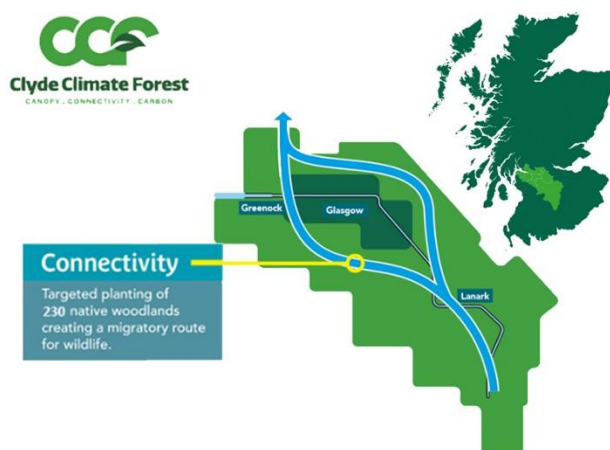




A guide to the higher payment rate available to create and manage Native Woodlands for Connectivity in target areas of the Clyde Climate Forest

Trees, woodlands and forests are recognised as essential if we are to address the Climate Crisis and are crucial to assist in a recovery for nature.

The Clyde Climate Forest plans to see 18 million trees planted in both urban and rural parts of the Glasgow City Region over the next decade, thereby helping to reduce damaging atmospheric emissions and contributing to preparations for the impacts of a changing climate.



The Clyde Climate Forest also aims to connect up the region's existing woodlands. Over many decades the region's broadleaved woodlands have been reduced in scale and increasingly fragmented. More than 200 target locations have been identified where new woodland creation will link up these important habitats, making the wildlife that rely upon them better able to cope as the climate changes.

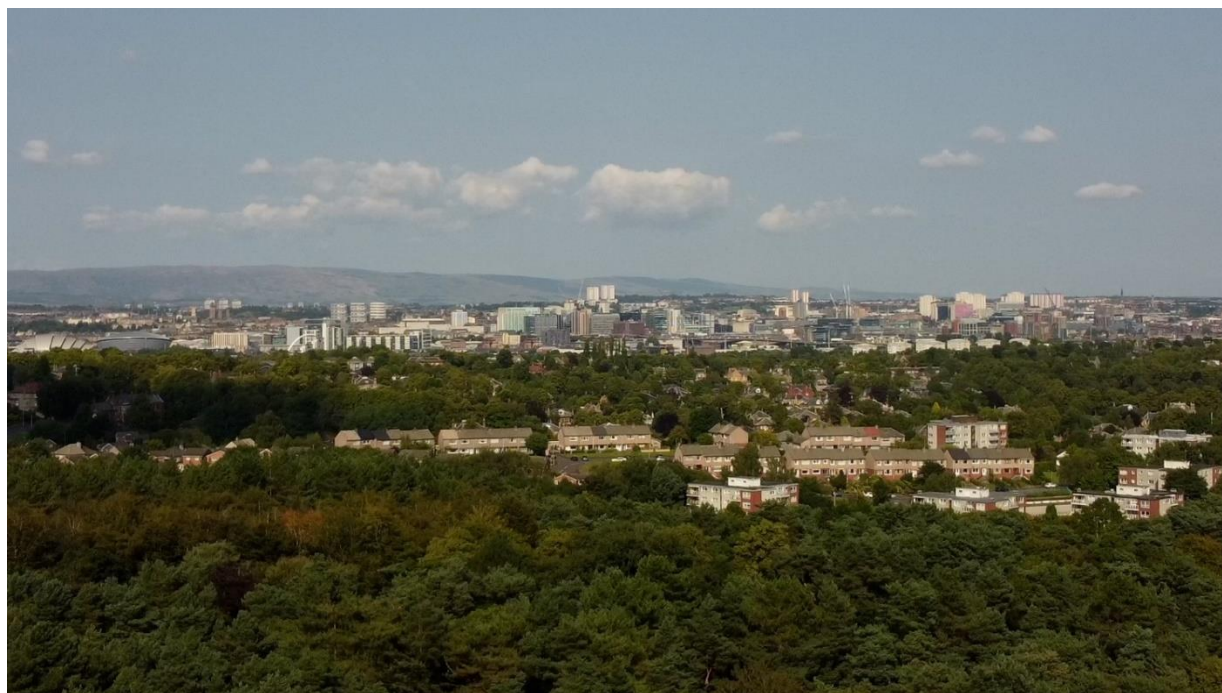
Clyde Climate Forest Native Woodlands for Connectivity and the Forestry Grant Scheme

Native Woodlands provide essential ecosystem services and wildlife habitats. Creating connected woodland networks will help to reverse habitat fragmentation, protect biodiversity, and offer migratory routes north for wildlife as the climate changes.

In the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS), woodlands for connectivity are those that are located within target areas of the Clyde Climate Forest, and planted and managed in a way that maximises their benefit to biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity.

Woodlands for connectivity may be on smaller parcels of land, integrating with the farm business or building upon existing remnants of native woodland. Having these well designed and managed woodlands on your land can generate income, complement agricultural activities and make a lasting contribution to local biodiversity conservation and climate change resilience.

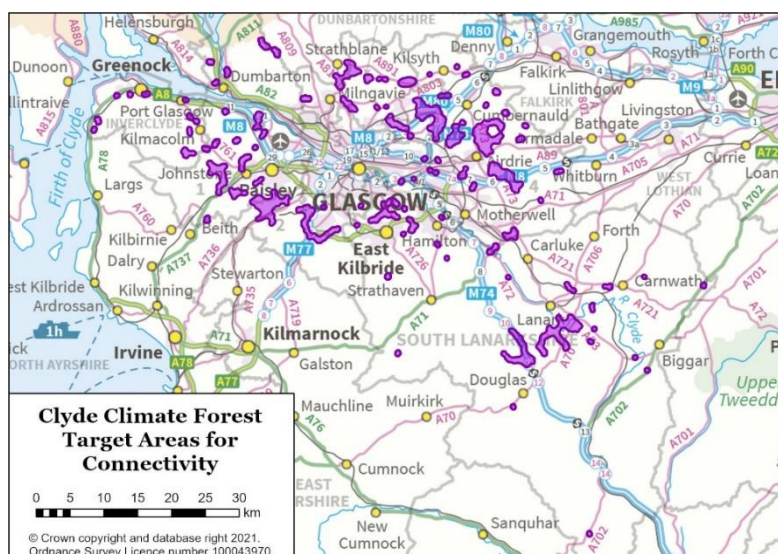
This factsheet explains what you need to consider before applying for the woodlands for connectivity higher payment rate, which is only available as part of the FGS.





Target areas for Clyde Climate Forest Native Woodlands for Connectivity

You can see the target areas on the [Scottish Forestry Map Viewer](#). Activate the 'CCF Woodlands for Connectivity' layer in the FGS folder, and target areas will appear in purple hatch. Be aware that the 1:10 000 scale mapping needed for a FGS application can't be reproduced on this layer (it only goes to 1:25 000 scale). The Scottish Forestry woodland officer assessing your application will be able to determine if your application is eligible.



CCF Woodlands for connectivity higher payment rate:

The higher payment rate is available for the woodland creation options shown in the below table. It is available for initial planting and annual maintenance payments in the specified target areas. If 50 per cent or more of the eligible option(s) area is within the target area, then the whole eligible option(s) will receive the higher payment rate. If less

than 50 per cent of the eligible option(s) area is within the target area then the higher payment rate will not be applied. You can see in the table below how the total payment rates in target areas compare to standard areas. Capital items within the target areas such as fences and gates remain at the standard payment rates.

Woodland creation option	Total payment rate in standard areas (£/ha)	Total Payment rate in target areas (£/ha)
Native Scots pine	3 200	3 600
Native upland birch	2 480	2 790
Native broadleaves	3 200	3 600
Native low-density broadleaves	1 040	1 170

There is more guidance about the eligibility criteria and woodland creation options on the [Forestry Grant Scheme](#) webpages. Your local woodland officer can also offer one-to-one advice.

Characteristics of woodlands for connectivity

The Woodland Creation Operational Plan that you submit as part of your application should demonstrate that your application is based on good knowledge of the sensitivities and local issues. That it is well-integrated with other land objectives so as to secure multiple benefits and that the woodland planted must be of a type and design that will help secure meaningful connections with existing woodlands and which will provide a potential migration route for woodland wildlife as the climate changes.

This means:

- Larger than 0.25 ha and with an average width greater than 15 m.
- Capable of establishing with little and infrequent input of fertilisers and pesticides.
- Capable of generating a good canopy and root system.
- Well-structured and diverse, using species that are likely to deliver multiple benefits (refer to species and types listed in payment rates table above).

- Using the least intensive cultivation methods possible to minimise soil disturbance.

There is more information at [Forestry Grant Scheme \(ruralpayments.org\)](https://ruralpayments.org) and from your local woodland officer.

The woodlands will also need to meet the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard (2011), Water Guidelines (5th edition) and Scottish legislation such as the Controlled Activities Regulations and associated General Binding Rules (www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/water).

For more information about the Forestry Scottish Grant Scheme visit <https://forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/forestry-grants> or call 0300 067 5000

Published by Scottish Forestry, December 2021. This factsheet has been produced through a partnership of Scottish Forestry and the Clyde Climate Forest.