



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

The Forestry Grant Scheme

A guide to grant options for
existing woodland owners



Scotland's woodlands and forests are a vital national resource and play an important role in rural development and sustainable land use.

The Scottish forestry sector is successful and growing. Modern forest industries include sustainable construction, pulp and paper, woodfuel and biomass, research and innovation, recreation, tourism and more.

In total, the sector contributes nearly £1 billion GVA* to Scotland's economy every year.

By managing your woodlands you could contribute to this industry, benefiting on-site, locally or on a larger scale.

This leaflet provides an overview of the funding categories and options available to help you do this with more details and technical information available online at **www.forestry.gov.uk/scotlandgrants**

*GVA measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector in the United Kingdom.

Funding for Forestry

During the Scottish Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, £252 million will be available through the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS).

The Scheme supports;

- **Woodland creation**
- **Woodland improvement and sustainable management of existing woodlands**

For those with existing woodland a variety of grants are available. They are designed to:

- **encourage** natural regeneration and benefit priority habitats and species
- **increase** species and structural diversity through low impact silvicultural systems management
- **contribute** to the sustainable management of urban woodlands and improve public access
- **support** the preparation of forest and / or management plans that set out management objectives for the woodland
- **improve** the biodiversity, resilience, and structural diversity of even aged woodlands

Existing woodland grant options

Grants are available for:

Woodland improvement - capital grant

Sustainable forest management - annual maintenance for up to five years



Woodland Improvement Grant – the options:

There are five options in this category. These aim to support forest management, activity to enhance the environment and the public's enjoyment of existing woodlands.

The five options are:

1 Planning

This covers Long Term Forest Plans, Forest Plan Renewal, Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT) Urban Woodland Management Plans, Woodland Grazing Plans, Deer Management Plans.

2 Habitats and Species

This provides support for capital work that will benefit a range of priority habitats and species, as defined in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and European Directives. It is aimed at improving the condition of native woodlands and restoring Plantations on Ancient Woodland sites to native woodland.

3 Restructuring Regeneration

This is for regeneration and improving diversity in existing woodland.

4 Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)

This aims to facilitate the transformation of forest stands to low impact silvicultural systems (LISS).

A low impact silvicultural system is a type of woodland management that helps to increase species and structural diversity. It normally causes less rapid change to the landscape and to the physical environment than clear felling systems and so can help the landowner meet multi-purpose objectives.

In the context of climate change, varied silvicultural systems will increase the resilience of forests and may limit the damage caused by extreme events such as gales or pests outbreaks.

5 Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT)

This option aims to provide support for operations that will contribute to the sustainable management of urban woodlands and provide a range of public benefits.

Urban woodlands are those located within one kilometre of settlements with a population of over 2000 people.

Grant support is provided for applications that can:

- bring neglected woodlands into management
- develop opportunities to use and enjoy existing and newly created woodlands
- enhance woodland sites supported under previous programmes

Woodland Improvement Grant option	Grant payment
Planning	
Long-term Forest Plan	£25 per hectare for first 200 hectares £5 per hectare thereafter Minimum £500; maximum £15,000
Forest Plan Renewal	£10 per hectare for first 200 hectares £5 per hectare thereafter Minimum £500; maximum £10,000
Woodland Grazing Management Plan	£1200 per plan
Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT) – Urban Woodland Management Plan	£1000 for any area up to 10 hectares £25 per hectare thereafter
Deer Management Plan	£12 per hectare for first 500 hectares £1 per hectare thereafter Minimum £5,000; maximum £15,000
Habitats and Species	Standard costs for capital works and items from a set list. Also, actual costs are available for work in woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Natura sites where you can demonstrate that the actual costs of the eligible capital items will be higher than the set standard costs list for this option.
Restructuring Regeneration	
Delivering UKFS Woodland	£300 per hectare
Delivering Diversity and Resilience Woodland	£550 per hectare
Improved Vegetative Stock for Sitka Spruce	£60 per hectare
Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)	Standard costs for capital works and items from a set list.
Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT)	Standard costs for capital works and items from a set list.

Sustainable Management of Forests:

Sustainability underpins modern forestry. It means more than just replanting trees to replace those that we harvest. It also means thinking about the long-term impact of altering an area of forest and responsibly producing a valuable resource whilst preserving forests for future generations.

This option is designed to support a range of activities in existing forests and woodlands with a high environmental value.

There are nine options in this category and each has a specific rate associated with it. The options and their respective rates are listed in the table below (payments are made for up to a maximum of five years).

Sustainable Management of Forests option	Grant payment rate (per hectare per year unless specified)
Native Woodlands	£25
Livestock Exclusion	£43
Woodland Grazing	£100
Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)	£30
Public Access - Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT)	£100 for first 10 hectares £10 for any additional areas
Public Access Rural Woods	£100
Grey Squirrel Control	£200 per trap/annum
Predator Control for Capercaillie and Black Grouse	£6.60
Species Conservation - Reducing Deer Impact	£6.00

Forest Infrastructure:

This option has two distinct aims.

- 1 To provide support for new access infrastructure that will bring small scale, undermanaged or inaccessible existing woodlands back into active management so as to:
 - improve the economic value of forest and woodland through timber production
 - increase the area of woodland in Scotland that is in sustainable management
 - improve the environmental and social benefits of woodland

Under this aim, this option is limited to existing woodlands of up to 50 hectares in size.

Capital grant operation	Payment rate
Construction of forest road with on-site material	£25.80 per linear metre
Construction of lay-bys, turning areas, and loading bays	£6.60 per square metre
Bell-mouth junction	£32.40 per square metre

- 2 To provide support for new access infrastructure to new woodlands as part of the Sheep and Trees Grant Package. This option is only available for hill and upland livestock farmers when creating between 10ha and 50ha of productive conifer woodland and continuing to keep sheep as a key part of the farm business. It will help on-farm access and management of new woodland.

If you are planting within the CSGN area you will be eligible for either the CSGN contribution or the forest infrastructure grant but not both grants.

Capital grant operation	Payment rate	Allowances
Construction of Forest Roads	£25.80 per linear metre	Up to 30metres/ha of woodland creation (cap of 1,500 metres/application)
Construction of lay-bys, turning areas, or loading bays	£6.60 per square metre	

Harvesting and Processing:

This option supports the development of the small-scale premium softwood and hardwood harvesting and processing sector.

It supports investment in new specialised equipment with the aim of;

- helping to bring woodlands into management
- promoting the economic and sustainable production of timber and timber products through processing
- adding value to local economies on a non-industrial scale
- providing support to facilitate and support diversification and to assist with the creation of new small enterprises and related employment

Grant support is based on actual cost with a maximum contribution of 40 per cent. In any single application, minimum grant award will be £2,500 and the maximum will be £35,000.

You will only be considered for this grant if you are paying for the outright purchase of the equipment and not doing so through a hire purchase agreement.

Unlike the rest of the Forestry Grant Scheme, this grant is awarded in one round per year closing on 31 January.



Tree Health

This option provides support to prevent the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* (*P. ramorum*).

This option helps with the restoration of forests affected by *P. ramorum* by supporting the work to remove affected trees and carry out subsequent replanting.

Grant support

Grant support consists of a number of standard cost capital items. These are available for work to help prevent the spread of disease and restore affected woodlands.

Your site must have a Statutory Plant Health Notice served on it that specifically requires the site to be cleared within a defined timescale.

Felling Licences:

It can be a criminal act to fell trees without permission. Forestry Commission Scotland staff can advise you when a Felling Licence is required.





How to apply:

Applications for the Forestry Grant Scheme are online only.
For more information visit www.forestry.gov.uk/scotlandgrants
You can apply at any time of year.

Contacts

Conservancy offices

For help and guidance on forest plans, woodland creation and management options and felling licences contact your local office during office hours for advice.

Highland & Islands Conservancy

Woodlands, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB
0300 067 6950 | highland.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Grampian Conservancy

Portsoy Road, Huntly, AB54 4SJ
0300 067 6210 | grampian.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Perth & Argyll Conservancy

Upper Battleby, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EN
0300 067 6005 | panda.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Central Scotland Conservancy

Bothwell House, Hamilton Business Park, Caird Park,
Hamilton, ML3 0QA | 0300 067 6006
centralscotland.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

South Scotland Conservancy

55/57 Moffat Road, Dumfries, DG1 1NP
0300 067 6500 | southscotland.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Selkirk Office – Weavers Court, Forest Mill, Selkirk, TD7 5NY | 0300 067 6007



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