POINTS OF INTERST FOR THE RURAL SECTOR FROM THE 2017 CONSERVATIVE MANIFESTO.

Farming

•The Conservative party will commit the same cash total for farm support until the end of the parliament (2022 ha ha!)

•Will work with farmers, food producers, environmental experts and the devolved

Administrations to devise a new agri-environment system, to be introduced in the following parliament

•Improve animal welfare by making CCTV recording in slaughterhouses mandatory, and to take early steps as we leave the EU to control the export of live farm animals for slaughter

Environment

•It pledges to be the first party to leave the environment in a better state than it inherited it

•Will produce a comprehensive 25-year environment plan charting how it will improve our environment and the take-back control of environmental legislation (note the old pledge of a 25 year plan for Farming has disappeared)

•Help Natural England expand its provision of technical expertise to farmers to deliver environmental improvements on a landscape scale, from enriching soil fertility to planting hedgerows and building dry stone walls

•Will ensure that public forests and woodlands remain in trust (this does not seem to be the same as saying staying in FC ownership), and protections for ancient woodlands will be strengthened

•Committed to improve natural flood management, including upgrading the quality of water courses

•Grant a free vote to give parliament the opportunity to decide the future of the Hunting Act (not a chance)

Trade

•Replicate all existing EU free-trade agreements and support the

ratification of trade agreements entered into during our EU membership

•Reconvene the Board of Trade with a membership specifically charged with ensuring that we increase exports from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as well as England, and that trade policy is directly influenced by every part of our United Kingdom

•Protect the interests of farmers and fishermen in Scotland as a new UK farming and fisheries policy is designed

•Use the UK’s muscle to promote Scottish exports around the world and ensure the

Welsh brand is maintained

Migrant labour

•With annual net migration standing at 273,000, immigration to Britain is still too high. It is the Conservative party’s objective to reduce immigration to sustainable levels, by which ‘we mean annual net migration in the tens of thousands’

•Establish an immigration policy that allows Britain to reduce and control the number of people who come from the European Union, while still allowing us to attract the skilled workers our economy needs

•Give Britain the technical education it has lacked for decades. Whilst addressing

the immediate needs of those sectors of the economy suffering shortages in skills

in the interim

•Better align the visa system with our modern industrial strategy. ‘We envisage that the Migration Advisory Committee’s advice will allow us to set aside significant numbers of visas for workers in strategically-important sectors, such as digital technology’

Broadband

•Pledges to ensure that 19 out of 20 business premises will have access to superfast

broadband

•The Universal Service Obligation says that by 2020 every home and every business in Britain will have access to high speed broadband

•Full fibre connection vouchers for companies across the country will be introduced by 2018

Largely reproduced from a Savills briefing document.