

# **PE1812/JJJ: Protect Scotland's remaining ancient, native and semi-native woodlands and woodland floors**

## **Confederation of Forest Industries (Confor) written submission, 10 July 2024**

Confor recognises that the protection of local woodlands is an important matter for local communities, and we encourage all those involved with the forestry sector in Scotland to consider the importance of environmental standards fully when carrying out their functions. These standards are well documented and are available for the Committee to consider if you have not already done so.

On the specific issues of mapping and protecting ancient woodland we would encourage you to contact Woodland Trust Scotland (WTS) for their views. WTS has specialised knowledge and focus on woodland conservation.

I note the petitioners have referenced The Royal Society of Edinburgh's 2024 Inquiry into public financial support for tree planting in their March submission. Along with many others active in the field of forest policy, Confor has serious concerns about the veracity of the RSE's conclusions and has written to the Scottish Government highlighting these. [We have drawn together information from a variety of sources debunking many of the claims made by RSE on the Confor website.](#) and I would draw your attention to these.

Confor remains committed to sustainable forestry management and recognises the vital importance of preserving Scotland's woodland heritage. Confor supports efforts to find balanced solutions that respect environmental considerations as part of responsible forest management.

If the Committee requires any further information in relation to this petition, please do not hesitate to contact us.