

Support for Woodland Creation in the 2007/08 Planting Season

What is this about?

From 2008, we will offer support for woodland creation through Rural Development Contracts. In the meantime, we are inviting 'initial interest' for woodland creation specifically for the 2007/08 planting season.

The emphasis of this one-year only measure is to tackle the impacts of climate change with woodland creation. £3M in grant-aid is available and only those schemes demonstrating the greatest contribution to climate change objectives are likely to be successful.

The woodlands that you intend to create must be appropriately designed and use one or a matrix of the following woodland types:

- **Productive conifer woodland (low cost)**
- **Productive conifer woodland (high cost)**
- **Productive broadleaved woodland**
- **Native woodland**
- **Mixed conifer/broadleaf woodland**
- **Short rotation coppice**

What you can do?

Plant, protect and maintain new woods that conform to the eligibility criteria of the woodland types used in their design.

Who can apply?

Owners or occupiers of agricultural and/or non-agricultural land.

Eligibility criteria

Successful proposals will be selected on a competitive basis by a judging panel led by Forestry Commission Scotland that includes a representative from ConFor and Environment Link.

The focus of this round of proposals is helping to tackle the impacts of climate change. Proposals most likely to be successful will meet at least one of the criteria below:

- Contains a significant area of **productive conifer** woodland.
- Makes a clear contribution to creation of **forest habitat networks** (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-5xjcrw>).
- Has demonstrable potential for future provision of **wood fuel**, for example short rotation coppice or short rotation forestry.

Proposals for short rotation coppice must demonstrate that they have established an end use for the produce, e.g. evidence of a supply contract, and that the produce will be used to develop a fuel supply for renewable energy projects.

Planting on peat is unlikely to be supported.

All planting proposals must comply with the requirements of the **UK Forestry Standard** ([http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcfc001.pdf/\\$FILE/fcfc001.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcfc001.pdf/$FILE/fcfc001.pdf)).



Productive woodland types must be on land suitable for timber production and be accessible for timber transport (including linkage to suitable public roads).

Your proposal must show that you can carry out all of the work within the 2007/08 planting season. It would also be an advantage if you could provide evidence of initial local consultation with relevant local interests.

The following design criteria for the woodland types apply:

Woodland Type	Minimum wood or individual block size planted per year (hectares)	Composition	Minimum stocking density per hectare at year 5 or when considered to be 'established'
Productive conifer woodland (low cost)	5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 85% conifers but predominantly spruce at least 5% broadleaves up to 10% open ground 	Spruce - 2500 Broadleaves - 1100
Productive conifer woodland (high cost)	5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 85% other conifers e.g. SP, DF, Larch at least 5% broadleaves up to 10% open ground 	Pine - 3000 DF, Larch - 2000 Broadleaves - 1100
Productive broadleaved woodland	2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at least 85% productive broadleaves e.g. Oak, Be, Syc, Ash up to 5% other broadleaves up to 10% open ground 	Oak, Be - 3100 Syc, Ash - 2500 Other blf - 1100
Native woodland	0.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> circa 75% species native to the locality and appropriate to the site up to 25% open ground 	1600
Mixed conifer/broadleaf woodland	0.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> circa 80% mixed conifer and broadleaves, the latter being at least half of the planted area up to 20% open ground 	Conifer - 2500 Broadleaves - 1600
Short rotation coppice	2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% willow or poplar 	10000 cuttings

Map

The boundary of the woodland types must be accurately drawn on your Woodland Creation Map submitted with the proposals.

Environmental Impact Assessment

If your proposals fall above certain minimum size thresholds and are likely to have a significant effect on the environment, an application for consent under the **Environment Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999** (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-5ZGKWL>) may be required. The limited duration of this round of proposals mean that work requiring EIA may not be supported.

We will consult local authorities and other statutory organisations about your proposals. We will take their views into account before approving them.

What costs will be supported?

We will make a single payment per hectare for initial tree planting as a contribution to the costs of ground preparation, tree planting and individual tree protection. If you use genetically improved planting material, within the productive conifer (low cost) woodland type, we will make an additional single payment per hectare.

A separate single payment per metre will be provided for stock or deer fencing. This will be paid at the same time as the payment for the initial planting of the woodland. Short rotation coppice is ineligible for fencing support as this is built into the core rate. Where planting is located within 1km of the homes of 2000 or more people and meets specific additional design criteria, an additional Community Woodland Contribution will be paid at the same time as the payment for the initial planting of the woodland, except on areas of short rotation coppice.

Where planting is undertaken on agricultural land i.e. land used for agricultural activities, support will be provided for tree maintenance following planting. This will be a single payment per hectare, payable 5 years after planting. An annual Farmland Premium per hectare to cover the loss of agricultural income for either 10 or 15 years (depending on the woodland type) will also be available.

Please note that keeping horses for recreational or sporting purposes and Christmas tree growing are not considered to be agricultural activities.

Rates of support

The support rates for initial planting and maintenance are:

Woodland Type Rate £/ha *	Initial Planting Payment	Maintenance Payment Rate £/ha **
Productive conifer woodland (low cost)	840	560
Productive conifer woodland (high cost)	980	665
Productive broadleaved woodland	1575	805
Native woodland	875	770
Mixed conifer / broadleaf woodland	1470	770
Short Rotation Coppice	1000	Not applicable

* Paid as a lump sum on completion of planting

** Paid as a lump sum when the annual maintenance results in the trees being satisfactorily 'established'. Covers total maintenance over a period of 5 years. Trees must be satisfactorily 'established' within 10 years of planting. Only payable where planting has occurred on agricultural land (i.e. at least 50% of a woodland type must be on agricultural land to be eligible for the maintenance payment)

The term 'established' means that trees must be present to the minimum stocking densities specified, healthy, and in a condition capable of continued growth given no further weeding but subject to normal ongoing maintenance operations such as protection from inappropriate grazing by wild or domestic animals.

The categories and payment rates for using genetically improved planting material are:

Categories of genetically improved planting material	£ per hectare
Sitka spruce seed orchard material that falls in the tested category under the EU Forest Reproductive Material Regulations	50
Sitka spruce vegetatively propagated tested 'family mixture' material derived from controlled cross-pollination	150

The support rates for fencing are:

Fence Types	£ per metre
Stock fence	2.80
Stock fence with anti-bird-strike marking	4.20
Deer fence	4.83
Deer fence with anti-bird-strike marking	8.33

The additional Community Woodland Contribution will be £1000/ha.

The annual Farmland Premium payment rates, available to farmers, are:

Type of Land	£ per hectare per year
Arable and Improved on non LFA	300
Arable and Improved on disadvantaged areas of the LFA	230
Arable and Improved on severely disadvantaged areas of LFA	160
Unimproved Land	60

A farmer is defined as a person who derives at least 25% of their income from farming taking account of all the land they farm in the UK.

The minimum area for Farmland Premium is 1 hectare, and the maximum area 200 hectares (the 80 hectare maximum for unimproved ground has been removed).

The duration of the above annual payments will vary depending on the woodland types. Payments will be made for 10 years for the two productive conifer woodland types. Short rotation coppice is ineligible for payments. All other woodland types will receive payments for 15 years.

Timing

This round of proposals will follow this timetable.

26 July	Call for outline proposals
31 August	Deadline for outline proposals
14 September	Judging panel decision and invitation to submit full proposals
31 October	Deadline for registration of full proposals
21 December	Completion of statutory consultation period
January 2008	Contracts issued (date dependent on SRDP approval and enactment of enabling legislation)
31 May 2008	All planting to be completed

Inspections and verification

Initial planting will be subject to inspection once we receive your claim for payment. We will inspect the work to ensure that the planting accords with the approved contract. If you claim for fencing, we will inspect it against the specifications. If you claim for using genetically improved planting material, we will verify this against the planting material records.

The planted area will also be subject to inspection once we receive your claim for maintenance or up to 10 years after the planting. We will inspect the area to ensure the trees have been adequately maintained and are 'established'.

The maintenance of planted areas on non-agricultural land may also be inspected after 5 years to verify that the trees are satisfactorily 'established'.

If you claim annual Farmland Premium payments, we will inspect these areas to ensure that they are not being used for agricultural activities.



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