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Delivering The Scottish Forestry Strategy



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



Forestry Commission

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Grants for
woodland expansion
restocking and
stewardship



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



Forestry Commission

Delivering the Scottish Forestry Strategy

Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme

To meet the Scottish Executive's Scottish Forestry Strategy "Forests for Scotland", the Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme (SFGS) will provide grant aid to encourage the creation and management of woods and forests to provide economic, environmental and social benefits now and in the future.

Grants are available under three main areas:

- **Woodland expansion** for creating new woodlands.
- **Restocking** grants for replanting woodlands.
- **Stewardship** grants for a range of activities in existing woodlands.

Locational Premiums

Locational premiums will be available for specific purposes and/or in geographic locations.

Farmland Premium Scheme

For planting on agricultural land you may be able to claim annual payments under the SFGS/Farmland Premium. The Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD) administer this scheme which replaces the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme.

Farmland Premium grant payments are made for either 10 or 15 years depending on the percentage of broadleaves planted. In order to qualify for payments over 15 years, there must be at least 60% broadleaves at planting. Provided that this percentage does not subsequently drop below 50%, payments will be maintained for 15 years. Schemes planted with less than 60% broadleaves will qualify for payments over 10 years. Details of the Farmland Premium payment rates and land categories are:

SFGS/FP payment Rates

Table 1

Type of Land	£/hectare/year
Non-Less Favoured Area (arable and improved land)	300
Less Favoured Area (LFA) (arable and improved land)	
Disadvantaged areas of the LFA	230
Severely disadvantaged areas of LFA	160
Unimproved Land	60

A separate booklet called *Farmland Premium: Rules and Procedures* gives details of this Scheme.

How are the SFGS grants calculated?

Grants are based on the **Standard Costs** of three main groups of operations:

- Ground preparation.
- Protection (including operations such as fencing or tree shelters).
- Establishment.

They are calculated on a **percentage of the Standard Costs for agreed operations**. We will calculate your grant using either 60% or 90% of the Standard Costs, depending on which SFGS objectives you are aiming to achieve.

You can claim grant as follows:

- Ground preparation and/or protection - on completion of the work.
- Grant for planting trees – within 18 months of the claim for ground preparation and/or protection.
- Payment for planting is in 2 instalments: 70% on completion of the work and the final 30% five years later.
- Payment for replanting – full payment on completion of work.

What is the Standard Cost?

The Standard Cost takes account of the costs of labour, plants, materials and supervision to do the work to the required specification. You can see details of all the eligible operations and costs in the SFGS – Standard Costs and Specifications Booklet.

Woodland Expansion Grants

To encourage the planting of new woodlands you can apply for grants to carry out work that will meet one of the SFGS objectives shown in the table below.

Table 2

SFGS Woodland Expansion Objective	% of Standard Cost paid
Establishing well-designed productive woodland	60
Expanding areas of native woodland, preferably through natural regeneration and the development of Forest Habitat Networks	90
Improving riparian habitat	90
Improving urban or post-industrial areas	90
Improving diversity of the farmed and crofting landscape	60

Please note that there are permitted species and minimum stocking requirements for woodland expansion objectives. The Applicants Booklet gives you more details.

Woodland Expansion – what we will pay grants for

To establish well-designed productive forest: Planting on land that is well suited for timber production, accessible for transport and where the ‘balance’ of forestry and other land use is not an issue.

To expand the area of native woodland: Creating important linkages or extending existing woodlands, preferably through natural regeneration and the development of Forest Habitat Networks.

To improve riparian habitat: Grants are available for creating new riparian and floodplain woodlands or establishing linkages with existing riparian woodlands.

To improve the quality and setting of urban or post-industrial areas: The development of woodlands that will lead to a radical improvement in the quality and setting of urban and post industrial areas near to where people live.

To improve the diversity of the farmed/crofting landscape: New woodlands that enhance the diversity of the farmed and crofting landscape or which improve the integration of woodland with agriculture and other land uses.

Grants will be paid for restocking that meet one or more of the SFGS woodland expansion objectives (see Table 2). These are calculated in the same way as the grants for woodland expansion objectives. Restocking Standard Costs are mostly pitched at 75% of woodland expansion Standard Costs.

Please note that there are permitted species and minimum stocking requirements for woodland expansion objectives. The Applicants Booklet gives you more details.



Restocking – what we will pay grants for



Stewardship – what we will pay grants for

Eight stewardship grants are available for existing woodlands. Where applicable these may be available from the year of planting:

- Improving timber quality
- Improving woodland biodiversity
- Reducing deer numbers
- Landscape improvement
- Native woodlands
- Developing community involvement
- Developing alternative systems to clear-felling
- Woodland recreation

Table 3

SFGS Stewardship Objective	% of Standard Cost paid
Improving timber quality	60
Reducing deer numbers	60 (90 in special areas)
Native woodlands	60 (90 in special areas)
Improving woodland biodiversity	60 (90 in special areas)
Improving diversity of the farmed and crofting landscape	60 (90 in special areas)
Landscape improvement	60 (90 in special areas)
Developing alternative systems to clear felling	60 (90 in special areas)
Woodland recreation	90
Developing community involvement	90 of agreed costs up to published ceilings



Improving timber quality: Improving the economic value of woods and forests by improving timber quality e.g. respacing, formative pruning, high pruning.

Reducing deer numbers: Improving the economic and ecological value of woods and forests by reducing deer numbers. Grants will be paid towards operations that help to safeguard woodlands, improve the quality of woodland and non-woodland habitats, and monitor deer numbers.

Native woodlands: Improving the ecological value of native woodlands, through work related to native woodland Habitat Action Plans. We will pay grants for surveys, preparing a management plan, protection from inappropriate grazing, ground preparation to encourage natural regeneration and removal of redundant fencing and other relevant operations.

Stewardship
– what we will pay grants for
...continued

Improving woodland biodiversity: Improving the environmental value of woods and forests through work related to Biodiversity Action Plans and designated sites, or the conservation of species listed in the schedules of the Wildlife and Countryside Act or the EU Habitats and Species Directive and EU Birds Directive. We will pay grants for baseline surveys and monitoring, a management plan, tree removal to create open space, squirrel control etc.

Landscape improvement: Improving the social, ecological and economic value of woods and forests by enhancing their landscape value and their cultural heritage assets. We will pay grants for remedial action in woodlands that do not meet current landscape standards, improving designed landscapes, improving the diversity of farmed landscape.

Developing alternative systems to clear-felling: To improve the economic, ecological and social value of woods and forests by encouraging more use of alternative systems to clear felling, where this is practical and appropriate. You must be prepared to manage the woodland under Continuous Cover Forestry. We will pay grants for ground preparation to encourage natural regeneration, protection and cleaning etc.

Woodland recreation: To improve the social value of woods and forests by developing facilities for informal recreation in a way which is commensurate with likely demand. Your proposals must fit with local priorities and have the support from appropriate bodies e.g. SNH, Community Councils, Local Tourist Boards. We will pay grant for providing or upgrading appropriate routes, signs and leaflets, stiles, gates, bridges, litter collection etc.

Developing community involvement: To improve the social value of woods and forests through community initiatives that help more people become involved in managing woodlands for local benefit. We will pay grants where a local community is actively managing an existing woodland or planting a new one. Grants are paid for developing a business plan and for training.



Other information

Set-aside: As SFGS applications post-date 1st July 1995, land eligible for the Arable Area Payments Scheme (AAPS) and entered into the Farmland Premium can be counted towards set-aside obligation.

Short Rotation Coppice (SRC): For poplars and willows planted on suitable sites to be worked on short rotations, the grants available are £400 per hectare for planting on set-aside land, or £600 per hectare for planting on non set-aside land. Grants are paid in one instalment. SRC is not eligible for Farmland Premium payments.

Natural Regeneration: For woodland expansion, only native woodland regeneration will be eligible for grant. Grants will be available for work to encourage regeneration and can be claimed when successful regeneration is achieved (at least 1100 stems per hectare, over 50 cms tall).

Traditional Coppice: Where traditional coppicing is appropriate we will pay for the planting of new coppice stock. Standard Costs for planting will apply to coppicing.

Getting more detailed information

You can get more information in the SFGS Applicants Pack. This gives details and rules of the SFGS scheme and all of the Standard Costs. This can be obtained from your local Conservancy office or from:

**Forestry Commission, National Office for Scotland,
Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7 AT
Tel: 0131 314 6154**

or from our web site www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

