

# Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme Grampian Forest Locational Premium 2005 – 06



## Introduction

This leaflet explains how to apply for Locational Premium funding from Forestry Commission Scotland's (FCS) Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme (SFGS) for planting new woodlands in Grampian. The Locational Premium aims to encourage farmers and landowners in Grampian to establish specific types of woodlands in priority locations identified in the Moray Forest Strategy and the Forest and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City.

## What is a Locational Premium?

A Locational Premium is an extra grant payable in addition to the standard grants available from the SFGS. It is called a "locational" premium because it is only available in certain parts of Scotland where the Scottish Executive considers that woodland planting, regeneration, improvement or management are priorities for social, environmental or economic reasons.

**Please note that your proposed scheme must satisfy the requirements of the SFGS and meet the criteria set out below.**

## Farmland Premium

Woodland schemes on farmland may 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 farming income foregone from the land planted with trees. Your woodland adviser can explain more and further details are available from the local SEERAD office.

## How much is the Locational Premium?

The Scottish Executive has announced that a total fund of £1 million per year will be available for the Grampian Locational Premium over the three years from 2004 to 2007. Locational Premium levels will be reviewed in early 2006 to ensure that the objectives are being achieved.

The Grampian Locational Premium for April 2005 to March 2006 will be between £750 and £5000 per hectare (in addition to normal SFGS planting and stewardship grants) depending on the woodland type and land quality (see the table overleaf).

## Forestry and Woodland Strategies

The woodlands and forests within Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray contribute significantly to the economy, environment and the wellbeing of the people across north-east Scotland. All three local councils have developed Forestry Strategies which draw upon input from a wide spectrum of stakeholders. Many of the priorities for action from these strategies have been incorporated in the locational premium.

In addition, this locational premium helps to deliver aspects of the Natural Heritage Futures documents on sustainable development, developed by Scottish Natural Heritage.

*Delivering the  
Scottish Forestry Strategy*



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



Forestry Commission  
Scotland

## Where is the Locational Premium available?

You can apply for the Locational Premium within the areas identified on the map below.

- P1, P2 and P5 areas are shown North of the A96 from Aberdeen to the River Findhorn and up to 5 miles South of the A96. In addition to this, there is an area East of the A96 from Aberdeen to the River North Esk and up to 5 miles West of the A96.
- P3 areas show the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ).
- P4 areas are shown around eligible towns and cities.

Please contact your local FCS Conservancy office at an early stage if you are in doubt about the eligibility of your proposed scheme.



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## What types of planting are eligible?

We will pay the Locational Premium for new planting that forms part of an acceptable SFGS application which meets one or a number of the following objectives:

- Establishing a well-designed productive predominantly conifer woodland;
- Establishing a well-designed productive broadleaved woodland;
- Expanding native woodland;
- Expanding riparian woodlands;
- Establishing Urban/Urban Fringe woodland;
- Establishing Shelterbelts and Roundels.

Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme  
**Grampian Forest Locational Premium**  
 2005 – 2006

Woodland Initiative	Eligible Areas	Scheme Size	Quality of Ground	Locational Premium Amount	Farmland Premium Period	SFGS Grant Type	Locational Premium Code
Well designed productive woodland – conifer	See map*	Over 20ha	Improved	£1000/ha	10 years	P1	1304
Well designed productive woodland – broadleaf	See map*	Over 2ha	Improved	£1600/ha	15 years	P1	1303
Native woodland	See map*	Over 5ha	Improved Unimproved	£1500/ha £750/ha	15 years	P2	2307 2308
Riparian woodland	See map**	Over 2ha	Improved Unimproved	£2000/ha £1000/ha	15 years	P3	3303 3304
Urban/urban fringe	See map***	Over 0.25ha	All	£5000/ha	15 years	P4	4306
Shelterbelts and roundels	See map*	Over 0.25ha	All	£1500/ha	15 years	P5	5309

**Table 1**

\* *Note: Map shows an area North of the A96 from Aberdeen to the River Findhorn and up to five miles South of the A96. In addition to this and new from 2004 an area East of the A96 from Aberdeen to the River North Esk and up to five miles West of the A96*

\*\* *Note: Map shows NVZ areas.*

\*\*\* *Note: Map shows 1km area around communities with a population of over 2000.*

## Size requirements

All schemes must meet minimum threshold areas in Table 1 and be of an appropriate scale in the landscape.

## Additional Requirements

The Grampian Locational Premium represents a significant extra level of public funding for woodland schemes and it must, therefore, be seen to deliver more benefits than standard SFGS grants alone would deliver. The premium is offered for integrated applications that bring together landscape design, habitat improvement and opportunities for access.

We will pay the Locational Premium for new planting that forms part of an acceptable SFGS application and meets the following criteria:

### All Woodland Types:

#### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

You must demonstrate how neighbours, local communities, local authorities and interest groups have been consulted, their views considered 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.

#### DEER MANAGEMENT

A deer management plan must be included.

## PROTECTING BUILT HERITAGE

You must demonstrate that adequate account has been taken of all important built heritage features in the area, including designed and Historic Landscapes and archaeological sites.

Information on built heritage features should be sought from the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service prior to application.

## RECREATION

You must consider public recreation and must consult with the Local Authority Access Officer where recreation facilities are appropriate:

- You must include recreation proposals that fit locally agreed priorities (e.g. emerging access strategy, core path networks and educational needs) and draw on discussion with, and support from, local authorities, 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 Forestry Commission Recreation Guidelines and include specifications linked to FCS Standard Costs for all proposed facilities. Additional funding may be available through SFGS stewardship grants. Facilities should be to Access for All standards where appropriate.
- Where a new car park is proposed, you must apply for relevant planning permission.
- The recreation facilities must be publicised.

## 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.

## IMPROVING HABITAT QUALITY

You must provide evidence of how your proposals will contribute to the delivery of the local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and make a positive contribution towards developing a Forest Habitat Network (FHN).

All tree species must be matched to the site using Ecological Site Classification (ESC). You must demonstrate whether the land is improved or unimproved.

### **For Well Designed Productive Woodlands – Conifer:**

- At least two-thirds of the area for which the premium is sought must be planted with a mix of productive conifers suitable for timber production, and improved planting stock must be used where available.
- The area must be accessible from roads suitable for timber haulage. Where there is no “agreed route” for timber haulage available, the applicant must show that the local authority roads officer has been consulted and agrees that the proposed access routes are or will be suitable for timber traffic.

### **For Well Designed Productive Woodlands – Broadleaved:**

- These must be established on sites suitable for timber production (such sites are not widespread in Grampian). Soil, shelter and elevation are the most important factors with a southerly aspect being preferred. Please contact the Conservancy Office for further guidance.

### **For Riparian Woodlands:**

- These must fall within Nitrate Vulnerable Zones.
- Adjoining woodlands may also be required to be brought into management.
- Must contribute significantly to Forest Habitat Network.
- These may also contribute to flood alleviation plans.

### **For Native Woodlands:**

- Must contribute significantly to Forest Habitat Network.
- Contribute to the conservation of BAP priority species.

### **For Urban/Urban Fringe Woodlands:**

- At least half of the woodland must lie within 1km of a settlement of at least 2000 people.
- Must identify good pedestrian access linking local communities to the woodland.
- Must demonstrate commitment to ongoing community involvement.
- In discussion with the local authority, you must demonstrate the need for the woodland.
- Woodland design should reflect local landscape character.

### **For Shelterbelts and Roundels:**

- Must improve the diversity of the farmed landscape.
- Must make a positive contribution to the landscape character and reflect historic shelterbelt and roundel layouts.
- We will encourage the use of species typical of these features. This includes Scots pine, Norway Spruce, large broadleaves and native shrubs.

## **How do I apply?**

You must apply for an SFGS grant in the normal way. Details of our grants and application forms can be downloaded from our website <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland>. We recommend that you complete your application on our grant calculator which is downloadable from our website. Completed applications should be emailed to [grampian.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:grampian.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk).

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

## **When will I know when I have been successful?**

There is a limited budget for the Locational Premium and 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 must be approved between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006.

The Locational Premium will be allocated to the person who signs the SFGS contract. Although it will be possible to transfer the contract (for example, to a new owner if the property changes hands), we will not transfer the Locational Premium element to any successor applicant.

## **When can I start work?**

You can start work as soon as you have an approved SFGS contract that confirms that you have been allocated a Locational Premium. If you have also applied for the SFGS Farmland Premium you must also have received 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 it. We will not pay any further grant, and we may reclaim with interest any grant already paid. If you are in any doubt you should consult 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. The Locational Premium element can be claimed after planting. Payments for planting are made in two instalments: 70% when the operation has been satisfactorily carried out, and 30% five years later. You may claim separately for protection, ground preparation and establishment operations. You must claim the whole of each compartment together. You need not claim for all compartments at the same time, but all work must be completed and claims submitted by all those compartments receiving Locational Premiums by 28 February 2007. If you are late in claiming, we will not pay the Locational Premium element; you will receive only the SFGS payments.

## Where can I get more information?

For more information about the Grampian Forest and the Locational Premium, contact the following staff at the Forestry Commission Scotland's Grampian Conservancy:

<b>For Moray</b>	Brian Allison	Email: <a href="mailto:brian.allison@forestry.gsi.gov.uk">brian.allison@forestry.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<b>For Aberdeenshire West</b>	Stephen Brown	Email: <a href="mailto:steve.brown@forestry.gsi.gov.uk">steve.brown@forestry.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<b>For Aberdeenshire North East</b>	Alan Harper	Email: <a href="mailto:alan.harper@forestry.gsi.gov.uk">alan.harper@forestry.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<b>For Aberdeenshire South and Aberdeen City</b>	Gavin Legge	Email: <a href="mailto:gavin.legge@forestry.gsi.gov.uk">gavin.legge@forestry.gsi.gov.uk</a>

Forestry Commission Scotland  
Grampian Conservancy  
Ordiquhill, Portsoy Road, Huntly AB54 4SJ  
Tel: 01466 794542  
Fax: 01466 794986

*Please note that Forestry Commission Scotland staff may only give general advice about forestry and forestry grants. Please consult a woodland adviser for specific advice on your proposal.*

## For information on public access:

<b>In Aberdeenshire North</b>	Eleanor Munro	Tel: 01261 813219
<b>In Aberdeenshire Central</b>	Fiona Chirside	Tel: 01467 628254
<b>In Aberdeenshire South</b>	Mary MacLeod	Tel: 01569 762001
<b>In Moray</b>	Ian Douglas	Tel: 01343 557049
<b>In Moray Access Officer</b>	Adam Streeter-Smith	Tel: 01343 557050
<b>In City of Aberdeen</b>	Rachel Sharp	Tel: 01224 523316

## For information on road access:

<b>In Moray</b>	Ian Robertson Environmental Services (Roads) Moray Council Academy Street, Elgin IV30 1LL Tel: 01343 562500
<b>In Aberdeenshire</b>	Ian Murray Transportation and Infrastructure Aberdeenshire Council Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie AB51 3WA Tel: 01467 628093

## For Information on Archaeology:

Moira Greig  
Archaeologist  
Aberdeenshire Council  
Woodhill House, Westhill Road, Aberdeen AB16 5GB  
Tel: 01224 664726