

# Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme Central Scotland Forest Locational Premium



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## Introduction

This leaflet explains how to apply for Locational Premium (LP) from the Forestry Commission's Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme (SFGS) for planting certain types of new woodlands in the Central Scotland Forest. The Locational Premium aims to encourage the establishment of specific types of new woodlands in the priority locations identified both in the Central Scotland Forest Strategy and associated Local Forestry Frameworks (LFF).

## What is a Locational Premium?

A Locational Premium is an extra grant payable in addition to the standard woodland planting grants available from the SFGS. It is called a 'Locational' premium because it is only available in parts of Scotland where the Scottish Executive considers that woodland planting, regeneration, improvement or management are priorities for social, environmental or economic reasons. The Central Scotland Forest is such an area. The Premium aims to create enriched habitats and an improved countryside landscape within the Central Scotland Forest and to improve the quality and setting of towns, villages and post-industrial areas.

**Please note that your proposed application must satisfy the requirements of the SFGS and meet the criteria set out in this leaflet.**

## What is the Central Scotland Forest?

The Central Scotland Forest comprises West Lothian, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, north-eastern parts of South Lanarkshire and eastern parts of East Dunbartonshire. It is an area in which the Scottish Executive is working with many partners to establish new, multi-purpose woodlands and to carry out other environmental improvements. The initiative is led by the Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT), based in Shotts, North Lanarkshire. The Central Scotland Forest Strategy envisages a doubling of woodland cover in the 20 years between 1995 and 2015. Achieving this will require planting 800-900 hectares per year.

## How much is the Locational Premium and what type of land will be eligible?

The Locational Premium rate varies from £2,500 to £7,000 per hectare depending upon the location of the proposed new woodland as shown in the table below:

SFGS type*	SFGS Category	Land Zone (from LFF summary map)	Maximum eligible area	Op Ref No	LP Rate (£ per hectare)
P2	Expanding the area of native woodland	Native woodland target zone	Up to 40 ha	2305	£2,500
P3	Improving riparian habitat	Native woodland target zone	Up to 40 ha	3306	£2,500
P4	Improving the quality or setting of urban or post-industrial areas	Urban and Urban fringe (inc. on Vacant and Derelict Land)	Up to 40 ha	4303	£5,000
P4	Improving the quality or setting of urban or post-industrial areas in priority locations	Urban and Urban fringe (inc. on Vacant and Derelict Land) in the identified priority locations	Up to 40 ha	4308	£7,000

\* Numbers refer to SFGS grants for Woodland Expansion. Qualifying applications must meet, in full, the SFGS eligibility criteria appropriate to the woodland being created.

A total fund of up to £1,000,000 is available in each of the financial years 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008. The Locational Premium will be reviewed in December 2006.

A maximum of 40 hectares per landholding will be eligible to receive Locational Premium.

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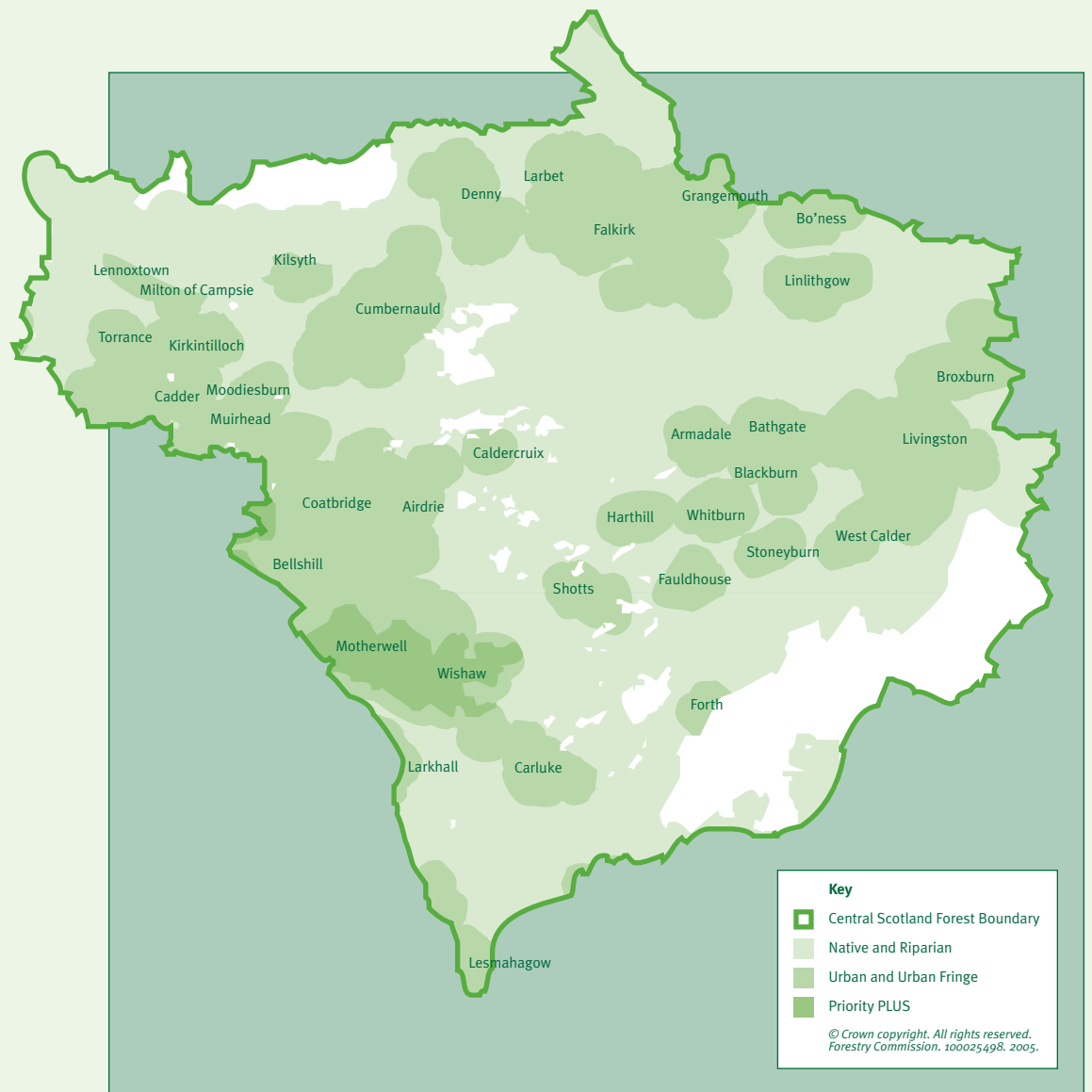


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## Where is the Locational Premium available?

You can apply for the Locational Premium for woodland planting of the types described above on land within the zones identified on the LFF summary map and summarised on the above map. Locational Premium details are also available on the FCS Land Information Search, see website [www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland).

## Vacant and Derelict Land

There are significant areas of vacant and derelict land (VDL) within the Central Scotland Forest. Woodland planting is recognised as a method of restoring this land, providing benefits for the landscape, the environment and people living locally. The potential for development in the long-term has often conflicted with the greening of VDL sites. Now, however, applications for planting woodland on long-term vacant and derelict that may, in the future, become the subject of development will be accepted under the SFGS.

New planting under SFGS Category P4 is eligible for Locational Premium in the Urban and Urban Fringe and Priority PLUS Land Zones.

**There will be no requirement to pay back monies received for any woodland established on VDL areas that are subsequently developed, provided the development is subject to full planning consent.**

Applicants must demonstrate that the site is listed on the Vacant and Derelict Land Register and that no planning consent is in place, or has been applied for, at the time of making the SFGS/LP application.

Vacant, derelict or reclaimed sites must have been restored or are capable of being restored to the standards set out in the latest best practice. Your application will be required to demonstrate this.

## What types of planting are eligible?

The Locational Premium aims to encourage woodland planting under two main categories;

- The expansion of native and riparian woodland.
- That which improves the quality and setting of urban or post industrial areas.

All applications must meet the standard SFGS criteria. Payments of the Locational Premium will be subject to the maximum area criteria as laid out in the table in this leaflet.

Applications that are artificially split to increase the total LP payment above the maximum area criteria will not be accepted.

## What other grants are available for woodland planting?

Woodland planting on farmland might also qualify for SFGS Farmland Premium payments from the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD).

The Farmland Premium provides annual payments as compensation for the farming income foregone from the land planted with trees.

## Additional requirements

The Locational Premium represents a significant additional level of public funding for woodland planting. It therefore seeks to deliver more benefits than standard SFGS grants alone. All proposals must therefore address the following:

- 1. Community Consultation:** You must demonstrate how neighbours, local communities, local authorities and interest groups have been consulted, and the level of support given to your proposals. This gives communities who may be affected by the proposals an opportunity to influence the design of the scheme, enabling, if necessary, any concerns to be resolved before formal consultation with the council or other statutory consultees.
- 2. Recreation:** You must consider public recreation and must include the following within your proposals unless you can demonstrate that there is neither the demand, nor a link with the Local Authorities emerging access strategies.
  - You must include recreation proposals that fit locally agreed priorities (eg core path networks and educational needs) and draw on discussion with, and support from, local authorities, the local community planning partnership, SNH, local access forums, community councils and local interest groups. You must provide a woodland recreation management plan for the woodland.
  - All work must meet or exceed the standards laid out in the FC Recreation Guidelines, and include specifications linked to FC Standard Costs. Where path routes enter or exit onto a road, or where a new car park is proposed, you must apply for relevant planning permission and meet the road construction standards set out by the Local Authority.
  - The recreation facilities must be publicised and may appear on the FC website.
- 3. Landscape enhancement:** You must provide adequate information demonstrating how the landscape quality will be enhanced. The proposed design of the new woodland will usually be informed by a landscape character and visual analysis of the woodland area and wider environment, and must be accompanied by both visual analysis and proposals in plan and perspective.
- 4. Improving habitat quality:** You must provide evidence of how your proposals will contribute to the delivery of the local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).
- 5. Protecting built heritage:** You must demonstrate that adequate account has been taken of all important built heritage features, including designed and historic landscapes and archaeological sites in the area.

## How do I apply?

You must apply for an SFGS grant in the normal way using the SFGS Grant Calculator (application form). Full details of Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme including the Grant Calculator can be found on our web site [www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland)

Please note that we will only accept whole compartments for the Locational Premiums. Please use the specific Location Premium operation reference number (Op Ref No) found in the table to indicate the compartments for which you wish to apply for the premium.

Because there is a limited budget available for the Locational Premium, it will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. We will make this allocation at the point when we approve each SFGS contract. Applications will be accepted from November 2005. Once the total fund has been allocated we will not accept further applications during that financial year. When this happens, we will announce it in the local and farming press, on our website and advise local forestry advisers directly.

We will not accept new applications for Locational Premium for areas that have already received an offer of funding under the existing SFGS Central Scotland Forest Locational Premium.

## Getting help

Forestry Commission Scotland staff will be happy to discuss your proposals with you, before you submit your application. This can often help prevent you investing time in preparing applications that are unlikely to be successful. Getting your application to us in good time means that we will have more time to help you.

## When can I start work?

You may start work as soon as you have an approved SFGS contract that confirms that you have been allocated a Locational Premium. All work must be completed and claims lodged by 26 February of the stated claim year. If you have also applied for the SFGS Farmland Premium you must also have received SFGS Farmland Premium approval before starting any work.

If you carry out any work on the area to which your application refers before you receive approval, your application will be rejected. If we discover this after we have approved an SFGS contract, we will cancel the contract and we will not pay any further grant. We may reclaim with interest any grant paid. If you are in any doubt you should consult the Forestry Commission Scotland and SEERAD before carrying out work on any area where you are considering making an application for SFGS.

## How will the Locational Premium be paid?

You may claim the full SFGS grant payment for protection, ground preparation and establishment operations as soon as you complete the work. Payments for planting are made in two instalments: 70% when the operation has been satisfactorily carried out, and 30% five years later. We will pay the full Locational Premium along with the first (70%) payment for the establishment operations. You must claim the whole of each compartment together. You need not claim for all compartments at the same time, but you must claim all those compartments receiving Locational Premium before 26 February of the stated claim year.

## Where can I get more information?

For more information about the Central Scotland Forest Locational Premium contact Forestry Commission Scotland at the address shown below. Alternatively go to the Forestry Commission's web site at [www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland)

Forestry Commission Scotland, Central Scotland Conservancy,  
Bothwell House, Hamilton Business Park, Caird Park, Hamilton ML3 0QA  
Tel: 01698 368530 • Fax: 01698 368531  
Email: [centralscotland.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:centralscotland.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

For more information on the Central Scotland Forest contact Central Scotland Forest Trust at the address shown below. Alternatively go to the Trust's web site at [www.csft.co.uk](http://www.csft.co.uk)

Central Scotland Forest Trust  
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