Forestry in Wales
A sustainable industry for the 21st century

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.
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.

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.

Environment

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

Economy

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

Society

64% of adults in Wales visit woods each year

52% of all outdoor visits included time spent in woodland

Flood prevention 60x increase in water infiltration rates ingrazed pasture planted with trees at Pont Bren in mid Wales.

170,000 people visited Coed Llandegla in 2016

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 18,000 hectares of conifer forest lost would support 8 new sawmills.
The multiple benefits of forestry contribute to every part of Welsh Government

- **Committee on Economy, Infrastructure & Skills**
  - £528 million GVA, clean growth and low carbon economy

- **Committee on Climate Change, Environment & Rural Affairs**
  - Carbon capture, habitat, biodiversity, flood mitigation, rural regeneration, sustainable construction, biofuel

- **Committee on Children, Young People & Education**
  - Forest schools, education in nature, developing careers, professional skills

- **Committee on Health, Social Care & Sport**
  - Benefits of forests for physical and mental health

- **Committee on Culture, Welsh Language & Communications**
  - High quality and energy efficient housing built from a locally-grown, sustainable material

- **Committee on Equality, Local Government & Communities**
  - Regenerating rural economy, building better places

- **Committee on Economy, Infrastructure & Skills**
  - Young people’s mental health and employability

- **Committee on Culture, Welsh Language & Communications**
  - Mountain biking, walking, forest culture and crafts

- **Committee on Climate Change, Environment & Rural Affairs**
  - Sustaining rural communities for the future

**Confor**

Promoting forestry and wood

**Yr Wyddfa coedwigaeth a chlaed**
Confor: promoting forestry and wood
Confor (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

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

“Why is Welsh timber important?”

“The Welsh Government recognises the need to enable greater planting of productive woodland in order 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.

“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.”