

Woodland Creation Operational Plan

Small Native Woodlands 3ha or less

Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) Application Details

Business Reference Number:	111111	Case Number:	17FGS...
Application name:	Hill Wood, under the Croft Woodland Project		

Introduction

The Woodland Creation Operational Plan allows you to show that you have considered all of the relevant impacts and effects that the work you are proposing might have on the environment, and where appropriate the measures you intend to take to mitigate any adverse effects. Due to the small size of your woodland you will be below the EIA threshold, however there is no threshold if you are in a sensitive area. Sensitive areas include [specific designations](#) and deep peat soil. Please speak to your [local Conservancy](#) if this may apply to your site.

We recommend that you speak to your neighbours, local community and other stakeholders to help identify any relevant issues and opportunities.

When you have completed your Woodland Creation Operational Plan, save the document to your computer and then upload to your on-line application.

Site Assessment

The design of the work in your application should be based on a thorough assessment of the site. Please complete the following.

Give a brief description of the planting site and indicate how you have assessed factors (e.g. soils, mammal presence, archaeology, public access) which will affect the design of the proposal.

The site is within a bowl which is south, south-westerly facing. The ground rises from 40m to about 120m above sea level. Soils are mainly peaty podzols and peaty gleys, pockets of upland brown earth with small pockets of deep peat not exceeding 0.25ha. Rooting depth is generally >60cm. Vegetation is heather, deer grass, molinia dominated wet heath and is degraded by grazing pressure.

The woodland is within a NSA and can be seen from the township & public road. The proposed woodland will link up with existing woodland and will fit well with the landscape character. See SNH Landscape Character Assessment...

A public footpath runs through the proposal area which is popular with hillwalkers.

A public supply pipe runs through the proposal area.

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A fundamental consideration when creating woodland is whether or not the tree species is appropriate to the site. You should carry out a site-based assessment of soil and vegetation to match species choice with the particular site.

Please indicate the climatic suitability of the site for the tree species you have chosen. Use the [Scottish Forestry Map Viewer](#) - see the 'FGS Climatic Site Suitability' data.

Are the tree species you have chosen appropriate for the site? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Key Issues

If you have identified significant issues on the site give details of the actions you will take to mitigate these in the issues log. If there are no significant issues state so below.

Landscape - the planting will enhance the crofting landscape as it will link up with existing woodland making the landscape more visually appealing and will fit well with the landscape character.

Water - an unplanted wayleave will be left in accordance with Scottish Water requirements.

Recreation - self-closing gates will be installed and an unplanted corridor left to maintain the existing access path. The proposed woodland will be a new attractive feature on the walk.

Management Operations

Having assessed the site please provide information about how you are going to establish the new woodland.

Indicate the native woodland [Seed Source Zone](#): 105

Describe the management operations which will be undertaken to establish the new woodland.

Ground preparation:	The site will be excavator hinge mounded using a tracked excavator. Spacing will vary between 1m to 4m in groups depending on micro site conditions. Mound size will be circa 40cmx40cm.
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Species to be planted and % of each	<p>Native Upland Birch:</p> <p>PBI (downy birch) - 50%</p> <p>WL (eared willow) - 15%</p> <p>GWL (goat willow) - 10%</p> <p>CAR (common alder) - 25%</p> <p>Native Broadleaves:</p>
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	<p>SOK (sessile oak) - 15%</p> <p>ROW (rowan) - 10%</p> <p>PBI (downy birch) - 50%</p> <p>HAZ (hazel) - 10%</p> <p>CAR (common alder) - 15%</p>
Drainage:	No drainage anticipated
Protection:	The enclosure will be will be protected by 1500m of new deer fencing and will make use of 500m of the existing township deer fence along the lower eastern boundary. Due to the size of the woodland enclosure deer pressure is not considered high in this area. Fence boundaries will be monitored for tracking by deer and appropriate action will be taken to reduce pressure if necessary by the estate. Any deer entering the woodland will be removed immediately.
Fertiliser:	Standard PK applied at time of planting.
Weeding:	This will take place in areas where necessary after planting once a year for 5 years.
Maintenance operations:	All new and existing fencing will be maintained secure by the applicant for the duration of the contract. A beat up operation will be completed in year 2 and year 4 after planting to ensure stocking density is correct.
Public access:	This will be unrestricted with pedestrian gates at both ends of the hillwalkers track. Access will be maintained whilst establishment operations are ongoing
Other:	OG is 15% of this option for landscape, water and electricity wayleaves. Protection costs are high (i.e. ancillary capital costs as a proportion of initial planting cost exceeds 150%) but additional scheme benefits include a significant improvement to the croft landscape, providing opportunities for woodfuel and linking of existing native woodlands to provide a stronger habitat network.