

Confor Industry Update

Sure Queens Hotel, Lockerbie

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Wednesday 11 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
Approved	10,879	7,158	2,053	
Submitted not yet approved	572	3,865	1,957	
Pipeline	20	8,343	?	
Total	11,471	19,366	4,010	???
(% conifer schemes)	61	70	25	

New woodland creation (hectares)

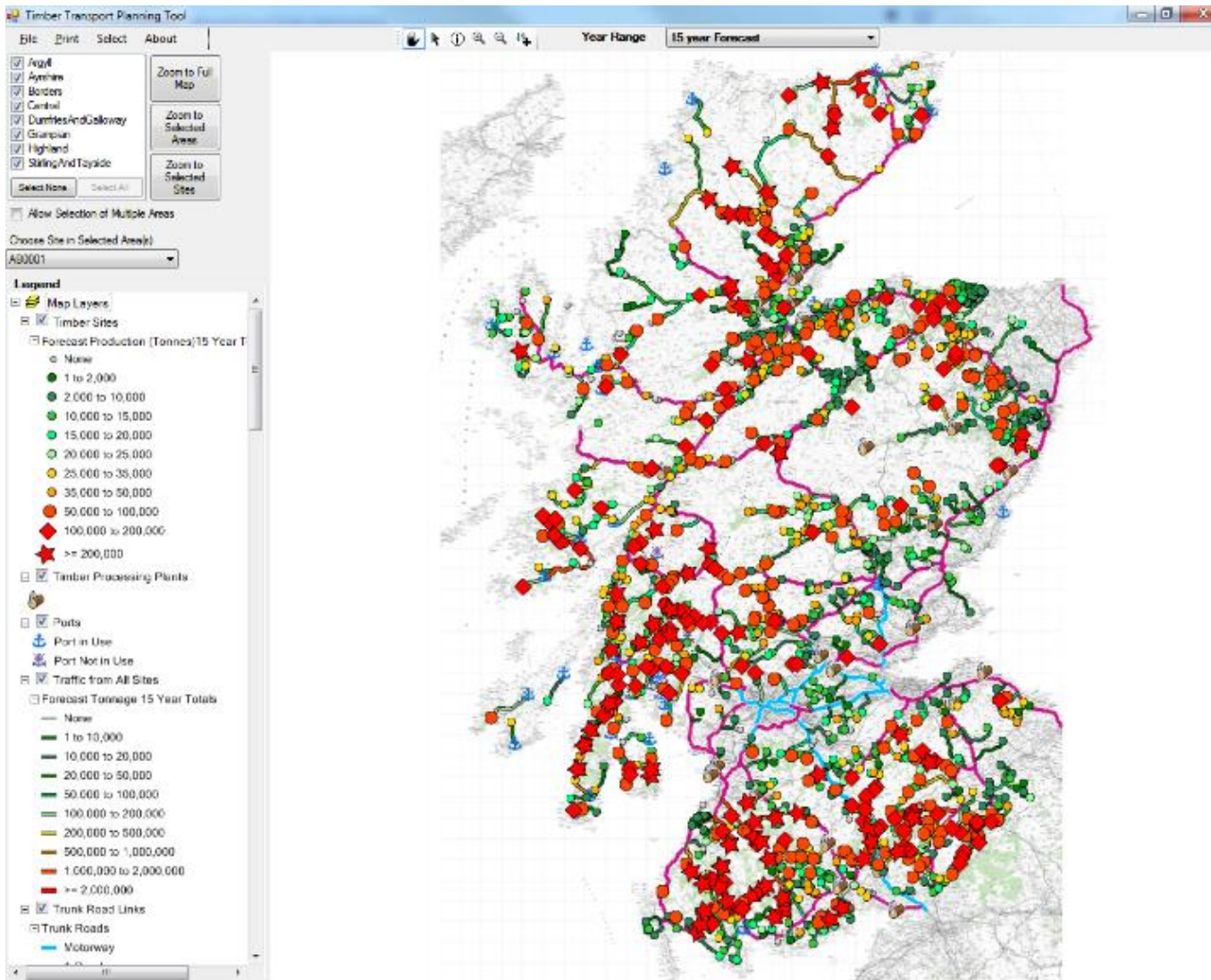
	2020/21	2021/22/23+		
Approved	7,158	2,053		
Carried forward		7,366		
Submitted not yet approved	3,865	1,957		
Pipeline	8,343			
Total	19,366	11,376		
Affordable? Budget @ av £4,300/ha	£50m For 12,000 Ha	?		

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)
- Registration takes around 20 minutes. Businesses can start the process by clicking this [link](#).
- Log in as a guest and select the 'Plant Passport' module.



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

Scottish Business Resilience Centre

- Cyber crime – www.sbrcentre.co.uk
 - 2019 survey – 32% of UK businesses were attacked
- Security - The basics – lock it up
- Update & patch
 - Operating Antivirus and Software systems
- Passwords
- Data backup
- Malware – 80% of all attacks start with an email
 - Do you understand phishing?
- **Have you been pwned?** <https://haveibeenpwned.com/>

Diary dates

- 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**
- **7 October Next South SFTT meeting**

Thank you for listening

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

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