

## Section 5

### Grants for Stewardship

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## Section 5: Grants for Stewardship

Grants are available within existing woodlands for proposals that meet one or more of the following eight objectives. In some cases they are available from year of planting:

- S1 – Improving timber quality.**
- S2 – Reducing deer numbers.**
- S3 – Native woodlands.**
- S4 – Improving woodland biodiversity.**
- S5 – Landscape improvement.**
- S6 – Developing alternative systems to clear-felling.**
- S7 – Woodland recreation.**
- S8 – Developing community involvement.**

### S1: Improving timber quality

**Purpose** To improve the economic value of woods and forests by improving timber quality.

**Background** The Scottish Forestry Strategy lists improving timber quality as a priority for action. High quality timber is more likely to meet future markets and is also more likely to find a permanent use thereby assisting carbon sequestration.

**Eligibility criteria** We will provide grants where:

- There is a clear potential to improve the timber quality of the trees and therefore improve sawlog yield.
- Your application must describe the existing condition of the wood, the proposed operations and the anticipated outcome in terms of timber quality improvement.
- The minimum acceptable size of wood is 0.25 hectares.
- For respacing proposals, stocking density will be an important consideration in determining whether the crop has potential for timber quality improvement. In order to qualify for grant, stocking must exceed 4,000 stems per hectare.
- For formative pruning operations we will need to agree that crops have the potential for improvement in timber quality (for broadleaves see FC Handbook 9 ‘*Growing Broadleaves for Timber*’).

Grant is not available where tree damage makes the objective of quality timber production unattainable (for example high numbers of grey squirrels in broadleaved woodland; deer damage such as extensive bark-stripping).

**Grant rate** Grants will be based on 60% of Standard Costs.

**Eligible Operations** Grants will be available for work which achieves one or more of the following operations:

- Respacing of broadleaved or conifer natural regeneration to 2,500-3,500 stems per hectare (where stocking density exceeds 4,000 stems per hectare) after the trees have reached an average of 2 metres.
- Cleaning – removal of unwanted broadleaves and conifers (to not less than 2,500 stems/ha).

- Pre-commercial thinning in conifer and broadleaved crops where crops would otherwise miss the “thinning window”. The aim is to improve the average stem quality thus increasing the potential yield of green logs. For conifers, one (first thinning) operation. For broadleaves: oak and beech – up to three operations ash, sycamore and birch – up to two operations. Removal at 1st thinning of nurse crop, is eligible. The applicant will be required to carry out a stem straightness assessment according to the FC Information Note 39 – ‘Protocol for Stem Straightness Assessment in Sitka spruce’ to demonstrate that, post thinning, the stand mean straightness score is ‘C’ or above.
- High pruning of broadleaves capable of quality sawlog production - up to three operations five years apart, aiming for a minimum of 4 metres and up to 10 metres of clear stem. Only crops established at commercial spacing without significant grey squirrel or other damage, will eligible.
- High pruning of Douglas fir, Scots pine and larch capable of quality sawlog production – up to three operations five years apart, aiming for a minimum of 4 metres and up to 10 metres of clear stem.
- Early (formative) pruning of broadleaves for crops over 5 years old or up to 3 metres in height. Grants will be available for a maximum of two operations per crop.
- Early (formative) pruning of conifers for crops over 5 years old or up to 3 metres in height. Conifer crops may benefit from formative pruning in the early years to reduce the incidence of double leaders. Grants will be available for one operation per crop.

### Bibliography

*FC Handbook 9 ‘Growing Broadleaves for Timber’*

*FC Yield Tables*

*FC Information Note 39 ‘Protocol for Stem Straightness Assessment in Sitka Spruce’*

*FC Bulletin 120 ‘The potential for the natural regeneration of conifers in Britain’*

*Macdonald, E and Hubert, J (2002) ‘A review of the effects of silviculture on timber quality of Sitka spruce’, Forestry, Vol 75(2), 107-138.*

*Brasier, J D and Mobbs, I D = (1993) ‘The influence of planting distance on structural wood yields of unthinned Sitka spruce’, Forestry Vol 66(4). 333-352.*

*Worrell, R and Ross, I (2001) ‘Growing Scots pine for quality timber’. Available from the Cairngorms Partnership, 14 The Square, Grantown-on-Spey, Morayshire, PH26 3HG.*

## Standard Cost for S1: Improving timber quality

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate 60%
<b>Vegetation management</b>	1	Respace natural regeneration	100	Respace greater than 4,000 stems/ha (up to 10cm diameter)	hectare	500.00	300.00
	2	Cleaning	101	Removal of unwanted broadleaves and conifers (less than 4,000 to 2,500 stems/ha)	hectare	170.00	102.00
<b>Pruning</b>	21	Early pruning	110	Broadleaf and conifer crops over 5 years old and up to 3 metres tall (up to 1000 stems/ha)	hectare	250.00	150.00

**Standard Cost for S1: Improving timber quality**

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate 60%
<b>Pruning continued</b>	22	High pruning	111	High pruning broadleaves and conifers to achieve a minimum of 4 and up to 10m clear stem at the time of the first pruning operation. (final crop trees only, 200-300/ha)	hectare	400.00	240.00
<b>Tree removal</b>	23	Pre-commercial and non-commercial thinning	115	Conifers and broadleaves; may include chemical thinning	hectare	150.00	90.00
<b>WIAT</b>	546	S1: WIAT Grant Amount	190	To be used as a 'top-up' where the Stewardship 1 SFGS costs are not adequate to cover the costs of the increased specification you require to meet WIAT objectives. This reference should also be used to apply for grant against 'additional' operations, activities and items not included in the SFGS list of standard costs.	–	*	–

*\* Standard Costs are not relevant and grant is based on approved and judged agreed costs as per the Challenge Fund process.*

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## S2: Reducing deer numbers

**Purpose** To improve the economic and ecological value of woods and forests by reducing deer numbers.

**Background** Although deer are an important component of the woodland environment, when numbers are too high they can reduce the quality of woodland habitats and restrict the establishment of trees. Grant aid is available for reducing deer numbers to levels which prevent damage to trees and important habitats either in existing woodlands and/or where new woodlands are to be created. The preferred method of protecting trees and habitats is by culling deer numbers to an appropriate level. However, deer fencing can be used where it is shown to be essential. Best practice guidance (see bibliography) outlines the circumstances where conventional fencing, and alternatives to conventional fencing, can be supported.

**Eligibility criteria** We will provide grants for work that meets the following criteria:

- Operations (including those operations proposed for grant aid) must be set out in a deer management plan (DMP - see below) that has been agreed by us and - where appropriate - the Deer Commission for Scotland (DCS).
- Operations must comply with DCS Best Practice Guidance.
- Where fencing is proposed as part of the operation, an assessment of the risks (including impacts upon wildlife and access) together with appropriate mitigation measures must be carried out in line with best practice guidance. The timescale of fence removal (where appropriate) must be indicated. Where fencing is proposed,

compensatory deer culling will normally also be necessary. Fencing proposals should avoid obstructing or hindering public access.

- Where protection is by deer culling alone it must be clear from the DMP that this is achievable and sustainable.

### Grant rates

Grant rates will normally be based on 60% of agreed costs relating to net cost of deer control. However, grant rates based on 90% of agreed costs will be paid for the following:

- Work relating to woodland SSSIs, Natura sites, woodland HAPs and SAPs.
- Areas with particularly complex deer issues where voluntary deer control agreements (under section 7 of the Deer Act 1996) are in place.

There will be an upper limit to the agreed costs of £6 per hectare, based on the eligible operations listed below. It is recognised that there is likely to be very considerable variation in costs, which must be justified in the DMP.

Grants will be paid for a period of 10 years. We will carry out a review of the work at Year 5 and if the outputs specified in the DMP are being delivered as agreed, the contract can continue until the completion date. However, if the work is successful but the outputs specified in the DMP are not achieved (wholly or partially) we may choose to terminate the contract or we may revise the work to be carried out in the second five years, depending on the results of monitoring.

If you are carrying out new planting or restocking you must claim the first payment (covering five years) with your claim for planting the trees. For existing woodlands (including natural regeneration) you can claim the first payment once the contract is signed. The second payment will only be made after the five year review has been carried out.

### Eligible operations

Grants will be available from the year of planting for work that achieves the following:

- Preparing a DMP and collecting associated data.
- Reduction culls and ongoing management culls.
- Monitoring and assessment.

Grants are intended to contribute towards the following aims;

- Achieve a cull level agreed in the DMP.
- Manage deer to safeguard regenerating, planted or restocked woodlands.
- Improve the quality of woodland and non-woodland habitats which are important in themselves or which support other important species (eg blaeberry for capercaillie).
- Achieve compensatory culls where land is being removed from established deer range by fencing.
- Monitor and assess the impact of deer reduction on habitat quality.
- Keep records (sex and time of year) of deer shot.

### Deer Management Plans (DMP)

A DMP format is available from your local Conservancy office and our website (see FCS Guidance Note 25). The DMP must justify the need for grant either by giving an assessment of the risk of damage to young trees or sensitive habitats, or by providing evidence of damage. It must include a map showing the boundary of the area which

will attract grant for deer control. The woodland area can include up to 20% open ground habitat as an integral part of the woodland, or proposed woodland.

The need to control deer beyond the area of trees or habitat being protected may also be referred to in the DMP. Any proposals should be based on a Biological or Deer Management Unit (ie an area of forest or open land within which the deer can be controlled). Deer Management Units are normally greater than 20 hectares but may sometimes exceed 1000 hectares. Funding for deer control outwith the woodland will need to come from a non-FC source. The risk of damage can be assessed using estimates of deer numbers and/or any browsing impact indicators found in the area. Evidence of ongoing damage can include nearest neighbour damage assessments, vegetation condition assessments, or suitable photography as we agree with you.

The DMP must include a description of the type of monitoring and assessment techniques that will be carried out to ensure that the actions detailed have been implemented effectively. This should be simple and effective but will reflect the size and complexity of the area to be grant-aided. We will agree the monitoring to be carried out including one or more of the following; cull levels, assessment of deer population, tree survival/damage and habitat condition.

### **Bibliography**

- FCS Guidance Note 11 'Deer and Fencing'*  
*FCS Guidance Note 25 Reduction in Deer Numbers (including Deer Management Plan Framework)*  
*FC Field Book 18 'How many Deer? A guide to estimating deer population size'*  
*Joint Agency Statement & Guidance on Deer Fencing June 2004*  
*DCS 1999 – Collaborative Deer Management. 'Guidelines for deer management plans' (Also on DCS website)*  
*DCS 1999 – 'Rifle and ammunition combinations required for the legal shooting of deer in Scotland'*  
*DCS 1997 – 'Deer census work'*  
*DCS 1997 – 'Code of practice for shooting deer at night'*  
*DCS 1997 – 'Code of practice on the use of vehicles for the purpose of deer management'*  
*DCS 2001 – Wild deer in Scotland: A long term strategy' (Also on DCS website)*  
*HMSO 1997 – 'A policy for Sika deer in Scotland' (Also on DCS website)*  
*DCS Guidance on: Deer Welfare, Public Safety, Impact of Displacement activity, Deer Fencing*  
*Scottish Outdoor Access Code*

## **Standard Costs for S2: Reducing deer numbers**

Activity	Look-up ref no.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate	
							60%	90%
<b>Deer control</b>	32	Reduce deer numbers	200	All operations must comply with DCS Best Practice Guidance. A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	6.00	*	*
							3.60	5.40

\* Grant is based on 60 or 90% of agreed costs relating to net cost of deer control up to a maximum agreed cost of £6/hectare

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## S3: Native woodlands

**Purpose** To improve the ecological value of native woodlands, through work related to native woodland Habitat Action Plans.

**Background** There is world-wide recognition of the importance of conserving native forests, which provide the richest and most diverse terrestrial ecological systems. Clearance of our native forests, which at one time covered an estimated 70-80% of Scotland, has been a continuous process over several thousands of years, and native woodland cover is now about 2% of the land area. The UK Government's Biodiversity Action Plan identified the need to continue to protect, improve and restore ancient semi-natural woodlands and encourage the extension and creation of new native woodlands.

**Eligibility criteria** We will provide grants for work that achieves at least one of the following including a management plan:

- A management plan which includes a baseline survey, aims of management and rationale for proposed operations. A management plan is essential and may be free-standing, or be part of the relevant section of an overall management plan. For SSSIs the proposals must accord with objectives set out in the site management statement. The plan should also include a commitment to produce, at the end of five years, a written report on the outcome of this work, in terms of maintaining or improving the habitat or species.
- Maintains and/or improves the ecological condition of native woodlands.
- Restores native woodlands on ancient woodland sites.
- Secures natural regeneration within - or immediately adjacent to - native woodlands.
- Is consistent with Biodiversity Action Plans for the relevant native woodland HAP or SAP.

**Grant rates** Grants will be based on 90% of Standard Costs.

**Eligible operations** Grants will be available for work which achieves one or more of the following operations:

- Preparation of the native woodland management plan or the relevant section of an overall management plan.
- Essential baseline surveys and monitoring (see FCS Guidance Notes 7 & 12).
- Protection from inappropriate grazing by wild or domestic animals (including compensation for loss of grazing income).
- Removal of non-native and invasive vegetation (which can include native plants and other trees inappropriate to the integrity of the native woodland).
- Removal of redundant fencing and marking of essential retained fences to prevent bird strikes. These grants will be available where there are known populations of vulnerable bird species. Ideally this should be part of a wider package of measures to enhance the habitat for these species.
- Ground preparation to encourage natural regeneration.

- Standard net cost of essential thinning, coppicing and small-scale felling to encourage regeneration or to improve woodland edges by reducing stocking levels.
- Supplementary small-scale planting (with local provenance/seed) where natural regeneration is inadequate to achieve desired stocking.
- Blocking of drains to re-create wetland habitats.
- Re-routing of existing formal access to avoid sensitive sites.
- Appropriate deadwood management.
- Ride management where appropriate (for example for butterflies).

**Bibliography** *FCS Guidance Note 7 'Native Woodland Condition Survey'*  
*FCS Guidance Note 11 'Deer and Fencing'*  
*FCS Guidance Note 12 'Management Plans for Semi-Natural Woodlands'*  
*FC Forest Practice Guide 'Restoration of Native Woodland on Ancient Woodland Sites'*  
*FC Forest Practice Guides to the Management of Semi-Natural Woodland*  
*FCS Information Note on Native Woodland HAPs*

## Standard Costs for S3: Native woodlands

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate 90%
<b>Management planning and monitoring surveys</b>	33	Management plan: Native Woodland/ Biodiversity	300	Detailed 5 year plan (FC Scotland Guidance Note 12 should be followed for S3). A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	3.50	3.15
	34	Survey for Woodland Condition	301	Woodland Condition Survey Level 2 (FC Scotland Guidance Note 7). A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	7.00	6.30
	35	Monitoring: Native Woodland/ Biodiversity	302	Biodiversity monitoring eg vegetation monitoring/fixed plot photography/species change assessments. A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	4.00	3.60
<b>Vegetation management</b>	3	Bracken whipping	310	Limited control, only on sensitive sites	hectare	150.00	135.00
	4	Chemical weed control by spot spraying	311	Spot spray – 1m around tree	per tree	0.05	0.05
	7	Rhodi Control: <3.5m tall and flail cut	314	<3.5m tall, cut using flail (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	830.00	747.00
	8	Rhodi Control: >3.5m tall and flail cut	315	3.5+m tall, cut using flail (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	1800.00	1620.00
	9	Rhodi Control: <2.5m machine rake/burn	316	<2.5m tall, manually cut/uproot, rake and burn using excavator (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	2200.00	1980.00
	10	Rhodi Control: >2.5m machine rake/burn	317	2.5-3.5m tall, manually cut, rake and burn using excavator (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	3400.00	3060.00
	11	Rhodi Control: <3.5m manually cut/burn	318	<3.5m tall, manually cut and burn (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	4200.00	3780.00

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate 90%
<b>Vegetation management continued</b>	12	Rhodi Control: >3.5m manually cut/burn	319	>3.5m tall, manually cut and burn (see Technical Note2/96)	hectare	5500.00	4950.00
	153	Chemical control of standing rhododendron	327	Chemical control of standing rhododendron	hectare	500.00	450.00
	14	Clearance of invasive vegetation	321	Mechanical cutting and chemical stump treatment of vegetation up to 2m tall	hectare	280.00	252.00
	15	Ride management	322	Ride mowing including open ground for conservation reasons	hectare	200.00	180.00
	16	Dead wood management	323	Maintenance and creation of deadwood	hectare	40.00	36.00
	17	Blocking drains <2m x 1m	324	Small (<2m x 1m)	per dam	40.00	36.00
	19	Blocking drains >2m x 1m	326	Large (>2m x 1m)	per dam	80.00	72.00
<b>Mammal control</b>	44	Rabbit control	330	Inserting box traps includes labour (or up to equivalent costs for gassing)	each	90.00	81.00
	45	Squirrel control: catch-trap	331	Includes bait and cover material	each	27.00	24.30
	559	Grey squirrel control	382	For red squirrel conservation using catch-trap(s). Labour costs including siting, prebaiting, setting, checking, despatch, recording, monitoring and parapox testing. Based upon an average of 12 visits per catch trap per year.	per catch trap per year	360.00	324.00
	149	Predator control	333	To control predators where required under management of woodland SAP. The grant will be paid on a percentage of actual costs/ha to a maximum of £7.50/ha.	hectare	7.50	6.75
<b>Protection</b>	47	Conversion of deer fence to stock	340	Dismantling to stock. Removal and disposal from site to landfill site	metre	1.70	1.53
	48	Stock fence removal	341	Complete dismantling. Removal and disposal from site to landfill site	metre	1.70	1.53
	49	Deer fence removal	342	Complete dismantling. Removal and disposal from site to landfill site	metre	2.20	1.98
	50	Stock fencing	303	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	4.20	3.78
	51	Stock fencing with deer strainers	304	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	4.40	3.96
	52	Rabbit proof existing stock or deer fence	305	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	2.15	1.94
	53	Stock and rabbit fencing	306	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	5.50	4.95

## Standard Costs for S3: Native woodlands

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate 90%
<b>Protection continued</b>	55	Deer fencing – light specification	307	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	6.35	5.72
	56	Deer fencing – heavy specification	308	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	7.15	6.44
	59	Upgrade stock to deer fence	309	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	2.75	2.48
	63	Fence upgrade	328	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	0.55	0.50
	60	Deer/Caper fence: full height woodwork	329	New deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Full height 1.8m chestnut paling/sawn softwood droppers (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note).	metre	11.00	9.90
	62	Deer/Caper fence: half length woodwork	334	New deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Half length woven chestnut paling/sawn softwood droppers (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note).	metre	10.00	9.00
	64	Marking fenceline	343	UV stable orange barrier netting (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note)	metre	2.00	1.80
	65	Modifying deer/Caper: half wood @ 30cm	344	Modifying existing deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Half length chestnut paling/sawn softwood droppers @ 30cm centres (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note).	metre	3.30	2.97
	66	Modifying deer/Caper: half wood @ 15cm	345	Modifying existing deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Half length chestnut paling/sawn softwood droppers @ 15cm centres (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note).	metre	5.50	4.95
	67	Modifying Deer/caper: full length woodwork	346	Modifying existing deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Full length chestnut paling/sawn softwood droppers @ 15cm centres (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note).	metre	6.60	5.94
	70	Loss of grazing income	349	Excluding stock to encourage regeneration of woodland	hectare	100.00	*
	71	Dyke upgrade	335	Upgrading of an existing dyke to stock proof specification	metre	10.00	9.00
	72	Hanging watergate: >6m span	336	>6m span – refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	75.00	67.50
	73	Hanging watergate: 3-6m span	337	3-6m span – refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	30.00	27.00
	74	Badger gate	338	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	each	110.00	99.00
	75	Tree shelters: >1.2m tall & shrub shelter	339	1.2m shelter/shrub shelters and treated softwood stake. Includes labour costs for attachment.	per shelter	1.60	1.44
	76	Tree shelters: 0.6m - 1.1m tall	375	0.6m - 1.1m shelter and treated softwood stake. Includes labour costs for attachment.	per shelter	1.00	0.90

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate 90%
<b>Protection continued</b>	77	Spiral guards	376	0.6m spiral guard and cane. Includes labour costs for attachment.	per guard	0.60	0.54
	78	Vole guards	377	Includes guards and labour for attachment	per guard	0.24	0.22
	79	Tree shelter removal	378	Removal of tree shelters from site and disposed off in appropriate landfill site	per shelter	0.40	0.36
<b>Establishment</b>	151	Enrichment planting: Native Broadleaves	379	Includes planting, beating-up, weeding, fertilising and supervision until established	1000 trees	700.00	630.00
	99	Enrichment planting: SPC	381	Includes planting, beating-up, weeding, fertilising and supervision until established	1000 trees	600.00	540.00
<b>Ground preparation</b>	5	Chemical weed control by aerial/machine	312	Extensive areas of weeds such as bracken – aerial or mechanised application	hectare	180.00	162.00
	6	Chemical weed control by hand	313	Hand application of chemical for weed control	hectare	300.00	270.00
	84	Linear scarifying	354	Disc trencher such as tractor mounted TTS Delta	hectare	75.00	67.50
	85	Patch scarifying	355	Machine such as Doneran type scarifier	1000 mounds	50.00	45.00
	86	Continuous mounding	356	Machine such as McClarty type moulder	hectare	125.00	112.50
	89	Mounding and screening by hand	357	Planting positions screeded and mounded by hand	1000 mounds	260.00	234.00
	150	Drainage	368	Creating new drains or clearing existing drains	metre	0.90	0.81
	<b>Tree removal</b>	24	Felling conifer to waste: <3m high	360	Pre-thicket (<3m high)	hectare	450.00
25		Felling conifer to waste: 3m - 6m high	361	Thicket (3m - 6m high)	hectare	750.00	675.00
26		Felling conifer to waste and clearing site: <3m	362	Pre-thicket (<3m high), extract chip or burn	hectare	1000.00	900.00
27		Felling conifer to waste and clearing site: 3m - 6m high	363	Thicket stage (3m - 6m high), extract chip or burn	hectare	1500.00	1350.00
28		Small scale thinning	364	Net cost of small scale thinning of conifers and broadleaves	hectare	200.00	180.00
29		Felling and extraction of conifers	365	Net cost of small scale felling and extraction of conifers up to 0.25ha and not more than 25% of eligible woodland area	hectare	600.00	540.00
30		Felling and extraction of broadleaves	366	Net cost of small scale felling and extraction of broadleaves up to 0.25ha and not more than 25% of eligible woodland area	hectare	1200.00	1080.00
147		Chipping/mulching of brash	369	Clearing brash debris as a result of small scale harvesting/thinning operations	hectare	500.00	450.00

## Standard Costs for S3: Native woodlands

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate 90%
<b>Tree removal continued</b>	31	Cutting coppice stools	367	Cutting of 1100 stools/hectare in 20-30 year old crop	hectare	800.00	720.00
<b>Re-routing of formal access</b>	106	Footpath: cut & fill 1.2m wide	370	Dry site, cut and fill, 1.2m wide including shallow drain. Includes any burn crossings up to 1m.	metre	4.00	3.60
	107	Footpath: built and rolled 1.2m wide	371	Light use or dry site, a light scrape, 1.2m wide with 20cm depth of type 1 metal and top layer of whindust, vibrator rolled. Includes burn crossings of up to 1m.	metre	11.00	9.90
	108	Footpath: built and rolled 1.6m wide	372	Heavy use or wet or steep site, 1.6m wide, 30cm depth type 1 material and top layer of whindust, vibrator rolled. Includes burn crossings of up to 1m.	metre	18.00	16.20
	109	Footpath: short sections/gabion barriers	373	Short sections requiring manual construction, gabion barriers	metre	25.00	22.50
	110	Footpath upgrading	374	Upgrading of existing path network	metre	1.00	0.90
<b>Locational Premium management</b>	543	Western Isles: Native woods management	380	Western Isles: Native woods	hectare	800.00	*
<b>WIAT</b>	547	S3: WIAT Grant Amount	390	To be used as a 'top-up' where the Stewardship 3 SFGS costs are not adequate to cover the costs of the increased specification you require to meet WIAT objectives. This reference should also be used to apply for grant against 'additional' operations, activities and items not included in the SFGS list of standard costs.	–	**	–

\* Percentage rate does not apply – use the full standard cost rate.

\*\* Standard Costs are not relevant and grant is based on approved and judged agreed costs as per the Challenge Fund process

## S4: Improving woodland biodiversity

**Purpose** To improve the environmental value of non-native woods and forests through work related to Biodiversity Action Plans (HAPs, SAPs and LBAPs) and designated sites, or the conservation of species listed in the schedules of the Wildlife and Countryside Act or the EU Habitats and Species Directive and the EU Birds Directive.

**Background** While native woodlands in Scotland have an especially high conservation value, there is also considerable scope to enhance the biodiversity of non-native woods and forests by encouraging appropriate species and habitat management measures.

**Eligibility criteria** We will provide grants in non-native woodlands for work that achieves at least one of the following including a management plan:

- A management plan setting out the aims of management and the rationale for proposed operations.
- Contributes to the implementation of agreed HAPs, SAPs and LBAPs, including work in open ground and non-woodland habitat within the woodland or forest area.
- Creates up to 20% of the woodland area as non-woodland and open ground habitat (this habitat needs to be integral to the woodland, that is, either surrounded by woodland or comprising the tree-line/moorland fringe). Area calculations will be based on areas of individual woodlands and not on the total woodland area of the estate.
- Your application must justify the proposed work in terms of these criteria, and give a commitment to provide a written report, at the end of five years, on the outcome of the work in terms of improvement to habitat or species.

**Grant rates** Grant rates will be normally be based on 60% of Standard Costs. However, grant rates based on 90% of Standard Costs will be paid for work relating to woodland SSSIs, Natura sites and priority sites for woodland SAPs (see FCS Guidance Note 30).

**Eligible operations** Grants will be available for work which achieves one or more of the following operations:

- Essential baseline surveys and monitoring.
- A management plan or the relevant section of an overall management plan (including a baseline survey – see FCS Guidance Note 12).
- Protection from inappropriate grazing by wild or domestic animals.
- Removal of non-native and invasive vegetation (which can include native plants and other trees inappropriate to the targeted habitat or species).
- Removal of redundant fencing and marking of essential retained fences to prevent bird strikes. These grants will be available where there are known populations of vulnerable bird species. Ideally this should be part of a wider package of measures to enhance the habitat for these species.
- Standard net cost of essential tree removal to create permanent open ground and improve woodland edges by reducing stocking levels. Some natural regeneration

may be acceptable in the open ground and should be defined in the management plan.

- Small scale planting.
- Grey squirrel control for red squirrel conservation. Applies only to the priority woodlands and associated buffer areas for red squirrel management, as identified in the Species Action Plan.
- Blocking of drains to re-create wetland habitats.
- Re-routing of existing formal access to avoid sensitive sites.

**Bibliography** FCS Guidance Note 12 'Management Plans for Semi-Natural Woodlands'  
FCS Guidance Note 30 'SFGS Grants for S4 and BAP Priority Sites'

## Standard Costs for S4: Improving woodland biodiversity

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate	
							60%	90%
<b>Management planning and monitoring surveys</b>	33	Management plan: Native Woodland/ Biodiversity	400	Detailed 5 year plan (FC Scotland Guidance Note 12 should be followed for S3). A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	3.50	2.10	3.15
	34	Survey for Woodland Condition	401	Woodland Condition Survey Level 2 (FC Scotland Guidance Note 7). A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	7.00	4.20	6.30
	35	Monitoring: Native Woodland/ Biodiversity	402	Biodiversity monitoring eg vegetation monitoring/fixed plot photography/species change assessments. A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	4.00	2.40	3.60
<b>Vegetation management</b>	3	Bracken whipping	410	Limited control, only on sensitive sites	hectare	150.00	90.00	135.00
	4	Chemical weed control by spot spraying	411	Spot spray – 1m around tree	per tree	0.05	0.03	0.05
	7	Rhodi control: <3.5m tall and flail cut	414	<3.5m tall, cut using flail (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	830.00	498.00	747.00
	8	Rhodi control: >3.5m tall and flail cut	415	3.5+m tall, cut using flail (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	1800.00	1080.00	1620.00
	9	Rhodi control: <2.5m machine rake/burn	416	<2.5m tall, manually cut/uproot, rake and burn using excavator (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	2200.00	1320.00	1980.00
	10	Rhodi control: >2.5m machine rake/burn	417	2.5-3.5m tall, manually cut, rake and burn using excavator (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	3400.00	2040.00	3060.00
	11	Rhodi control: <3.5m manually cut/burn	418	<3.5m tall, manually cut and burn (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	4200.00	2520.00	3780.00
	12	Rhodi control: >3.5m manually cut/burn	419	>3.5m tall, manually cut and burn (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	5500.00	3300.00	4950.00

## Standard Costs for S4: Improving woodland biodiversity

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate	
							60%	90%
<b>Vegetation management continued</b>	153	Chemical control of standing rhododendron	423	Chemical control of standing rhododendron	hectare	500.00	300.00	450.00
	14	Clearance of Invasive vegetation	421	Mechanical cutting and chemical stump treatment, of vegetation up to 2m tall	hectare	280.00	168.00	252.00
	15	Ride management	422	Ride mowing including open ground for conservation reasons	hectare	200.00	120.00	180.00
	16	Dead wood management	430	Maintenance & creation of deadwood	hectare	40.00	24.00	36.00
	17	Blocking drains <2m x 1m	431	Small (<2m x 1m)	per dam	40.00	24.00	36.00
	19	Blocking drains >2m x 1m	433	Large (>2m x 1m)	per dam	80.00	48.00	72.00
	<b>Mammal control</b>	44	Rabbit control	440	Inserting box traps includes labour (or up to equivalent costs for gassing)	each	90.00	54.00
45		Squirrel control: catch-trap	441	Includes bait and cover material	each	27.00	16.20	24.30
559		Grey squirrel control	485	For red squirrel conservation using catch-trap(s). Labour costs including siting, prebaiting, setting, checking, despatch, recording, monitoring and parapo testing. Based upon an average of 12 visits per catch trap per year	per catch trap per year	360.00	216.00	324.00
149		Predator control	443	To control predators where required under management of woodland SAP. The grant will be paid on a percentage of actual costs/ha which must be agreed with FC up to a maximum of £7.50/ha.	hectare	7.50	4.50	6.75
<b>Protection</b>		47	Conversion of deer fence to stock	450	Dismantling to stock. Removal and disposal from site to landfill site	metre	1.70	1.02
	48	Stock fence removal	451	Complete dismantling. Removal and disposal from site to landfill site	metre	1.70	1.02	1.53
	49	Deer fence removal	452	Complete dismantling. Removal and disposal from site to landfill site	metre	2.20	1.32	1.98
	50	Stock fencing	403	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	4.20	2.52	3.78
	51	Stock fencing with deer strainers	404	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	4.40	2.64	3.96
	52	Rabbit proof existing stock or deer fence	405	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	2.15	1.29	1.94
	53	Stock and rabbit fencing	406	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	5.50	3.30	4.95
	55	Deer fencing – light specification	407	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	6.35	3.81	5.72
	56	Deer fencing – heavy specification	408	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	7.15	4.29	6.44

## Standard Costs for S4: Improving woodland biodiversity

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate	
							60%	90%
<b>Protection continued</b>	59	Upgrade stock to deer fence	409	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	2.75	1.65	2.48
	63	Fence upgrade	424	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	0.55	0.33	0.50
	60	Deer/Caper fence: full height woodwork	425	New deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Full height 1.8m chestnut paling/ sawn softwood droppers (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note).	metre	11.00	6.60	9.90
	62	Deer/Caper fence: half length woodwork	426	New deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Half length woven chestnut paling/ sawn softwood droppers (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note)	metre	10.00	6.00	9.00
	64	Marking fenceline	453	UV stable orange barrier netting (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note)	metre	2.00	1.20	1.80
	65	Modifying deer/ Caper: half wood @ 30cm	454	Modifying existing deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Half length chestnut paling/sawn softwood droppers @ 30cm centres (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note)	metre	3.30	1.98	2.97
	66	Modifying deer/ Caper: half wood @ 15cm	455	Modifying existing deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Half length chestnut paling/sawn softwood droppers @ 15cm centres (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note)	metre	5.50	3.30	4.95
	67	Modifying Deer/ caper: full length woodwork	456	Modifying existing deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Full length chestnut paling/sawn softwood droppers @ 15cm centres (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note)	metre	6.60	3.96	5.94
	71	Dyke upgrade	427	Upgrading of an existing dyke to stock proof specification	metre	10.00	6.00	9.00
	72	Hanging watergate: >6m span	428	>6m span – refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	75.00	45.00	67.50
	73	Hanging watergate: 3m - 6m span	429	3m - 6m span – refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	30.00	18.00	27.00
	74	Badger gate	434	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	each	110.00	66.00	99.00
	75	Tree shelters: >1.2m tall and shrub shelters	435	1.2m shelter/shrub shelters plus treated softwood stake. Includes labour costs for attachment.	per shelter	1.60	0.96	1.44
	76	Tree shelters: 0.6m - 1.1m tall	436	0.6m –1.1m tube plan treated softwood stake. Includes labour costs for attachment.	per shelter	1.00	0.60	0.90
	77	Spiral guards	437	0.6m spiral guard + cane. Includes labour costs for attachment.	per guard	0.60	0.36	0.54
	78	Vole guards	438	Includes guards and labour for attachment	per guard	0.24	0.14	0.22
	79	Tree shelter removal	439	Removal of tree shelters from site and disposed off in appropriate landfill site	per shelter	0.40	0.24	0.36

## Standard Costs for S4: Improving woodland biodiversity

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate	
							60%	90%
<b>Establishment</b>	151	Enrichment planting: Native broadleaves	444	Includes planting, beating-up, weeding, fertilising and supervision until established	1000 trees	700.00	420.00	630.00
	99	Enrichment planting: SPC	445	Includes planting, beating-up, weeding, fertilising and supervision until established	1000 trees	600.00	360.00	540.00
<b>Ground preparation</b>	5	Chemical weed control by aerial/ machine	412	Extensive areas of weeds such as bracken – Aerial or mechanised application.	hectare	180.00	108.00	162.00
	6	Chemical weed control by hand	413	Hand application of chemical for weed control	hectare	300.00	180.00	270.00
	84	Linear scarifying	446	Disc trencher such as tractor mounted TTS Delta	hectare	75.00	45.00	67.50
	85	Patch scarifying	447	Machine such as Doneran type scarifier	1000 mounds	50.00	30.00	45.00
	86	Continuous mounding	448	Machine such as McClarty type moulder	hectare	125.00	75.00	112.50
	89	Mounding and screefing by hand	449	Planting positions screefed and mounded by hand	1000 mounds	260.00	156.00	234.00
	150	Drainage	459	Creating new drains or clearing existing drains	metre	0.90	0.54	0.81
	<b>Tree removal</b>	24	Felling conifer to waste: <3m high	470	Pre-thicket (<3m high)	hectare	450.00	270.00
25		Felling conifer to waste: 3m - 6m high	471	Thicket (3m - 6m high)	hectare	750.00	450.00	675.00
26		Felling conifer to waste and clearing site: <3m	472	Pre-thicket (<3m high), extract, chip or burn	hectare	1000.00	600.00	900.00
27		Felling conifer to waste and clearing site: 3m - 6m high	473	Thicket stage (3m - 6m high), extract, chip or burn	hectare	1500.00	900.00	1350.00
28		Small scale thinning	474	Net cost of small scale thinning of conifers and broadleaves	hectare	200.00	120.00	180.00
29		Felling and extraction of conifers	475	Net cost of small scale felling and extraction of conifers up to 0.25ha and not more than 25% of eligible woodland area.	hectare	600.00	360.00	540.00
30		Felling and extraction of broadleaves	476	Net cost of small scale felling and extraction of broadleaves up to 0.25ha and not more than 25% of eligible woodland area.	hectare	1200.00	720.00	1080.00
147		Chipping/mulching of brash	478	Clearing brash debris as a result of small scale harvesting/thinning operations	hectare	500.00	300.00	450.00
31		Cutting coppice stools	477	Cutting of 1100 stools/hectare in 20-30 year old crop	hectare	800.00	480.00	720.00
<b>Re-routing of formal access</b>		106	Footpath: cut and fill 1.2m wide	480	Dry site, cut and fill, 1.2m wide including shallow drain. Includes any burn crossings up to 1m	metre	4.00	2.40

## Standard Costs for S4: Improving woodland biodiversity

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate	
							60%	90%
<b>Re-routing of formal access continued</b>	107	Footpath: built and rolled 1.2m wide	481	Light use or dry site, a light scrape, 1.2m wide with 20cm depth of type 1 metal and top layer of whindust, vibrator rolled. Includes burn crossings of up to 1m.	metre	11.00	6.60	9.90
	108	Footpath: built and rolled 1.6m wide	482	Heavy use or wet or steep site, 1.6m wide, 30cm depth type 1 material and top layer of whindust, vibrator rolled. Includes burn crossings of up to 1m.	metre	18.00	10.80	16.20
	109	Footpath: short sections/gabion barriers	483	Short sections requiring manual construction, gabion barriers	metre	25.00	15.00	22.50
	110	Footpath upgrading	484	Upgrading of existing path network	metre	1.00	0.60	0.90
<b>WIAT</b>	548	S4: WIAT Grant Amount	490	To be used as a 'top-up' where the Stewardship 4 SFGS costs are not adequate to cover the costs of the increased specification you require to meet WIAT objectives. This reference should also be used to apply for grant against 'additional' operations, activities and items not included in the SFGS list of standard costs.	–	*	–	–

\* Standard Costs are not relevant and grant is based on approved and judged agreed costs as per the Challenge Fund process.

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## S5: Landscape improvement

**Purpose** To improve the social, ecological and economic value of woods and forests by enhancing their landscape value and their cultural heritage assets.

**Background** By adopting best practice as set out in the UK Forestry Standard and associated Guidelines, the natural and historic landscape and the cultural heritage value of woods and forests can be enhanced. Where applicable, existing work is expected to follow the guidance included in SNH Landscape Character Assessments.

**Eligibility criteria** Only established forests and woodlands (ie at least five years old) will be eligible for grant. We will provide grants for work that achieves at least one of the following, including a landscape design plan:

- A landscape design plan which includes a visual analysis.
- Carries out remedial action in forests which do not meet current landscape standards.
- Improves designed landscapes.
- Improves the diversity of the farmed landscape.
- Conserves the cultural interest of the site and/or its landscape context.

The application must explain how the proposed operations will enhance the landscape or cultural heritage value of the woodland.

**Grant rates** Grant rates will be normally be based on 60% of Standard Costs. However, grant rates based on 90% of Standard Costs will be paid where the agreed work is undertaken in special areas such as:

- National Parks.
- Around Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- Designed Landscapes in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland; National Scenic Areas, and certain Local Authority designations.
- Areas of Great Landscape Value.
- Woodland TPOs.
- Woodland SSSIs.
- Natura sites.

**Eligible operations** Grants will be available for work which achieves one or more of the following operations:

- Preparation of a landscape design plan, to include design concept and visual analysis.
- Standard net cost of small scale felling and thinning, including severance cuts.
- Small scale new planting and enrichment planting.
- Realignment of fence lines (eg after felling to a new margin) and any associated fence removal.
- Small scale brushing that improves the immediate views and woodland edges within the landscape.
- Removal of invasive vegetation.



- Essential baseline survey and monitoring of cultural and archaeological sites.
- Protection from inappropriate grazing by wild and domestic animals.

**Bibliography** *FCS Guidance Note 6 'Landscape Design and Presentation'*  
*FC Forest Landscape Design Guidelines*  
*FC Lowland Landscape Design Guidelines*  
*FC Community Woodland Design Guidelines*  
*FC Forests and Archaeology Guidelines*  
*SNH Landscape Character Assessments*

## Standard Costs for S5: Landscape improvement

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate	
							60%	90%
<b>Management plan and monitoring</b>	36	Landscape design plan	500	Includes landscape appraisal Detailed 10 year plan (FC Scotland Guidance Note 6). A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	3.50	2.10	3.15
	37	Landscape baseline survey	501	Essential baseline surveys. A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	7.00	4.20	6.30
	38	Landscape monitoring	502	Essential monitoring. A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	2.50	1.50	2.25
<b>Tree removal</b>	24	Felling conifer to waste: <3m high	503	Pre-thicket (<3m high)	hectare	450.00	270.00	405.00
	25	Felling conifer to waste: 3m - 6m high	504	Thicket (3m - 6m high)	hectare	750.00	450.00	675.00
	26	Felling conifer to waste and clearing site: <3m high	505	Pre-thicket (<3m high), extract, chip or burn	hectare	1000.00	600.00	900.00
	27	Felling conifer to waste and clearing site: 3m - 6m high	506	Thicket stage (3m - 6m high), extract, chip or burn	hectare	1500.00	900.00	1350.00
	28	Small scale thinning	510	Net cost of small scale thinning of conifers and broadleaves	hectare	200.00	120.00	180.00
	29	Felling and extraction of conifers	511	Net cost of small scale felling and extraction of conifers up to 0.25ha and not more than 25% of eligible woodland area	hectare	600.00	360.00	540.00
	30	Felling and extraction of broadleaves	512	Net cost of small scale felling and extraction of broadleaves up to 0.25ha and not more than 25% of eligible woodland area	hectare	1200.00	720.00	1080.00
	147	Chipping/mulching of brash	507	Clearing brash debris as a result of small scale harvesting/thinning operations	hectare	500.00	300.00	450.00
<b>Protection</b>	75	Tree shelters: >1.2m tall and shrub shelters	508	1.2m shelter/shrub shelters plus treated softwood stake. Includes labour costs for attachment.	per shelter	1.60	0.96	1.44
	76	Tree shelters: 0.6m - 1.1m tall	509	0.6m - 1.1m tube plus treated softwood stake. Includes labour costs for attachment.	per shelter	1.00	0.60	0.90
	77	Spiral guards	517	0.6m spiral guard plus cane. Includes labour costs for attachment.	per guard	0.60	0.36	0.54

**Section 5: Grants for Stewardship**  
**Standard Costs for S5: Landscape improvement**

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate	
							60%	90%
<b>Protection continued</b>	78	Vole guards	518	Includes guards and labour for attachment	per guard	0.24	0.14	0.22
	79	Tree shelter removal	519	Removal of tree shelters from site and disposed off in appropriate landfill site	per shelter	0.40	0.24	0.36
<b>Establishment</b>	151	Enrichment planting: Native Broadleaves	538	Includes planting, beating-up, weeding, fertilising and supervision until established	1000 trees	700.00	420.00	630.00
	99	Enrichment planting: SPC	539	Includes planting, beating-up, weeding, fertilising and supervision until established	1000 trees	600.00	360.00	540.00
<b>Fence line re-alignment</b>	48	Stock fence removal	520	Complete dismantling. Removal and disposal from site to landfill site	metre	1.70	1.02	1.53
	49	Deer fence removal	521	Complete dismantling. Removal and disposal from site to landfill site	metre	2.20	1.32	1.98
	50	Stock fencing	554	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	4.20	2.52	3.78
	51	Stock fencing with deer strainers	555	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	4.40	2.64	3.96
	53	Stock and rabbit fencing	526	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	5.50	3.30	4.95
	55	Deer fencing – light specification	528	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	6.35	3.81	5.72
	56	Deer fencing – heavy specification	529	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	7.15	4.29	6.44
	60	Deer/Caper fence: full height woodwork	532	New deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Full height 1.8m woven chestnut paling/sawn softwood droppers (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note).	metre	11.00	6.60	9.90
	62	Deer/Caper fence: half length woodwork	534	New deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Half length woven chestnut paling/sawn softwood droppers (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note).	metre	10.00	6.00	9.00
	72	Hanging watergate: >6m span	535	>6m span – refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	75.00	45.00	67.50
	73	Hanging watergate: 3-6m span	536	3m - 6m span Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	30.00	18.00	27.00
	74	Badger gate	537	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	each	110.00	66.00	99.00
	<b>Brashing</b>	130	Brashing	540	Manual brashing	1000 trees	350.00	210.00
<b>Ground preparation</b>	5	Chemical weed control by aerial/machine	542	Extensive areas of weeds such as bracken – aerial or mechanised application.	hectare	180.00	108.00	162.00
	6	Chemical weed control by hand	543	Hand application of chemical for weed control	hectare	300.00	180.00	270.00

## Standard Costs for S5: Landscape improvement

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate		
							60%	90%	
Vegetation management	3	Bracken whipping	541	Limited control, only on sensitive sites	hectare	150.00	90.00	135.00	
	7	Rhodi control: <3.5m tall and flail cut	544	<3.5m tall, cut using flail (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	830.00	498.00	747.00	
	8	Rhodi control: >3.5m tall and flail cut	545	3.5+m tall, cut using flail (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	1800.00	1080.00	1620.00	
	9	Rhodi control: <2.5m machine rake/burn	546	<2.5m tall, manually cut/uproot, rake and burn using excavator (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	2200.00	1320.00	1980.00	
	10	Rhodi control: >2.5m machine rake/burn	547	2.5m - 3.5m tall, manually cut, rake and burn using excavator (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	3400.00	2040.00	3060.00	
	11	Rhodi control: <3.5m manually cut/burn	548	<3.5m tall, manually cut and burn (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	4200.00	2520.00	3780.00	
	12	Rhodi control: >3.5m manually cut/burn	549	>3.5m tall, manually cut and burn (see Technical Note 2/96)	hectare	5500.00	3300.00	4950.00	
	153	Chemical control of standing rhododendron	553	Chemical control of standing rhododendron	hectare	500.00	300.00	450.00	
	14	Clearance of invasive vegetation	551	Mechanical cutting and chemical stump treatment of vegetation up to 2m tall	hectare	280.00	168.00	252.00	
	15	Ride management	552	Ride mowing including open ground for conservation reasons	hectare	200.00	120.00	180.00	
	Locational Premium	544	Western: Landscape improvements	560	Western: Landscape improvements	hectare	600.00	*	*
	WIAT	549	S5: WIAT Grant Amount	590	To be used as a 'top-up' where the Stewardship 5 SFGS costs are not adequate to cover the costs of the increased specification you require to meet WIAT objectives. This reference should also be used to apply for grant against 'additional' operations, activities and items not included in the SFGS list of standard costs.	–	**	–	–

\* Percentage rate does not apply – use the full standard cost rate.

\*\* Standard Costs are not relevant and grant is based on approved and judged agreed costs as per the Challenge Fund process.

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## S6: Developing alternative systems to clear-felling

**Purpose** To improve the economic, ecological and social value of woods and forests by encouraging more use of alternative systems to clear-felling, where practical and appropriate.

**Background** Woodland biodiversity can be enhanced by making use of silvicultural systems such as alternatives to clearfell. Here, the term “alternative to clear-felling” is taken from the UK Forestry Standard, which refers to continuous cover or other irregular silvicultural systems. These include group felling, where the extent of felling and restocking areas is no more than necessary to achieve satisfactory regeneration based on species’ requirements for light.

**Eligibility criteria** We will provide grants where **all** the following criteria are met:

- Commitment – you must be prepared to declare a long-term intention to manage the assigned area of woodland under Continuous Cover Forestry. This would include preparation of an appropriate management plan to amplify the rationale behind moving to CCF (which may be recreation, landscape, timber production or a combination of these objectives).
- Site suitability – you must have completed a site appraisal (covering wind risk, vegetation competition and species suitability) in accordance with FC Information Note 40. Normally a ranking of ‘good’ is required. However, some sites ranked ‘moderate’ we may agree as being eligible. In these cases you should pay particular attention to the evaluation of wind risk. For example, where the site is windthrow hazard class 4 and above, and/or where ‘Forest Gales’ wind risk status 6 is reached before 60 years, it will be necessary for us to agree your justification for going ahead with continuous cover forestry.
- Management plan. This must include stand appraisal – a system of monitoring (in accordance with the guidance in FC Information Notes 40 and 45) and incorporate a deer management plan. The management plan should normally be part of a Forest Plan.

**Grant rates** Grant rates will normally be based on 60% of Standard Costs. Grant rates based on 90% of Standard Costs will be paid where the agreed work is undertaken in Woodland SSSIs or Natura sites, woodland HAPs and SAPs, National Parks, NSAs or Designed Landscapes on the SNH Register.

**Eligible operations** Grants will be available for work which achieves one or more of the following operations:

- Preparation of a management plan which incorporates site/stand appraisal and monitoring (note that soils information will be an essential part of the appraisal).
- Ground preparation to encourage natural regeneration.
- Protection from wild and domestic animals.
- Maintaining existing natural regeneration.
- Replanting as an alternative to natural regeneration.
- Fencing/tubes to protect planting.
- Cleaning/respacing of established natural regeneration.

- Essential non-commercial thinning and small-scale felling.
- Removal of non-native and invasive vegetation (which can include native plants and other trees as appropriate).

- Bibliography**
- FC Information Note 29 ‘What is Continuous Cover Forestry?’*
- FC Information Note 40 ‘Transforming Even-aged Conifer Stands to Continuous Cover Management’*
- FC Information Note 45 ‘Monitoring the Transformation of Even-Aged Stands to Continuous Cover Management’*
- FC Bulletin 115 ‘Alternative Silvicultural Systems to Clear Cutting in Britain - A Review’*

## Standard Costs for S6: Developing alternative systems to clear-felling

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate	
							60%	90%
<b>Management plan and monitoring</b>	39	CCF Survey & stand appraisal	600	Site survey and stand appraisal (FC Information Note 40). A minimum payment of £300	hectare	7.00	4.20	6.30
	40	Management plan to develop CCF	601	Detailed 10 year plan (FC Information Note 40). A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	3.50	2.10	3.15
	41	CCF: Site Monitoring	602	Essential monitoring. A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	2.50	1.50	2.25
	42	CCF: Stand appraisal	603	Stand appraisal only (where Forest Plan already exists) (FC Information Note 40). A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	3.50	2.10	3.15
<b>Protection</b>	50	Stock fencing	604	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	3.15	1.89	2.84
	51	Stock fencing with deer strainers	628	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	3.30	1.98	2.97
	52	Rabbit proof existing stock or deer fence	609	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	1.61	0.97	1.45
	53	Stock and rabbit fencing	610	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	4.13	2.48	3.72
	55	Deer fencing – light specification	612	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	4.76	2.86	4.28
	56	Deer fencing – heavy specification	613	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	5.36	3.22	4.82
	59	Upgrade stock to deer fence	616	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	2.06	1.24	1.85
	63	Fence upgrade	620	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	0.41	0.25	0.37
	60	Deer/Caper fence: full height woodwork	617	New deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Full height 1.8m chestnut paling/sawn softwood droppers (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note).	metre	8.25	4.95	7.43

## Standard Costs for S6: Developing alternative systems to clear-felling

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate	
							60%	90%
<b>Protection continued</b>	62	Deer/Caper fence: half length woodwork	619	New deer fence (Black grouse & Capercaillie core areas). Half length woven chestnut paling/ sawn softwood droppers (see FC/RSPB Guidance Note).	metre	7.50	4.50	6.75
	72	Hanging watergate: >6m span	621	>6m span – refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	56.25	33.75	50.63
	73	Hanging watergate: 3-6m span	622	3m - 6m span – refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	metre	22.50	13.50	20.25
	74	Badger gate	623	Refer to best practice in current FC fencing booklet	each	82.50	49.50	74.25
	75	Tree shelters: >1.2m tall and shrub shelters	624	1.2m shelter/shrub shelter and treated softwood stake. Includes labour costs for attachment.	per shelter	1.20	0.72	1.08
	76	Tree shelters: 0.6m - 1.1m tall	625	0.6m - 1.1m shelter and treated softwood stake. Includes labour costs for attachment.	per shelter	0.75	0.45	0.68
	77	Spiral guards	626	0.6m spiral guard and cane. Includes labour costs for attachment.	per guard	0.45	0.27	0.41
	78	Vole guards	627	Includes guards and labour for attachment	per guard	0.18	0.11	0.16
<b>Mammal control</b>	44	Rabbit control	630	Inserting box traps includes labour (or up to equivalent costs for gassing)	each	67.50	40.50	60.75
	45	Squirrel control: catch-trap	631	Includes bait and cover material	each	27.00	16.20	24.30
	559	Grey squirrel control	674	For red squirrel conservation using catch-trap(s). Labour costs including siting, prebaiting, setting, checking, despatch, recording, monitoring and parapo testing. Based upon an average of 12 visits per catch trap per year.	per catch trap per year	360.00	216.00	324.00
<b>Vegetation management</b>	1	Respace natural regeneration	639	Respace greater than 4,000 stems/ha (up to 10cm diameter)	hectare	500.00	300.00	450.00
	2	Cleaning	640	Removal of unwanted broadleaves and conifers (less than 4,000 to 2,500 stems/ha)	hectare	170.00	102.00	153.00
	3	Bracken whipping	635	Limited control, only on sensitive sites	hectare	112.50	67.50	101.25
	4	Chemical weed control by spot spraying	636	Spot spray – 1m around tree	per tree	0.04	0.02	0.04
	14	Clearance of invasive vegetation	629	Mechanical cutting and chemical stump treatment of vegetation up to 2m tall	hectare	210.00	126.00	189.00
<b>Ground preparation</b>	5	Chemical weed control by aerial/machine	637	Extensive areas of weeds such as bracken – aerial or mechanised application	hectare	135.00	81.00	121.50
	6	Chemical weed control by hand	638	Hand application of chemical for weed control	hectare	225.00	135.00	202.50

## Standard Costs for S6: Developing alternative systems to clear-felling

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate		
							60%	90%	
<b>Ground preparation continued</b>	82	Chemical screefing	650	Spot spray – 1m diameter around tree	1000 trees	45.00	27.00	40.50	
	84	Linear scarifying	651	Disc trencher such as tractor mounted TTS Delta	hectare	75.00	45.00	67.50	
	85	Patch scarifying	652	Machine such as Doneran type scarifier	1000 mounds	50.00	30.00	45.00	
	87	Hinge mounding	653	Excavator – hinge mounds	1000 mounds	130.00	78.00	117.00	
	88	Mounding from spoil drains	654	Excavator – spoil drains and mounds	1000 mounds	150.00	90.00	135.00	
	89	Mounding and screefing by hand	656	Planting positions screefed and mounded by hand	1000 mounds	260.00	156.00	234.00	
	90	Brush raking	655	Excavator – brush	hectare	120.00	72.00	108.00	
	150	Drainage	633	Creating new drains or clearing existing drains	metre	0.68	0.41	0.61	
<b>Establishment</b>	95	Enrichment restocking: SP, DF, L, NS	660	Includes planting, fertilising, beating-up, weeding, weevil control and supervision until established	1000 trees	375.00	225.00	337.00	
	97	Enrichment restocking: Other conifers	661	Includes planting, fertilising, beating-up, weeding, weevil control supervision until established	1000 trees	300.00	180.00	270.00	
	151	Enrichment restocking: Native broadleaves	667	Includes planting, fertilising, beating-up, weeding, weevil control supervision until established	1000 trees	525.00	315.00	472.50	
	98	Enrichment restocking: broadleaves	662	Includes planting, fertilising, beating-up, weeding, weevil control and supervision until established	1000 trees	450.00	270.00	405.00	
	100	Designed open ground	663	Up to 20% of grant-aided area	hectare	562.50	*	*	
	101	Native woodland natural regeneration	664	Achieving at least 1,100 stems per hectare and over 50cms tall	hectare	525.00	*	*	
	102	Non-native woodland natural regeneration	665	Achieving at least 1,100 stems per hectare and over 50cms tall	hectare	325.00	*	*	
	103	Designed OG in natural regeneration	666	Up to 20% grant-aided area	hectare	562.50	*	*	
	<b>Tree removal</b>	23	Pre and non-commercial thinning	670	Conifers and broadleaves. May include chemical thinning.	hectare	150.00	90.00	135.00
		28	Small scale thinning	671	Net cost of small scale thinning of conifers and broadleaves	hectare	200.00	120.00	180.00
29		Felling and extraction of conifers	672	Net cost of small scale felling and extraction of conifers up to 0.25ha and not more than 25% of eligible woodland area	hectare	600.00	360.00	540.00	
* Percentage rate does not apply – use the full standard cost rate.									

## Standard Costs for S6: Developing alternative systems to clear-felling

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate	
							60%	90%
<b>Tree removal continued</b>	30	Felling and extraction of broadleaves	673	Net cost of small scale felling and extraction of broadleaves up to 0.25ha and not more than 25% of eligible woodland area	hectare	1200.00	720.00	1080.00
<b>WIAT</b>	550	S6: WIAT Grant Amount	690	To be used as a 'top-up' where the Stewardship 6 SFGS costs are not adequate to cover the costs of the increased specification you require to meet WIAT objectives. This reference should also be used to apply for grant against 'additional' operations, activities and items not included in the SFGS list of standard costs.	–	**	–	–

**\*\* Standard Costs are not relevant and grant is based on approved and judged agreed costs as per the Challenge Fund process.**

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## S7: Woodland recreation

**Purpose** To improve the social value of woods and forests by developing facilities for informal recreation in a way which is commensurate with likely demand.

**Background** Woods and forests are one of Scotland's most important recreational resources and provide the setting for a wide range of activities, absorbing large numbers of people and offering a sense of tranquillity and remoteness. Recreation in forests and woodlands can make a positive contribution to the health and social inclusion of nearby communities.

**Eligibility criteria** We will provide grants for work that meets the following criteria including a recreational management plan:

- A recreational management plan that considers wider strategic access issues.
- Recreation proposals should fit locally agreed priorities (eg educational and social needs; core path networks) and draw on relevant discussion with –and support from –appropriate bodies (for example Local Authorities, SNH, Local Access Forums, Community Councils and Local Tourist Boards). The scope of the relevant discussion should reflect the size and complexity of the proposed scheme.
- For schemes of more than £10,000 total grant aid, a visitor number assessment and/or clear justification of potential demand to support your application. You must demonstrate the potential for visitor numbers by, for example, carrying out site surveys or by the use of people counters.
- Your work must accord with The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and Scottish Outdoor Access Code and the FC Recreation Guidelines and include specifications of work being carried out. You must apply for planning permission where vehicular routes enter or exit onto a road, or a new car park is proposed.
- Proposals should take account of good practice in delivering access for all.
- The facilities must be publicised (for example using information boards and/or leaflets) and will appear on the FC website. In all cases there must be a local contact given in interpretation and publicity material.
- Where the proposals are covered by a Social Inclusion Partnership, the proposals should indicate how they will help achieve the vision and objectives of that partnership.

**Grant rates** Grants will be based on 90% of Standard Costs. In order to ensure that grants are commensurate with likely demand, average expenditure per year over the five years must not exceed £1 per visit to the woodland.

**Eligible operations** Grants will be available (from the year of planting) for work which achieves one or more of the following operations:

- Preparation of a recreational management plan or the relevant section of an overall management plan.
- Providing or upgrading appropriate routes, stiles, gates, tables, benches and bridges for recreation and small-scale car parking facilities, including work that facilitates all ability access.
- Providing appropriate signs and leaflets, including relevant contact details, safety

inspections, litter collections, assessing visitor numbers.

- Undertaking necessary silvicultural work, eg tree safety work, standard net cost of small-scale thinning or felling to improve views.
- Undertaking vegetation management to paths, rides and other relevant open areas.

**Bibliography** *FC Forest Practice Guide 10 'Involving Communities in Forestry'*  
*FC Forest Recreation Guidelines*  
*FC Community Woodland Design*  
*Paths for All* [www.pathsforall.org.uk/](http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/)  
*Scottish Outdoor Access Code* [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/)  
*Social Inclusion Partnership website* [www.communitiesscotland.co.uk](http://www.communitiesscotland.co.uk)

## Standard Costs for S7: Woodland recreation

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate 90%
<b>Management plan</b>	43	Recreation area management plan	700	Detailed 5 year recreational plan. A minimum payment of £300.	hectare	3.50	3.15
<b>Vegetation management</b>	558	Grass cutting in recreation areas	704	Strimming of paths to ensure between 1m - 3m width of mown grass in recreational areas. Yearly payment based upon an average of 3 cuts per season	metre	0.45	0.41
	14	Clearance of invasive vegetation	706	Mechanical cutting and chemical stump treatment of vegetation up to 2m tall	hectare	280.00	252.00
	15	Ride management	707	Ride mowing including open ground for conservation reasons	hectare	200.00	180.00
<b>Tree removal</b>	28	Small scale thinning	708	Net cost of small scale thinning of conifers and broadleaves	hectare	200.00	180.00
	147	Chipping/mulching of brash	709	Clearing brash debris as a result of harvesting operations or small scale thinning operations	hectare	500.00	450.00
<b>Fence line re-alignment</b>	48	Stock fence removal	701	Complete dismantling. Removal and disposal from site to landfill site	metre	1.70	1.53
	49	Deer fence removal	702	Complete dismantling. Removal and disposal from site to landfill site	metre	2.20	1.98
<b>Public access</b>	106	Footpath: cut and fill 1.2m wide	710	Dry site, cut and fill, 1.2m wide including shallow drain. Includes any burn crossings up to 1m	metre	4.00	3.60
	107	Footpath: built and rolled 1.2m wide	711	Light use or dry site, a light scrape, 1.2m wide with 20cm depth of type 1 metal and top layer of whin dust, vibrator rolled. Includes burn crossings of up to 1m	metre	11.00	9.90

## Standard Costs for S7: Woodland recreation

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate 90%
<b>Public access continued</b>	108	Footpath: built and rolled 1.6m wide	712	Heavy use or wet or steep site, 1.6m wide, 30cm depth type 1 material and top layer of whindust, vibrator rolled. Includes burn crossings of up to 1m	metre	18.00	16.20
	109	Footpath: short sections/gabion barriers	713	Short sections requiring manual construction, gabion barriers	metre	25.00	22.50
	110	Footpath upgrading	714	Upgrading of existing path network	metre	1.00	0.90
	111	Kissing gate for walkers	715	Constructed and installed to conform with relevant British Standards	each	260.00	234.00
	112	Large Kissing gate-disabled/horse access	716	Constructed and installed to conform with relevant British Standards	each	400.00	360.00
	113	Two step cross over stile	717	Treated timber stile – two step cross-over with handhold for stock fence. Stiles – supply and installation	each	55.00	49.50
	114	Ladder stile	718	Treated timber ladder stile suitable for deer fence. Stiles – supply and installation	each	120.00	108.00
	152	Wooden railed fencing	703	For short sections of fencework appropriate for public access	metre	10.00	9.00
	115	A4 Leaflets	719	A4 – single colour, including design and printing	per 500	240.00	216.00
	116	A3 Leaflets	720	A3 – single colour, including design and printing	per 500	600.00	540.00
	117	Waymarkers	721	Typically 3” x 3” square sawn, treated and routed or of similar design	each	20.00	18.00
	118	Threshold sign	722	Threshold headboard	each	300.00	270.00
	119	Primary sign	723	Primary headboard or locally designed information sign: e.g. fingerpost.	each	85.00	76.50
	124	A3 Interpretative sign	728	A3 interpretative sign, laminated printed sheet on 12mm board with clear lexan. Mounted on treated 3” x 3” post	each	150.00	135.00
	125	A1 Interpretative sign	729	A1 interpretative sign, laminated printed sheet on 18mm board with clear lexan. Mounted on treated 4” x 4” posts	each	600.00	540.00
	126	Interpretative sign mounted on lectern	730	750mm x 1000mm interpretative sign on 18mm foamex with clear lexan. Includes design and production. Mounted within treated lectern legs of 45mm x 300mm x 1725mm	each	1200.00	1080.00

**Section 5: Grants for Stewardship**  
**Standard Costs for S7: Woodland recreation**

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate 90%
<b>Public access continued</b>	127	Picnic bench with table	731	Treated Timber Table – 1830mm long, 900mm wide and 825mm high and bench 1830mm long (Type 1 FC Speymouth Signs Workshop)	each	250.00	225.00
	128	Picnic bench with back rest	732	Treated timber – 1820mm long, 360mm wide, overall height 850mm, width of seat 300mm, height of seat 430mm (Type 3 FC Speymouth Signs Workshop)	each	130.00	117.00
	129	Picnic bench without back rest	733	Treated timber 45mm thickness, 1750mm long, width of seat 300mm, height 450mm	each	70.00	63.00
	130	Footbridge with wooden beams	734	Treated timber frame with wooden beams. Crossings over 1m wide	metre	125.00	112.50
	131	Footbridge with steel beams	735	Treated timber frame with steel beams. Crossings over 1m wide	metre	500.00	450.00
	132	Boardwalk	736	Treated timber – decking 1500mm x 150mm x 50mm, runners 100mm x 100mm	metre	18.00	16.20
	133	Litter removal	737	Removal of normal litter. Up to four visits per year for low key sites and up to 15 for key sites	visit	50.00	45.00
	134	Safety inspection	738	Annual Inspection includes tree safety inspection and assessment of path, gates and stile condition	visit	150.00	135.00
	135	Fell: Dangerous easy take down tree	739	Fell to waste large conifer and hardwoods (easy take down)	each	60.00	54.00
	136	Fell Dangerous difficult take down tree	740	Fell to waste large conifer and hardwoods (difficult take down)	each	100.00	90.00
	137	Fell and extract: Dangerous easy take down tree	741	Fell and extract large conifer and hardwoods (easy take down)	each	100.00	90.00
	138	Fell and extract: Dangerous difficult take down tree	742	Fell and extract large conifer and hardwoods (difficult take down)	each	250.00	225.00
	139	Manual brashing	743	Manual brashing	1000 trees	350.00	315.00
	140	High pruning	744	High pruning	hectare	300.00	270.00
	141	Supply and erection of people counter	745	Limited to key sites	each	1200.00	1080.00
	142	Car park	746	Basecourse of 100mm of crusher-run stone to compacted depth of 20cm. Wearing course of type 1 sub-base to a compacted depth of 10cm. 30 square metres/ car	square metre	5.00	4.50
<b>Labour rates</b>	143	Forest craftsman rates	760	Labour	per day	120.00	108.00
	144	Forest craftsman and chainsaw	761	Labour plus chainsaw	per day	132.00	118.80
	145	Tree surgery: Two man qualified team	762	Two man team	per day	312.00	280.80

**Standard Costs for S7: Woodland recreation**

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Standard Cost	Payment rate 90%
<b>WIAT</b>	551	S7: WIAT Grant Amount	790	To be used as a 'top-up' where the Stewardship 7 SFGS costs are not adequate to cover the costs of the increased specification you require to meet WIAT objectives. This reference should also be used to apply for grant against 'additional' operations, activities and items not included in the SFGS list of standard costs.	–	*	–

*\* Standard Costs are not relevant and grant is based on approved and judged agreed costs as per the Challenge Fund process.*

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## S8: Developing community involvement

**Purpose** To improve the social value of woods and forests through community initiatives that help more people become involved in managing woodlands for local benefit.

**Background** There is a desire in some communities to establish closer links with local forests. Some communities want to become more actively involved in the management (sometimes ownership) of their local forests.

**Definition of community** The definition of a community is a properly constituted body representing local interests, including crofting communities: further details are available from your local Conservancy office. We prefer to see the following aspects present in the community body:

- Non profit distributing.
- A mix of economic, social, cultural and environmental objectives.
- High degree of voluntarism and local involvement.
- Charitable status (where appropriate).
- Demonstrated ability to sustain long term financial viability.

**Eligibility criteria** We will provide grants for work which meets the following criteria:

- The grants will be payable where a community is actively managing an existing woodland or planting a new one.
- The grants will be tied to a woodland and/or series of woodlands that are being managed and worked by a community group and will be paid only once per wood.
- The minimum wood size will be 0.25 hectares.
- The community must own the woodland, occupy the woodland as a tenant or crofting township or have a legal partnership agreement. Alternatively, the landowner and the community must demonstrate that there is a firm intention of taking the project forward, subject to the outcome of the feasibility assessment.

**Grant rates** Since standard costs are not appropriate for this work, grants will be based on 90% of agreed costs up to a maximum payment of £5,000 for a) feasibility assessment and 90% of agreed costs up to a maximum payment of £5,000 per year for up to five years for b) training. It is recognised that these contributions to costs may be matched from other sources, but there should be no double funding. Applicants need to tell us about all other funding partners. This is an essential part of the application in order to avoid double funding.

We will expect you to liaise with Scottish Land Fund and Highlands & Islands Enterprise Community Land Unit, and with any Community Planning processes that are in place in the area. In the HIE area the Community Land Unit must be consulted on all applications: outwith the HIE area the Scottish Land Fund officers or other key funders should be consulted.

## Feasibility assessment

Grants will cover 90% of agreed costs to a maximum payment of £5,000 per feasibility assessment.

- We will pay 50% of the feasibility grant (based on estimated costs) once we agree an acceptable application.
- We will pay the balance (based on actual costs) once the assessment is completed (please note that we will reclaim the grant with interest if the assessment is not completed).
- Outputs of the feasibility assessment may not include any further SFGS applications or any further community work in the wood. Since the feasibility assessment may or may not lead to an SFGS application for other grants, the grant for feasibility assessment will require a separate contract.

## Training/community involvement

- We will pay 90% of agreed costs up to a maximum payment of £5,000 per year for up to five years (this could be subject to renewal for a further five years providing the need for funding can be demonstrated).
- We will pay the claim (based on actual costs) either on an annual basis, or upon receipt of interim claims.

## Eligible operations

Grants will be available for:

### a) Development of feasibility assessment

- Engaging a professional facilitator and other professional advice (including valuation) required to make an assessment of community interest.
- Helping to develop community participation.
- Advising on formal legal mechanisms.
- Developing a business plan.

The output of the feasibility assessment will be a business plan clearly showing the proposals for developing the woodland, including operations, training, community involvement and sources of finance. The preparation of the assessment must include significant community participation (breadth and depth). If the community wish to undertake some of this work themselves, this should be supported by professional consultants with a proven track record in this field. An initial scoping meeting is recommended to help define the feasibility assessment brief. The feasibility assessment will highlight training and ongoing involvement needs which could form the basis of another contract for annual training/involvement costs.

### b) Training/community involvement

- Training needs should be identified from a community-based Training Needs Analysis.
- Training to be provided by recognised providers in woodland management.
- Ongoing costs of – community involvement in – woodland management, including events, meetings, networking, facilitation and advice.

## Bibliography

*FC Forestry Practice Guide 10 'Involving Communities in Forestry'*  
*FCS Guidance Note 24 'Development community Involvement and SFGS'*  
*Reforestation Scotland 'The Community Woodland Handbook'*

## Grant Payments for S8: Developing community involvement

Activity	Look-up ref.	Operation	Op Ref no.	Description	Units	Grant Payment
<b>Community involvement</b>	501	Feasibility Assessment	800	The output of the feasibility assessment will be a business plan clearly showing the proposals for developing the woodland, including operations, training, community involvement and sources of finance. The preparation of the assessment must include significant community participation (breadth and depth). If the community wish to undertake some of this work themselves, this should be supported by professional consultants with a proven track record in this field. An initial scoping meeting to help define the brief for the feasibility assessment is recommended. The feasibility assessment will highlight training and ongoing involvement needs and this could form the basis of another contract for annual training/involvement costs.	–	90% of agreed costs to a maximum of £5,000 per feasibility assessment
	502	Training/on-going community involvement	801	Training needs should be identified from a community – based Training Needs Analysis.  Training to be provided by recognised providers in woodland management.  Ongoing costs of and community involvement in woodland management. Including events, meetings, networking, facilitation and advice.	–	90% of agreed costs up to a maximum payment of £5,000 per year for up to 5 years for training/on-going community involvement.

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