



## ANNUAL REPORT October 2006

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This is the third annual report of Coetir Mynydd and covers the period 26 November 2005 to 19 October 2006. During this period the business of the company was directed by the Board which comprised: Bryan Dickinson, Einir Frodsham, Mark Goddard, Gwen Griffiths, Dave Siviter, Sharon Sweeny, Bryn Williams, Jenny Wong and Mike Yates. The Board met on four occasions on the 20 Dec 2005, 14 Feb 2006, 18 April 2006 and 8 July 2006. The minutes of these meetings are held by Mark at Hirdir Uchaf and are available for inspection by members.

Over the year, the Company secured funding and undertook activities as described below.

### Parc yr Ynys

There were two tasks scheduled for Parc yr Ynys in 2005-6. With First Hydro sponsorship Mike Bithell has recently made and installed a simple bench part of which was made from an oak log from a fallen tree in Parc yr Ocar. We wanted to use part of the Cydcoed funding to repair the stock-proof fencing running along the road. Unfortunately this turned out to be a more expensive undertaking than anticipated and we are in negotiation with Cydcoed and a fencing contractor to establish what is needed to make the necessary repairs. Once this is done we wish to re-establish grazing of this area to keep it open.

### Parc yr Ocar

Three wooden notice boards have been made and two have been installed at the upper entrances to the wood. The third is to be erected once walling is completed at the Felin Fawr end of the woods.

Over the year the restoration of the walls has continued and is now nearing completion. This has been a major undertaking with much more stone having to be brought on site than we first anticipated. This has meant that Hefin has had to use a motorised wheelbarrow to move stone along the lower path which has disturbed the site more than we would have wished. However, the walls should last a hundred years or more and the plants are already reclaiming the disturbed areas and should look none the worse for wear by next autumn.

### Coed y Parc Dam

The response to the trial section of security fence installed on top of the wall alongside the dam has not really been favourable so we are now working up a different strategy. The intention now is to leave the grey fence and gate in place and remove the walkway that extends half-way across the spillway which often obstructs the flow of water. We will review safety and access to the dam when other repairs to the dam and wall are being undertaken.

The two warning notices, which were vandalised last year, still need to be replaced by sturdier, friendlier wooden notices.

First Hydro assisted in the purchase of a water level monitoring device which Bryn fitted to the dam in May. Data has been collected over the summer and plots of available power at various heads have been prepared. Monitoring will continue through the autumn and winter so that accurate flow availability records are created.

Summer results show that the 9m head on the dam would support a 10KW turbine. Discussions with Cymad were for a 100KW mini hydro which is the smallest they can help fund – this would require a 90m head and so is unfeasible.

A 10KW installation would cost in the region of £30k to install and would bring in an income of about £3.5k a year. We will continue to explore options for funding such a development. Funding for up to 50% of the project cost is available from the Energy Saving Trust.

Coetir Mynydd was successful in obtaining an Aggregates Levy grant towards the cost of dam repairs. Unfortunately this came with the proviso that the grant would be 50% match funded in cash by MacAlpines. This was unreasonable as MacAlpines were not even aware of our application and it has not been possible to take advantage of this grant. This seems very unreasonable and we will be pursuing this with the Aggregates Levy.

### Youth activities

We had planned to organise youth events at both the Dyffryn Ogwen Show and the Mynydd

Summer Festival. Unfortunately availability of leaders meant that neither happened. However, we hope to be able to contribute to youth activities in the coming year.

## CPRW award

In recognition of the work we have done in securing and managing the dam and woodlands, we gratefully received a Rural Wales Award from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW) on Sunday, 3 September 2006. Members of CPRW joined some of us on a walk through the woods that afternoon and greatly admired the new walls.

## Parc y Bwlch

Up to March we were in contact with the Forestry Commission concerning the Design plans for the two FC forests in Dyffryn Ogwen. Our latest information was that the plan for Braich Melyn was complete and ready for consultation and we requested that someone visit to explain the plan so we could make comments on it particularly in relation to the top part of the wood and its upper boundary which are visible from most of Mynydd. Kim also said that re-planting of the clear-fell in the centre of Parc y Bwlch was scheduled for early 2007 and that we would be given an opportunity to make suggestions for the species and design of replanting. Unfortunately Kim left the Llanrwst Area office in early 2006 and we have not heard from the FC since then. We are hoping to meet with Ewan Stevens the new Area Manager in the near future to catch up with developments.

