



Matching Government policies and Industry aspirations

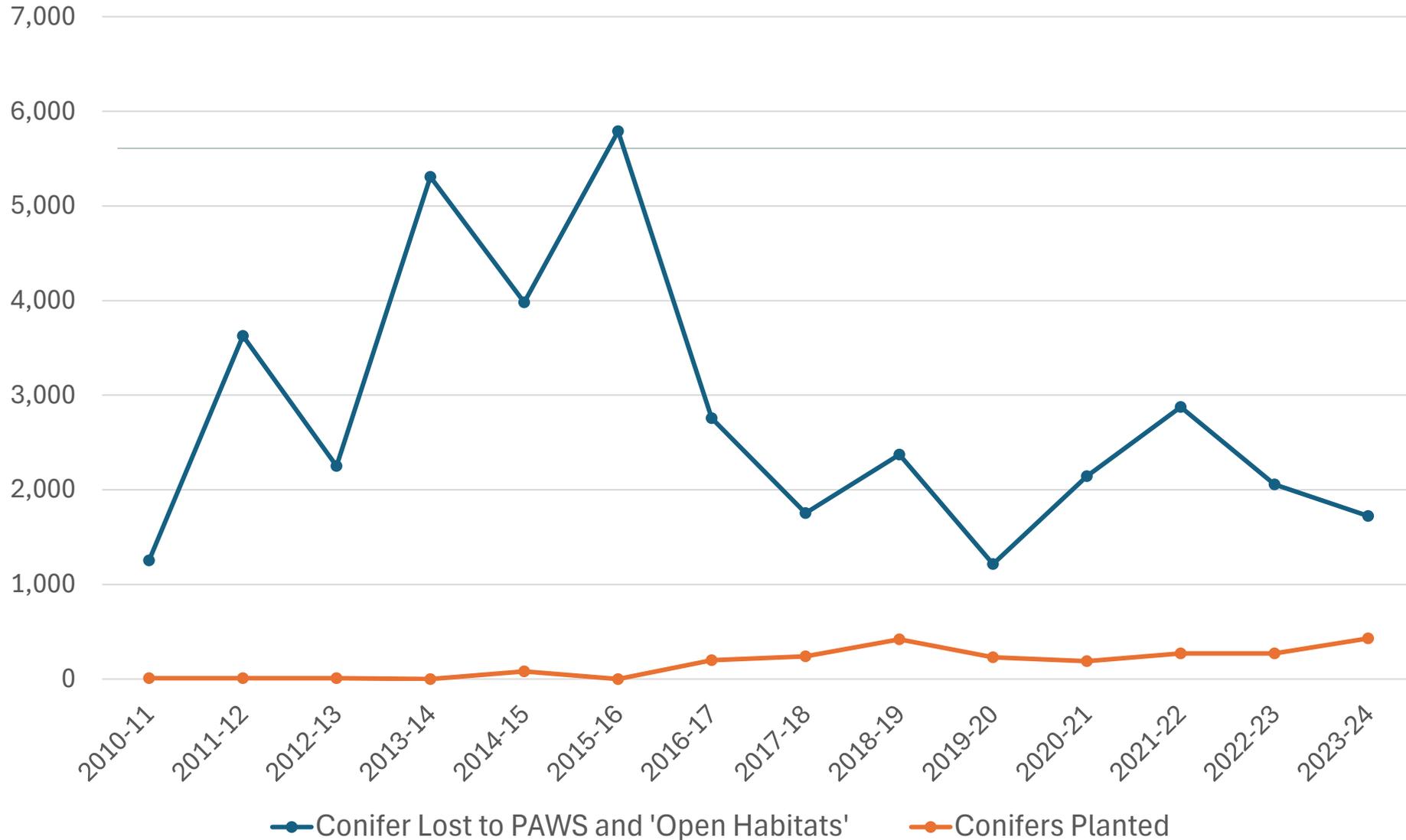
London, 5 December 2024



Minister's Matter

- The forestry and wood processing industry is quite unique in how much of its operating environment is influenced by government policy and regulation.
- Ministers (and their officials) have the ability to significantly influence levels of investment and the long-term economic success of the industry.
- Especially now, as we have the Timber in Construction Roadmap and National Wood Strategy for England.

37,000ha impact of Policy Decisions



Total Conifer lost from 2010-2024 = 39,109ha

Total Conifer planted from 2010-2024 = 2,360ha

Net Conifer loss from 2010-2024 = **36,749ha**

Confidence, Confidence, Confidence

- Strong and clear political support for the industry
- Secure funding for woodland creation and interventions to secure sustainable management of woodland
- Collaboration on skills and recruitment
- A stable operating environment – fewer changes to rules, standards, etc
- Shared long-term target for annual wood supply, at least no decline, ideally increasing – important role for public sector forests
- Control of grey squirrels and deer
- It is businesses that will deliver almost all policy objectives...

Policy delivered...

- Economic growth and jobs
- Progress to net zero through woodland creation, sequestration in timber products and low carbon homes
- COP commitments – Ed Milliband affirmed a “greening construction” pledge delivered would continue with full support
- Nature recovery
- Physical and mental health

Key issues for today

- Progress on our strong ambition to use more home-grown wood in house building / construction – English Roadmap and Welsh timber strategy
- Timber Security – the number one issue for wood processing businesses globally
- What next for the National Wood Strategy for England?
- Skills Strategy
- And...

Biggest question of all...

Will Santa bring us confidence for Christmas?





Thanks for listening!

