

## Woodland creation support in the Western Isles 2016 – 2020

### Background

With a new round of grants available, the Woodland Trust has teamed up with Point and Sandwick Trust to offer free advice and support, and assistance with grant applications within the Western Isles, under the Croft Woodland Project (CWP). The CWP is active throughout all the crofting counties, and in the Western Isles the project officer is Viv Halcrow, who is based in the Point and Sandwick Trust office.

### Free Advice Available

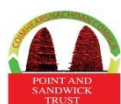
The first step is a site visit by the project officer to assess the suitability of the site for trees/woodland, looking at the site conditions, soil, exposure, existing vegetation and any sensitivities. Then, after discussion of your ideas for tree-planting, a brief report will be prepared along with a map of the new planting area for you to consider. Once you are happy with this, a costing/grant estimate will be prepared, which may give you a comparison between the two available grants (see below) if wished. If you then want to proceed, you will be offered help with a grant application (at no cost to yourself) and once this is approved, you can start planting!

### Funding Available

There are currently two different funding streams available. Both are aimed at creating mainly native woodland, although the choice of species may vary depending on the site and its context.

### A Brief Comparison of funding available

1. Forestry Grant Scheme (SRDP)	2. Woodland Trust MOREwoods
A grant through the Forestry Commission Scotland	The Woodland Trust's own funding scheme aimed at small, high quality schemes
Available to anyone who is, or wants to become, registered with SGRPID - land owned/tenanted, field identifier numbers and Business Reference Number required	Available to anyone. No registration of land or business required
Site visit, plan, plant schedule and other advice can be supplied at no cost	Site visit, plan, plant schedule and other advice can be supplied at no cost
Minimum area of 0.25 and maximum of three hectares for enhanced grant. Minimum width of 15 metres 15% open (unplanted) ground allowed, if total area is over 1.6ha Density of 3000 trees per hectare.	Minimum area of 0.2 hectares or 500 trees. Density 1600-3500 per hectare as appropriate to site, with high density in exposed locations
Grant of £3600 per ha, plus £624 per ha per annum for 5 years (maintenance payments). Additional grant for guards or fencing available.	60% of costs of trees, stakes and guards and delivery paid by the Woodland Trust.



Proposal to be appropriate and have been approved by project officer and FCS (formal 28 day consultation period) to ensure no conflicts with other biodiversity or archaeological interests	Proposal to be appropriate and have been approved by project officer to ensure no conflicts with other biodiversity or archaeological interests
No adverse effects on neighbours - must discuss with nearby neighbours in advance of application	No adverse effects on neighbours - advisable to discuss with nearby neighbours in advance of application
Scottish native species including downy birch, alder, grey and eared willows, rowan, hazel, holly, oak, aspen, etc, to be from appropriate seed zone. May include up to 20% non-native broadleaves or conifers	Scottish native downy birch, alder, grey and eared willows, rowan, hazel, holly, oak, aspen, etc, to be from appropriate seed zone
Fairly complicated application process, but would be done on your behalf at no cost. May take 3-6 months to be approved.	Simple application process which would be done on your behalf at no cost and should be processed within a few weeks
Client orders all materials as per specification in contract and pays suppliers (advice on sources and species list will be supplied); grant paid within 3 months of claim	Materials ordered by Woodland Trust and delivered to client, who is then invoiced (for 40% of costs)
Site may be inspected and all must be exactly as in contract eg boundaries in exact locations and correct planting density, etc. Changes to contract possible by prior agreement.	Signed agreement should be adhered to, but some flexibility may be allowed if changes are agreed by project officer to be appropriate
Contract period of 20 years. Minimum stocking density must be maintained and the trees protected from browsing animals during this time. Reclaim of grant possible if contract conditions not kept	Simple contract, with intention of achieving 80% establishment of trees, retaining the area as woodland for 12 years and protecting it from damage.

### Further Information:

Forestry Grant Scheme:

See <https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/forestry-grantscheme/woodland-creation> and look at the 'Native Broadleaves in the Northern and Western Isles' grant for rates and criteria.

MOREwoods:

See <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/help-and-support/>



Forestry Commission Scotland  
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba



## Contact

Please contact Viv Halcrow for further information:

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Support is also available in the **Highlands, Orkney and Shetland** and **Argyll and Lochaber**. For further information please contact [crofting@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:crofting@woodlandtrust.org.uk) or call us on **0343 770 5847**



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