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Confor

Promoting forestry and wood

Forestry and timber update by Confor Chief Executive Stuart Goodall

Next APPGF meeting

The next meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Forestry is on Tuesday October 11th in committee room 21 in the Palace of Westminster, 1130am-1pm.

The event will include an update on Confor's work to shape a thriving post-Brexit future for the forestry sector, along with a panel discussion on forestry, devolution and Brexit including MPs from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. A consultation on plans to fully devolve forestry to Scotland - [The Future of Forestry in Scotland](#) - was recently announced and in Wales, the National Assembly's Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee has asked for [ideas about the future support for agriculture, land management and rural communities](#).

After the last meeting of the APPGF, we published the Confor discussion paper on the potential impact of Brexit as an APPGF report, [Shaping a post-EU future for the UK forestry sector](#).

We are again inviting a range of stakeholders from the forestry and timber sector to attend the October meeting and we hope you will join these important discussions.

Forestry Innovation Fund re-opens

Everyone in the sector is delighted that the Forestry Innovation Fund has been re-opened to new applications.

When the £1 million fund first opened last December, an initial tranche of up to £200,000 to fund Woodland Creation Planning Grants saw ten planting schemes totalling more than 1000 hectares put forward. The



Brexit: Confor workstreams

After its initial report into the possible impacts of Brexit, Confor recognised there were many questions remaining, which required more detailed work. Drawing on the wide-ranging expertise of its 1500 forestry and wood processing members across the

announcement of Phase 2 by Forestry Commission England is very welcome and Confor is very grateful to APPGF Chair Chris Davies for his energetic efforts in helping to make this happen.

We hope many more productive planting schemes will come forward and help to deliver the Government's objective of planting 11 million new trees in this term of parliament. Please encourage your constituents to [see if the Fund can help them](#).

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee inquiry

More welcome news came with the announcement at the last APPGF of an inquiry into Forestry in England by the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs committee. Confor will draw heavily on the blueprint for the future success of the industry which emerges from its post-Brexit consultation in its written evidence to the committee – and looks forward to giving evidence as we seek to shape the future in this rapidly-changing times.



Westminster conference

Confor looks forward to welcoming new Forestry Minister Dr Thérèse Coffey MP to another landmark conference at RICS' London in Westminster.

The three previous conferences have been very well-attended and brought together a wide range of interests to discuss major issues. With the aftermath of Brexit, full devolution of forestry to Scotland, the re-opening of the £1 million fund and the forestry inquiry, there is much to discuss – with a real focus on future rural land use funding and driving up planting levels in England.

UK, Confor established five workstreams to look into the big issues arising from the vote to leave the EU:

- How to ensure increased tree planting in the short, medium and long-term
- The future shape of rural policy and funding
- Legislation and better regulation
- Timber standards, trade and migrant labour
- Plant health

Technical Director Andrew Heald is co-ordinating the workstreams and Confor will publish a report with recommendations within the next month. The main aim is to identify practical recommendations which can help the sector thrive in the future, whatever that future looks like.



Confor in the media

Confor's communications team has continued to generate significant coverage - in the forestry trade media, farming press and the general media. Here are a few recent pieces of coverage:

How millions of trees brought a broken landscape back to life [The Observer](#)

Move to completely devolve forestry, [Scottish Farmer](#)

Sustainability is seeing the wood for the trees, [The Scotsman](#)

Governments must commit to prevent forest loss [This is the West Country](#)

Confor welcome Coffey to Defra [Horticulture Week](#)



Forestry Tweets

We will announce the date of the conference soon and look forward to seeing you there.

Great to see @forestsandwood showing leadership by grasping the agenda on diversity in #forestry bit.ly/2c53r8H #diversitree

What does #Brexit mean for #forestry? You can now find all Confor's work on this single web page: <http://www.confor.org.uk/news/brexit/> @forestsandwood

National #flood resilience review welcomed by @forestsandwood but more tree-planting detail needed, says @andyheald bit.ly/2cgge2n

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