



A guide to the Forestry Grant Scheme support for Urban Woodland Management

Financial Support for Managing Urban Woodlands in Scotland

In the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) urban woodlands are known as 'Woods In and Around Towns' or 'WIAT' woods. Managed well these woodlands can provide a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits. Eligible urban woodlands are located within one kilometre of a town with a population of over 2000 people.



Benefits include:

- Creating better places to live, work and play
- Helping adapt to and mitigate impact of climate change

What kind of support is available?

Capital Payments for one-off activities and items are supported under the Woodland Improvement Grant – Woods In and Around Towns (WIG-WIAT) option. This grant is for work which will:

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

Annual Payments for up to five years to help with annual management are available through the Sustainable Management of Forest – Public Access – Woods In and Around Towns option. This grant will help cover additional costs of litter picking, sign and path maintenance and tree safety surveys.

Where are the WIAT areas?

You can identify these areas using the online Forestry Commission Scotland map viewer. Open the FCS Grants & Regulations folder (located on right hand side of page) and select the 'FGS (2014-20) Eligibility/Scoring Criteria' folder and 'WIAT' option.

Am I eligible?

To be eligible, your woodland must be over 0.5 hectares and at least half of it must be within the WIAT area. Unless you are applying for support for a new woodland, your woodland should appear on the National Forest Inventory. This is available as a layer on the Forestry Commission Scotland map viewer.

Before applying

You must have an approved WIAT – Urban Woodland Management Plan covering all the woodland areas in your application prior to applying for WIAT options. This should be produced using the FCS template. The Plan is eligible for funding under the WIG – Planning – Woods In and Around Towns – Urban Woodland Management Plan grant.

For new woodland creation sites you can apply for support for selected operations. This still requires an approved Urban Woodland Management Plan but this cannot be funded by the FGS. You will only receive grant payments for activities or items once the woodland has been planted.

What operations are funded?

Clearance and woodland management operations are not eligible for the parts of your applications that relate to a proposed or young (less than 10 years) woodland. You will only receive grant payments for activities and/or items once proposed woodland areas have been planted. A detailed list of operations and payable rates you can apply for, along with details of capital grant operational options, can be found online.

Where can I get help?

Further technical help and templates can be found on the Forestry Commission Scotland website www.forestry.gov.uk/scotlandgrants.

For more information about the Forestry Grant Scheme and the WIAT options, visit www.forestry.gov.uk/scotlandgrants or call your local Forestry Commission Scotland Conservancy Office.



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