

Table 1

Western Isles Priority Objective	SFGS Activity	Premium reference code	Premium rate per ha	Eligible area
Promote woodlands which will increase the diversity of the landscape and provide shelter and other sustainable benefits.	Planting grant 5 (P5). To improve the diversity of the farmed/crofting landscape	5305	£2800	New woodlands of small scale planting close to settlements on croftlands of up to 3ha.
		5306	£1500	New woodlands on hill land or common grazings of up to 10 ha.
		560	£600	Existing woodlands. Discrete areas up to 0.25ha and not covering more than 25% of the woodland area
Protect and expand native woodlands and work towards developing forest habitat networks	Planting grant 2 (P2). To expand the area of native woodland	2302	£800	New woodlands, no limit on area but must be within 300m of existing native woodland and contribute to forest habitat networks.
		380	£800	Existing native woodlands.
Improve riparian habitats by expanding the area of riparian woodland.	Planting grant 3 (P3). To improve riparian habitats	3302	£800	For riparian woodlands of up to 3ha.
		5305	£2800	New woodlands which are community owned or managed of up to 3 ha.
Increase opportunities for community involvement.	Planting grant 5 (P5). To improve the diversity of the farmed/crofting landscape	5305	£2800	New woodlands which are community owned or managed of up to 3 ha.

Clàr 1

Priomh-amas nan Eilean Siar	Gnìomh SFGS	Cod-bratha tàilleibh	Ire tàilleibh gach ha	Àite ion-roghnach
Adhartachadh air coilltean a leudaicheas iomadachd an dealbh-tìre agus a bheir fàsghadh agus buannachdan seasmhach eile	Tabhartas planntachaidh 5 (P5). Airson leasachadh air iomadachd an dealbh-tìre tuathanais/croitearachd	5305	£2800	Coilltean ùra le planntachadh beag-sgèile faisg air bailtean air croitean suas gu 3ha.
		5306	£1500	Coilltean ùra air monadh no ionaltradh coitcheann suas gu 10 ha.
		560	£600	Coilltean a tha ann cheana. Àiteachan air leth suas gu 0.25ha agus gun a bhith a' dèanamh suas barrachd air 25% den chearn coille
Dion agus leudachadh air coilltean gnèitheach agus obrachadh a dh'ionnsaigh cruthachadh lionraidhean àrainn coille.	Tabhartas planntachaidh 2 (P2). Gus leudachadh air an raon de choille gnèitheach de choille gnèitheach	2302	£800	Coilltean ùra, gun chrìochan ron raon ach a bhith taobh a-staigh 300m de choille gnèitheach a ann cheana agus cur ri lionraidhean arainn coille.
				Coilltean gnèitheach a tha ann cheana.
Leasachadh air àrainnean an cois aibhnichean le leudachadh an raoin de choille a tha an cois aibhnichean.	Tabhartas planntachaidh 3 (P3). Airson leasachadh air àrainnean an cois aibhnichean	3302	£800	Airson coilltean an cois aibhnichean suas gu 3ha.
Leudachadh air cothroman airson com-pàirt coimhearsnachd.	Tabhartas planntachaidh 5 (P5). Airson leasachadh air iomadachd an dealbh-tìre tuathanais/croitearachd	5305	£2800	Coilltean ùra air a bheil sealbh aig a' chomhearsnachd no air an rianachd leotha de mheadh suas gu 3 ha.

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Where can I get more information?

For further information on the Western Isles Locational Premium and advice on tree planting and grant applications:

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Or contact Forestry Commission Scotland at the following address or go to our website at www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

Donald Macleod,
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e-mail: donald.macleod@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

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Càit am faigh mi tuilleadh fiosrachaidh?

Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu Thàilleabh Làraich nan Eilean Siar agus comhairle mu chur chraobhan agus iarrtasan airson tabhartais:

Steven Liddle,
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Comhairle nan Eilean Siar,
An t-Seann Òstal, An Tairbeart, Na Hearadh HS3 3BG
Fòn: 01859 502367 Facs: 01859 502283
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www.cne-siar.gov.uk

No cuir fios gu Ùghdarras nan Coilltean Alba aig an t-seòladh a leanas no tadhal air an làrach-lìn againn aig www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

Dòmhnall Macleòid,
Ùghdarras nan Coilltean Alba
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Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme/Sgeama Tabhartasan Coilltearachd na h-Alba
Western Isles Locational Premium
Tàilleabh Làraich airson nan Eilean Siar



Introduction

In support of the Western Isles Woodland Strategy, Forestry Commission Scotland is offering additional funding through a Locational Premium to encourage the planting of new woodlands and management of existing woodlands in the Western Isles.

This note explains how to apply for this funding.

What is Locational Premium?

Locational Premium is an extra grant payable in addition to the standard grants available under the Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme (SFGS). It is called a "locational" premium because it is only available in parts of Scotland where the Scottish Executive considers woodland planting, regeneration, improvement or management are priorities. The Western Isles is such an area, reflecting the commitment of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES) and local people to woodland development and the production of the Woodland Strategy.

Forestry Commission Scotland has consulted with the local Woodland Strategy steering group about the details of the criteria, which will apply to this premium, and their recommendations have been used to formulate the rules of the scheme.

Applications must satisfy the requirements of SFGS and meet the criteria set out in this leaflet. You must apply for an SFGS in the normal way. The five categories of SFGS grants which apply to this premium are drawn from woodland expansion grants for planting new woodlands (P) and stewardship grants for managing existing woodlands (S). They are listed in Table 1.

Woodland planting which is eligible for SFGS and Locational Premium may also qualify for the Farmland Premium payments from the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department.

Ro-ràdh

A' toirt taic do Ro-innleachd Coille nan Eilean Siar, tha Ùghdarras nan Coilltean Alba a' tabhann maoinachaidh a bharrachd tro Thàilleabh Làraich gus cur coilltean ùra agus rianachd nan coilltean a tha ann cheana a mhisneachadh sna h-Eileanan Siar.

Tha a' bhileag seo a' mìneachadh mar a chuirear airson an airgid seo.

Dè tha ann an Tàilleabh Làraich?

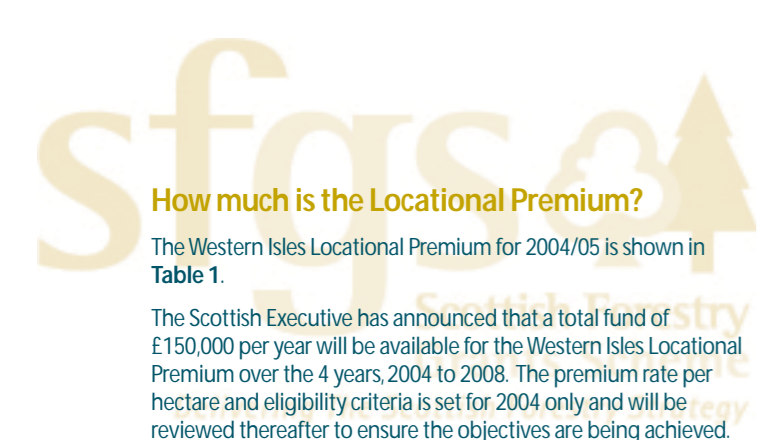
'S e tabhartas a bharrachd a tha ann an Tàilleabh Làraich a bhios ri phàigheadh a bharrachd air na tabhartasan coitcheann a tha rim faotainn fo Sgeama Tabhartasan Coilltearachd na h-Alba (SFGS). Canar tàilleabh "làraich" ris oir chan eil e ri fhaotainn ach ann am pàirtean de Alba far a bheil Riaghaltas na h-Alba den bheachd gu bheil cur, ath-nuadhachadh, leasachadh no rianachd coille nam prìomh-amasan. 'S e àite leithid sin a tha sna h-Eileanan Siar, a' sealltainn ùidh Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES) agus sluagh an àite ann an leasachadh coille agus ullachadh an Ro-innleachd Coille.

Tha Ùghdarras nan Coilltean Alba air co-chomhairle a chur ri buidheann stiùiridh an Ro-innleachd Coille ionadail gus fiosrachadh fhaighinn mu na slatan-tomhais, a bhios a' buntainn ris an tàilleabh seo, agus b'e na molaidhean aca a bha air an cleachdadh airson riaghailtean an sgeama seo a chur ri chèile.

Feumaidh iarrtasan coinneachadh ri riatanasan SFGS and ri na slatan-tomhais air an cur a-mach sa bhileag seo. Feumaidh tu cur airson SFGS san dòigh ghnàthach. Tha na còig seòrsan de thabhartasan SFGS a tha a' buntainn ris an tàilleabh seo air an toirt bho thabhartasan leudachaidh coille airson cur coilltean ùra (P) agus tabhartasan stiùbhartachd airson rianachd nan coilltean a tha ann cheana (S). Tha iad air an liostadh ann an Clàr 1.

Dh'fhaodadh gum bi cur coille a tha ion-roghnach airson SFGS agus Tàilleabh Làraich cuideachd airidh air airgead Tàilleabh Fearann-tuathanais bho Roinn na h-Arainneachd agus Chùisean Dùthchail Riaghaltais an h-Alba.





How much is the Locational Premium?

The Western Isles Locational Premium for 2004/05 is shown in **Table 1**.

The Scottish Executive has announced that a total fund of £150,000 per year will be available for the Western Isles Locational Premium over the 4 years, 2004 to 2008. The premium rate per hectare and eligibility criteria is set for 2004 only and will be reviewed thereafter to ensure the objectives are being achieved.

The Western Isles Woodland Strategy

Reflecting the challenges of woodland establishment in the Western Isles the local strategy emphasises the importance of site, species and provenance selection and the need for quality silviculture and management to achieve successful woodland establishment.

The strategy was produced by CnES, with input from the Woodland Strategy steering group and many local people as part of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan process. It was produced in response to growing interest amongst the local community in planting trees, and was subject to extensive local consultation.

The strategy sets out a vision that the trees and woodlands of the Western Isles will contribute to the quality of life for local people by:

- < Maintaining and enhancing the diversity of local wildlife and habitats
- < Providing shelter and enhancing the landscape
- < Providing recreational, cultural and educational experiences
- < Stimulating community participation
- < Maximising economic opportunities

To help achieve this vision and deliver the Scottish Forestry Strategy a series of priority objectives have been developed. These are based on creating sustainable woodlands and this will entail:

- < Managing existing woodlands to maximise public benefit
- < Developing new woodlands for a variety of purposes
- < Involving the community in long term woodland development and stewardship

The importance of building local capacity and skills for woodland management and the protection of the surviving native woodlands are recognised as being of particular importance.

Following consultation, priority objectives and actions were identified in the strategy. The Locational Premium seeks to support the implementation of these objectives and offers specific grant assistance against the four objectives listed in **Table 1**.

Where is the Locational Premium available?

You can apply for Locational Premium on suitable sites greater than 0.25ha throughout the Western Isles.

What types of planting will be eligible?

The premium aims to encourage woodland planting and management which will help to deliver the priority objectives set out in the Western Isles Woodland Strategy. **Table 1** sets out the types of planting and management operations which will be eligible for the Locational Premium.

Locating woodland in such an open, agricultural landscape requires careful design and consideration of the appropriate scale of woodlands. Consequently proposed new woodlands greater than 3ha on croftland and 10ha on hill/common grazings will not be eligible for Locational Premium.

The Locational Premium represents a significant extra level of public funding for woodland planting and management and it must, therefore, be seen to deliver more benefits than the standard SFGS alone. It must be used to help deliver the priority objectives of the Woodland Strategy.

To ensure this extra delivery, applications for Locational Premium will be assessed against the additional criteria set out below.

- < Is the site suitable for tree planting? (consider geology, soil, exposure, aspect, existing flora and fauna and archaeological interests)
- < Does the woodland help to deliver the priority objectives of the Western Isles Woodland Strategy as set out in **Table 1**?
- < Are the species and provenance of tree suitable to the site? The provenance and origin of seed used to grow trees is considered highly important.
- < Are the proposed silvicultural techniques satisfactory for the Western Isles conditions? (This should include consideration of high planting densities)
- < Is the design of the proposed wood sympathetic to and fits well into the surrounding landscape? (evidence required e.g. photo montage)
- < Has there been neighbour and community consultation? (evidence required e.g. record of meeting, letters of support)
- < Is there a clear protection strategy for the woodland?
- < Is there sufficient demonstration of involvement in the woodland and commitment to future management by the owner/applicant? (evidence required e.g. a clear management and maintenance strategy).

How do I apply?

You must apply for an SFGS in the normal way. An applicant's pack containing application forms is available from Forestry Commission Scotland.

In order to simplify processing of the application we will only accept whole compartments for the Locational Premium, so you should bear this in mind when completing the forms.

Please use the specific Locational Premium reference code listed in table 1 to indicate the compartments for which you wish to apply for the premium.

There is a limited amount of money available for Locational Premium. Therefore, it will be allocated on a first come first served basis. **We will make this allocation at the point when Forestry Commission Scotland approves each SFGS contract.** Once the entire Locational Premium for the year has been allocated we will not accept further applications.

For planting new woodlands, landowner consent will be required and it may also be necessary to gain Crofters Commission approval.

How will applications be assessed?

Forestry Commission Scotland will assess applications in the usual way against the SFGS standards.

They will then be passed to the local Woodland Strategy steering group in the Western Isles for assessment of the contribution of the proposed new woodland to the local Woodland Strategy (as described in section 6).

This group will recommend to Forestry Commission Scotland approval of applications that contribute to delivery of the local strategy.

When should I start work?

You can start work as soon as you have received a signed SFGS contract from Forestry Commission Scotland which confirms that you have been allocated Locational Premium. All work should be completed and claims lodged by end of February 2006.

If you have also applied for SFGS Farmland Premium you must also have received SFGS Farmland Premium approval before starting work.

How will the Locational Premium be paid?

You can claim the full SFGS payment for protection and ground preparation 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 amount of Locational Premium along with the first (70%) payment for planting. We will not process a claim for part of a compartment. However you need not claim for all compartments at the same time.

Dè an suim airgid a tha san Tàilleabh Làraich?

Tha Tàilleabh Làraich nan Eilean Siar airson 2004/05 air a shealltainn ann an **Clàr 1**.

Dh'fhoillsich Riaghaltas na h-Alba gum bi maoin iomlan de £150,000 gach bliadhna ri fhaotainn airson Tàilleabh Làraich nan Eilean Siar thar nan 4 bliadhna, 2004 gu 2008. Tha an ìre tàilleibh gach heactair agus slatan-tomhais ion-roghnachd air an suidheachadh airson 2004 a-mhàin agus an deidh sin bidh e air ath-bhreithneachadh gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil na h-amasan gan coileanadh.

Ro-innleachd Coille nan Eilean Siar

A' comharrachadh nan dùbhlàn an lùib stèidheachadh coille sna h-Eileanan Siar tha an ro-innleachd ionadail a' sealltainn cho cudromach 's a tha taghadh làraich, gnè agus tùs agus an fheum air deagh fhàs chraobhan agus rianachd gus am bi an stèidheachadh coille soirbheachail.

Bha an ro-innleachd air ullachadh le CnES, le taic bho bhuidheann stiùiridh an Ro-innleachd Coille agus mòran de shluagh an àite mar phàirt de obair a' Phlana-gnìomha Bith-iomadachd Ionadail airson Coille. Chaidh ullachadh mar thoradh air ùidh a bhith a' fàs sa choimhearsnachd ionadail ann an cur chraobhan, agus chaidh e tro mhòran co-chomhairle ionadail.

Tha an ro-innleachd a' suidheachadh rùin gum bi craobhan agus coilltean nan Eilean Siar a' cur ri gnè-beatha sluagh an àite le:

- < Iomadachd fiadh-bheatha agus àrainnean ionadail a chumail suas agus leasachadh
- < Fasgadh a thoirt agus leasachadh air a' chumadh-tìre
- < Suidhichidhean cur-seachad, cultair agus foghlaim
- < Com-pàirteachadh coimhearsnachd a bhrosnachadh
- < Cothroman eaconamach a mheudachadh
- < Gus cuideachadh a' coileanadh an rùin seo agus cuideachd Ro-innleachd Coilltearachd na h-Alba tha prìomh-amasan air an cur ri chèile. Tha iad sin bonntaichte air cruthachadh coilltean seasmhach agus bidh seo a' gabhail a-staigh:
- < Na coilltean a tha ann an-dràsta a riaghladh airson barrachd buannachd don phobal
- < Coilltean ùra a thoirt air adhart airson caochladh adhbhar
- < Com-pàirt a thoirt don choimhearsnachd ann an leasachadh agus stiùbhartachd coille fad-ùine

Thathar a' gabhail ris gu bheil leudachadh comais agus sgilean ionadail airson rianachd coille agus dìon nan coilltean gnèitheach a tha air fhàgail air leth cudromach.

An deidh co-chomhairle, bha prìomh-amasan agus obair air an comharrachadh san ro-innleachd. Tha an Tàilleabh Làraich airson taic a thoirt do bhùileachadh nan amas sin agus tha e a' tabhann tabhartas-cuideachaidh sònraichte mu choinneamh nan ceithir amas air an lìostadh an **Clàr 1**.

Càit am faighear an Tàilleabh Làraich?

Faodaidh tu cur airson Tàilleabh Làraich air làraich fhreagarrach a tha nas motha na 0.25ha air feadh nan Eilean Siar.

Dè an seòrsa planntachaidh a bhios ion-roghnach?

Tha an tàilleabh ag amas air cur agus rianachd coille a mhìneachadh a chuidicheas a' coileanadh nam prìomh-amasan ann an Ro-innleachd Coille nan Eilean Siar. Tha **Clàr 1** a' mìneachadh nan seòrsa planntachaidh agus obair rianachd a bhios ion-roghnach airson an Tàilleabh Làraich.

Tha a bhith a' suidheachadh coille ann an dealbh-tìre àiteachais cho fosgailte ag iarraidh dealbhadh faiceallach agus aire don sgèile iomchaidh airson coilltean. Mar sin cha bhi coilltean ùra a thèid a mholadh agus a tha nas motha na 3ha air talamh crottearachd agus 10ha air monadh/ionaltradh coitcheann ion-roghnach airson Tàilleabh Làraich.

Tha an Tàilleabh Làraich a' riochdachadh ìre mhòr a bharrachd de mhaoineachadh pòblach airson planntachadh agus rianachd coille agus, mar sin, feumar dearbhadh gu bheil e a' toirt buannachd a bharrachd air an SFGS coitcheann na aonar. Feumar a chleachdadh airson cuideachadh le prìomh-amasan an Ro-innleachd Coille a choileanadh.

Gus a bhith cinnteach den choileanadh a bharrachd seo, bidh iarrtas airson Tàilleabh Làraich air am measadh mu choinneamh nan slat-tomhais a bharrachd air am mìneachadh gu h-ìosal.

- < A bheil an làrach freagarrach airson cur chraobhan? (smaoinich air geòlas, ùir, dè cho fosgailte 's a tha e, sealladh, fùr-bheatha agus fiadh-bheatha a tha ann cheana agus ùidhean arc-eòlach)
- < A bheil a' chòille a' cuideachadh le coileanadh prìomh-amasan Ro-innleachd Coille nan Eilean Siar mar a tha iad air am mìneachadh ann an **Clàr 1**?
- < A bheil gnè agus tùs nan craobhan freagarrach airson an làraich? Thathar a' meas gu bheil tùs agus bunadh an t-sìl a chleachdar airson cur chraobhan fìor chudromach.
- < A bheil na dòighean airson fàs chraobhan a chaidh am moladh a' freagairt air suidheachadh an Eilein Siar? (Bu chòir dhan seo a bhith a' gabhail a-steach a bhith beachdachadh air mòr-dhlùths planntachaidh)
- < A bheil dealbhadh na coille a chaidh a mholadh co-mhothachail agus co-fhreagarrach don dealbh-tìre mun cuairt? (feumar fianais m.e. le dealbhan)
- < An deach co-chomhairle a chur ri nàbannan agus a' choimhearsnachd? (feumar fianais m.e. cunntas de choinneamh, litrichean bho luchd-taice)
- < A bheil ro-innleachd dìon soilleir ann airson na coille?
- < A bheil com-pàirt gu leòr aig an neach-sèilbhe/neach-tagraidh sa chòille agus ùidh ann an rianachd ri teachd leis an neach-sèilbhe/neach-tagraidh? (feumar fianais m.e. ro-innleachd rianachd agus cumail suas soilleir).

Ciamar a bhios mi a' cur air a shon?

Feumaidh tu cur airson SFGS san dòigh ghnàthach. Tha pasgan iarrtais anns a bheil foirmean-iarrtais ri fhaotainn bho Ùghdarras nan Coilltean Alba.

Gus deiligeadh ris an iarrtas a dhèanamh nas fhasa cha bhi sinn a' gabhail ach earrannan iomlan airson an Tàilleibh Làraich, agus bu chòir seo a chumail air chuimhne nuair a tha thu a' lìonadh nam foirmean.

Cleachd an còd-bratha sònraichte airson Tàilleabh Làraich a tha air a lìostadh an clàr 1 airson a bhith a' comharrachadh nan earrann far am bi thu ag iarraidh cur a-steach airson an tàilleibh.

Chan eil an suim airgid a tha ri fhaotainn airson Tàilleabh Làraich mòr. Mar sin, bidh e air a thoirt seachd a rèir an òrdugh a thig iarrtasan a-steach. **Bidh sinn ga riarachadh aig an àm ri aonta Ùghdarras nan Coilltean Alba airson gach cùmhnan SFGS.** Aon uair 's gu bheil an Tàilleabh Làraich gu leir airson na bliadhna air a riarachadh cha ghabh sinn an còrr iarrtasan.

Airson cur choilltean ùra, feumar aonta an uachdarain agus dh'fhaodadh gum feumar cuideachd cead bho Ùghdarras nan Croitearan.

Ciamar a bhios iarrtasan air am measadh?

Ni Ùghdarras nan Coilltean Alba measadh air iarrtasan san dòigh ghnàthach mu choinneamh bun-tomhasan an SFGS.

An uair sin bidh iad air an cur gu buidheann stiùiridh Ro-innleachd Coille ionadail nan Eilean Siar airson measadh air na tha a' chòille ur a chaidh a mholadh a' cur ris an Ro-innleachd Coille ionadail (mar a tha e air a mhìneachadh ann an earrann 6).

Bidh am buidheann seo a' moladh do Ùghdarras nan Coilltean Alba cead a thoirt do iarrtasan a tha a' cuideachadh le coileanadh an ro-innleachd ionadail.

Cuin a bu chòir dhomh tòiseachadh air an obair?

Faodaidh tu tòiseachadh air an obair cho luath 's a gheibh thu cùmhnan SFGS le ainm Ùghdarras nan Coilltean Alba air a chur ris a tha a' dearbhadh gu bheil Tàilleabh Làraich air a shònrachadh dhut. Bu chòir dhan obair air fad a bhith crìochnaichte agus tagraidhean airgid air fad a bhith a-staigh ro dheireadh a' Ghiblein 2006.

Ma chuir thu airson Tàilleabh Fearann-tuathanais SFGS cuideachd bu chòir dhut a bhith air cead Tàilleabh Fearann-tuathanais SFGS fhaighinn cuideachd mus tòisich thu air an obair.

Ciamar a bhios an Tàilleabh Làraich air a pàigheadh?

Faodaidh tu tagradh a chur a-steach airson pàigheadh SFGS iomlan airson dìon agus ullachadh na talmhainn cho luath 's a chuireas tu crìoch air an obair. Tha pàigheadhean airson planntachadh air an dèanamh ann an dà chuibhreann: 70% nuair a tha an obair air a choileanadh gu ceart agus 30% còig bliadhna an deidh sin.

Pàighidh sinn an suim iomlan de Thàilleabh Làraich còmhla ris a' chiad (70%) pàigheadh airson planntachadh. Cha làimhsich sinn tagradh airson pàirt de earrann. Ach cha leig thu leas cur airson a h-uile earrann aig an aon àm.

