

# Farm Woodlands Information Sheet



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## Basic advice about accessing the Forestry Grant Scheme for woodland creation

The Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) is administered by Scottish Forestry with the aim of encouraging the creation of new woodland and the sustainable management of existing woodland. Currently just under £50 million per year is available to fund new woodland creation projects with the aim of creating over 10,000ha of woodland each year.

To apply for a FGS woodland creation grant you first need to be registered with Rural Payments and Services and have been issued a Business Reference number. The land also needs to be registered and have been assigned a Land Parcel Identifier or LPID.

To make a successful grant application you need to demonstrate that:

- your proposed woodland design is capable of meeting the aims you have set for the scheme
- the tree species chosen are suitable for the site
- that the proposed methods of establishing the trees are appropriate to the site
- that the woodland creation scheme fits well with the local authority woodland strategy
- that the change in land use is justified i.e. that there is no significant loss of biodiversity or reduction in highly productive agricultural areas as a result of the planting scheme

This is shown by completing a detailed operational plan for the woodland creation scheme. It will be best to contact a forestry agent to help with preparing this plan. Surveys of soils, vegetation, archaeology and wildlife may be necessary to inform the plan. Consultation with relevant statutory bodies, local communities and neighbours is also important.



### Key Points

- No planting is permitted on peat >50cm
- Minimum width 15m (ideally at least 20m fence to fence)
- Productive options (conifer, diverse conifer and productive broadleaves) – minimum area 2ha
- Productive options must have adequate access for timber removal
- Other options – minimum area 0.25ha
- Value of fence/tube grants <150% of initial planting grant

#### Woodland creation grants are not available for:

- Planting in existing woodlands (including grazed woodland)
- Christmas tree growing
- short rotation coppice

## Funding (via FGS)

Grant funding consists of:

- an initial planting payment
- capital grants, e.g. for fencing and tree protection
- an annual maintenance payment for five years (to help fund weeding and other maintenance necessary to ensure the woodland is established properly)
- As long as you remain eligible for the basic payment scheme then this is still available for the area of ground planted for 20 years.

There are nine different woodland creation options available. Higher rates of payment are available for eligible schemes within the following target areas: Cairngorms National Park Woodland Expansion area; Highland Native Woodland area; Woodlands for Water areas; and for productive schemes in preferred and potential areas of local authority Forest and Woodland Strategies. Within the Central Scotland (CSGN) area a significant additional contribution is also available. Initial planting grant rates are reduced if ploughing is the form of ground preparation used. The table below shows some of the initial planting grants and annual maintenance payments available for popular woodland creation options:

**Table 1: Payment rates available within the Forestry Grant Scheme** (data correct as of 04/2020)

Option	Payment rates in std areas			Payment rates in target areas		
	Initial planting payment rate £/Ha	Maintenance payment £/ha/Yr For five years	Total planting payment rate (£/Ha)	Initial planting payment rate £/Ha	Maintenance payment £/ha/Yr For five years	Total payment rate (£/Ha)
Conifer	1920	208	<b>2960</b>	2160	234	<b>3330</b>
Diverse Conifer	2160	336	<b>3840</b>	2430	378	<b>4320</b>
Broadleaves	2880	528	<b>5520</b>	3240	594	<b>6210</b>
Small or farm woodlands	2400	400	<b>4400</b>	2700	450	<b>4950</b>
Native broadleaves	1840	272	<b>3200</b>	2070	306	<b>3600</b>

Although there are variations in cost related to location, access and terrain on average productive Conifer and Diverse Conifer options areas of approximately 8 ha are likely to break even while broadleaved planting areas break even at around 12 ha.

The capital grants (excluding the CSGN payment) should be no more than 150% of the initial planting grant. Scottish Forestry favour applications which have an average grant burden of between £3,500 & £4,200/Ha, not including the annual recurrent maintenance payments.

The table on the right indicates some of the most commonly accessed capital grants available to support woodland creation.

**Table 2: Commonly accessed capital grant support** (data correct as of 04/2020)

Capital Item	Payment Rate
Central Scotland Green Network Contributions	£7.50 - £2,500/ha
Stock Fence	£4.40/m
Deer Fence – standard or (in specified high cost areas)	£7.60(£9.90)
Rabbit-proofing of existing or new stock or deer fence	£1.60/m
Tree shelter 1.2m to 1.8m or (0.6m – 1.1m)	£2.00 each (£1.16 each)
Vole guard	£0.19 each
Gate for stock fence	£136 each
Gate for deer fence	£173 each
Self closing gate for non-vehicular access	£280 each
Bracken control	£225/Ha
Gorse removal	£720/net Ha