



Forestry Commission Scotland  
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

# The Forestry Grant Scheme

A guide to grant options for  
**woodland creation**



# Funding for Forestry

Thoughtfully integrated into rural businesses, forestry can bring many economic and environmental benefits whether planted on a large commercial or small farm scale.

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**

This leaflet provides an overview of the funding categories and options available for woodland creation. More details and technical information is available online at [\*\*www.forestry.gov.uk/scotlandgrants\*\*](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotlandgrants)

# Woodland Creation:

This part of the grant scheme aims to support the creation of new woodland that will provide economic, environmental and social benefits.

## Getting started - clear vision

When creating woodland it is essential to plant the right trees in the right place and that you have a clear, strategic vision from the outset for the future of your woodland - this will ensure maximum return for your investment.

Is timber production important to you or are you more interested in improving habitats on your land? Would you like to use your woodland for sporting use or as a source of woodfuel? Knowing what you want to get from your woodland, soil type and climatic conditions, will influence the choice of trees you plant.

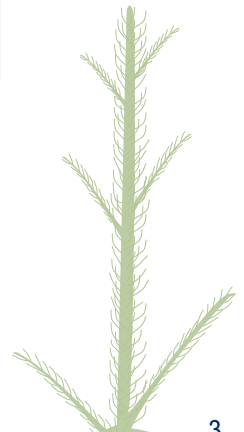
It is important at the planning stage to think about how you will access and extract the timber when it is ready to harvest. Planting on an inaccessible slope, for example, will increase harvesting costs and reduce profit. You should also discuss your woodland creation plans with your neighbours who might be directly affected - you will need to do this as part of your application.

## Woodland creation payments

Successful woodland creation applicants will receive:

### Initial planting payment

- + **annual maintenance payments for up to five years**  
(to ensure the best start for woodland)
- + **capital grant**  
(e.g for fencing and tree protection)



## What to plant?

There are nine grant support options for woodland creation, each with specific requirements for composition and stocking densities. These are:

- **Conifer** (predominantly Sitka spruce)
- **Diverse conifer** (species other than Sitka)
- **Broadleaves** (productive species at high stocking)
- **Native Scots pine**
- **Native upland birch**
- **Native broadleaves**
- **Native low density**
- **Small or Farm woodland** (mixed woodlands less than 10ha)
- **Northern & Western Isles**

Rates vary depending on species planted. A higher rate of grant is payable in four **target areas** and these are listed in table opposite.

**Target areas rates are associated with:**

- Conifer, Diverse Conifer or Broadleaves in areas defined as being 'preferred or potential' in the relevant local authority woodland strategy or equivalent.
- Areas identified by the Cairngorms National Park Authority as a priority for woodland expansion.
- Woodlands for Water, in priority areas identified by SEPA.
- Native woodlands in the Highland and Islands Native Woodland target areas.

## Grant support

Woodland	Payment Rates in Standard Areas			Payment Rates in Target areas		
	Initial Planting Payment Rate (£/hectare)	Annual Maintenance Payment Rate (£/hectare/year) for 5 years	Total Payment Rate (£/hectare)	Initial Planting Payment Rate (£/hectare)	Annual Maintenance Payment Rate (£/hectare/year) for 5 years	Total Payment Rate (£/hectare)
Conifer	1,920	208	2,960	2,160	234	3,330
Diverse Conifer	2,160	336	3,840	2,430	378	4,320
Broadleaves	2,880	528	5,520	3,240	594	6,210
Native Scots Pine	1,840	272	3,200	2,070	306	3,600
Native Upland Birch	1,840	128	2,480	2,070	144	2,790
Native Broadleaves	1,840	272	3,200	2,070	306	3,600
Native Low Density Broadleaves	560	96	1,040	630	108	1,170
Small or Farm woodland	2,400	400	4,400	2,700	450	4,950
Northern and Western Isles	3,600	624	6,720	n/a	n/a	n/a

### Additional payments for fencing (new/improving) and tree protection:

In addition to the initial planting payment, funding is available for a number of operations which may be required to ensure the successful establishment of new woodland. It is likely that fencing will be the preferred protection method, however tree shelters may be supported where they are a lower-cost option.

## Agroforestry

Agroforestry is an integrated approach to land management where trees and agriculture co-exist to provide multiple benefits.

This option is new to the Forestry Grant Scheme and provides grant support to help you create small scale woodlands on sheep grazing pasture. The trees can;

- provide shelter for livestock
- provide timber
- increase biodiversity
- enhance the landscape

The rate of capital grants available for agroforestry depends on the number of trees you plant per hectare. This also has a bearing on the annual maintenance rate (payable for up to five years).

Planting density (trees per hectare)	Initial payment (per hectare)	Annual maintenance (per hectare per year)
400	£3,600	£84
200	£1,860	£48

## Sheep and Trees

'Sheep and Trees' is an initiative aimed at identifying and raising awareness of the many opportunities woodland can bring to farmers and land managers.

Developed as part of this initiative, is the 'Sheep and Trees Forestry Grant Package' which brings together two elements of the Forestry Grant Scheme. Uniquely, it enables you to apply for both a woodland creation grant and the infrastructure grant at the same time.

You can therefore build access routes to help you get started and then manage your new farm woodland as it grows. It creates an excellent opportunity for you to diversify your business and bring part of your farmland into timber production which you may not have considered previously for planting due to lack of access.

This is available to upland livestock farmers where sheep are, and will continue to be, a major component of the farm business. The new woodland must be between 10 hectares and 50 hectares of productive conifer woodland using the 'Conifer' or 'Diverse Conifer' options.

There is potential funding for up to 30 metres/hectare to a maximum of 1,500 metres of new access road plus lay-bys, turning areas and loading bays.

## Central Scotland Green Network contribution

The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is a development within the National Planning Framework. It aims to restore and transform the landscape, whilst making a significant contribution to Scotland's sustainable economic development.

If successfully applying for a woodland creation grant within the CSGN area, you could also receive an additional grant called CSGN contribution.

## Additional information

### Woodland creation grants are not available for:

- planting in existing woodlands (including grazed woodland)
- Christmas tree growing
- short rotation coppice
- fast-growing trees planted for energy production (such as eucalyptus in short-rotation forestry situations)

**Farmland Premium** payments are not included under the Scottish Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 Forestry Grant Scheme. However from 2015, farmed land that is eligible for the Basic Payment Scheme and is afforested under the new Forestry Grant Scheme, will continue to be eligible for the Basic Payment Scheme.

### Basic Payment Scheme:

Afforested land will be eligible for the duration of the woodland creation contract, which will normally be 20 years. In order to receive the Basic Payment you must have an eligible farming business and eligible land.

### 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](http://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](mailto:highland.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

#### Grampian Conservancy

Portsoy Road, Huntly, AB54 4SJ  
0300 067 6210 | [grampian.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:grampian.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

#### Perth & Argyll Conservancy

Upper Battleby, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EN  
0300 067 6005 | [panda.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:southscotland.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)  
Selkirk Office – Weavers Court, Forest Mill, Selkirk, TD7 5NY | 0300 067 6007



If you need this publication in an alternative format, for example in large print, please contact:

The Diversity Team

Tel: 0300 067 5000

E-mail: [diversity@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:diversity@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

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