



Fountains Forestry

AN F&W COMPANY

65 years of forestry management

Implementing the grants – a worked example.

- **Fountains Forestry worked with a landowner to diversify their remote holding over two phases of commercial conifer woodland creation.**
- **Contact was made through another landowner whom we were already working for.**
- **Much of the land was rough grazing only supporting a handful of cattle seasonally.**
- **The landowners (father and son) had no knowledge of forestry and we were able to explain the process and guide them through it step by step.**
- **Surface water gley/clay soils with areas of deep peat.**
- **They were able to retain the best fields for silaging and grazing, creating a mixed holding.**



The site

Gross area:
134.48ha /
332.16 acres



The process – how it works for us.

1. **Site meeting with Client/landowner, to view the site, initial thoughts and gain owner's objectives.**
2. **Assess the site, constraints (designations, SSSI SPA, Nat. Park etc) Also physical features, peat, rock/scree, elevation, soil type, archaeology, flora/fauna, access, utilities.**
3. **Use free to access data, Magic map etc, aerial images could be drone flights, plus data gathered onsite (soil sampling), speak to the owner for intel. Dial before you dig service.**
4. **Contact FC and NE, use the NE *'Woodland Creation Engagement proforma'* – await feedback before progressing.**
5. **Discuss outcome with client.**
6. **Create a first draft planting design on GIS then Draw up initial budget to present to client/landowner**

What a budget looks like

CLA Event Indicative Cashflow productive Conifer Woodland Creation

26-Jan-24



For 91 ha Productive Conifer Woodland Creation

Assumes Species ratios: Sitka Spruce 66%, Diverse Conifer 11%, Native Broadleaves 5%, Designed Open Ground 18%

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2023 + 10 Years	TOTALS
Income								
Woodland Creation Planning Grant Stage 1 Capital item £1,000.00	£1,000.00							£1,000.00
Woodland Creation Planning Grant Stage 2 - 30.2ha £150/ha (minus £1k stage 1 sum)	£12,850.00							£12,850.00
Breeding bird and Archaeology Survey Costs, 70% grant.	£5,950.00							£5,950.00
Woodland Creation Grant Initial (Conifer) 53,848 trees @£1.72/tree		£307,283.16						£307,283.16
Woodland Creation Grant Maintenance Payments (15 years) 30.2ha @£350/ha			£31,850.00	£31,850.00	£31,850.00	£31,850.00	£31,850.00	£477,750.00
Tree Shelter Supplement for Native Broadleaves, 2998 no. @£2.43/tree		£12,843.29						£12,843.29
Deer Control supplement - Lean to highseat 2no. @ £265 each.		£530.00						£530.00
Deer Control supplement - Freestanding supplement 2no. @ £180 each.		£360.00						£360.00
Total	£19,800.00	£320,816.45	£31,850.00	£31,850.00	£31,850.00	£31,850.00	£31,850.00	£818,166.45
Expenditure								
Plan Preparation	£12,500.00							£12,500.00
Breeding Bird Survey/Phase 1 Habitat Survey	£7,500.00							£7,500.00
Archaeology Survey	£3,125.00							£3,125.00
Ground Preparation - Continuous Mounding and Excavator mounding as required. 25.06h	£40,255.00							£40,255.00
Drainage as necessary - estimate 4,530 metres (150m/ha)	£27,193.75							£27,193.75
Plant Haulage (Excavators and Tractors)	£2,500.00							£2,500.00
Plants and Planting (Conifer, 50,850 no. trees unguarded)		£105,180.00						£105,180.00
Plants and Planting (Broadleaves, 2,998 no. guarded in 1.2m shelters)		£29,518.89						£29,518.89
Deer Control - Labour for 15 no days professional controller per year.		£3,400.00	£3,400.00	£3,400.00	£3,400.00	£3,400.00		£17,000.00
Supply 2 no. lean to highseats with free standing support legs		£1,294.12						£1,294.12
Maintenance - Chemical Weeding 1 Spring 2025		£19,493.07						£19,493.07
Maintenance - Hand Weeding 1 Summer 2025 if required.		£16,528.67						£16,528.67
Maintenance - Beating Up 1 (10% Losses Conifer) Winter 2025/26			£17,201.53					£17,201.53
Maintenance - Beating Up 1 (20% Losses Broadleaves) Winter 2025/26			£1,744.76					£1,744.76
Maintenance - Chemical Weeding 2 Spring 2026			£19,493.07					£19,493.07
Maintenance - Hand Weeding 2 Summer 2026 if required.			£16,528.67					£16,528.67
Maintenance - Beating Up 2 (10% Losses Conifer) Winter 2025/26				£17,201.53				£17,201.53
Maintenance - Beating Up 2 (20% Losses Broadleaves) Winter 2025/26				£1,744.76				£1,744.76
General Maintenance (Contingency)					£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£3,000.00
Totals	£93,073.75	£175,412.54	£58,368.03	£22,346.29	£4,400.00	£4,400.00	£1,000.00	£359,000.61
Net Income (Expenditure)	-£73,473.75	£145,403.91	-£26,518.03	£9,503.71	£27,450.00	£27,450.00	£30,850.00	£459,165.84

Next steps

If budget of acceptable to client, go to application (WCPG then EWCO etc)

Surveys: Breeding bird survey, Phase 1 Habitat survey, Archaeological survey.

Constraints we had to work around onsite:

- Deep peat (soil survey req.)
- Undeclared, planned Overhead powerline for windfarm.
- Underground water mains.
- Servitude right of access over neighbouring land, for future timber haulage.
- Footpaths.

Implementation



Implementation



Lessons from this project

- Good communication with client, fencing, access, powerline.
- Mowing ahead of mounding/intensive grazing.
- Deer control, maintenance.



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