

# Confor Industry Update

## Thainstone House Hotel

Jamie Farquhar

Thursday 5 March 2020

# What is Confor ?

## Purpose

- Confor is a not-for-profit members' organization that represents, supports and promotes the sustainable forestry and wood products industry.

## Vision

- To be the voice for the sustainable forestry and wood products industry.

## Business Plan on website

- <https://www.confor.org.uk/media/247610/confor-2020-business-plan.pdf>

# Confor's Business Plan

We will fulfil our Purpose, and achieve our Vision by working on behalf of members and the wider sustainable forestry and wood products industry to:

- help build the market for wood products and forest services;
- create a supportive policy environment for sustainable forestry and wood-using businesses;
- work with partners to tackle important sectoral issues;
- provide high quality, valued member services

# Who is Confor ?

- **Members**

- Drawn mainly from the primary UK wood supply chain – seed to sawmill
- Subscriptions from c. 1,600 businesses
- Range from individuals @ £105 per annum to larger organizations @ £10,000 plus
- Turnover c. £1.3m
  - £370k from the growing sector
  - £520k from some 70 of the larger harvesting & wood processing businesses
  - Balance from administering FISA, UKWAS, TTF, Wood for Good, Climate Change Agreement,

- **Board**

- 15 drawn from across the industry

- **Staff**

- Chief Executive plus 12

# Confor's priorities

- Securing future wood supplies
- Changing attitudes through offering Climate Change solutions
- Better industry statistical information
- Plant health
- Skills training
- Growing and promoting markets for timber
- Aiding the economic development of the industry

# Confor's Scottish work

- FGS Customer Reps Group (CRG)
- Agriculture & Rural Development Stakeholder Group (ARD)
- Timber Transport Forum (TTF) & STTS Assessment Panel
- Confor Nursery Producers Group (NPG)
- Scottish Tree Health Advisory Group (STHAG)
- **SFTT Industry Leadership Group (ILG)**
- Plus another 12+ permanent working groups and other ad hoc short-term issue groups

# Lobbying & representation

- Land use frameworks & partnerships
- Plant supply & demand
- Immigration rules and the labour resource
- Industry Contribution Fund
- Science & Innovation Strategy review
- SFS Implementation Plan

# Lobbying & representation

- SEPA sector plan, wood treatment & GBR compliance inspections (Argyll)
- Weevils - HIRP
- Dendroctonus micans / R grandis
- Ash die-back



# Customer Reps Group – ongoing work

- Cultivation guidance
- Stability & Simplicity – getting rid of land parcels
- Forestry Loan Scheme – RHS launch
- Online Felling Permissions – 2021 ..... ?
- Earned recognition – initially just new woodland creation
- New guidance:
  - Value for money
  - Economic impact of ‘tweaking’ schemes beyond UKFS
  - Customer type
  - Neighbour engagement
  - Native woodland stocking density - variations

# New woodland creation (hectares)

## Private sector in Scotland @ Jan 2020

|                                   | 2019/20       | 2020/21       | 2021/22/23+  | The Future |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>Approved</b>                   | 10,879        | 7,158         | 2,053        |            |
| <b>Submitted not yet approved</b> | 572           | 3,865         | 1,957        |            |
| <b>Pipeline</b>                   | 20            | 8,343         | ?            |            |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>11,471</b> | <b>19,366</b> | <b>4,010</b> | <b>???</b> |
| <b>(% conifer schemes)</b>        | 61            | 70            | 25           |            |

# New woodland creation (hectares)

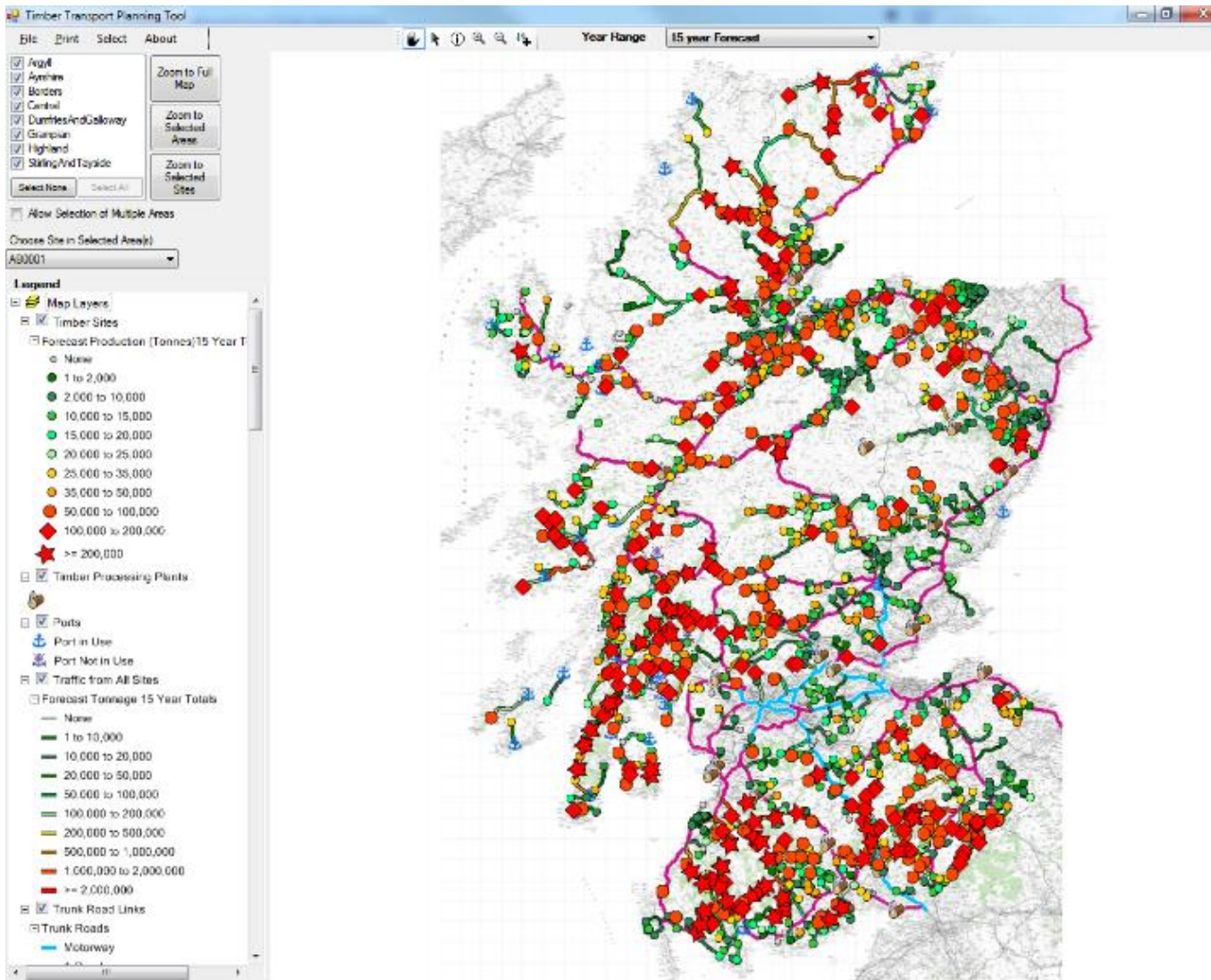
|  | <b>2020/21</b>                | <b>2021/22/23+</b> |  |  |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| <b>Approved</b>                                  | 7,158                         | 2,053              |  |  |
| <b>Carried forward</b>                           |                               | 7,366              |  |  |
| <b>Submitted not yet approved</b>                | 3,865                         | 1,957              |  |  |
| <b>Pipeline</b>                                  | 8,343                         |                    |  |  |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>19,366</b>                 | <b>11,376</b>      |  |  |
| <b>Affordable?<br/>Budget @ av<br/>£4,300/ha</b> | <b>£50m<br/>For 12,000 Ha</b> | <b>?</b>           |  |  |

# Plant demand for 2020/21

- Sitka 58m
- Other conifer 18m
- Scots pine 5m
- Native b/leaves 12m
- Upland birch 3m
- Productive b/l's 11m
- **Total** ~ **106m** (plus production from the state nurseries)

# Plant Passporting

- Has been required from 14 December 2019
- For the movement of timber from harvesting site to processor for –
  - all conifers
  - *Castanea* (with bark) & *Platanus* (with or without bark)
  - Isolated bark from processor to bark processor
  - Xmas trees >3m & foliage from trees >3m
- **Register as a RAPO** (Registered Authorised Professional Operator)
- FC's Registered Forestry Trader system will be used initially
- The on the forestry e-learning webpages ....



## Timber output and exit point survey 2019

# Timber output and exit point survey 2019

- Scotland-wide refresh of 2014 survey;
- Gathers forecasts of timber production over next 15 years (in 5 year phases);
- Information used to justify STTS support/help target expenditure on public road network;
- Expectation that previous return rates will be exceeded (and be a minimum of 85%);
- Deadline for returns 30 November 2019;
- Any questions, please speak to Claire Glaister (NE & Central Scotland), Chris Piper (Highland), John MacDonald (Argyll) and Mark Page (South Scotland)

# CAN DO projects

- **Better use of seed supply -**

<https://civtech.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/C4/pages/1257111600/Challenge+11+How+might+we+use+technology+to+make+better+use+of+Scotland+s+valuable+but+limited+supply+of+high+quality+tree+seed>

- Cumbria Tree Growers – seeds in a tape
- SilviBio – seeds in gel to combat dehydration
- Elsoms – seed priming – a bit like cloning
- Forest Research – Delta Seed Test – next generation testing using algorithms & interactive web platform
- Forestart – bio-degradable seed matting



# Hylobius Industry Research Programme

- Alternative pesticides
- Update to HMSS
- **Biocontrol** (CAN DO funded)
  - Improvements to billets
  - Pheromones / nematodes
- Supporting evidence
- Alternatives to pesticides
- Genetics
  - Looking beyond QCI
  - Hybridisation of white spruce and Sitka

# Diary dates

- 11 March South SFTT, Lockerbie
- 17 March Central SFTT, Stirling
- 20 March Timber Transport conference
- 24 March Tree health day, Perth
- 25 March Tree health day, Dumfries
- 26 March Customer Reps Group
- 23 April STTS assessment panel
- **24-26 Sept APF Exhibition 2020, Ragley**

Thank you for listening

<http://www.forestryscotland.com/regional-groups/north-east-scotland/north-east-events>

07817 374906

[jamie@confor.org.uk](mailto:jamie@confor.org.uk)