

# **Confor Industry Update**

## **Finzean Hall**

Jamie Farquhar

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

# Lobbying & representation

- 20 Television and Radio interviews
- 50 Articles in national media
- 6,500 followers on Twitter and 700 on Facebook
- 5,000 visitors to the website each month
- 6 issues of *Forestry and Timber News* read by over 3,000 members, employees and subscribers
- Bi-monthly enews sent to over 4,000

# Lobbying & representation

- Over 35 Confor events around the UK
- Over 1,000 foresters, farmers, environmentalists, journalists, politicians and academics attending our events and seminars
- Run 12 committees and technical groups
- Represent you on over 100 Committees and forums around the UK
- 33 responses to Consultations

# 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)
- Plant Health Centre steering group (PHC)
- 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

# Confor's Scottish work – the CRG

- Cultivation guidance
- Ploughing – guidance on new grant restriction, and method of introduction
- Treatment of deep peat re: mosaic sites and whether OG or OL
- March fencing
- New Felling regs (permissions):
  - Felling roadlines
  - Native BL restock densities
  - Flexibility for CCF and Natural Regen
- Forest roads – prior notification
- SRF – future policy (incl. eucalypts)
- Waders / SAC &SSSI buffers – impact on net woodland area
- **Culture – recognition of owner's objectives & economic impacts**

# Plant demand from NPG

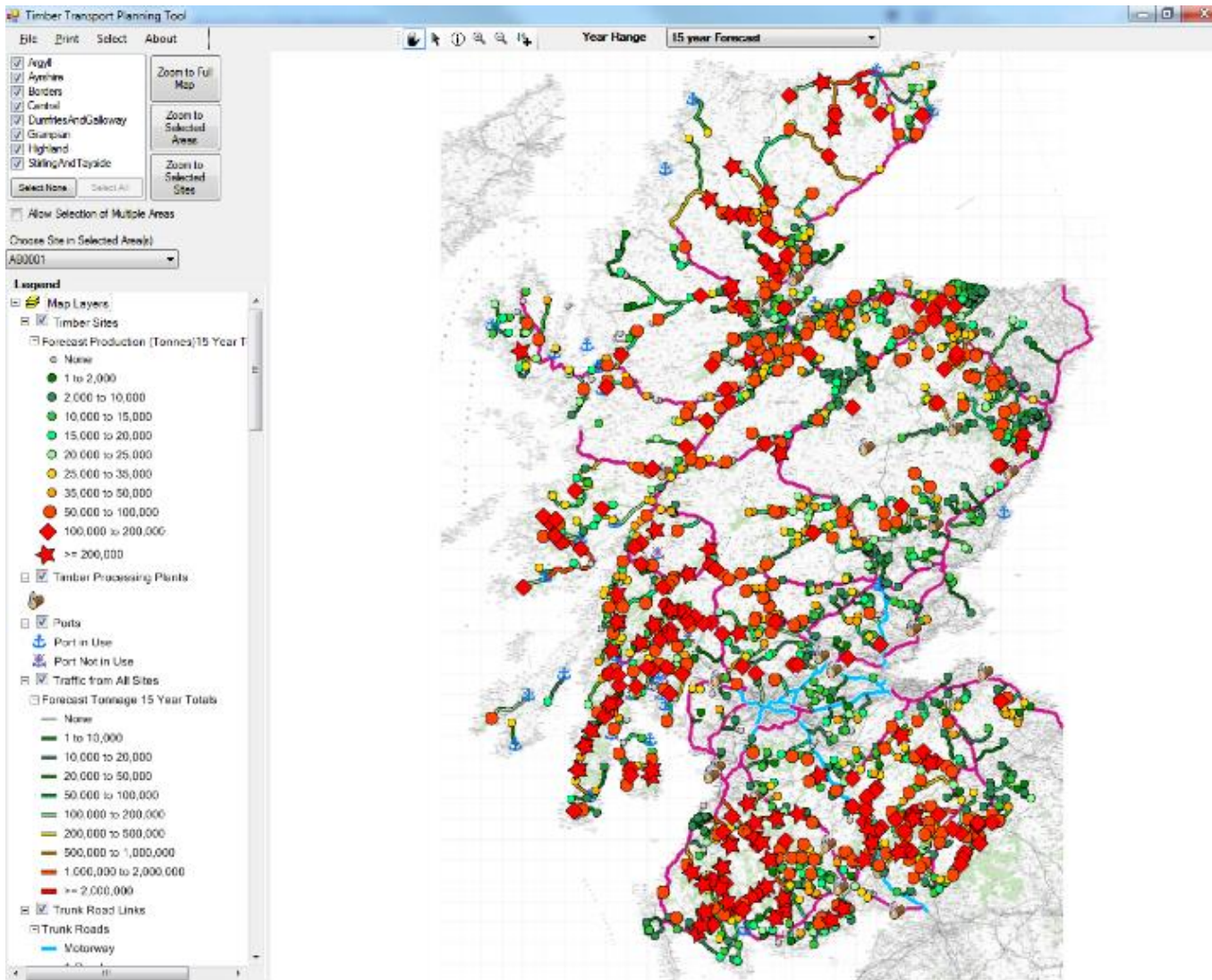
- Sitka 57m
- Other conifer 16m
- Scots pine 5m
- Native b/leaves 10m
- Upland birch 2m
- Productive b/l's 8m
- **Total** ~ **100m** (plus production from the state nurseries)

# Plant Passporting

- A plant passport will be 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
- “Affixed” to the unit of sale – a load of timber
- Paper passport required, but can be incorporated into the delivery note. Electronic copy will be trialed
- **You will have to pay!**
- Review if no-deal Brexit on 31 October

# Sporting rates

- Still a mess
- Sporting Rates Advisers Forum vs. SAA Sporting Rates working group
- Numerous meetings and email exchanges, but no consensus
- Very disappointing meeting 24 September
- Had hoped for realism and reduced rate of £2/ha for commercial forests (from £4.50/ha) – as seemed accepted in June
- Some progress on allowances and disabilities
- Uncertain if Tayside and Highland VACs will agree extensions to hearings from 8 November onwards



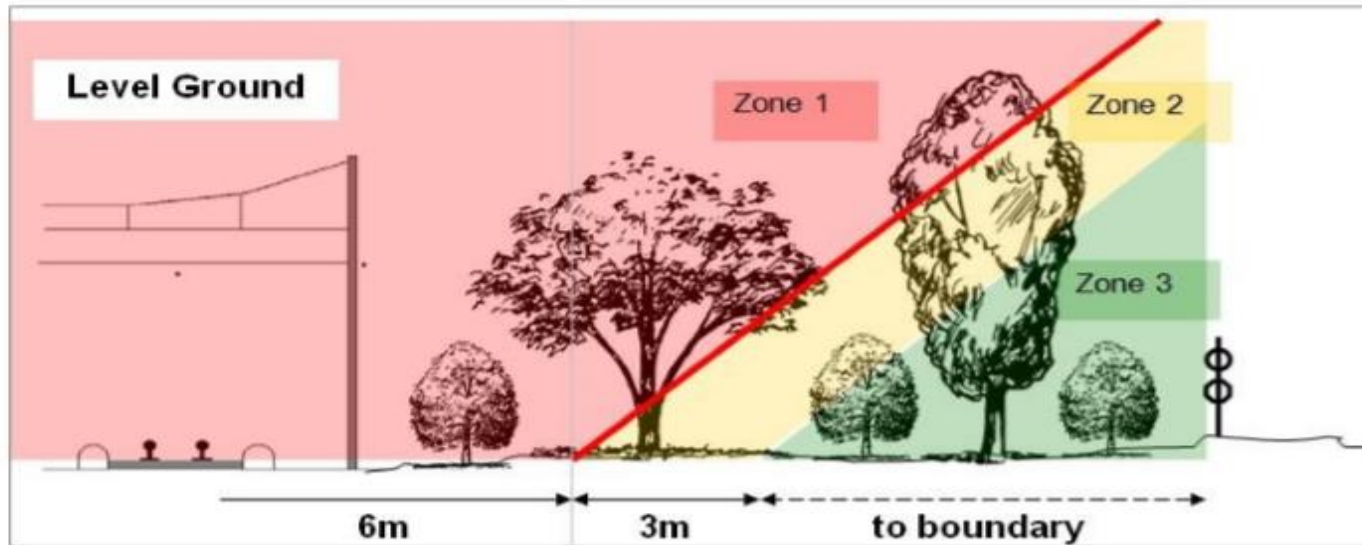
## Timber output and exit point survey 2019

# 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)

# Network Rail

## Vegetation Clearance in Scotland Route



- Zone 1** Remove all woody vegetation
- Zone 2** Fell or prune to leave a well balanced canopy
- Zone 3** Remove diseased, dying or decayed trees or noxious weeds



**Confor**  
Promoting forestry and wood

# Diary dates

- 15 October South SFTT, Lockerbie
- 17 October Nursery Producers Group
- 30 October Central SFTT, Stirling
- 25 February Confor dinner & awards
- **5 March Next north-east SFTT event**
- 20 March Timber Transport conference
- **24-26 Sept APF Exhibition 2020, Ragley**

Thank you for listening

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

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