

CALU open day

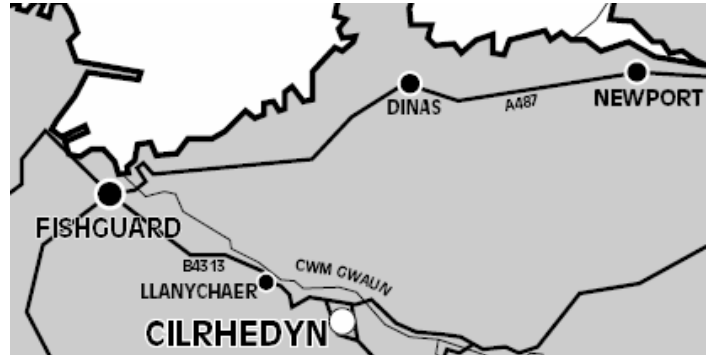
Adding Value to Timber

Tuesday, 22nd of January
Cilrhedyn Woodland Centre



Cilrhedyn Woodland Centre

Cilrhedyn Woodland Centre is situated in the Gwaun Valley, about 6 miles east of Fishguard. It is part of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and runs several saws and a carpentry workshop mainly to produce signposts, gates, and stakes for the National Park's own usage. Usually, the Centre is not open to the public with few exceptions such as on CALU's open day.



The Demonstrations

Stenner Sawmill

The first machine to see in operation was a Stenner sawmill. This saw is used for bigger logs to produce boards and planks for construction or flooring. According to Iwan Parry, Coed Cymru, a chestnut log (as was used in the demonstration) which would sell for around £150 whole, can increase in value by £250 or more by cutting it with this method. The off-cuts, in this case, are used as fire wood: either sold as bundles or, as there is a wood fuelled heating system at Cilrhedyn, for their own use.



Stenner sawmill

Double-Slabber Sawmill

The double-slabber saw mill processes roundwood, cutting it with two parallel blades at the same time. This process is less time consuming than using a conventional Stenner sawmill but there will be a restriction in diameter. The machine is suitable for hard wood as well as for soft wood.



Double-slabber sawmill

Woodmizer Sawmill

Steven Cull, from Ridgeway Timber near Fishguard demonstrated the usage of his Woodmizer sawmill. With this mobile saw he is able to do the work directly on-farm. This benefits the farmers who hire Steven as contractor, as the harvesting and processing can take place as close to each other as appropriate.



Woodmizer sawmill

Cleft Oak Stake Processor

To produce fence posts for the National Park, the team at Cilrhedyn Woodland Centre uses a system which was specially designed for their need. The first step is to split small diameter oak logs. A circular saw is then used to manually point the stakes on one side. Not only are the mechanisms quite simple and the equipment is moveable, it is also a fast process: With this method, several hundred stakes can be produced per day.



2 stages cleft oak stake processor



Firewood processor

Firewood Processor

Tomos Harris demonstrated the handling of a firewood processor. Logs up to 40 cm diameter are first cut and then split into firewood. Depending on the wood quality, 2 to 3 tonnes per hour can be processed.

Wood Chipper

For the production of wood chips, used as fuel or for animal bedding, the Cilrhedyn Woodland Centre runs a wood chipper. Bigger cut offs or smaller and low quality



Wood chipper

logs are used for chip production. The machine is also transportable so the chip production can be carried out e.g. next to the shed where the chips are then stored.

For demonstration purposes, small amounts of charcoal are produced at the Woodland Centre. The coal is mainly used for own purposes, such as for the barbeque the 45 attendees could enjoy after the demonstrations. The beef burgers supplied by a local farmer and the different trade stands where a successful finish for an eventful day.



Barbeque with own produced charcoal



Charcoal production site