

Forestry Co-operation

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Aim

Rural Scotland is an integral part of the country's economy, environment and culture. However, for many landowners and communities, issues such as economies of scale and fragmentation are difficult to overcome and delivering projects at a landscape scale has proven difficult to establish.

This option therefore aims to encourage landscape-scale collaborative projects between two or more landowners by providing support for project facilitation and co-ordination. The subsequent management activity can be supported through other options within the Forestry Grant Scheme.

Grant support

Grant support of £250 per day is available for up to 40 days, or up to 10 days for small-scale (<10ha) woodland creation schemes, to support the cost of a project co-ordinator for the following stages of a project:

Feasibility – this stage is the initial exploratory phase and focuses on:

- communication between interested parties
- engagement with stakeholders including local communities
- identifying and resolving issues around tenancy, land ownership and eligibility
- agreeing objectives
- discussing and setting outputs, costs, cash flow, commitments and risks
- providing an outline of the project

Consolidation – this stage focuses on the detail of the project and includes:

- ensuring that potential applications for woodland creation or woodland improvement grant options are consistent with the detailed project plan and reflect landscape scale planning
- preparing and submitting a detailed project plan

Support will be provided for a range of collaborative projects that address issues such as:

- woodland creation projects that improve water quality and/or mitigate against the risk of flooding (identified through the Woodlands for Water Target Area on the [Scottish Forestry Map Viewer](#))
- woodland creation projects that encourage the planting of farm / croft woodlands
- woodland creation projects which deliver landscape-scale expansion of forest habitat networks
- woodland projects to enhance the survival and expansion of black grouse / capercaillie

- native woodland restoration including removal of rhododendron in priority areas identified within the national rhododendron strategy
- landscape-scale woodland deer management
- woodland projects that bring farm / croft woodlands into active management
- woodland projects which support rural communities to increase the contribution of woodlands to the local economy
- tree health projects which support efforts in dealing with *P. ramorum* outbreaks across communities

The Forestry Co-operation option must fund new projects and also must not fund activities that are already funded as part of the other projects, or as part of normal work already being done by a paid employee. We will require a declaration by the landowner(s) and / or facilitator to this effect within the supporting information template.

Eligibility criteria

The proposal must be over a landscape scale involving two or more adjoining or nearby land holdings (i.e. Business Reference Number holders).

For woodland creation there must be a minimum of four participating owners with scope for a significant area of woodland creation. Common Grazings with more than four members are eligible. For small-scale woodland creation (<10ha) there must be two or more participants.

If a landowner within the project area will not participate in the project then the project may still go ahead but the proposal must outline if this exclusion will affect the objective of the proposal.

A final project plan, including a map, must be submitted to and approved by Scottish Forestry.

Eligible applicants

Applications can be submitted by either a facilitator on behalf of a group or a group of landowners / organisation that wishes to appoint a facilitator, such as:

- woodland owners
- farmers
- crofters
- other land managers
- fully constituted community groups
- non-government organisations
- private companies and organisations

Supporting information

We need supporting information to help us assess your application and this should be submitted using the template provided.



[Forestry Co-operation – supporting information template \(MS Word, Size: 316.4 kB\)](https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/0013---forestry-cooperation-supp-info-template_v4---SF.doc)

doc_external_url: https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/0013---forestry-cooperation-supp-info-template_v4---SF.doc

This must include:

- aims and rationale for the project and how this will support delivery of Scotland's Forestry and Land Use strategies
- summary of project implementation including a breakdown of the activities with clear milestones, outputs and timescale
- justification for the days to be used for both the 'feasibility' and 'consolidation' stages
- an estimate of the social, environmental and economic benefits of the project
- details of the project facilitator
- a signed letter of support for the project from at least the required minimum number of participating landowners in the proposed project area

- a map showing the location and scale of the proposed project. Individual property boundaries should also be mapped. For advice on how to mark up your map please use the general mapping guidance
- SPHN information for all areas included in this option application, if for *P. Ramorum* projects

General mapping guidance for the Forestry Grant Scheme

Project co-ordinator – it is important that the facilitator has relevant knowledge and experience of forestry and rural land use, and can preferably demonstrate experience of managing woodland management and / or woodland creation projects.



[Sample letter for forestry co-operation landowners \(PDF, Size: 322.8 kB\)](#)

doc_external_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/0012---sample-letter-for-forestry-co-operation-landowners---SF.pdf>

Scoring criteria

To make sure we achieve the best value for money and to ensure we meet the scheme's objectives we will assess each application using scoring criteria.

The criteria will be written as appropriate to each Forestry Grant Scheme option; please refer to [Scoring criteria and clearing process](#) for details.

Delivery of option benefits

1 POINT – applications that meet the eligibility requirements but do not deliver any of the benefits detailed below.

3 POINTS – for applications that provide one or more of the following in addition to meeting the eligibility requirements:

- for applications that will help bring forward landscape-scale proposals that will contribute towards native woodland restoration on Scottish Forestry priority designated woodland sites or in priority areas identified within the national rhododendron strategy

Or

- for applications that will help bring forward landscape-scale proposals that will clearly contribute towards sustainable natural flood management in areas, identified in the [Flood Risk Management Strategy](#) (available from December 2015), as being at greatest risk

Or

- for applications that will support landscape-scale woodland creation in the target areas identified for Forestry Grant Scheme woodland creation grants

Or

- for applications that will bring forward landscape-scale proposals for appropriate habitat management and predator control in black grouse and capercaillie [core areas](#)

Or

- for applications that will encourage landowners to bring forward proposals for appropriate deer management over a landscape scale that will help protect or improve the condition of designated woodlands

Or

- for applications that encourage landowners to bring forward landscape-scale proposals to plant or manage farm / croft woodlands

5 POINTS – for applications that meet one of the 3 point criteria above and the criteria below:

- for applications that will help to bring forward applications that will provide significant benefits to the local community

Scale of delivery

1 POINT – for applications that include a letter of support which is supported and signed by two landowners in the project area who will contribute towards the delivery of the landscape-scale project.

3 POINTS – for applications that include a letter of support which is supported and signed by a significant number of landowners in the project area who will contribute towards the delivery of the landscape-scale project.

5 POINTS – for applications that include a letter of support which is supported and signed by the majority of landowners in the project area who will contribute towards the delivery of the landscape-scale project.

Value for money

Applications that deliver value for money based on the ratio of grant value sought versus the total costs which are eligible for grant support. That is where the grant sought is:

1 POINT – up to 100 per cent of the total capital cost.

3 POINTS – less than 75 per cent of the total capital cost.

5 POINTS – less than 50 per cent of the total capital cost.

Supplementary point – additional benefit

1 POINT – will be awarded, as an additional point, where:

- an application brings forward proposals in the areas where there has been little or no activity in the past

How to claim

You can submit a capital claim once we have approved the final project plan.

Technical guidance

- [UK Forestry Standard](#)

Recent changes

Section	Change
Grant support	Extra bullet point added regarding tree health projects
Supporting information	Supporting information template has been updated

Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

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