He had also applied for an AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) grant to set up the tree nursery. The AONB grant is 100% grant to establish a business.

The Hughes had the grant in February and as a result set up a polytunnel and windtunnel. They couldn't have set up the tree nursery without this grant. They have subsequently grown 25,000 trees in the first year and will sell 10,000 trees. They will be selling the trees to the National Trust on the Llyn Peninsula and the surplus trees will be sold to Glynllifon at a guaranteed price.

2.5 What individuals want from the tree nursery project

- 1. Training** Everyone visited during the Glasu project wanted to have training. For the majority of people, this would be an introduction to running a tree nursery and visits to existing tree nurseries. For people with experience of running tree nurseries, the training would be more specialist eg computer skills, business plan, seed processing.
- 2. Marketing** The majority of people contacted needed help on marketing and selling their trees. At Glynllifon tree nursery, a number of satellite nurseries sell trees to the nursery at a fixed price so their market is guaranteed.
- 3. Capital grants** Grants to set up a tree nursery - whether it is a polytunnel and irrigation equipment, raised beds or preparing open ground - are necessary and in some cases essential to set up a tree nursery. The majority of people who were visited are on low incomes and need to have a grant and advice on getting a grant to establish the business.
- 4. Co-ordinator** There needs to be a co-ordinator to link up all the stands of the tree nursery project. Individuals who are setting up a tree nursery need someone they can contact about their nursery to provide them with good quality technical support, marketing advice and guidance on getting capital grants.

3. Co-ordinator

3.1. The role of a co-ordinator

From the site visits to see individuals who are keen to set up tree nurseries, one issue was that people wanted a great deal of advice and support when they were setting up a new business and one co-ordinator could be the best way to do this. An alternative, which is adopted by the Joint Development Initiative, is to use a number of "cluster group leaders" who already run their own businesses.

The role of a co-ordinator would be varied and would include:-

- Providing technical advice - for example advice on stratification, sourcing of compost, watering, pest control, grading trees
- Advising nurseries on appropriate capital works grants and sources of business advice
- Organising appropriate training courses
- Helping to market (and deliver) trees
- Supporting established tree nurseries
- Organising a web site for local provenance tree nurseries
- Assessing existing levels of computer literacy of individuals who want to set up tree nurseries
- Publicising local provenance trees and shrubs by going to agricultural shows, giving talks to farmers' groups, machinery rings, Women's Institute and writing articles for local newspapers

3.2. Base for a co-ordinator

It is important that the co-ordinator for the tree nursery project has a central base to run the project from. This is where a co-ordinator would have office space, land suitable for holding facility and be able to run training courses. In North Wales, Glynllifon tree nursery is the central location where satellite nurseries can bring trees for sale as well as getting training and support. At the present time in Powys, there is no one obvious location which could be used as the base for the co-ordinator. Powys is a large county and the co-ordinator would probably need to be based in the centre - around Llandrindrod Wells or Builth Wells. There are several options:-

- Ashfield tree nursery was a viable tree nursery until June 2003 when it was closed down by the project managers, Radnor Support Project. The tree nursery served an important role as it supports individuals with learning difficulties who worked in the tree nursery. Ashfield tree nursery has excellent facilities - polytunnel, irrigation system, holding facilities and the nursery is in the process of being rented by the Radnor Support Project. The facilities are excellent and it would be a good location for training courses. The nursery is based in Howey which is two miles south of Llandrindrod Wells.
- Have an institutional home in the Forestry Commission or Powys County Council offices and have part of a nursery for holding trees. Possible nursery sites are Doldowlod near Llandrindrod Wells which has a walled garden and an existing nursery owned by the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust.

- Coleg Powys, Brecon has an existing small polytunnel where trees are grown. Coleg Powys would be an excellent location to run training courses from and there would be potential holding area at Coleg Powys or on the college farm for holding and collecting trees.

3.3. Funding for a co-ordinator

The co-ordinator has a number of responsibilities which include running the project, assisting the nurseries and organising a marketing network. All of this requires an institutional home, office space, land suitable for a holding facility and transport suitable for delivering trees as well as a suitably qualified person. In the longer term such a facility could be self funding supported by the commission on sales with possible supplementary support from the Forestry Commission and Powys County Council. In the meantime, a three year project to establish the tree nurseries in Powys is required. It is estimated that such a project would cost in the region of £150,000 for the first three years and the costings for a tree nursery co-ordinator are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Costings for a tree nursery co-ordination facility

ITEM	YEAR (£)	PROJECT (£)
Salary	30,000	90,000
Accommodation	10,000	30,000
Travel and subsistence	1,500	4,500
Vehicle and trailer		15,000
Promotions material		3,000
Equipment		7,500
TOTAL		150,000

An approach has been made to Powys County Council to host the co-ordinator and provide office accommodation. Over three years offices would be worth on the region of £30,000 worth of matched funding. The co-ordinators salary could perhaps come from a mix of Forestry Commission, Countryside Council for Wales, Welsh Development Agency and Leader+ (maybe under Action 2). If the time scales are appropriate then the match funding could be used to support a bid for Objective 2 funding.

Forestry Commission

There is possible funding from Partnership funds or from area funds (for Powys this could be drawn from North and South Wales).

Forestry Commission (National Assembly) land

The Forestry Commission has an obligation to plant native broadleaves on planted ancient woodland sites and there is an increasing demand for broadleaves. Although trees are purchased from Delamere nursery, there are possibilities that Delamere could sub-contract the growing of local provenance trees to local provenance tree nurseries in Wales.

Welsh Development Agency

There are funds available to further the Horticulture Strategy for Wales. However, the funding available for 2004 onwards is not yet certain and existing funds which are derived from the Rural Recovery Programme have to be spend before April 2004.

In principle up to 30% of projects designed to benefit the private sector can be funded from this source as long as it supports the Horticultural Strategy. The tree nursery project would contribute the achievement of the following goals and actions of the Strategy:

Goal 1 – Develop a long term vision for a sustainable horticultural sector in Wales

1.6 Investigate the opportunities for diversification into horticulture as a means of sustaining rural communities

Goal 2 – Improve the technical, business and management performance of the sector

2.3 Promote training needs analysis to all horticulture enterprises to identify needs of the individuals and businesses

Goal 3 – Evaluate existing and develop new marketing initiatives for the horticultural sector in Wales

3.5 Support and promote local marketing and public procurement initiatives by working with appropriate companies and organisations

Goal 4 – Integrate the support infrastructure to the horticultural sector in Wales

4.1 Provide information to growers and landscapers on a wide range of issues e.g. funding support, education and training opportunities available to individuals or groups operating within the sector

Goal 5 – Evaluate the education and training needs of the horticultural sector

5.3 Ensure education and training provision for the sector meets the needs of a diverse customer base

Countryside Council for Wales

CCW have part funded a co-ordinator post at Glynllifon tree nursery and could contribute to the post of a co-ordinator in Powys. CCW could may also be able to help with funds for educational materials as they have for Glynllifon.

Leader+ -

This source is not really designed for funding co-ordination projects outside the Leader Action groups themselves. The best chance would be to use Action 2 funds to support co-ordination activities such as training. Action 2 projects have to include more than one Leader group. There is interest from Conwy Rural and Menter Môn but any programmes established in these areas would need to be dovetailed with development plans for Glynllifon as they both contain Glynllifon satellite nurseries. Since Action 2 activities in each area need only be loosely related to each other the possibility exists to develop different aspects in each area, for example seed collection in Conwy and a support project for the Objective 1 hedgerow scheme on Ynys Môn.

Joint Development Initiative

The Joint Development Initiative was set up to develop resources by which businesses in the forest industries sector can enhance their economic performance. The Joint Development Initiative project can help the tree nursery project by funding:-

- Introductory meetings on running tree nurseries
- Visits to established tree nurseries to find out the processes involved in running tree nurseries
- After both of the above have been carried out a meeting with the still interested tree people to discuss JDI and what it does and what they require from each business.

Once the above has taken place, there should be a number of very interested and committed businesses that will go into the JDI Project.

The JDI project will visit any interested businesses with a first visit to briefly assess what they require as far as training etc and what JDI can offer them. After this meeting the business will be expected to commit by agreeing to spend a certain amount of hours on the project (eg training). No business will be expected to do anything that they do not require. Once the businesses have signed the agreement a second interview is carried out to more fully assess and plan what each business require. Once this has been done the plan is put into action.

Objective 2

European funding which can be used as 49% match funding for projects supporting economic development in Powys. Co-ordination of tree nursery development would fit under Priority 2 Measure 1 of the action programme but the funding in this section is limited. The ESF rules apply and match funding could not come from European sources i.e. Leader+ money could not be used. The consensus seems to be that applying for Objective 2 is complex and lengthy and perhaps inappropriate for this project. However, it does present an opportunity to fund the development of the project from one source which could make the establishment of the central facilities that much easier. If the co-ordinator is to be hosted by Powys County Council then further consideration should be given to an Objective 2 application.

University of Wales

There are also some funds which are available through the University of Wales. Help Wales is designed to assist with market research from SBARD in Bangor. Cyrmu Prosper is a contribution of £80 per week for a six month graduate placement. Both of these could be used to supplement other sources of funding.

4. Training

4.1. Location for training

If a suitable course on tree nursery management already exists then it is possible for participants to apply to various sources of funds for assistance with costs. However, there are at present no training courses in tree nursery management routinely offered by any Welsh colleges. Both the Welsh Horticultural College (Northop) and Pershore College (Worcestershire) offer BTEC and NVQ qualifications that would be relevant to tree nurseries but these are demanding courses taking several years to complete. Furthermore, such courses are not really suitable for entrepreneurs looking for a straightforward means of acquiring basic skills in tree nursery management.

The type of training that would be most appropriate would be those offered by Glynllifon for its satellite nurseries. These are usually arranged by Glynllifon staff as one day courses based at the Gwynedd Council nursery. The courses covered basic skills such as seed treatment, nursery management and grading. In order to make such courses more accessible to those outside Glynllifon it is suggested that Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor should take over the administration of short courses from Glynllifon. At present Emyr Parry from Coleg Meirion-

Dwyfor and Geriant Jones, the Conwy Coed Cymru officer, are preparing outlines for an introductory short course to be followed by a series of courses on particular skills. Once these outlines and staffing are agreed then Emyr will be able to prepare costings and determine the number of people that would be required to make the courses viable. The participants would need to make applications to funders if they were not able to pay for the courses themselves.

4.2. Potential funders for training courses

The options for funding nursery training courses are set out in Table 6.

Table 6: Potential funders for training

Fund	Rates	Conditions	Comments
Joint Development Initiative 3 (Myrick Training)	50% funding; trainee time can be used as matched funds	Has to be for forestry training related to business development	Programme due to be approved late in 2003
ELWa	Up to 70% for general training, 30% for specific skills; matched funds have to be private.	For a group of people it is best to apply as a 'network'	
Wales Forestry Future (FCA)	50% funding up to £150 per person per course £350-400 contribution to staff costs, room hire etc.	Has to be for forestry training	
WDA Rural Recovery Programme	30% matched	Only until March 2004	Has to support the Horticultural Strategy but this should not be a problem

5. Capital grants for establishing tree nurseries

Capital grants are required as an incentive or facilitation for investment in private tree nurseries.

Table 7: Approximate set up capital costs

Item	Cost (£)
Groundworks	Up to 5,000
Polytunnel	1,000
Staging	1,000
Irrigation system	1,000
Flooring	600
Cells	300
Compost	200
TOTAL	~9,100

Although there are a number of grants that could be used to capitalise new tree nursery enterprises or develop existing nurseries there are very few examples of this being carried out. There is one Farming Connect grant that has been made to develop a holly nursery for disabled use at St. Clears in West Wales. AONB grants have been used for nurseries on the Llyn Peninsula and Ynys Mon (Glynllifon satellite nurseries). Applications has been made to Objective 1 for large scale nursery development which has been unsuccessful. Generally investment levels are modest and most new enterprises are wholly privately funded. However, financial constraints can be severe in rural areas and lack of funds is a genuine constraint for several of the people who have expressed interest in the Powys tree nursery project.

Although there are several grants that could be used for tree nursery development, the rules can be complex and it can be difficult deciding the best option for any particular enterprise. Furthermore, until precedents are established it is likely that applications, especially to Farming Connect will need to be championed. This highlights the need for a specialist (as could be provided by the Nursery Co-ordinator) as well as general assistance with the application process.

Other, more specialist funding could come from organisations such as the Princes Trust for young people.

Table 8: Capital grants for tree nurseries

Grant	Rates	Conditions	Comments
Environmental Goods and Services (WDA)	Specialist advice: £1500 at 100% + £3000 at 50% Implementation: 50% match funding up to £10,000	Need to be involved in providing environmental goods and services in Wales	Available every year to SMEs.
Farming Connect	Farm Improvement Grant: 30% funding up to £16,000 over 2 years Farm Enterprise Grant: 35% funding for new ventures up to £75,000 over 2 years	Holding number and minimum of 550 hours per year on holding	Application process requires development of farm business plan, wait for first visit by advisors is around 8 weeks
Glasu	Match funded grants (time can be used)	Needs to be for innovation Monitoring and reports required over 6 month contract period	No funds available until June 2004
Powys Business Development Grant (Powys CC)	Start-up: 50% funding up to £2,500 Expansion and development: 30% funding up to £10,000	Discretionary fund of last resort which requires evidence of failure to obtain other grants	Would need to apply under Gardening/landscaping category as primary horticulture and agriculture are ineligible
Environment Development Fund (AONB)	Up to £25,000 without matched funding	Applicant has to be within Wye Valley AONB	
Assembly Investment Grant	50% up to £25,000 for fixed equipment	Need to be an SME	Really intended for industrial machinery Difficult to get May need rejection to access other sources of funding
Timber II (WDA)	50% grants	Only for downstream wood processing	Not worth pursuing

6. Conclusions

The conclusions to the Glasu report on setting up tree nurseries in Powys are:-

- There was very good interest from people who are interested in setting up tree nurseries. In total, fifty individuals wanted more information about this project. Of these individuals, 45 are in Powys and three already have existing tree nurseries.
- From the project, people who are planning to set up tree nurseries want training to increase their level of knowledge, financial assistance, marketing advice, technical help and support and advice as they are setting up their business.
- There is a lack of existing support (technical, financial and marketing) for established tree nurseries and it is difficult to get support to set up a new tree nurseries.
- Individuals who are interested in setting tree nurseries live in very rural locations and only around 50% have email addresses. There is a need to help people use the computer more and in the future to be able to communicate with a co-ordinator about tree numbers for sale etc via email.
- **From the Glasu project, the overall conclusion is that there is a need to take the tree nursery project forward in some form. The appointment of a co-ordinator who is experienced in managing tree nurseries would be a good way to give the project continued momentum**

7. Recommendations for the continuation of the local provenance tree nursery project

Short term

- Communicate by letter with everyone who has expressed an interest in setting up a tree nursery to advise them on how the project will go forward
- Investigate ways of getting funding to run introductory courses on tree nurseries and visits to tree nurseries (eg apply for JDI funding)
- Find locations for the training courses and contact people who are able to run the training courses. Identify individuals who already run tree nurseries who may be able to be trained up to run these training courses in the future.
- Look at the ways of funding a co-ordinator post in the longer term - Forestry Commission, Countryside Council for Wales, Powys County Council partnership funding, Leader + Action 2.
- Find a base for a co-ordinator eg an existing tree nursery or an office in Powys County Council or Forestry Commission offices
- Continue to contact grant aiding bodies - Farming Connect, Welsh Development Agency to get a good funding package for tree nurseries.

Long term

- The co-ordinator needs to contact tree nurseries who are setting up at least four times annually for the first two years. These visits are:-

February-March	Sowing seed and pricking out
May-June	Weeding, irrigation
July-August	Predation especially mice, disease
October-November	Seed collection and stratification, lifting and grading, stock taking
- Establish a convenient nursery/part of a nursery which will be a holding facility for people who are selling their trees through the Powys local provenance tree network.
- There needs to be a base to run training courses in Powys and an increased number of trainers. The best way would be to train up people who are already running tree nurseries and to identify individuals who want to set up tree nurseries to be potential trainers.
- Establish good links with organisations for selling trees especially with Forest Enterprise, who may be interested in growing trees on contract, Tir Gofal schemes and Woodland Grant Schemes. Encourage specialist markets eg semi-standard local provenance trees and specialist species eg hazel.

- Encourage the buying in of trees (like Glynllifon tree nursery) where trees are bought in by a central holding at a fixed price.
- Set up a web site to market local provenance trees in Powys
- Ensure everyone who is setting up a tree nursery or has an existing tree nursery has good computer skills to communicate with the tree nursery coordinator by email.