

Sustainable Management of Forests – Low Impact Silvicultural Systems

This is an old version of the page

This is an old version of the page

Date published: 30 March, 2015

Date superseded: 16 July, 2015

Table of Contents

[Aim](#)

[Grant support](#)

[Application eligibility criteria](#)

[Other eligibility criteria](#)

[Supporting information](#)

[Selection criteria](#)

[How to claim](#)

[Technical guidance](#)

Aim

The aim of this option is to facilitate the transformation of stands to low impact silvicultural systems (LISS).

Low impact silvicultural systems are a type of woodland management that helps to increase species and structural diversity. It normally causes less rapid change to the landscape and to the physical environment than clear felling systems and so can help the landowner meet multi-purpose objectives.

In the context of climate change, varied silvicultural systems will increase the resilience of forests and may limit the damage caused by extreme events, such as gales or pests outbreaks.

Grant support

This is an annual grant to support the additional costs for deer control and management planning that are required to implement low impact silvicultural systems.

The rate is £30 per hectare per year for up to a maximum of five years.

You can apply for a separate grant under the [Woodland Improvement Grant – Low Impact Silvicultural Systems](#) option to support related works that are considered capital items, such as cultivation and monitoring.

Application eligibility criteria

Please check that you are eligible to apply for Forestry Grant Scheme funding before you begin your application. You can do this through the link below.

[Sustainable Management of Forests](#)

To apply, you must have an approved Forest Plan for woodland areas of 100 hectares or more. For woodland areas less than 100 hectares you must have an approved Forestry Commission Scotland Management Plan or Forest Plan.

[Long-term Forest Plan technical guidance](#)

[Management Plan](#)

You must have a Deer Management Plan. All deer control must comply with best practice guidance and you must retain all cull records.

[Deer Management Plan](#)

The Sustainable Management of Forests – Species Conservation – Reducing Deer Impact option is not eligible under areas covered by Sustainable Management of Forests – Low Impact Silvicultural Systems.

Site suitability must be ranked 'moderate' or 'good' according to FC Information Note 40.

The woodland area must contain trees that are of seed bearing age for the species concerned, as the purpose of the grant is to support the transformation phase from later thinnings into seeding and secondary fellings, and encouraging, promoting and managing natural regeneration.

Please read the supporting information below for the details you need to supply when applying for this option. Note that you must use the appropriate standard template to give this information.

[Other eligibility criteria](#)

If you are removing trees, you must have an approved [felling licence](#) for thinning or small-scale felling.

Annual monitoring

You must maintain records of your deer damage assessments.

You must carry out annual monitoring through the nearest neighbour method to assess deer impacts and any changes to the condition of the woodland. The annual monitoring survey must contain a map of the surveyed areas with the recorded plots referenced – preferably located on the map via GPS – and a table detailing the findings of the survey.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

If the application area is within or affecting a Site of Special Scientific Interest or Natura site the proposed work must fit with the objectives set out in the site management statement which you must give in support of your application.

[Supporting information](#)

We need supporting information to help us assess your application. Please provide the information listed below using the template provided.

[Low Impact Silvicultural Systems supporting information template](#)

- provide a brief analysis of the current structure of the woodland showing its suitability for a low impact silvicultural system / continuous cover forestry and why conversion to a low impact silvicultural system would be appropriate
- describe the silvicultural system proposed and the desired stand structure and species. You must identify seed trees on the ground, where appropriate
- provide a breakdown of the management work expected to be carried out during the plan period – include harvesting methods and time scales
- you must provide a Deer Management Plan and an assessment of the existing deer numbers and how deer impacts will be addressed, including control measures. The aim should be to reduce deer to levels so that regeneration is capable for target species, including soft conifers
- you must provide a map that shows the area of low impact silvicultural systems, including indicative areas of thinning and felling expected during the plan period

[Deer Management Plan](#)

[General mapping guidance for the Forestry Grant Scheme](#)

[Selection criteria](#)

We have set agreed financial budgets for each of the options under the Forestry Grant Scheme.

To ensure that we make the most cost effective use of funding available and to meet Scottish Government objectives, we will assess each application using selection criteria.

These criteria will be specific to each option. Each application will receive a score based upon the selection criteria and we will set a minimum score for each option. We will make details available before the start of the scheme.

How to claim

We will pay grants for up to five years for each year that your contract is covered by a Forest Plan or Management Plan. If your Forest Plan or Management Plan expires during the five years of your contract you must ensure that it is renewed in time to be able to continue making annual claims. We cannot pay your claim for any claim year that is not covered by a Forest Plan or Management Plan.

You must claim this grant on your Single Application Form.

You must submit your deer damage assessments annually. Keep cull records for checking by our woodland officers as evidence of deer control.

[Low Impact Silvicultural System Deer Habitat Monitoring form](#)

You must also keep an annual management diary that records the time inputs and visits for the planning and management of low impact silvicultural system areas.

You must submit your records to your local Forestry Commission Scotland office between 1 December and 31 January. If we do not receive your records within this period we will not be able to pay your claim.

Technical guidance

- [Long-term Forest Plan technical guidance](#)
- [Management Plans](#)
- [General mapping guidance for the Forestry Grant Scheme](#)
- [Deer Management Plan guidance](#)
- [Best Practice Guidance](#)
- [Nearest Neighbour Method for Quantifying Wildlife Damage to Trees in Woodland](#)
- [Felling licence guidance](#)
- [Forest Research Information Note 29 – What is Continuous Cover Forestry?](#)
- [Forest Research Information Note 40 – Transforming Even-aged Conifer Stands to Continuous Cover Management](#)
- [Forest Research Information Note 45 – Monitoring the Transformation of Even-aged Stands to Continuous Cover Management](#)
- [The Costs and Revenues of Transformation to Continuous Cover Forestry – Owen Davies and Gary Kerr](#)
- software is available to support [transformation to low impact silvicultural systems / continuous cover forestry](#)