



## WOODLAND CREATION UPDATE

This Briefing Note provides information relating to recent changes made to the Woodland Creation Operational Plan.

There are now **two** Woodland Creation Operational Plans:

- The Small Native Woodlands Operational Plan and;
- A revised Woodland Creation Operational Plan, for all other applications.

Applicants should download the latest version from our [web page](#) and commence using the new templates for all new applications. **Please note that you only need to use one of these plans per application.**

### Small Native Woodlands Operational Plan

This new plan has been developed to improve the application process for small **native** schemes of **3 hectares or less**. It recognises that small native schemes are less likely to have a significant effect on the environment and therefore requires the applicant to provide less information. This plan should be used for the following options:

- Native Scots Pine
- Native Upland Birch
- Native Broadleaves
- Native Low-density
- Native Broadleaves in Northern and Western Isles

### Woodland Creation Operational Plan

The existing Woodland Creation Operational Plan has undergone a review and update aimed at making the plan more specific in its purpose and removing unnecessary duplication. The updates include:

- Formal recognition that the plan can be used to record pre-application work e.g. discussions with stakeholders, site assessment results, etc.
- Space to record consultations with neighbours, local communities and consultees
- A consolidated EIA Sensitive Areas and Potential Impacts section
- The inclusion of an Issues Log at Appendix 2. The issues log will be of benefit to large/more complex schemes where issues can be logged in a manner that allows effective management of these issues by recording multiple site sensitivities, consultee correspondence and mitigation for any significant impacts.
- A revised Management Operations section prompting applicants to provide specific silvicultural information necessary to plan and assess proposals.
- The removal of scheme mapping guidance, recognising that this information is already provided online within the Forestry Grant Scheme web pages and therefore isn't necessary to repeat within the Woodland Creation Operational Plan.
- The removal of the document checklist.