



A guide to funding support for woodland creation

Funding support for woodland creation in the Highland Native Woodland Target Area

We are keen to support the creation of new native woodland in the Highland Area and there is funding available through the Forestry Grant Scheme for landowners looking to plant.

Planting trees can provide a range of benefits including:

- Shelter for livestock and crops
- Timber and woodfuel
- Carbon sequestration
- Increased and enhanced habitat for woodland species such as Capercaillie
- Shading watercourses
- Aiding soil stability and limiting diffuse pollution
- Assisting with natural flood management



National and local targets

The Scottish Government has a target to expand woodlands by 100,000 hectares by 2020. In order to encourage more native woodland planting in the Highlands a specific target area for native woodland has been introduced to help meet the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy target of 3000–5000 hectares of new native woodland per year across Scotland.

Within the target areas identified for woodland creation (red on map) additional funding is available through the Forestry Grant Scheme – part of the Scottish Rural Development Programme.



There is also a higher rate for deer fencing for all woodland types and the area eligible for bracken control has been expanded.

Deciding to plant

Things to consider for your site:

- Is it located within a Forestry Grant Scheme target area? If so you could be eligible for a 12.5% increase in grant funding.
- Is there any deep peat (greater than 50 cm) or wetlands important for wading birds?
- Is the site designated for protected species, habitats or archaeology?
- Are there opportunities to build on or link existing areas of woodland and are there existing seed sources for natural regeneration?
- Is it within the buffer of a Caledonian Pinewood Inventory site?
- Is the site easily accessible and is there scope for productive woodland?
- Which tree species would be most suitable for this site?

Next steps

Speak to your neighbours and local community, and consider working with a forestry agent to help you apply and implement your project.

Woodland creation payment rates

Woodland	Standard areas			Target areas		
	Initial rate (£/ha)	Annual maintenance (£/ha/year) for 5 years	Total rate (£/ha)	Initial rate (£/ha)	Annual maintenance (£/ha/year) for 5 years	Total rate (£/ha)
Native Scots pine & broadleaves	1840	272	3200	2070	306	3600
Native upland birch	1840	128	2480	2070	144	2790

For more information and advice on how to progress including environmental impact assessments and any surveys required contact the Highland & Islands Conservancy office on 0300 067 6950 or highland.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.



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