

Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Locational Premium



Introduction

Glasgow and the Clyde Valley comprises the local authority areas of East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire. Through the development of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan, the eight local authorities have worked together to develop a Green Network and identify areas of most need for woodland planting. The Scottish Executive is keen to support this initiative and is working with many partners to establish extensive new woodlands that will assist in the delivery of the Green Network for the benefit of the environment, to enhance the lives of local people, and to help provide attractive places for new businesses to locate.

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 Glasgow and the Clyde Valley (GCV).

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. Glasgow and the Clyde Valley is such an area. The premium aims to create enriched habitats and an improved countryside landscape within the Clyde Valley. Applications that will qualify for LP are those that will create woodlands on vacant or derelict land, that will create new native or riparian woodlands, or that will improve the 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.

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

This varies from £2,500 to £7,000 per hectare depending upon the type and location of the new woodland being planted as shown in the table below:

Land Zone*	SFGS Category**	Eligible Woodland Establishment	Maximum Eligible Area	Op Ref No	LP Rate (per ha)
Native	P2	Native woodland that contribute to Forest Habitat Networks	Up to 40 ha	2310	£2,500
Riparian Woodland	P3	Riparian woodland that contributes to Forest Habitat Networks	Up to 40 ha	3309	£2,500
Urban and Urban Fringe	P4	Woodlands which improve the quality and setting of urban or post industrial areas (inc. on Vacant and Derelict Land)	Up to 40 ha	4307	£5,000
Priority PLUS	P4	Woodlands which improve the quality and setting of urban or post industrial areas in the identified priority locations	Up to 40ha	4308	£7,000

* The Land Zones are shown on the map in this leaflet (derived from the GCV Forestry & Woodland Framework).

** 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 £3 million is available, comprising £1 million in financial year 2006/2007 and £2 million in financial year 2007/2008. The Locational Premium will be reviewed in December 2006.

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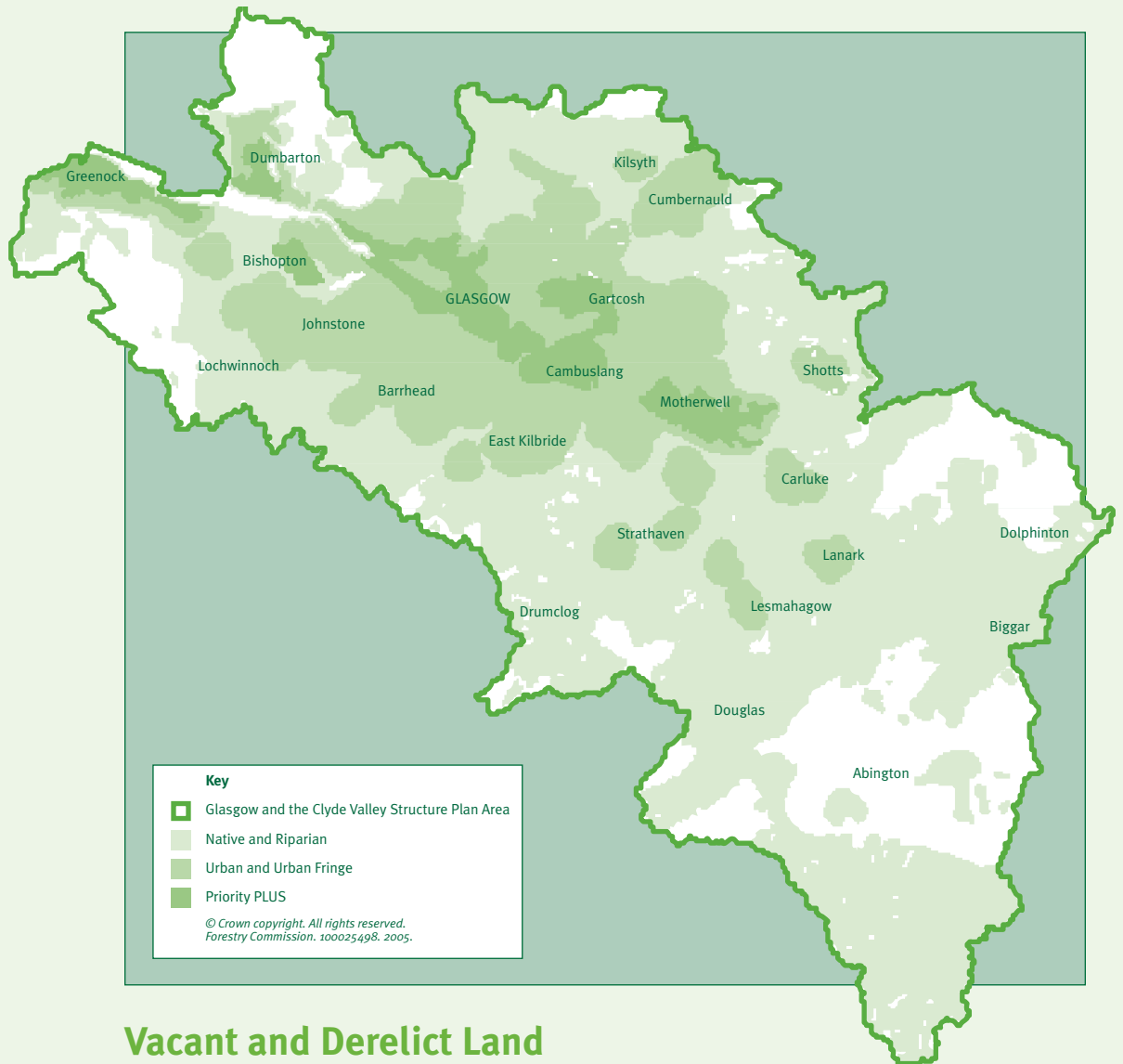


**Forestry Commission
Scotland**

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Where is the Locational Premium available?

You can apply for the Location Premium for woodland planting of the types described above on land within the zones identified on the map in this leaflet.



Vacant and Derelict Land

There is approximately 30km² of vacant and derelict land (VDL) in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. It is identified as a priority for action in the GCV Joint Structure Plan and woodland planting is recognised as a method of restoration 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 land 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 that 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; and
- That which improves the quality and setting of urban or post industrial areas.

All applications must meet the standard SFGS criteria, including the minimum area eligibility 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 extra level of public funding for woodland schemes, it must therefore 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 (e.g. 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.

Central Scotland Forest Locational Premium

Schemes approved under the existing Central Scotland Forest Locational Premium funding are ineligible to receive funding under the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Locational Premium.

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.

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 applications for Locational Premiums for areas that have already received an offer of funding under the SFGS.

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 26th 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 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 15th February of the stated claim year.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Locational Premium contact the Forestry Commission at the following address. Alternatively go to the Forestry Commission's web site at www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

Forestry Commission Scotland
Central Scotland Conservancy
Bothwell House, Hamilton Business Park, Caird Park, Hamilton ML3 0QA
Tel: 01698 368530

For more information about the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan please contact the Structure Plan Joint Committee at the following address:

Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee
10 Killermont Street, Glasgow G2 3NW
Tel: 0141 331 6050