

Woodland Improvement Grant

This is an old version of the page

Date published: 7 August, 2024

Date superseded: 1 October, 2024

On 1 October, the Forestry Grant Scheme will be updated to align with the new UK Forestry Standard (2023). The eligibility criteria for the Restructuring and Regeneration Woodland Improvement Grant will change to reflect general forestry practice recommendation 21, which advises a diverse species composition with a maximum of 65% of any single species.

A new deer management plan template is available for use in preparing forest management plans. This template can be found in the [Long Term Forest Plan page](#) - Technical Guidance section.

More information on how Scottish Forestry will be managing existing applications through the change can be found at [Scottish Forestry UK Forestry Standard](#).

For recent changes to this guidance, please see the [bottom of the page](#).

Table of Contents

[Aim](#)

[Grant support](#)

[Eligibility](#)

[How to claim](#)

[Amendments and variations](#)

[Inspections](#)

[Recent changes](#)

[Previous versions](#)

[Download guidance](#)

Aim

The aim of this option is to provide capital grants for a range of activities in existing woodlands that will:

- encourage natural regeneration and benefit priority habitats and species
- increase species and structural diversity through low impact silvicultural systems management
- contribute to the sustainable management of urban woodlands and improve public access
- support the preparation of forest and / or management plans that set out management objectives for the woodland
- improve the biodiversity, resilience, and structural diversity of even aged woodlands

Grant support

The grant support for this category includes a range of Woodland Improvement Grant options.

Click on the options below to get more detailed eligibility requirements.

Woodland Improvement Grant option	Grant payment
Habitats and Species	Standard costs for capital works and items from a set list. Also, actual costs are available for work in woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Natura sites where you can demonstrate that the actual costs of the eligible capital items will be higher than the set standard costs list for this option.
Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)	Standard costs for capital works and items from a set list.
Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT)	Standard costs for capital works and items from a set list.

Planning	
Long-term Forest Plan	£25 per hectare for first 200 hectares. £5 per hectare thereafter. Minimum £500; maximum £15,000.
Forest Plan Renewal	£10 per hectare for first 200 hectares £5 per hectare thereafter Minimum £500; maximum £10,000
Woodland Grazing Management Plan	£1200 per plan
Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT) – Urban Woodland Management Plan	£1000 for any area up to 10 hectares £25 per hectare thereafter
Deer Management Plan	£12 per hectare for first 500 hectares £1 per hectare thereafter Minimum £5,000; maximum £15,000
Restructuring Regeneration	
Delivering UKFS Woodland	£300 per hectare
Delivering Diversity and Resilience Woodland	£550 per hectare
Improved Vegetative Stock for Sitka Spruce	£60 per hectare

Eligibility

Your application and proposed management work must comply with the UK Forestry Standard.

Land ownership

If you are a tenant then a landlord's declaration must be provided with your application. The control of the land must extend for the duration of the proposed contract.



[Landlord's Declaration Form \(MS Word, Size: 346.1 kB\)](#)

doc_external_url: https://www.ruralpaymentsandservices.org/media/resources/0003---landlords_declaration_form---SF-4.docx

If you are a contractual licensee then the Contractual License must be provided with your application. The control of the land must extend for the duration of the proposed contract.

How to claim

You should submit your Forestry Grant Scheme capital claim once you have satisfactorily completed all the agreed work, as detailed within your contract.

You should also submit a map identifying the works that have been completed. We may inspect the capital items you claim to ensure that the work has been carried out to the correct specification.

Amendments and variations

We recognise that from time to time you may need to amend your approved application due to unforeseen circumstances. If you would like to make changes, contact your local office to seek agreement to variations.

[Contact us](#)

Please note that we cannot increase the value of your grants awarded in your contract by a variation due to the competitive nature of our grants approval process. You must still tell us if you intend to make any changes to the agreed work in your contract.

Inspections

Once you have submitted your Forestry Grant Scheme capital claim at any time of the year, then our processing, including inspections, will take place immediately.

For all Woodland Improvement Grant claims, we will aim to carry out the inspection and process the result (either payment to you or feedback to you about meeting the minimum standards) within Scottish Forestry's claims payment timeframes that will be developed within our customer charter.

We will let you know the results of our inspection as soon as it has been completed. We will tell you if you have not met the minimum standards, the implications of this and what should happen next.

Recent changes

Section	Change
Eligibility	Removal of requirement for crofters to notify the Crofting Commission

Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

Download guidance

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.