

# Scottish Government's Woodland Creation Route Map Detailed

A strategic summary setting out the direction, policies, and actions for delivering woodland creation in Scotland from now to 2030.



Legislation

Scotland's Forestry Strategy

Forestry Grant Scheme - Current Future Forestry
Support &
Agricultural
Reform Programme

Natural Capital UKFS/ Forestry Regulations Land Use, Environment & Biodiversity

Process & Technology Enhancements

Learning & Skills
Development



## Targets / Strategies

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	
*Programme for Government / Annual Budget Cycle	*Programme for Government / Annual Budget Cycle	*Programme for Government / Annual Budget Cycle	*Programme for Government / Annual Budget Cycle	*Programme for Government / Annual Budget Cycle	*Programme for Government / Annual Budget Cycle	*Programme for Government / Annual Budget Cycle	
Climate Change Plan published						Woodland cover increased to 21% of total area of Scotland	
Review of Climate Change Plan including woodland creation targets (ministerial engagement)							
	Scotland's Climate Change Adaption Programme						
Annual target of 18k including 4,000 ha of native woodland	Increase woodland carbon market by at least 50%						
	Scottish Forestry's Corporate Plan and Strategy 2025 - 2030 published						
June 2024 – publication of 2023 woodland creation delivery	June 2025 – publication of 2024 woodland creation delivery			Review of Scotland's Forestry Strategy			
	New Science and I	Innovation Strategy					

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# Legislation

 2023
 2024
 2025
 2026
 2027
 2028
 2029
 2030

Agriculture & Rural Communities Bill (see Future Forestry Grant Scheme)

**Rural Delivery Plan** 

Secondary legislation (for Future Forestry Grant Scheme)

Sunset – retained EU law

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# Scotland's Forestry Strategy

 2023
 2024
 2025
 2026
 2027
 2028
 2029
 2030

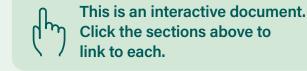
Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019 - 2029

Scotland's Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan 2022 - 2026

A Routemap to Resilience of Scotland's Forests and Woodlands: Priority Actions

**Future Productive Species Shortlist for Scotland** 

Forestry Strategy Summit



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#### Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) - Current

 2023
 2024
 2025
 2026
 2027
 2028
 2029
 2048

#### **FGS Maintenance of scheme**

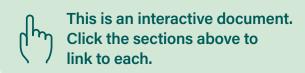
- Business as usual next 20 years lifespan of FGS contracts
- Stakeholder engagement refresh to reflect Scottish land commission guidance
- System improvements related to trail of reduced grant rates
- UKFS rule changes

Republish Woodland Creation Application Guidance

**Delivered FGS** enhancements

FGS updates (Incremental - gradual development and introduction of new FFGS support measures) - Limited scope to deliver

FGS changes / trial of reduced grant rate for applicants who are seeking alternative funding





# Future Forestry Support & Agricultural Reform Programme

2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030

Future Forestry Support Consultation

Forestry Grant Scheme evaluation

Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP)

Agriculture Reform Programme

Project team/ staffing resolved

Future Forestry
Support Programme –
scoping and defining
projects/timelines

Introduction of new conditions to existing support (Tier 1)

Launch of enhanced payment structure with incentives for woodland creation etc (Tier 2)

Launch of elective complementary schemes and refresh of Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) into base (Tiers 3 & 4)

Review of policy priorities, delivery mechanisms and development of revised grant options

Support/delivery Systems - discovery and development/testing/training

Future Forestry Grant Scheme (FFGS) development of operating rules, guidance, procedures including reporting/monitoring

Stakeholder and sector engagement and input to development

FFGS Implementation - phased including training/customer engagement

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# **Natural Capital**

2023	2024	2025	2026		
	Woodland Carbon Code (WCC)				
		Development of protocols for biodiversity	y and water impacts, and potential credits		
	Publication of the Scottish Government Natural Capital Markets Framework	Improved workflow and registry processes to increase market efficiency  Retender for new UK Land Carbon Registry services during 2025			
	Potential inclusion of the WCC into the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) Consultation	Decision on whether to admit credits from the Woodland Carbon Code into the UK ETS			
	Future funding of the WCC team. Increase registry fees (increase income)				
	Consultation on the WCC Additionality Test	Updates to the WCC to enhance rigour and efficiency			
	HMRC decision on the application of Tax (VAT, income tax, inheritance tax, capital gains etc.) to WCC credits/projects/land	HMRC VAT change take effect			

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## **UKFS/ Forestry Regulations**

2023

2024

2025

2026

UKFS - Scottish Forestry and industry training (July 2024 via ICF)
UK wide sponsored by DEFRA

Application to be UKFS 5 compliant

UKFS 5 implementation from October 2024

Deer Mgt Consultation (closed March 2024)

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# Land Use, Environment & Biodiversity

2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 **Scottish Biodiversity Land Reform Bill Land Use Strategy** Nature positive & **Strategy and Delivery** protected areas Plan published expanded to at least 30% (land & sea) **EIA** enabling powers **Natural Environment Bill** 

This is an interactive document.
Click the sections above to link to each.

**Statutory biodiversity** 

targets

Flood Resilience

Strategy



# **Process & Technology Enhancements**

 2023
 2024
 2025
 2026
 2027
 2028
 2029
 2030

- Woodland creation improvement projects
- Woodland creation process improvements programme
- Public Register enhancements
- Environmental Impact Assessment enhancements
- Long Term Forest Plans process improvements

Agriculture & Rural Economy (assumption ownership of Rural Payments & Services)

Lessons learned on 2023 claim year

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# Learning & Skills Development

 2023
 2024
 2025
 2026
 2027
 2028
 2029
 2030

WOODS programme delivered

**Learning for Casework** 

Future Forestry Grant Scheme training/learning

Industry learning and skills