

HARVESTING OPERATIONS IN HALFWAY & CRYCHAN FORESTS – Q & A's

WHY ARE WE CUTTING DOWN TREES?

The trees are being thinned. This will enable them to have more space to grow, and get bigger. It also allows more light to reach the ground which will encourage a ground flora and woody understorey to develop. Thinning is normal forest management.

We are also removing larch trees due to disease control measures. Phytophthora ramorum is a fungus which kills the trees and a range of other species including bilberry and garden plants. You can find out much more by visiting <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-5ubesn> & <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pramorom>.

WHY ARE AREAS OF THE FOREST BEING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC?

It's not safe for the public to be in the wood whilst works are taking place. Harvesting operations are dangerous. You can find out more by watching the Youtube video "[Introduction to forest safety](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqnS1BckPqk)". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqnS1BckPqk> It's set in a Scottish context, but explains dangers that aren't obvious to the general public.

WHY CAN'T THE PUBLIC COME INTO THE FOREST AT WEEKENDS OR WHEN THE CONTRACTORS HAVE GONE HOME?

The contractors may be working on weekends. Even when they have gone home the site may be dangerous, with trees and machinery blocking tracks etc.

WHERE CAN I GO INSTEAD WHILST THE FOREST IS CLOSED?

The nearest woodland is Brechfa if you are a mountain biker, for walkers try Cwm Rhaeadr or Cilgwyn. You can find out more by looking at the Natural Resources Wales website, places to go. [Natural Resources Wales / A-Z of places to go](#)

WON'T THE WOODLAND TRAILS BE DAMAGED?

Yes, though we have planned the works to have as little impact as possible – but we will reinstate once the harvesting has been finished.

HOW LONG WILL AREAS OF THE FOREST BE CLOSED?

Operations will take place over the next 12 months or so, as we have to fit these around environmental issues such as Schedule 1 nesting birds.

WHERE WILL THE TIMBER BE GOING?

To a variety of outlets: larger logs will go to the sawmills, smaller material to the fencing markets, and poor quality stems for bio-fuel for electricity generation or for manufacture into chipboard.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

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