



Long-Term Forest Planning & Professionalism

- **Confor's role is to represent the sector.**
- **That involves meeting with WG and ministers.**
- **Give evidence to the WG inquiry into NRW**



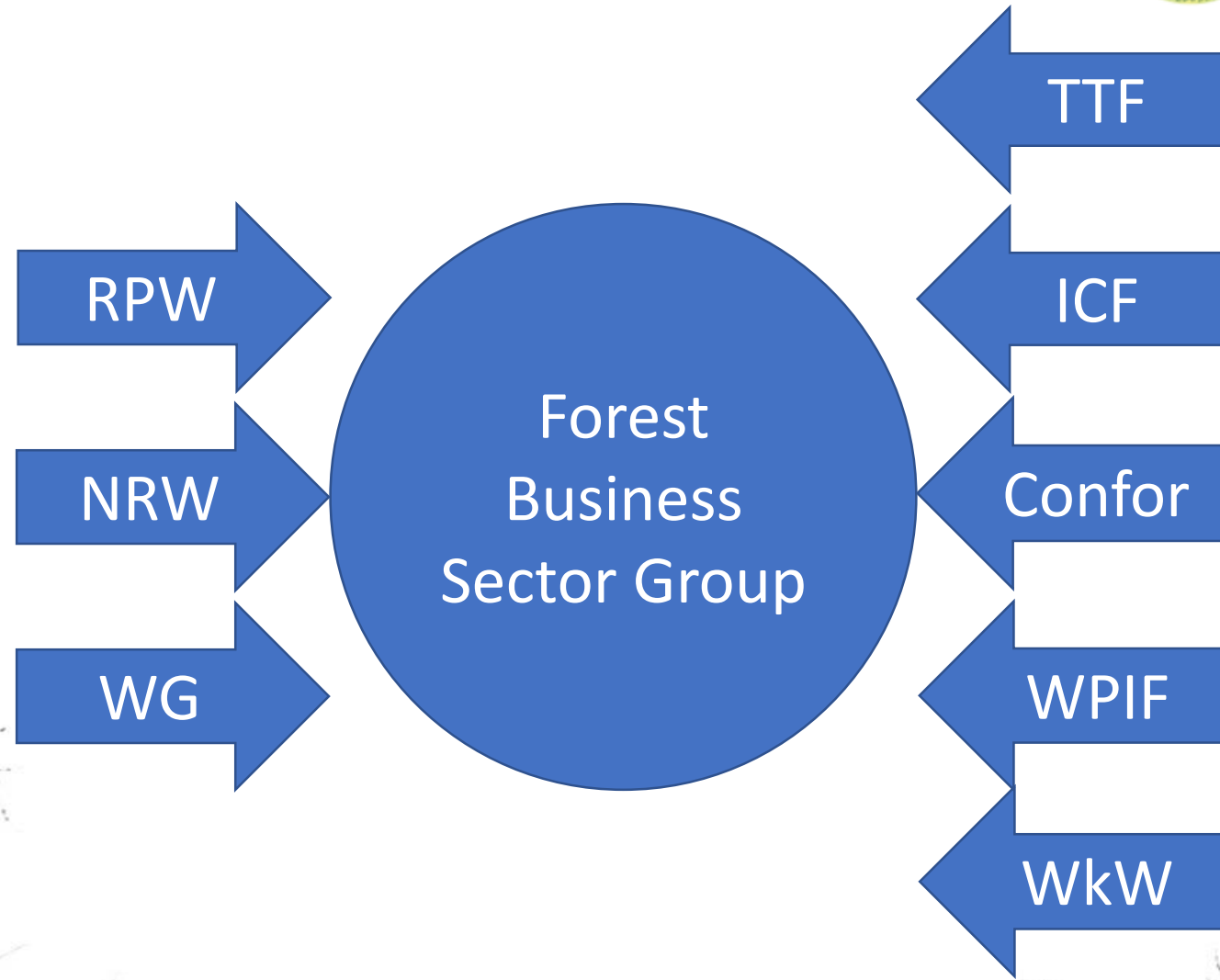
WG Inquiry recommendations

- Improved quality of communication with the forest sector
- Improved transparency on forestry regulation and compliance.
- Improved transparency of forestry facts and figures for timber production, forecast and supply.
- Improved management of timber production and supply from the WGWE and the Welsh forest resource.



Forest Business Sector Group formed.

- Meets quarterly with NRW
- Provides a forum to raise issues
- Licencing & permits.
- Land management.
- Timber supply to the market.
- Charging
- Common themes like natural national resources policy
- SoNNR



Forest Business Sector Group

- Many items are applicable across the sector.
- It provides the means to hold NRW and WG to account.
- Highlighting the delays in scheme approvals
- Monitoring the GWC & GWR programmes
- Ensuring that regulation is consistent and better.



Forest Business Sector Group highlighted

- The disparity between licencing of the public and private forestry sector.
- WGWE has 10 year plans
- Private sector had 2 year licences.
- Impacts on adjacency, acidification etc.

Long Term Woodland & Forestry management plan objectives

- Can the bureaucratic burden be lessened?
- Can things be deregulated on the basis of low numbers of breaches?
- Can regulations be simpler so that enforcement in turn is simpler?
- Can regulation be lighter touch in return for more information?
- Can there be a one-stop shop, obtaining one permission, not several?

Stakeholder Engagement

GUIDANCE NOTE

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder Engagement: the process of involving people in the decisions that affect them.

Consult: To have regard for a person's feelings or interests in making plans or decisions.

WHEN?	Management of existing activities e.g. access and forest management interactions.	Tackling problems e.g. timber transport disruption, fly tipping, unauthorised mountain bike trails.	
<p>Planning or developing activities e.g. new planting, revision of management plans, significant felling.</p>	<p>Management of existing activities e.g. access and forest management interactions.</p>	<p>Tackling problems e.g. timber transport disruption, fly tipping, unauthorised mountain bike trails.</p>	
WHO?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbours • Community (community council, development trust, user groups) • Clients / agents • Legal interests e.g. wayleaves • Special interest groups • NRW & statutory consultees • National NGOs • Vociferous detractors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbours • Community (community council, development trust, user groups, local schools) • Clients / agents • Legal interests e.g. wayleaves • Special interest groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbours • Community (community council, development trust, user groups) • Local authority • Local councillors, AM's, MPs
HOW?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits • Small informal / formal meetings with key stakeholders • Telephone contact with key stakeholders • Attend meetings of relevant local groups • Website • Advertisements / articles in local press • Interactive workshop / event • Leaflet drop to all households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a forestry contact within Community council or similar • Advisory committee • Attendance at suitable local events e.g. shows, galas, etc. • Newsletters • Annual surgery • Annual meeting with key stakeholders • Notice board at forest gate • Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits • Small informal / formal meetings with key stakeholders • Awareness raising via local press • Attend meetings of relevant local groups

LESSONS LEARNT

- One size does not fit all – it's about the right thing at the right time. Knowing what works takes time.
- Speaking to people in advance of an activity rather than after can identify issues before they arise.
- Style and tone are as important as what is said / done.
- Make yourself known and available to stakeholders / communities as this can help avoid problems escalating.
- Listening skills are essential. Often foresters want to solve problems and take action, when just listening works.
- Take time to understand the problem. It may not be what you first think.
- Face-to-face always works better in difficult situations.
- Avoid 'town hall' style public meetings.
- Visual aids (but not just maps) and 'active' feedback sessions work well.
- Admit mistakes, rectify and move on.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- NRW webpage on tree felling activities naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/tree-felling-and-other-regulations/?lang=en
- WG Glastir pages beta.gov.wales/rural-grants-payments
- Forestry Research. forestry.gov.uk/research
- The Timber Transport Forum timbertransportforum.org.uk
- Confor helplines confor.org.uk/resources/helplines
- Glastir Woodland Creation Opportunities Map le.gov.wales/catalogue/Item/GlastirWoodlandCreationOpportunitiesMap
- Ancient Woodland Inventory naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/woodland-management/woodlands-and-the-environment/ancient-woodland-inventory/?lang=en

Why Wales needs more trees

Often as part of stakeholder engagement you will need to make the case for forestry, as an article in the local press, as a presentation at a consultation event, on a noticeboard etc.

This article provides content which you can use or adapt. You should also include:

- At the start, a description of your forest and its particular benefits, and how they link into the wider benefits of forestry for Wales.
- At the end, a quote from yourself, the woodland owner or another supporter of the project about the particular benefits to the local community (perhaps using some of this information)
- An image, if possible showing what the forest will look like once matured, for example using the 3d visualisation software from prospect.mapmaker.com.

Forestry and timber employs more than 10,000 people in Wales¹, and contributes over £0.5bn to the economy. Softwood trees provide the timber for wooden products we all take for granted – fencing, decking and boards for flooring and kitchen units, as well as pallets for industry and timber frames for houses.

Trees soak up carbon as they grow, stored away in wood products for decades.

We need to plant around 8 million trees every year to help meet our climate change obligations².

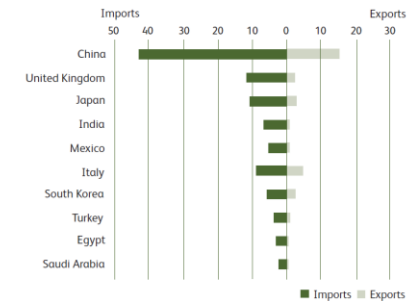
Yet in 2016 we planted barely 80,000, one-hundredth of what we need³. And more shockingly, 40 million timber trees have disappeared since 2001⁴.

Wales faces a catastrophic decline in timber production⁵ (fig.1). Thousands of jobs growing trees and manufacturing timber products could be lost unless planting of softwoods (conifers) increases rapidly.

The lack of planting has contributed to a wider UK problem and created another shocking statistic: the UK is the second biggest importer of timber in the world⁶ (fig.2). Forestry can be a real game-changer for Wales.

As well as storing carbon and supplying timber, modern forests create habitats for biodiversity and areas for recreation, reduce flood risk and clean the air we breathe. And people love trees. 96% said they provide at least one public benefit to Wales⁷.

We should be targeting self-sufficiency in timber production in the long-term. Wales must start planting those trees now – to protect the economy and the environment and deliver a bright future for rural communities.



1. Woodlands for Wales Indicators (WWI). <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/woodlands-wales-indicators/?lang=en>
 2. UK Committee on Climate Change report to the Welsh Government (2017) <https://www.thccc.org.uk/2017/12/19/wales-can-tackle-climate-change-protecting-industry-jobs-future-generations/>.
 3. 39 hectares (WWI).
 4. 18,000 hectares (WWI).
 5. National Forest Inventory, 50 year forecast of softwood availability (2014). [https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/50_YEAR_FORECAST_OF_SOFTWOOD_AVAILABILITY.pdf/\\$FILE/50_YEAR_FORECAST_OF_SOFTWOOD_AVAILABILITY.pdf](https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/50_YEAR_FORECAST_OF_SOFTWOOD_AVAILABILITY.pdf/$FILE/50_YEAR_FORECAST_OF_SOFTWOOD_AVAILABILITY.pdf).
 6. Net imports, after China. Forestry Statistics 2017.
 7. Public opinion of forestry survey. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-opinion-of-forestry-2017-wales>.