



## WOODLAND CREATION UPDATE

This note provides information on upcoming changes to the Forestry Grant Scheme [Woodland Creation](#) option and associated capital items.

To date 8,762 hectares of woodland creation has been approved through the Forestry Grant Scheme. Of this total 2,769 hectares has been native woodland; 1,313 hectares in the Highland region. However, native woodland planting is well down on previous years and we are keen to see this increase to help meet the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy target of 3000-5000ha of new woodland per year across Scotland. This increase will also help us meet our climate change commitments.

In order to encourage more native woodland planting in the Highlands a new target area for native woodland has been created. This additional support recognises the higher establishment costs for the target areas identified in the Highland Council Forest and Woodland Strategy.

There is also a new higher rate for deer fencing and the area eligible for bracken control has been expanded. These changes are detailed below and are available for new applications and for applications at the submitted stage.

### Highland Native Woodland Target Area

A new 'Highland Native Woodland Target Area' has been created, see the attached map. Within this target area applicants are eligible for a higher grant payment rate for the following woodland creation options:

- Native Scots Pine at £3600/ha
- Native Upland Birch at £2790/ha
- Native Broadleaves at £3600/ha
- Native Low-density Broadleaves at £1170/ha

Applicants can apply now for the target area payment rate for proposals within the Highland Native Woodland Target Area.

### Deer Fence – High cost

A new capital item for high cost deer fencing at £9.90/metre is being introduced for woodland creation cases that are within the eligible area, shown on the attached map (based on very remote rural areas). This item is available for all of the Woodland Creation options. The higher rate has been set to recognise the higher costs associated with fencing of remote woodland creation sites within this area. Remote rural areas are those sites that are away from public roads, where access is difficult. This capital item is

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subject to approval by your local Conservancy office and may require the justification of costs.

### Bracken Control

The capital item for Bracken Control (£225/ha) is being extended to cover all Woodland Creation options.

For more information contact your [local Conservancy office](#).

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# Forestry Grant Scheme Highland Native Woodland Target Area



# Forestry Grant Scheme Deer Fence - High Cost Area

