

1. Forestry Grant Scheme Ongoing Improvements: Introduction of Woodland Creation Establishment Operation capital items

1.1 Introduction

This change is part of our work to simplify and improve the [Forestry Grant Scheme](#) (FGS) for applicants and future customers. Within the Rural Payments & Services IT application System (RP&S), applicants can now select an alternative method of grant support for woodland creation maintenance grant payments. We have introduced two new capital items that can be chosen instead of the five annual maintenance payments that are claimed on the Single Application Form (SAF).

1.2 Background: FGS Woodland Creation supporting payments to maintain establishment and meet required stocking standards

The FGS [Woodland Creation](#) options include payments to support the maintenance works to establish newly planted woodlands to the required minimum standards. Currently this is made available as five equal Annual Maintenance payments that are paid in each of the five years following your Initial planting claim year. You claim these payments on the Single Application Form (SAF) in the SAF March to May window in each year and receive your payment the following year.

Following feedback from our customers, we agreed to create an alternative method of supporting this work. From September 2022, there will be a new question in the application process asking if you would like to choose to claim this support through the current annual maintenance method or in a different way – by selecting two establishment operation capital items:

- Establishment Operations Phase 1;
- Establishment Operations Phase 2

These two phases of Establishment Operation capital items are available in the third and fifth years following your initial planting claim. They can be claimed as a FGS capital grant by submitting the FGS capital claim form to your local SF Conservancy office in the usual manner. Where this approach is selected, applicants will not need to add these claim details to the annual Businesses SAF. However, please note, that if you are claiming for associated Basic Payment scheme payments on the WC area, then a SAF form will still be needed for that element.

1.3 WC Establishment Operation capital items details

When you select to apply for WC in your FGS application, you will be asked a question on what type of payment you would like to support your WC towards establishment: essentially a choice for you to make is whether you chose five Annual Maintenance SAF payments or two Establishment Operation capital items. The capital grant rates for the two phases of the Establishment Operation, when totalled, are the equivalent of the five annual maintenance payments totalled together. As with the Annual Maintenance payments, there are different

rates associated with standard WC options, Target area WC options and large-scale WC options and you can find the details on the [FGS Woodland Creation guidance webpage](#).

The Establishment Operations Phase 1 capital item is available for you to apply in the third year following your initial planting.

The Establishment Operations Phase 2 capital item is available for you to apply in the fifth year following your initial planting.

To claim for these capital grants, you can submit your [FGS capital grant claim](#) at any time during the claim year identified in your schedule of works. When claiming for these phased grants, please ensure that your woodland creation area meets the required WC option minimum stocking density and retain all survey documents as you may be asked to provide these as evidence of ongoing woodland creation establishment activity. More information on what supporting documents should accompany these phased capital claims will be provided in the future but we would advise, for example, retaining your planting and beating-up seed certificate and plant supply documents, your records of maintenance and establishment operations carried out and any stocking density survey information undertaken.

Establishment Operations Phases 1 & 2 application example:

WC Initial Planting Claim Year	Establishment Operations Phase 1 capital item claim year	Establishment Operations Phase 2 capital item claim year
2023	2026	2028

If you have any queries, then please contact your local SF Conservancy

**Operational Delivery
National Office
Scottish Forestry**

30 August 2022