

FGS Evaluation Framework

The principles of this FGS Evaluation are to:

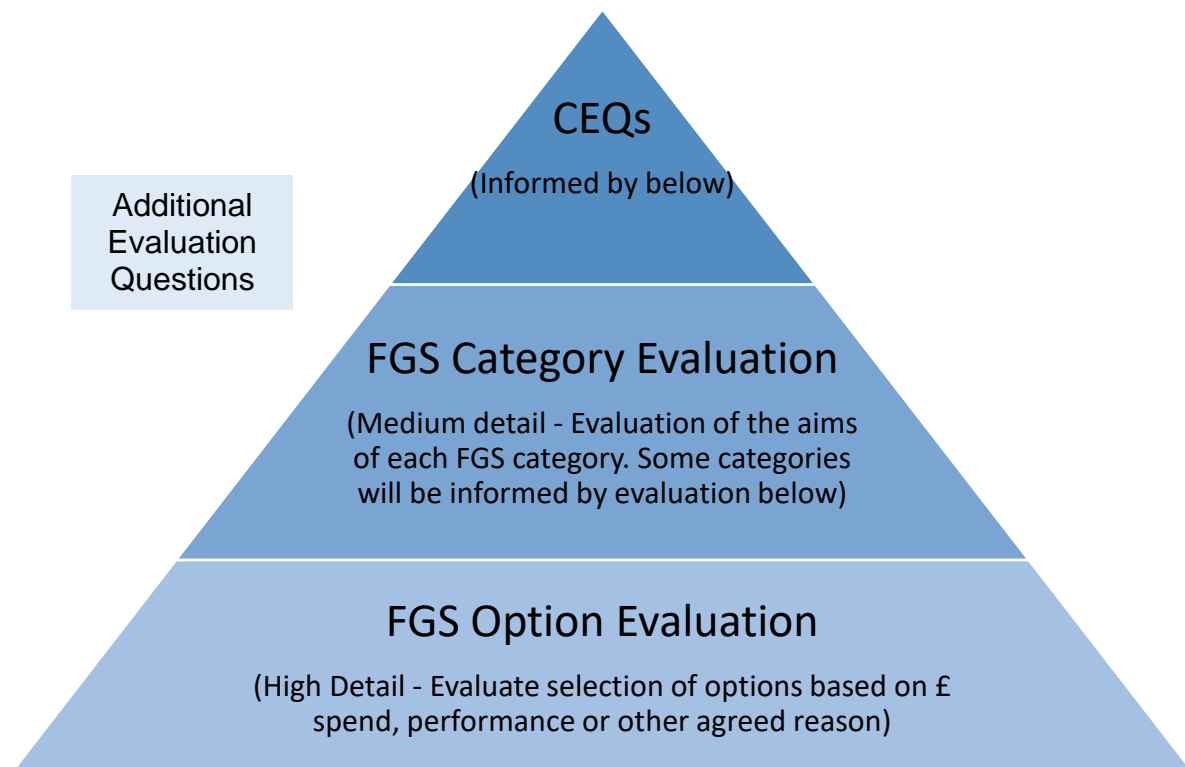
- Answer mandatory questions, in line with European Commission (EC) reporting requirements, which we have chosen to still conform to
- To be able to demonstrate and evaluate how grant scheme options have helped deliver Government policy and objectives
- Gather business information in order to inform future grant support for forestry

The method of approach is to evaluate with different levels of scrutiny. This will involve select FGS Options being scrutinised most thoroughly, followed by FGS Category aims.

Each section will feed into the next and the information gathered by evaluating Categories and Options will ultimately answer the EC's Common Evaluation Questions (CEQs.) This will be achieved by ensuring high quality research questions are produced, with the assistance of RESAS.

The evaluation will also seek to answer additional questions that may not be directly relevant to the aims of FGS categories or options but provide good business information.

Structure of evaluation:



The following tables lay out the evaluation questions to be asked at each level of the evaluation.

Table 1: Common Evaluation Questions (CEQs) – Required by EC

Note: Not all CEQs are relevant to forestry and need to be answered

Evaluation Question <i>What do we want to know?</i>		Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>		Information Source <i>Which evaluation area answers this?</i>	Reference <i>From tables below</i>
1	To what extent have RDP interventions supported innovation, cooperation and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas?	1.1	RDP projects have been innovative and based on developed knowledge	Harvesting & Processing	2.6, 2.7, 2.8 & 3.6
		1.2	Operational groups have been created	N/A	-
		1.3	Variety of partners involved in EIP operational groups	N/A	-
		1.4	Innovative actions have been implemented and disseminated by the EIP operational groups	N/A	-
2	To what extent have RDP interventions supported the strengthening of links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance?	2.1	Long term collaboration between agriculture, food production and forestry entities and institutions for research and innovation has been established	Agroforestry	2.2 & 3.8
		2.2	Cooperation operations between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance have been implemented	Forestry Co-operation	2.11
3	To what extent have RDP interventions supported the restoration, preservation and enhancement of biodiversity including in Natura 2000 areas, areas facing natural or other specific constraints and HNV farming, and the state of European landscape?	3.1	Biodiversity on contracted land has been restored, preserved and enhanced	Woodland Creation, Agroforestry, Woodland Improvement Grant, Sustainable Management of Forests, Species Control	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.3 & 3.5
4	To what extent have RDP interventions supported the improvement of water management, including fertilizer and pesticide management?	4.1	Water quality has improved	Woodland Creation – Riparian Woodland	2.1 & 3.1
5	To what extent have RDP interventions supported the prevention of soil erosion and improvement of soil management?	5.1	Soil management has improved	Woodland Creation	2.1 & 3.1
		5.2	Soil erosion has been prevented	Woodland Creation	2.1 & 3.1
6	To what extent have RDP interventions supported carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry?	6.1	Carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry has increased	Woodland Creation	2.1 & 3.1
		6.2	Agricultural and forestry land under enhanced management contract contributing to carbon sequestration has been enlarged	Woodland Creation	2.1 & 3.1
7	To what extent have RDP interventions supported the diversification, creation and development of small enterprises and job creation?	7.1	Jobs have been created	Woodland Creation and Harvesting & Processing	2.1, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 3.1 & 3.6
		7.2	Small enterprises have been created	Harvesting & Processing	2.6, 2.7, 2.8 & 3.6
		7.3	Small enterprises have diversified their economic activity.	Woodland Creation and Harvesting & Processing	2.1, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 3.1 & 3.6

Strategic Aims

It is important not only to consider how the Forestry Grant Scheme has helped deliver against the objectives of each grant scheme option, but also how it has delivered against wider strategic aims of laid out in the SF Corporate Plan, Scottish Forestry Implementation Plan as well as wider Scottish Government objectives.

SF Corporate Plan Strategic Objectives (SO):

- 1 Ensure that sustainable forest management is an integral part of the public policy, particularly through leading and co-ordinating the delivery of Scotland's Forestry Strategy

Key Performance Objectives (KPI's):

- 1.1 Area of new woodland created under Scottish Forestry's administered grant incentives.
- 1.2 Area of native woodland created under Scottish Forestry's administered grant incentives
- 1.3 Predicted carbon sequestration of projects validated to the UK Woodland Carbon Code
- 1.4 Area of forests and woodlands under long term forest plans or forest management plans

Scotland's Forestry Strategy (SFS) Indicators:

- 1 Total area of forests and woodlands
- 2 Area of woodland creation
- 3 Area of UKWAS certified forests and woodland
- 4 Area of forests and woodland covered by management plans
- 5 Number of community groups that own and lease forests and woodlands
- 6 Economic contribution of forestry to the Scottish economy
- 7 Volume of available timber
- 8 Forestry sector net greenhouse gas emissions
- 9 Woodland ecological condition
- 10 Condition of protected forest and woodland sites
- 11 Index of Abundance for Scottish Terrestrial Breeding Birds – Woodland Species
- 12 Number of visits to forests and woodlands

Table 2: FGS Category Evaluation Questions – Have we met our aims?

FGS Category	Aims <i>What were the aims of this category?</i>	Strategic Aim	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked CEQ <i>From table 1 above</i>	Evaluation Question(s) <i>From table 3 below</i>
2.1 Woodland Creation	Meeting our target to increase woodland cover	KPI 1.1 SFS 1	To what extent have FGS interventions supported WC?	Increase in WC including annual WC targets being met. Set this out both in total and by year.	Existing grant data RP&S and Casebook	3.1, 4.1 & 5.1	1 - 3
	Helping mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration	KPI 1.3 SFS 1 & 2	To what extent have FGS interventions helped mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration?	Carbon sequestration is (or predicted to be) increased	Should be calculated easily – WCC calculator? -Ensure we are looking at this from FGS perspective only, and avoid double-counting WCC cases.	6.1	6
	Restoration of 'lost' habitats through developing forest habitat networks	KPI 1.2 SFS 1 & 2	To what extent have FGS interventions supported habitat connectivity through developing forest habitat networks	WC (including NNR) has been carried out in native woodland expansion areas and riparian zones.	Existing grant data RP&S and Casebook (Woodlands for Water target info) Spatial data: WC within the 'Primary Zone' of a native woodland habitat network which is identified on the 'Native Woodland Habitat Network' map.	3.1	9
	Supporting a sustainable forest industry by providing a reliable timber supply	KPI 1.1 & 1.4 SFS 2, 6 & 7	To what extent have FGS interventions supported a sustainable forest industry by providing a reliable timber supply?	WC approved is destined for future timber supplies	Figures on productive models from Existing grant data RP&S and Casebook	7.1	12
	Protecting soil and water	KPI 1.1 & 1.2	To what extent have FGS interventions supported the protection of soil and water through the planting of Riparian woodland?	Soil and water is improved	Grant data on riparian woodlands/woodlands for water	4.1 & 5.1	9
	Providing community benefits through public access	KPI 1.1 & 1.2 SFS 5	To what extent have FGS interventions supported public access?	Public access has been provided.	Spatial data: Sample of any woodland creation scheme planted within 250m of a settlement: has access/gates and appropriate OG/OL been incorporated? DO NOT INCLUDE ROW/CORE PATHS.	n/a	n/a
	Enhancing urban areas and improving landscapes	KPI 1.1 & 1.4	Note that landscape issue will not be addressed as this is subjective. To what extent have FGS interventions supported WC in urban areas, and what high-	Increase in WC in urban areas which improve landscapes	CSGN data – How many woodlands created. If possible use standard data to be extrapolated on air pollution/runoff to	n/a	4 & 7

			level benefits have these provided?		quantify high-level benefits over lifetime.		
	Supporting rural development through local businesses and farm diversification	SFS 6	To what extent have FGS interventions supported WC on farms?	Increase in WC which has supported diversification on farms	Existing data – List of BRNs required from RPID for all registered farms. Cross reference this with data on WC to match BRNs that have claimed for WC on registered farm.	7.1, 7.2 & 7.3	10, 11
FGS Category	Aim/Options <i>What were the aims of this category?</i>	Strategic Aim	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked CEQ	Evaluation Question(s) <i>From table 3 below</i>
2.2 Agroforestry	Create small scale woodlands within sheep grazing pasture land (silvopastoral system) or on arable land (silvoarable system):	KPI 1.1 (not neat fit as Agroforestry arguably not woodland as doesn't change the land use)	To what extent have FGS interventions supported small scale woodlands in silvopastoral or silvoarable systems?	Reasonable uptake? in WC in silvopastoral and silvoarable systems	Existing grant data	4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 6.1 & 6.2	47 - 50
	Contribute to Ecological Focus Areas	KPI 1.1 (not neat fit as Agroforestry arguably not woodland as doesn't change the land use)	N/A - EFA contribution is based on the woodland being planted, therefore any woodland planted under this option contributes to EFAs.	N/A	N/A – taken from above.	3.1	47 - 50
FGS Category	Aim/Options <i>What were the aims of this category?</i>	Strategic Aim	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked CEQ	Evaluation Question(s) <i>From table 3 below</i>
2.3 Woodland Improvement Grant	Encourage natural regeneration and benefit priority habitats and species	SFS 9, 10 & 11	To what extent have FGS interventions supported the improvement of the ecological condition of native woodlands?	The ecological condition of native woodlands has been restored, preserved and enhanced	Existing grant data and site assessment *NFI produce data on overall woodland condition NatureScot have data on status of protected woodland sites How much has the grant scheme supported as well as has it been effectively delivered on the ground.	3.1	3, 25 - 29
	Increase species and structural diversity through low impact silvicultural systems management	SFS 9	To what extent have FGS interventions supported the conversion of stands to low impact silvicultural systems (LISS)?	Species and structural diversity of stands have improved	Existing grant data and site visits? Future monitoring is going to be available via NFI WEC:	3.1	n/a

					NFI Woodland Ecological Condition - Forest Research		
	Contribute to the sustainable management of urban woodlands and improve public access (WIAT)	KPI 1.4 SFS 4 & 12	To what extent have FGS interventions supported the sustainable management of urban woodlands and improved public access?	More urban woodlands under active management, focussing on public access	Existing grant data on WIAT Management plans and management activities, plus on the ground assessment	n/a	30, 31
	Support the preparation of forest and / or management plans that set out management objectives for the woodland	KPI 1.4 SFS 4	To what extent have FGS interventions supported forest plans/management plans and plan renewals?	<p>More forests and woodlands managed under a plan</p> <p>How much deer management included in LTFPs?</p> <p>Increase/decrease in species diversity?</p> <p>Have they gone further than 4 felling phases?</p> <p>To what extent have FGS interventions supported the improvement of the ecological condition of native woodlands through deer management?</p> <p>To what extent have FGS interventions supported the improvement of the ecological condition of native woodlands through livestock grazing?</p>	<p>Existing data and methodology in place</p> <p>Sample survey of LTFP's?</p> <p>Sample survey of deer plans</p> <p>Sample survey of livestock grazing plans</p>	n/a	n/a
	Improve the biodiversity, resilience, and structural diversity of even aged woodlands (restructuring regeneration)	SFS 3, 4 & 9	To what extent have FGS interventions supported changes to the structure of even aged woodlands?	Woodlands and forests have improved structure and species diversity	Existing grant data, questionnaires to applicants FR Report pre and post UKFS (Colin Edwards)	3.1	16 - 24
FGS Category	Aim/Options <i>What were the aims of this category?</i>	Strategic Aim	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked CEQ	Evaluation Question(s) <i>From table 3 below</i>
2.4 Sustainable Management of Forests	Increase species and structural diversity through low impact silvicultural systems management	SFS 9	To what extent have FGS interventions supported the conversion of stands to low impact silvicultural systems (LISS)?	Species and structural diversity of stands have improved	Existing grant data and site visits? Forest Plans	3.1	n/a

	Encourage natural regeneration to expand native woodlands	KPI 1.2 SFS 1 & 2	To what extent have FGS interventions supported natural regeneration as a way of expanding native woodlands? To what extent have FGS interventions supported livestock exclusion to help restore native woodlands?	Increase of woodland expansion by natural regeneration Ecological condition of woodlands are actively managed and improved	Grant data and site assessment Grant data and annual reports? This is officially reported by NatureScot for protected sites: Official statistics for protected sites NatureScot	3.1 & 6.1	1 - 3
	Bring native woodlands and designated woodland features into active management and good ecological condition	SFS 9 & 10	To what extent have FGS interventions supported bringing native woodlands and designated woodland features into active management and good ecological condition	Ecological condition of woodlands are actively managed and improved	Grant data – how many applications approved. Site assessment – has work been undertaken as per contract. SNH data - Official statistics for protected sites NatureScot	3.1 & 6.1	25, 27 & 28
	Support management of rural and urban woodlands for public access	SFS 4 & 12	To what extent have FGS interventions supported woodland public access?	Public access in woodlands is maintained and enhanced	Grant data on both the urban and rural options, site assessment?	n/a	n/a
	Control grey squirrels where they are a threat to the red squirrel population	SFS 9	To what extent have FGS interventions supported grey squirrel control in important red squirrel populations?	Grey squirrel numbers are reduced/red squirrel numbers increased?	Grant data, red squirrel group data/NatureScot? Red squirrel stronghold sites brought on board since 2015?	n/a	33 - 35
	Control predators to benefit Capercaillie and black grouse	SFS 9 & 11	To what extent have FGS interventions supported predator control to benefit Capercaillie and black grouse?	Increase of Capercaillie and black grouse numbers	Grant data – how many schemes we have funded and volumes of predators controlled (annual returns). Bird data – official count numbers annually since 2015.	3.1	37
	Reduce deer impacts to a level that will allow regeneration of conifer and broadleaved species	SFS 9 & 10	To what extent have FGS interventions supported a reduction of deer impacts to allow establishment of trees?	Successful establishment where deer numbers are reduced	site assessment? Assessment of the increase in deer management plans in LTFPs and the Site visits - Successful operational delivery of deer management plans. NatureScot deer review data and deer working group reports.	3.1 & 6.1	36

FGS Category	Aim <i>What were the aims of this category?</i>	Strategic Aim	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked CEQ	Evaluation Question(s) <i>From table 3 below</i>
2.5 Tree Health	Prevent the spread of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> (<i>P. ramorum</i>).	SFS 7 & 9	To what extent have FGS interventions supported activities which have helped prevent the spread of <i>P. ramorum</i> ?	The spread of <i>P. ramorum</i> has been slowed	Grant data – how many applications. GIS info	3.1	n/a
FGS Category	Aim <i>What were the aims of this category?</i>	Strategic Aim	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked CEQ	Evaluation Question(s) <i>From table 3 below</i>
2.6 Harvesting & Processing: local small-scale harvesting and processing	New specialised equipment which will increase the local small-scale harvesting and processing capacity	SFS 6	To what extent have FGS interventions supported investment in equipment to help increase the local small-scale harvesting and processing capacity?	Increase in local small-scale harvesting and processing facilities; Increase in farm and forestry business diversification; More woodlands in active management; Promoting the economic and sustainable production of timber and products	Grant data, speaking to applicants?	7.1, 7.2 & 7.3	38 - 42
2.7 Harvesting & Processing: forest tree nurseries, seed suppliers, ground cultivators and fencers	New specialised equipment for forest tree nurseries, including tree seed supply businesses and equipment for afforestation ground preparation projects, including forestry fencing projects	SFS 6	To what extent have FGS interventions supported investment in equipment to help increase capacity of forest nursery and seed sectors and forest contractor resource?	Increase in capacity within the forest tree nursery and forestry contractor resource; Forest nurseries are adaptable and more resilient to recover from Covid-19; Economic development in rural areas has increased	Grant data, speaking to applicants?	7.1, 7.2 & 7.3	38 - 42
2.8 Harvesting & Processing: Covid recovery	Promoting economic development in rural areas in Scotland by supporting new and existing forestry businesses	SFS 6	To what extent have FGS interventions supported investment in mobile equipment to help forestry businesses or enterprises to adapt and recover from Covid-19?	Economic development in rural areas has increased	Grant data, speaking to applicants?	7.1, 7.2 & 7.3	38 - 42
FGS Category	Aim <i>What were the aims of this category?</i>	Strategic Aim	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked CEQ	Evaluation Question(s) <i>From table 3 below</i>
2.9 Forest Infrastructure: Bring woodlands into management	To provide support for new access infrastructure that will bring small scale, undermanaged or inaccessible existing	SFS 6, 7 & 12	To what extent have FGS interventions supported access infrastructure to bring small undermanaged or inaccessible woodlands back in to active management?	The economic value of forests and woodlands are improved. Area of woodland in sustainable management is increased.	Grant data	n/a	43 - 46

	woodlands back into active management			The environmental and social benefits of woodlands are improved.			
2.10 Forest Infrastructure: Sheep & Trees	To provide support for new access infrastructure to new woodlands as part of the Sheep and Trees initiative.	KPI 1.1 SFS 1, 2, 6, 7 & 12	To what extent have FGS interventions supported access infrastructure for new woodlands to a farming business? Are there barriers to uptake of grant?	More integrated land uses are supported	Grant data	n/a	43 - 46
FGS Category	Aim <i>What were the aims of this category?</i>	Strategic Aim	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked CEQ	Evaluation Question(s) <i>From table 3 below</i>
2.11 Forestry Co-operation	Encourage landscape-scale collaborative projects between two or more landowners by providing support for project facilitation and co-ordination. The subsequent management activity can be supported through other options within the Forestry Grant Scheme.	KPI 1.1 SFS 1, 2, 9 & 10	To what extent have FGS interventions supported landscape-scale collaboration? Are there barriers to uptake of grant?	More collaboration between landowners. Projects delivered which provide wider landscape scale benefits which wouldn't otherwise have been achieved.	Grant data and site visit? How much uptake? Speaking to applicants to understand their objectives and user experience?	2.2	n/a

Table 3: FGS Option Evaluation Questions – Targeted by performance

FGS Category	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked Category <i>From table 2 above</i>
3.1 Woodland Creation	1. What types of woodland creation have been funded?	Review breakdown of WC options funded by £ and hectares. Also break down into CON vs BL.	Pull data from Casebook or RP&S	2.1
	2. Are we meeting our target to increase native woodland?	Annual native woodland targets being met	Pull data from Casebook or RP&S	2.1
	3. How much NWC has been through natural regeneration?	Review numbers of NNR applications and data therein to establish ha.	App data - Casebook, RP&S	2.1
	4. What is the Geographical Spread of NWC?	Review applications captured in GIS	GIS data	2.1
	5. What is the range of applicant types that have applied for NWC?	Review information submitted by applicants when signing up to RP&S.	Pull from RP&S?	2.1
	6. How much carbon has been sequestered and will be sequestered by new woodland supported under FGS?	Take an average of carbon sequestered based on BL and CON using total hectares (grouping options) and average stocking densities.	RP&S/Casebook to get option areas/densities. WCC team to calculate carbon based on info.	2.1
	7. Have new woodlands enhanced local landscapes?	Sample of woodland creation types across Scotland to be assessed against WC design principles.	N/A – Too subjective to gather meaningful data.	2.1
	8. Has biodiversity been maintained or enhanced by NWC?	WC (including NNR) has been carried out in native woodland expansion areas and riparian zones.	Existing grant data RP&S and Casebook (Woodlands for Water target info) Spatial data: WC within the 'Primary Zone' of a native woodland habitat network which is identified on the 'Native Woodland Habitat Network' map.	2.1
	9. How many riparian woodlands have been planted to benefit the water environment?	Soil and water is improved	Grant data on riparian woodlands/woodlands for water	2.1
	10. How has NWC contributed to rural development?	How many jobs have been created by increased NWC activity	Surveys sent to wider sector	2.1
	11. Has FGS NWC contributed to an increase in farm diversification?	Review how many applications have been on farms	Data from RP&S – how many applications on registered farms.	2.1
	12. How much future timber will be supplied by the woodland created under FGS?	Calculate out the potential for timber supply based on types of NWC application (e.g. Con/DCon) and hectares.	IFOS? RP&S	2.1
	13. How much plastic has been used in establishing new woodlands?	Total tubes funded - Analyse schemes with tree tubes used.	App data - Casebook, RP&S	2.1
	14. How much deer fence (metres) has been used in establishing new woodlands?	Total length of fencing approved and cost (£)	App data - Casebook, RP&S	2.1
	15. To what extent has the woodland creation taken place in the "right" places?	Spatial analysis of areas planted against LA woodland strategies.	GIS data	2.1
FGS Category	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked Category <i>From table 2 above</i>
3.2 WIG – Restructuring Regeneration	16. What types of management (ground prep, fertiliser application, weeding) have been used in restocks?	Sample sites to view operations undertaken and conduct surveys with forest managers.	Site visits, application data and surveys.	2.3
	17. How quickly sites are establishing?	Visit a sample of sites and measure age against expected growth models.	Site visits	2.3

	18. How successful has RR intervention been? (have sites established)	Visit a sample of sites conduct inspection/SDAs	Site visits - SDA pilot currently being done for WC (related to SAF) could follow a similar process for RR	2.3
	19. Has RR grant encouraged forest-wide diversification beyond UKFS minimum?	Review LTFPs relating to applications to see how many have reduced use of single species below 75%.	Casebook/RP&S (app data), LTFPs	2.3
	20. Has RR grant encouraged the replanting of woodlands of greater diversity?	Review how many RR Grant applications are for higher rate (greater diversity)	App data - Casebook, RP&S	2.3
	21. Has diversification been brought forward as a result of FGS funding?	Conduct survey/questionnaire to see whether FGS funding changed attitudes toward diversification (did the grant being available push people more likely to diversify in order to get grant?)	Questionnaire to applicants and application data	2.3
	22. What is the range of applicant types that have applied for RR?	Review information submitted by applicants when signing up to RP&S.	RP&S	2.3
	23. What types of woodland has RR option been used in?	Review application data and LTFPs to see what woodland types have been restocked, both in terms of replanted species and broader woodland in which application applies.	Casebook, LTFPs (local offices), App data	2.3
	24. What is the scale of management under RR?	Use application data to stratify scales of RR into categories, such as small (0-20ha), medium (20-50ha), and large (50ha+).	App data - Casebook, RP&S	2.3
FGS Category	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked Category <i>From table 2 above</i>
3.3 WIG – Habitats & Species	25. How much PAWS restoration has been supported through FGS?	Review £ and ha spent. Conduct sample site visits to review efficacy.	App data and site visits assessing against option criteria.	2.3
	26. Has funding reduced Rhododendron impact on designated woodlands?	Review £ and ha spent on RP removal methods. Conduct sample site visits to review efficacy.	App data and site visits assessing against option criteria.	2.3
	27. Has intervention on designated woodlands been successful?	Review Site Condition Monitoring data and/or conduct sample site visits to review site conditions using a consultant ecologist.	3 rd party data e.g. NatureScot. Employ services of ecologist(s) to carry out surveys/monitoring.	2.3
	28. Have the contract objectives been successful?	Conduct sample site visits measuring against approved works. Samples taken from each Conservancy (how many each?)	Conduct site visits and assess against approved contracts/option criteria.	2.3
	29. How much bog restoration within woodland boundaries has been supported through FGS?	Review £ and ha spent. Conduct sample site visits to review efficacy.	Conduct site visits and assess against approved contracts/option criteria	2.3
FGS Category	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked Category <i>From table 2 above</i>
3.4 WIG - WIAT	30. What types of project have been funded?	Review approved applications to determine what types of project have been taken forward, and group into categories e.g. planting, access etc.	App data - Casebook, RP&S	2.3
	31. What have been the outputs from investment?	Conduct site visits and carry out survey/questionnaires with relevant stakeholders to determine outputs.	Site visits, Questionnaire This FR evaluation report (2014) was used to inform the current FGS measures (wiat-evaluation-2014.pdf (forestry.gov.uk)) There is current research looking at potential community health benefits from WIAT investment – Hugh McNish can help with this	2.3

	32. What has been the impact on the ground?	Review public access data and conduct questionnaires with local communities for feedback.	Monitoring data (from sensor stations or, where unavailable, gathered by surveying sites), Questionnaire	2.3
FGS Category	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked Category <i>From table 2 above</i>
3.5 SMF Species Control	33. Is investment controlling the spread of grey squirrels?	Review data on overall populations and spread. Review monitoring data submitted annually through FGS	3 rd party data on populations, app data, annual submissions	2.4
	34. Has the grant been effective in encouraging the control of grey squirrels?	Through questionnaires and discussions with contractors and specialists, establish whether grant has encouraged control.	Questionnaires	2.4
	35. Are projects delivering on the ground?	Review application objectives against outcomes.	Site visits, App data - Casebook, RP&S	2.4
	36. Has funding reduced deer impact woodlands to help promote regeneration?	Review £ and ha spent on deer exclusion methods. Conduct sample site visits to review efficacy.	App data and site visits assessing against option criteria.	2.4
	37. Has funding for predator control helped populations of black grouse and capercaillie?	Increase of Capercaillie and black grouse numbers	Grant data – how many schemes we have funded and volumes of predators controlled (annual returns). Bird data – official count numbers annually since 2015.	2.4
FGS Category	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked Category <i>From table 2 above</i>
3.6 Harvesting & Processing	38. How many jobs have been created?	Review the data provided in applications vs actual results	Sample of total applications visited and feedback gained from applicants.	2.6, 2.7 & 2.8
	39. Has grant investment increased turnover for businesses?	Review the data provided in applications vs actual results	Sample of total applications visited and feedback gained from applicants.	2.6, 2.7 & 2.8
	40. What volumes of timber are being processed by new machinery?	Review the data provided in applications vs actual results	Sample of total applications visited and feedback gained from applicants.	2.6
	41. How many woodlands have been brought into management as a result of investment?	Review the data provided in applications on submission.	App data - Casebook, RP&S	2.6
	42. Has funding delivered on expectations for businesses?	Speak with applicants and visit sites. Did they meet forecasts? General thoughts on scheme?	Questionnaire/survey with applicants.	2.6, 2.7 & 2.8
FGS Category	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked Category <i>From table 2 above</i>
3.7 Forest Infrastructure	43. How many woodlands have been brought into management?	Review applications to establish how many woodlands have been brought into management (likely to be 1 for 1)	App data - Casebook, RP&S	2.9 & 2.10
	44. How much timber (Volume/m3) has been released by providing access?	Use data provided in applications.	App data - Casebook, RP&S	2.9 & 2.10
	45. What is the total area (ha) of woodland brought into management?	Use data provided in applications.	App data - Casebook, RP&S	2.9 & 2.10
	46. Has new access resulted in an increase in visitor numbers/ forest users?	No way to measure	N/A – not enough baseline data to carry out an assessment of the increased social benefits. This should be noted in the evaluation.	2.9 & 2.10
FGS Category	Evaluation Question(s) <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>	Linked Category <i>From table 2 above</i>

3.8 Agro- Forestry	47. How many Silvo-arable or Silvo-pastural woodlands have been created?	Review number of applications and area (ha) submitted under Agro-forestry option	App data - Casebook, RP&S	2.2
	48. Has the Agro-forestry grant encouraged new woodlands on farms?	Speak with applicants, agents, and farming sector reps to discuss attitudes towards planting trees on farms	Site visits, questionnaire	2.2
	49. Is the type of woodland funded under this option meeting the aims of integration?	Conduct visits to applicant's farms to review how sites are being used.	Site visits	2.2
	50. Have the specified protection methods been effective vs cost?	Conduct visits to applicant's farms to review how protection methods are holding up. Get applicants views on efficacy.	Site visits	2.2

Table 4: Additional Evaluation Questions – What else do we want to know?

Evaluation Question <i>What do we want to know?</i>	Judgement Criteria / Indicators <i>How will we measure this?</i>	Method / Data Source <i>How do we gather the information?</i>
What has been the net change in woodland area?	Total claimed woodland creation under FGS less total approved deforestation (include peatland restoration?)	Casebook and EIA data
Where was most £ spent under WIG and SMF	Analysis of most funded WIG & SMF options by £ value	App data - Casebook, RP&S
Mackinnon review outputs?	Analyse processing times against Customer Charter, submitted vs approved etc,	Casebook data
How effective have the current administrative arrangements been?	Ratings from staff and customers	Survey of staff and customers
Level of public engagement with our consultation processes	Data on how many people interact with the public register each month, average respondents to a scheme.	From PR website. If this is not available is should be noted in the evaluation that this MI is missing.
How many brownfield sites have been planted with new woodlands?		