You said, we did.

Firstly we would like to thank everyone who commented on the Draft Forest Resource Plan (FRP) for Llanfor and Celyn.

One of the responses was concerned around our reliance upon Clearfell. Continuous cover forestry (CCF) will only work upon suitable sites, these will include areas with good access, low wind exposure, good soils, and currently well thinned and stable trees. In many areas of this forestry block these conditions are unsuitable. Furthermore, as part of our standard practice we will not designate a site to CCF management unless it has undergone its first thinning, for a standard Sitka forest this would happen at around the age of 20years, therefore with many of the young crops these will still be considered for CCF but during the next planning stage. Please follow the link below that shows more details of different silvicultural management.

<https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/woodland-management/planning-for-the-future/silvicultural-systems/?lang=en>

Several comments have been made around Peat restoration, initially there were proposals to look at a deep peat restoration project around Allt Y Gelli on the fast east side of Celyn, however after site visits, the depth of the peat was only measured at 20cm and ended on rocky shale, which would make it unsuitable, this area will now be managed as a mixed woodland with a priority towards biodiversity.

A further comment was made around improving pathways within Celyn, this has now been altered to include an objective to improve recreation maintenance of PROWs across the whole site. Further to this we have also passed these comments onto our recreation team to identify options to improve on the recreational access and promotion in the area.

The seeding of conifers was also made as a concern, this is currently been dealt with through a Habitat Regulation Assessment, this is a process which all of the plans must go through when they might impact on a Natura 2000 site. In the context of seeding a management plan will be agreed between NRW and the local landowners around the Forest edge that is bordering with the Migneint SAC.

We are pleased to hear that our continuing plans to soften the edges and improve the aesthetics of the forest has been welcomed.

Concerns were also raised over the process, and how ecology within the area is reported, this is an area of great importance for us to balance the need to produce timber but also to improve the ecosystems and biodiversity within the area, before these plans are drafted internal consultations and many site visits are conducted between many aspects of NRW, including the Land Management, Environment team, Ecologists, Foresters, Water Management, as well as external consultations with the Snowdonia National Park, and Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. Within these plans we have identified large areas of the plan that will over time be returned to Native or Ancient woodland management, these goals will take potentially 100’s of years to achieve.