

## Budget Categories and Threshold Scores

This note updates the budget situation and threshold scores for Forestry Grant Scheme applications as at 29 August 2018.

With a high and sustained demand for forestry grants in particular for woodland creation additional funding has been secured that will be sufficient to fund all the woodland planting seeking a 2018/19 claim year. The current woodland creation situation at end of July 2018 is shown in the table below.

Woodland Creation ha	2018/19	2019/2020	2020/21
Pre-application	760	6585	3294
Submitted not yet approved	2140	3891	99
Approved projects	9200	2374	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>12100</b>	<b>12850</b>	<b>3436</b>

For 2018/19, 9200 ha of woodland creation projects have now been approved with 2140 ha of submitted applications. FCS is also aware of 760 ha of schemes being worked on but not yet submitted as an FGS application.

**The additional funding is sufficient to fund all applications looking for a 2018/19 claim year including any projects that realistically can be brought forward from 2019/2020.**

**Early indications are that demand for woodland creation grants in 2019/20 will be exceptionally high and already exceeds the current indicative budget. To help maximize the use of available funds applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for a 2018/19 claim year for all or part of their applications where this is realistic for the project.**

Table 1 has been updated to show the current budget availability and minimum score thresholds. **Woodland Creation high cost and Woodland Creation Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) have now been reopened for 2018.**

If you have any queries then please contact your local Conservancy or our National Office.

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**Table 1 Forestry Grant Scheme: Clearing and Budget Categories with Threshold Scores – August 2018**

Grant Category	Clearing categories	Frequency of Clearing	Indicative 2018 Budget £m	Claim Years available for first year of contract	Number of Claim Years available	Indicative Headroom 2018	Indicative Headroom 2019	Threshold Score(Max)
Woodland Creation	WC with CSGNC	Monthly	£10.0m	2019	N+2			10 (31)
	WC High Cost(>£6k/ha)		£1.75m	2019				10 (31)
	WC with Nat Regen		£0.25m	2018-2020				2 (6)
	WC Other		£28.0m	2018 & 2019				10 (31)
Woodland Improvement Grants	Restructuring Regeneration	Monthly	£2.0	2019	N+2			3 for 2019(6)
	Planning options		£0.35	2019	N+2			2 for 2019 (6)
	Habitats & species/Liss		£0.72	2019	N+2			6 for 2018 6 for 2019 (6)
	WIAT		£0.85	2019	N+2			10 (16)
Sustainable Management of Forests	Native Woodlands/ LISS/ livestock/Grazing	Monthly	£0.7	2019 only	N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	Squirrels/Predators/Deer		£0.4		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	WIAT		£0.03		N+1	N/A		6 (16)
	Rural Access		£0.15		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
Tree Health		Monthly	£0.4	2018 & 2019	N+1			2 (6)
Forest Infrastructure**		Monthly	£0.3	2018 & 2019	N+1			3 for 2018 (6) 4 for 2019 (6)
Agroforestry		Monthly	£0.1	2018 & 2019	N+2			2 (6)
Harvesting and Processing		Annual	£0.3	2018 & 2019	N			2 (6)
Co-operation		Monthly	£0.1	2018 & 2019	N+1			2 (6)
<b>Total</b>			<b>£ 46.4</b>					

Notes: ■ Projects with average cost is £6,000/ha or higher ■ Projects must be completed and paid in the approved claim year. N= current calendar year Indicative Headroom Colour Key:

There is currently good availability of funds within this FGS clearing category and we will be able to support most good quality application

It is likely the demand for funds within this FGS Clearing Category will exceed the available budget and there will be strong competition for funds

There are no longer any funds available within this FGS clearing category

**Claim Years Available** - Our approach to claim years is set out in Table 1 and depends on the grant type. This has been structured to ensure applications go through the competitive clearing process whilst at the same time manage the grant budget without a long forward booking of projects.

**Please note that for an application proposal with multiple claim years, the application score must meet the higher of the threshold scores for each claim year to obtain full approval.**

**Woodland Creation** - capital such as fencing and initial planting - up to 3 claim years (i.e. within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years e.g. one option is to apply in 2018, start work in year 2018 and complete in 2019. Another option is to apply in 2018, start work in 2019 and complete work in claim year 2020.

**Woodland Improvement Grant** - up to 3 year claim years (within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years except for WIG Restructuring Regeneration where a delay until year 3 is acceptable to meet species diversity rules.

**Sustainable Management of Forests** – next claim year is available as the first annual management claim year.

**Agroforestry** – as for woodland creation up to 3 claim years (within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years.

**Tree health** – current & next year claim year (within N+1 where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission)

**Forest Infrastructure** – current and next claim year available (within N +1, where N = the calendar year of the application round)

**Harvesting & Processing** – one claim year available (within N, where N = the calendar year of the application round)

**Co-operation** – current and next claim year available (within N +1, where N = the calendar year of the application round)