

**CYFOETH NATURIOL CYMRU:  
Sialensau & Chyfleoedd**

**NATURAL RESOURCES WALES:  
Challenges & Opportunities**

**Gwion Lewis**



**Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru**  
**Forestry Commission Wales**



**Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru**  
**Countryside Council for Wales**



**Asiantaeth yr**  
**Amgylchedd Cymru**  
**Environment**  
**Agency Wales**



**Cyfoeth**  
**Naturiol**  
**Cymru**  
**Natural**  
**Resources**  
**Wales**



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**Forestry Commission** Wales

## Main functions

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- developing forestry policy and advising the WG generally on forestry matters;
- managing the Welsh Government Woodland Estate (“**WGWE**”) - almost half of the woodlands in Wales;
- regulating forestry in Wales: FCW issues licences and investigates allegations of illegal felling;
- assisting the WG to run both the woodland creation and woodland management elements of the Glastir agri-environment grant scheme;

- Forestry Act 1967: General duty to promote [s. 1(2)]:
  - interests of forestry
  - development of afforestation
  - production and supply of timber and other forest products in Great Britain;
- Duty to endeavour to achieve a “reasonable balance” between:
  - developing afforestation, management of forests and the production and supply of timber; and
  - conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the conservation of flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest;

## Commissioners' powers: the FA 1967 (s. 3)

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- to manage, plant and otherwise use land placed at their disposal by Ministers;
- to manage or supervise, or give assistance or advice in relation to planting or management, of any woods or forests belonging to any person;
- to purchase or otherwise acquire standing timber, and sell or otherwise dispose of any timber belonging to them or to a private owner;
- to establish and carry on, or aid in the establishment and carrying on, of woodland industries;

## Commissioners' powers: the FA 1967 (2)

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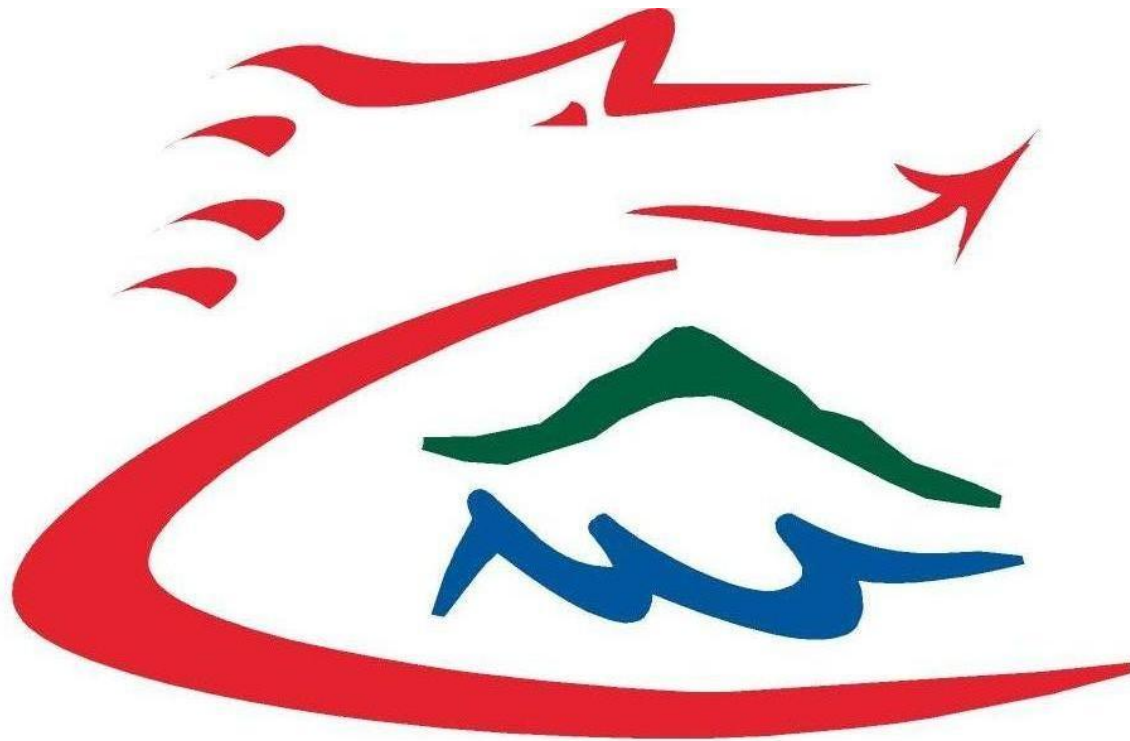
- to authorise in writing any competent person to enter land and kill and take rabbits, hares or vermin (which includes squirrels) where trees or tree plans are being, or are likely to be, damaged by them [s. 7];
- to form or invest in a body corporate, to provide loans and to establish a charitable trust [s. 7A].
- to collect and publish statistics on forestry [s. 8(a)];
- to promote and develop forestry training and education [s. 8(a)];
- to undertake forestry research and surveys [s. 8(b)];
- to control tree felling and to prosecute illegal felling [ss 9-26].

## Countryside Act 1968

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- Further powers to provide recreational facilities and to plant tree in the interests of amenity;
- Power to provide, manage and maintain “tourist, recreational or sporting facilities” [s. 23(2)];
- Power to make charges and byelaws;
- CCW has the power to act as agent





**Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru**  
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## Functions

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- Set up in 1991
- Key functions:
  - providing informed advice;
  - protecting rare species;
  - research and surveys;
  - maintaining protected areas;
  - promoting enjoyment of the countryside for all;
  - partnerships;
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee



## Statutory duties and powers

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- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (“SSSIs”)
  - Duty to notify
  - Objection - owners/occupiers
  - Implications for development
  - Requirement to consult CCW
  - S. 281 of the WCA 1981
  - Permitted development
  - Enforcement



## Statutory duties and powers (2)

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- National Nature Reserves
- Marine Nature Reserves
- International sites
  - SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites designated following CCW recommendations
  - Consultation obligations under the Habitats Regulations 2010

## Statutory duties and powers (3)

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- Protection of European protected species
  - Articles 12 and 16, Habitats Directive
  - Licensing function
  - No licence unless satisfied that:
    - “no satisfactory alternative” to the derogation; and
    - derogation is “not detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range”.



Asiantaeth yr  
Amgylchedd Cymru  
Environment  
Agency Wales

- regulating business and industry
- managing the risk of flooding from rivers and coasts
- waste management
- supporting sustainable agriculture
- protecting and improving fisheries
- remediating contaminated land
- water quality and resources



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10

Challenges

#1

**Managing  
cultural conflict**

# #2

Avoiding or  
managing conflict(s)  
of interest

**#3**

**Acquiring sufficient  
expertise in highly  
specialist areas**

# #4

Ensuring continuity  
of existing expertise

**#5**

**Maintaining  
adequate scientific  
base**

# #6

**Maintaining public  
confidence vis-à-vis  
costs**

# #7

Retaining sufficient  
adaptability to  
respond to major  
legislative changes



**#8**

**Risk of actual or  
perceived  
isolationism**

# #9

Retaining confidence  
of commercial  
forestry interests

# #10

Seize opportunities  
for legislative  
consolidation

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Opportunities

#1

A truly Welsh  
organization

#2

More focused  
policy direction  
from WG

#3

More unified &  
streamlined public  
service

#4

Reducing  
regulatory burden



#5

Saving costs

#6

Concentration of  
intellectual  
resources

#7

Higher level of  
'brand' recognition  
for environmental  
management

#8

Fortunate timing  
vis-à-vis new  
legislative  
framework

#9

Improved financial  
savviness

#10

Better management  
of environmental  
information

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