

**Wilson, Carolyn**

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**From:** Walsh, Linda  
**Sent:** 08 March 2017 16:17  
**To:** 'William Macalpine'  
**Subject:** FW: Rothamsted  
**Attachments:** Rothamstead yield trial McA Hill 2016-17.xlsx; 14 Genotype Trial RothamsteadMcAllisters Hill Planted May 2014.xlsx

William

Please find attached raw data for the Loughgall trial. As you will see we did not do the stem counts as agreed. I have also attached the plan the plan for layout we used. We have not had a chance to do the assessment for the 2011 planted trial but will get this info to you when we do.

It has been good to work with you on this and hopefully there will be more planting in the years ahead.

Regards  
Linda

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**From:** Walsh, Linda  
**Sent:** 02 March 2017 16:18  
**To:** 'William Macalpine'  
**Cc:** Johnston, Chris; 'Ian Shield'  
**Subject:** FW: Rothamsted

Hi William,

Quick update.

Harvest here at Loughgall now complete– I will get the data to you ASAP.

The invoice to you should be raised – I have sent the necessary paperwork to our Ad Min team for processing.

Kind Regards  
Linda

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**From:** Johnston, Chris  
**Sent:** 02 March 2017 14:32  
**To:** William Macalpine  
**Cc:** Walsh, Linda; Ian Shield  
**Subject:** Re: Rothamsted

William thanks for your email.

All straight forward. Alan is aware that I was going to have this conversation with you so there are no discretions we are breaking. As far as I know he is still keen that the ultimate goal is as you have described; that he can propagate for a ni market. This market should already be here if the RHI had pulled along non-pellet boilers to utilise chip which sadly it didn't however the ROI one possibly will.

I will speak to Alan.  
Regards  
Chris  
AFBI Hillsborough  
028 92 681540

**From:** William Macalpine  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 March 2017 12:59  
**To:** Johnston, Chris  
**Cc:** Walsh, Linda; Ian Shield  
**Subject:** RE: Rothamsted

Dear Chris,  
Many thanks for the email.

Yes, busy here, as I imagine you and Linda are too. It's very much the silly season for willow work at the moment! We are getting through it though.

Thanks for talking to Alan. There is really no need for Alan to be embarrassed at all. This just shows what a good guy he is.

The primary goal of the trial was to get our varieties to be seen by Alan and give him a chance to get to know them before he potentially took up an option to multiply them under licence from us. Getting data from this particular trial was really a secondary goal. We were strict with our protocol though, re spacing and layout so if we did get yield data, it would be comparable to the wider suite of experiments containing the same genotypes (like the one you are measuring at Loughgall). If Alan is still interested in multiplying Rothamsted Research varieties we would still be very keen to have that conversation with him. I know a few years ago it was an attractive idea to have the production of his planting material under his own control.

Assuming the trial had established well and there were no obvious factors that would skew results (patchy establishment, weed problems, etc, etc) we would have still been interested in seeing the results of the 3 year old stems on 3 year old roots.

However, as you know by us not being able to fund the yield harvest of the second rotation of the 2011 yield trial at Loughgall, we also have no money to help with this sadly. Thanks very much for the offer of one of your foreman. It was potentially a great solution.

The plan of the trial is attached. On Alans request we incorporated 3 poplar genotypes into the plan, there may have been some other species added to it too (maybe eucalyptus?) so I'm not sure if this was the final plan. The trial is very much a Hagan trial. But if any data is obtained we would be happy to help look at it.

We'd also be happy to know any visual observations. What looks best, what isn't suitable etc. It would be great to see some photos from the site too.

With the information you have given us. We were thinking of writing to Alan directly to thank him for hosting the trial and say that we'd still really like to work with him going forward if there was still interest from him. Would want to check with you if this is appropriate in case your discussion was confidential. Either way, we really don't want Alan to feel bad about this and please feel free to relay to him what I've said above.

Thanks for all the ongoing work you are doing with our material at Loughgall. The great thing about it is we will have good data of our material in NI with you. Please also remember to get your bill in before the end of the month. Earlier if possible.

Best wishes

William

(Ian S CCed)

PS As long as England and Ireland survive Scotland and Wales in the next round, the last game of the 6Nations is shaping up to being pretty interesting! No home advantage for England either!!

**From:** Johnston, Chris [<mailto:Chris.Johnston@afbini.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 01 March 2017 19:08  
**To:** William Macalpine <[william.macalpine@rothamsted.ac.uk](mailto:william.macalpine@rothamsted.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** Walsh, Linda <[Linda.Walsh@afbini.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.Walsh@afbini.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** FW: Rothamstead

Dear William,

I hope you are keeping well (and indeed busy)!

I was speaking to Alan Hegan over the weekend and I believe there have been some oversights with regards to their running of the RR2014 willow clone trials. In essence these were not cut back at the beginning of 2015 and as such now represent 3 years growth on three year stools. Alan is embarrassed that this has happened and thought that Cowans had it in hand but it appears not. Hegans have had a terrifically intensive couple of years with the rampant progress of the N.Ireland RHI and currently are even busier with the fall-out issues which I am sure you are aware of. He is deeply apologetic however we need to look now and see what you would like to do from here.

I have asked him for the original planting map first off. Following that Hegan Biomass could potentially find some staff to do the yield harvests however they would need a foreman. We think that our forman (who supervised the planting) would be ideal however we would need to try to cover his time in some way so I can send him to site.

Talk soon  
Regards  
Chris

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