

Section 4

**General
Requirements for
Expansion and
Restocking Grants**

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Mixtures Intimate mixtures of conifers and/or broadleaves may be planted on suitable sites. Since we have specified different stocking rates for different species, the stocking rate for intimate mixtures will be determined by the species which has the greater proportion (eg in a mixture of 55% Scots pine/45% larch, the stocking density must be a minimum of 3,000 stems per hectare at Year 5). Where there are equal proportions of species with different stocking requirements then the higher stocking density will be taken. The grant aid for planting will be in proportion to the number of trees of each particular species which are planted.

Nurse crops If we agree that a nurse species is appropriate within your new planting and/or restocking proposals, the nurse trees must be established in addition to the minimum stocking densities set out in Table 1, page 2.3. Your proposals will need to specify arrangements for removal of nurse trees.

Open ground Open ground is an important element of woodlands and should be managed according to the scheme's objectives and the UK Forestry Standard principles. Up to 20% of the grant-aided area will be eligible (this means for example that if the grant-aided area of native woodland is 10 hectares there can be 8 hectares of trees and 2 hectares of designed open ground). Open ground should be carefully located around important features such as key non-woodland habitats, archaeological features, crags, and margins which may have value in terms of deer control.

FC Guidance Note 28 'SFGS Application and Mapping Standards' provides details on how to map open ground. It is essential that areas which are designated as open ground according to the objectives of your proposals, remain as open ground. Any details of work required to maintain this open ground should therefore be included within your proposals and agreed with us.

Woody shrubs If you want to plant woody shrubs such as hazel, hawthorn or blackthorn, we will pay you grant as long as we agree that this planting fits in with the objectives of the woodland and the ecology area. Generally, you can claim for planting woody shrubs up to a limit of 10% of the grant-aidable area. However, in native and riparian woodlands a higher proportion of native woody shrubs will be acceptable. This will be normally up to 20% of the grant-aidable area but could be higher where justified in terms of site type and guidance on design of the woodland.

Direct seeding If you wish to establish an area by direct seeding we will provide grant aid according to the rules of natural regeneration.

Native pinewoods For a new native pinewood of native character, payments will be made at the broadleaved rate. This also applies to Farmland Premium payments made by SEERAD. Stocking for native (Caledonian) Scots pine will be at least 1,100 stems per hectare at Year 5.

Christmas trees

We do not provide grants for planting Christmas trees. However, where your proposals qualify for the 60% of Standard Cost payment rate, planting of Christmas trees amongst the main species will be allowed, as long as this is compatible with the silvicultural and environmental management of the woodland. We must agree all planting of this kind before hand and will exclude it from the calculations of Standard Cost. Christmas trees must be removed from the scheme by the 10th year after planting.

Poplars

For poplar on suitable sites the broadleaved planting grant rate will be paid. If fewer trees than the minimum broadleaved stocking density are to be established, planting grant will be paid pro-rata. Poplar trees must be of a clone or clones acceptable to us.

