

# Forestry in Wales

A sustainable industry for the 21st century



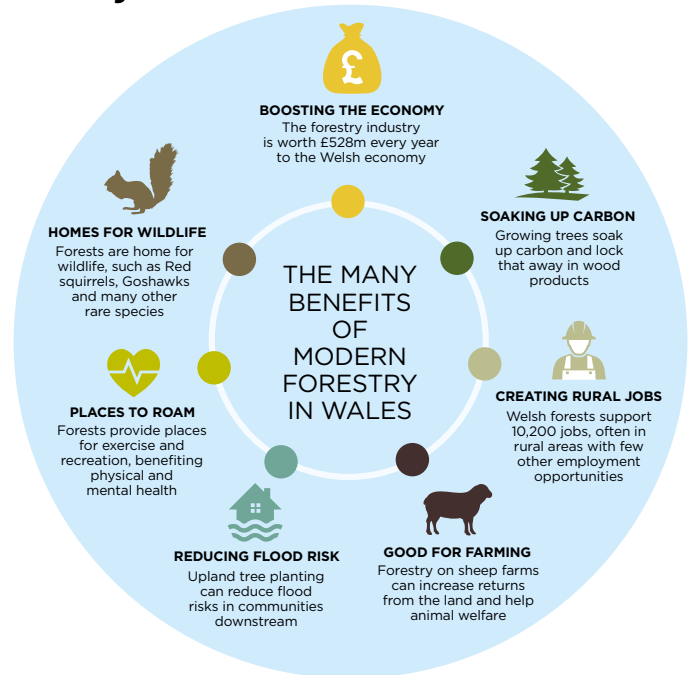
**Confor**  
Promoting forestry and wood  
Hyrwyddo coedwigaeth a choed

A professional sector delivering multiple benefits

Forests in Wales are managed to the UK Forestry Standard. This defines sustainable forest management and is the basis for the Woodlands for Wales strategy:

- **Responding to climate change**
- **Woodlands for people**
- **A competitive, integrated sector**
- **Environmental quality**

Most Welsh forests are managed by **Chartered Foresters** who work to a professional code of conduct which demands compliance with robust professional standards.



**306,000**

hectares of woodland in Wales.

**100,000**

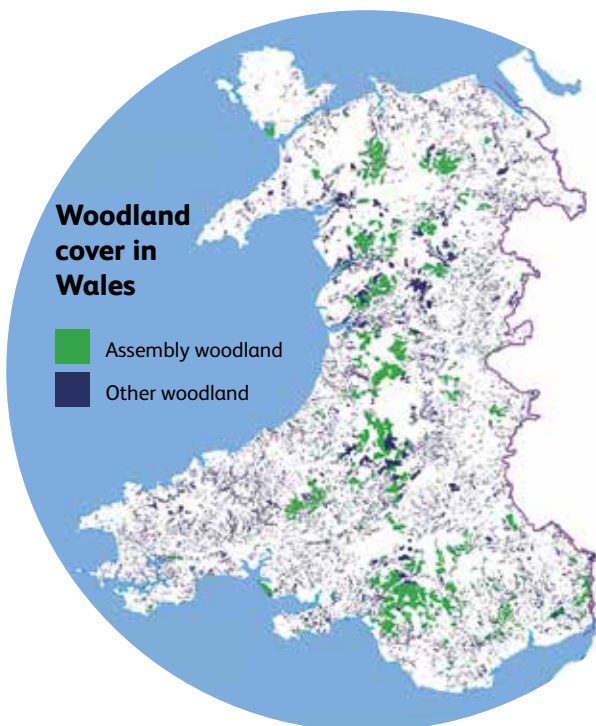
hectares: the Welsh Government long-term target for new planting.

**18,000**

hectares of productive conifer have been lost from Wales since 2001.

**31,800**

hectares: the shortfall in new planting since 2010.



## Why is woodland creation so far behind target?

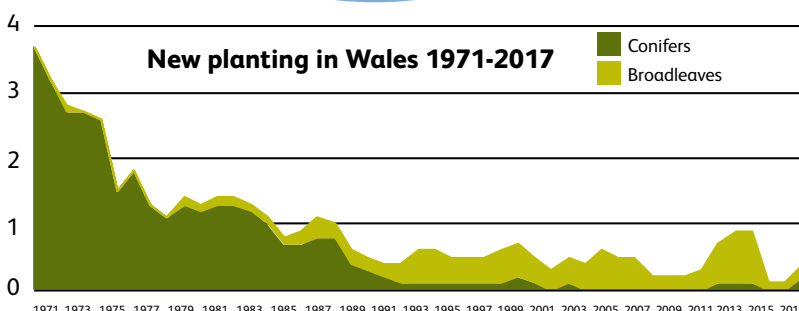
Planting trees is often viewed negatively. Government agencies, NGO's and society oppose land use change leading to a presumption against woodland creation and the loss of the benefits of modern, mixed forestry for people and the environment.

## What can we do about it?

- An acceptance of land use change at a significant scale
- A government willing to promote forestry
- A national campaign for Welsh forestry and timber
- A regulator prepared to make difficult decisions and balance risk.

## How will Wales benefit?

Modern forestry operates to a world leading sustainability standard that leaves other sectors far behind and produces a natural, versatile and infinitely renewable material, creating vibrant places for recreation and biodiversity in the process.



Forest cover as % of land area
Wales today 14 %
Wales target by 2030 19 %
France 31 %
Spain 37 %
Europe (excluding UK) 39 %
Sweden 68 %

## Forestry

## Timber

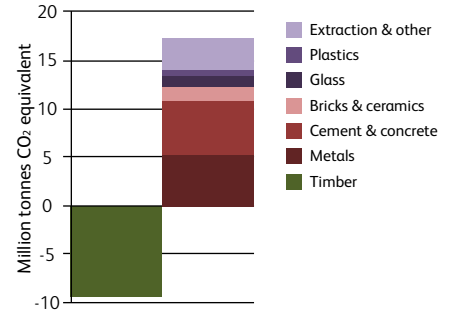
## Environment

In addition to producing timber, forests must be designed to mitigate flooding and conserve important species and habitat.

Every commercial forest must include proportions of open space and native broadleaved woodland.

Building with Welsh timber locks up carbon for many decades, while new trees grow and sequester more carbon.

Carbon footprint of all materials delivered to UK construction in 2010

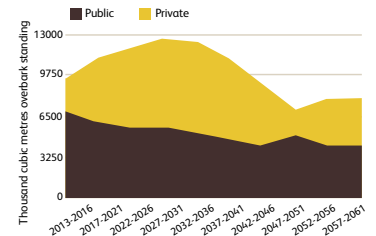


## Economy

only **10%** of Welsh land area is managed for timber products. There is huge potential to increase jobs and GVA through new planting.

Farmers planting trees on part of their land can secure their financial future and make their farm businesses more viable.

Per worker, the GVA for forestry and timber in Wales is on a par with Finance & Insurance, and Information & Communications.



Lack of new planting means timber production will fall from 2030 to 2050.



The **18,000** hectares of conifer forest lost would support **8** new sawmills.

## Society

**64%**

of adults in Wales visit woods each year

**52%**

of all outdoor visits included time spent in woodland



**170,000** people visited Coed Llandegla in 2016

**Flood prevention**

**60x** increase in water infiltration rates in grazed pasture planted with trees at Pont Bren in mid Wales.

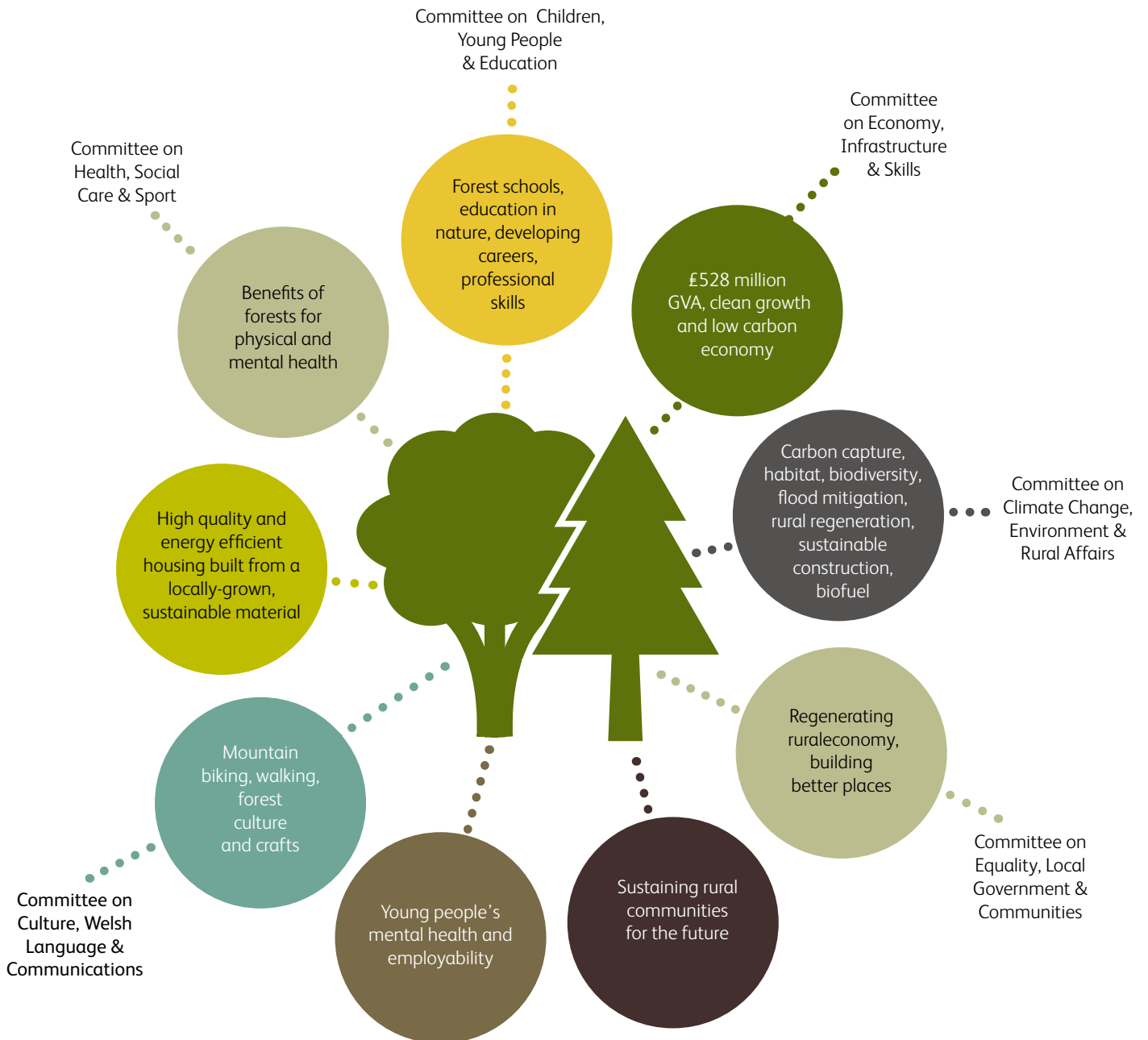


**18,000** hectares of conifer forest that have been lost would have supported **2,600** new jobs.

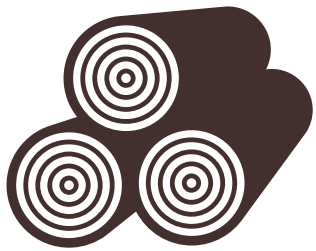


A shortage of timber could make wood products unaffordable

# The multiple benefits of forestry contribute to every part of Welsh Government



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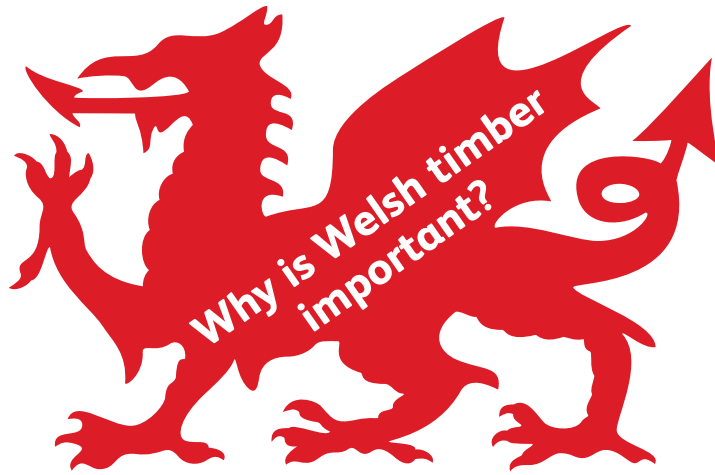


**80**

percentage of timber used that is imported

**£7.5 billion**

The total value of UK wood product imports in 2016



**“The Welsh Government recognises the need to enable greater planting of productive woodland in order to enable Wales to meet the needs of future generations. Creation of woodland at scale requires cooperation, collaboration and involvement of a range of interested parties.”**

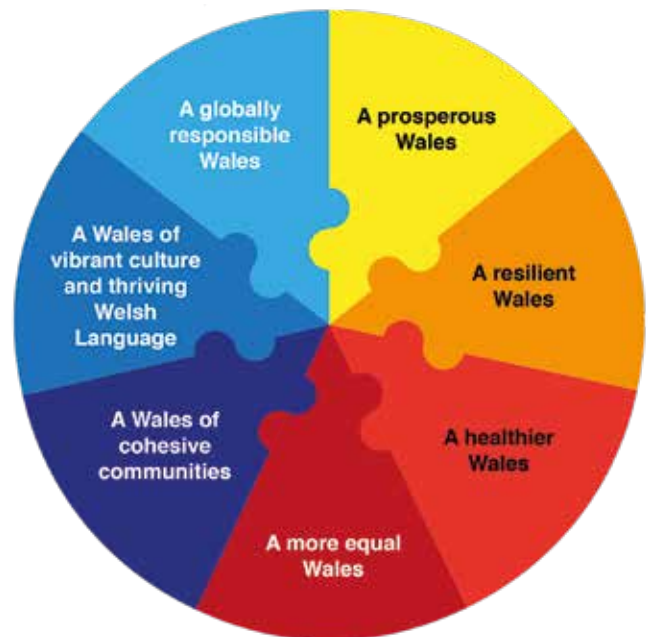
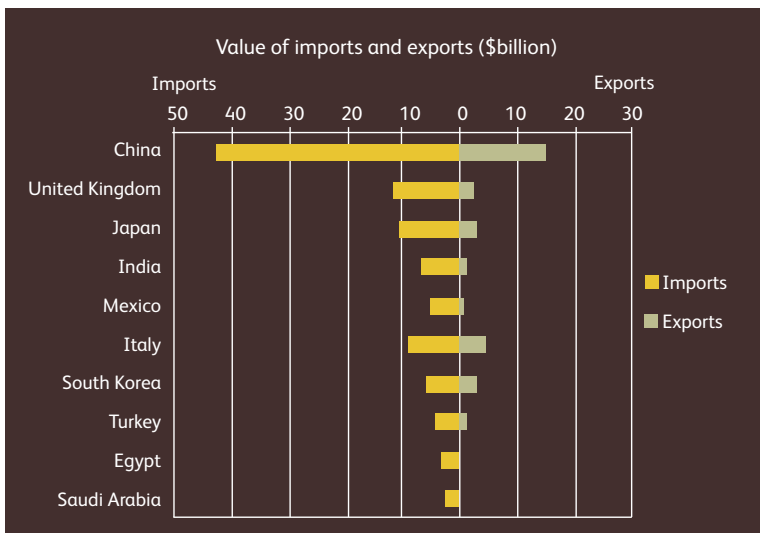
Welsh Government response to the *Branching Out* report.



With an expanded forest resource, Wales could be at the forefront of developing cutting edge technologies based on wood fibre such as

**bioplastics  
nanofibres  
bio-oils**

**The UK is the second biggest net importer of forest products *in the world***



We believe forestry and woodlands are at the heart of delivery of the Well being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 **“to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.”**

**Confor: promoting forestry and wood**

Confor ([www.confor.org.uk](http://www.confor.org.uk)) is a not-for-profit membership organisation for sustainable forestry and wood-using businesses. Confor represents the whole forestry and wood supply chain and focuses on strategic issues vital to the success and sustainable future of the sector. Further information: Eleanor Harris, Confor Policy Researcher, [eleanor@confor.org.uk](mailto:eleanor@confor.org.uk)

**References**

18,000 hectares lost: Woodlands for Wales indicators 2015-16.  
Comparative GVA of forestry and other industries: presentation by Jonathan Price, Welsh Government Carbon footprint of construction materials: cited by CIT, Analysis by FII Ltd  
New planting, and timber imports: Forestry Statistics



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