

DIARY of W.L. MASON – APRIL 3, 2012

Brechfa Forest Garden and Glasfynydd CCF trial area

Brechfa 15/81 (Forest garden) with R. Jinks and FCW staff

This meeting aimed to bring FCW Policy advisors and the local FD staff up to speed with progress of the FC Tree Collections project and the implications for Brechfa. Barbara Spence will be producing separate notes of the indoor meeting.

We then spent about 2 hours on site inspecting the forest garden but without detailed inspection of the plots. Points agreed included:

1. There are a number of areas (previous WH plots, blocks of LP filler) where it will be possible to plant new species plots, using the type of approach implemented at Kilmun.
2. BM and RJ will draft a list of potential species that could be planted and begin to source seed for future plantings. The potential role of southern hemisphere species was noted.
3. There is a need to improve machinery access within the site to facilitate future management of the plots.

Amongst plot details to compare with my notes of November 2009 are the following:

4. Plot 4 – WH. This area is now cleared and ready for planting.
5. Plot 10 – *Sequoiandendron giganteum*. Although the crowns are very thin, the colour of the foliage looks better than I remembered.
6. Plot 37 – *Nothofagus obliqua*. There is no obvious sign of the Phytophthora problem that occurred at Kilmun – however one or two trees looked less healthy and it may be worth rechecking this plot in May/June.
7. Plot 40 – *Pinus peuce*. The foliage browning noted in 2009 has largely disappeared. However one or two stems show apparent 'drought' cracks which may warrant more investigation.
8. Plot 85 – *Juglans regia*. Only a few trees appear to have survived after repeated (?) frost damage.

Next action will be a visit by RJ and BM in summer 2012 to authenticate/demarcate all the plots.

W.L. Mason
April 4, 2012