May 2019

Scottish Forestry
Coilltearachd na h-Alba

The Forestry Grant Scheme

A guide to grant options for **existing woodland** owners

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

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 £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 **forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations**

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation

S e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd

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 capital 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

Woodland improvement payments

When successfully applying for woodland improvement grant support you can receive:

Woodland improvement grant

+ annual maintenance payments for up to five years (Sustainable forest management)

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, Woodlands 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 restocking 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. Woodlands 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)
Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)	£30
Native Woodland	£25
Livestock Exclusion	£43
Woodland Grazing	£100
Public Access Rural Woods	£100
Public Access – Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT)	£100 for first 10 hectares £10 for any additional areas
Grey Squirrel Control	£200 per trap
Predator Control for Capercaillie and Black Grouse	£6.60
Species Conservation – Reducing Deer Impact	£6

Forest Infrastructure:

This option provides support for new access infrastructure that will bring small scale, undermanaged woodlands or inaccessible woodlands back into active management with the following aims:

- to improve the economic value of forest and woodland through timber production
- to increase the area of woodland in Scotland that is in sustainable management
- to improve the environmental and social benefits of woodland

This option is limited to woodlands of up to 50 hectares in size.

One off capital payments are available through this option to pay for operations associated with creating new forest infrastructure. The capital grants available are:

Capital grant operation	Payment rate
Construction of forest road (up to 500 m) 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
Replacement of low level water crossings	

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 £50,000.

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 Permissions

You may need permission to fell trees. For more information please see 'Felling Permission – Getting Permission' or contact your local Scottish Forestry office.

How to apply

Applications for the Forestry Grant Scheme are online only.
For more information visit forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations

You can apply at any time of year.

Contacts

Further advice on contents of this document and Felling Permission applications can be obtained by contacting our staff at Scottish Forestry conservancy offices.

Highland & Islands Conservancy
Woodlands
Fodderty Way, Dingwall
Ross-shire IV15 9XB
0300 067 6950
highland.cons@forestry.gov.scot

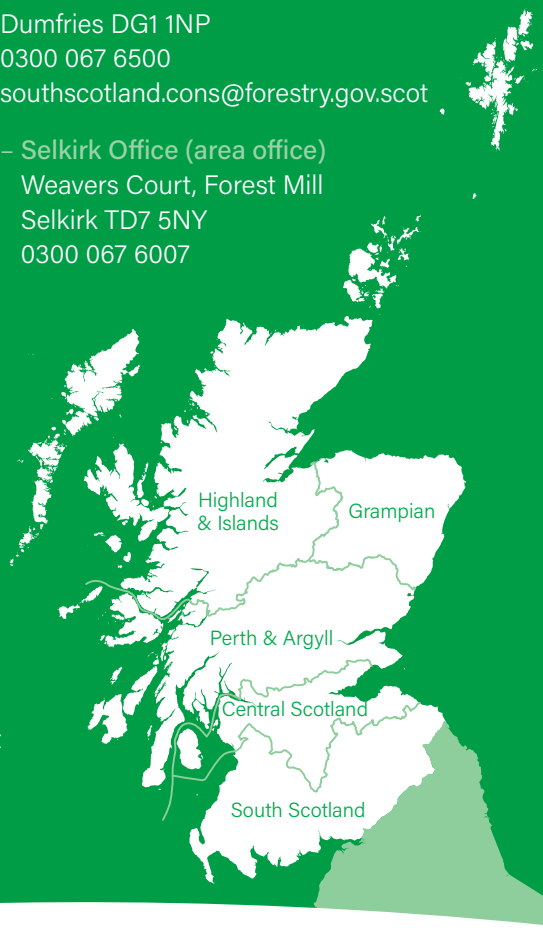
Grampian Conservancy
Portsoy Road, Huntly AB54 4SJ
0300 067 6210
grampian.cons@forestry.gov.scot

Perth & Argyll Conservancy
Upper Battleby, Redgorton
Perth PH1 3EN
0300 067 6005
panda.cons@forestry.gov.scot

Central Scotland Conservancy
Bothwell House
Hamilton Business Park
Caird Park, Hamilton ML3 0QA
0300 067 6006
centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot

South Scotland Conservancy
55–57 Moffat Road
Dumfries DG1 1NP
0300 067 6500
southscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot

– Selkirk Office (area office)
Weavers Court, Forest Mill
Selkirk TD7 5NY
0300 067 6007



For more information about the Forestry Grant Scheme, visit **forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations**

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

Scottish Rural Development Programme

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