



Funding support for woodland creation in the Cairngorms National Park

We are keen to support the creation of new woodland in the Cairngorms National Park and there is funding available through the Forestry Grant Scheme for landowners looking to plant.

Planting trees within the National Park can provide a range of benefits including:



- Shelter for livestock and arable crops
- Timber and fuel
- Carbon sequestration
- Shading watercourses
- Aiding soil stability
- Helping to limit diffuse pollution
- Improving natural flood management
- Increasing land value
- Improving landscape and amenity
- Increasing and enhancing habitat for woodland species.



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National and local targets

The Scottish Government has a target to expand woodlands by 12,000ha a year, rising to 15,000ha a year by 2025.

Locally, the Cairngorms National Park Forestry Strategy (2018) has a target of creating 5,000ha by 2023 (around 1,000ha per annum).

Within the target areas identified for woodland creation (marked blue on the map) there is a streamlined consultation process and additional funding is available through the Forestry Grant Scheme – part of the Scottish Rural Development Programme.

Deciding to plant – things to consider for your site

- Is it located within a Forestry Grant Scheme target area? If so you could be eligible for a 12.5% increase in grant funding.
- Is there any deep peat (greater than 50cm) or wetlands important for wading birds?
- Is the site designated for protected species, habitats or archaeology?
- Are there opportunities to build on or link existing areas of woodland and are there existing seed sources for natural regeneration?
- Is fencing required or can grazing management alone enable woodland establishment?
- Is it within the buffer of a Caledonian Pinewood Inventory site?
- Is the site easily accessible and is there scope for productive woodland?
- Which tree species would be most suitable for this site?

Next steps

Speak to your neighbours and local community, and consider working with a forestry agent to help you apply and implement your project.

Contact your local Scottish Forestry woodland officer who will be able to advise on how to progress including environmental impact assessment and any surveys required, for example, archaeology, peat depth or breeding birds.

Conservancy offices

For more information, get in touch with your appropriate [Highlands & Islands, Grampian or Perth & Argyll conservancies](#).

Visit the [Scottish Forestry Website](#) for more information about the Forestry Grant Scheme



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