



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Making wood work for Wales

Capital Grant Scheme Guidance

SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

These Guidance Notes explain the “Making Wood Work for Wales” capital grant scheme. Please read them carefully. If you then consider your investment plans may qualify for support under this scheme and you want to apply for support, please see ‘How to Apply’ at section C.

“Making Wood Work for Wales”, Wales’s first [Timber Industrial Strategy](#), was launched in July 2025. The strategy represents years of collaboration with Wales's timber sector and follows extensive public consultation.

As the world works towards net zero, timber and wood fibre can make an immediate and important contribution to the materials transition needed for decarbonisation. The strategy aims to increase both the scale and value of timber grown and timber products produced across Wales. Greater use of timber in construction will secure the forest industry's future, supporting new investment, jobs and improved carbon outcomes.

The strategy will play a key role in ensuring Welsh forests continue to be in active, sustainable and diverse use, providing economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits to the people of Wales for many centuries to come.

This capital grant scheme is an important element of Making Wood Work for Wales and is aligned to the priorities identified in the [Woodlands for Wales strategy](#) for a competitive and integrated sector. The application window will open in March 2026. The indicative budget allocation for this application window is £1,500,000. If selected, applicants must be able to complete and claim all Capital Works items by 31 March 2027.

Applicants can submit their application as soon as they are ready to do so (see section C: How to Apply). Decisions will be communicated on the following dates:

- 7th April 2026

Following the Senedd Elections on May 7th, subject to the agreement of the relevant Welsh Minister/Cabinet Secretary, the indicative decision dates during 2026/2027 financial year will be as follows, or until such time the available budget is fully committed:

- 30th June 2026
- 31st August 2026
- 31st October 2026
- 31st December 2026
- 31st January 2027

Eligible applicants can apply for investment to enhance their ability to do one or more of the following:

- increase capacity for seed supply, as a tree nursery and/or for ground preparation
- realise forestry potential by bringing woodlands under management and/or increasing harvesting and enabling/improving primary processing

- promote the economic and sustainable production of timber and timber products, adding value to forest products through secondary processing
- support their transition towards net zero

Increase capacity for seed supply, as a tree nursery and/or for ground preparation

Making Wood Work for Wales, the Timber Industrial Strategy, sets out actions to future-proof our forests including through choosing species that will be productive in the future and ensuring access to genetically diverse and climate-appropriate stock. We need a reliable supply of forest genetic materials, including sufficient capacity in forest nurseries. We aim to enable tree nurseries to sustainably expand production, diversify the range of species grown, improve production efficiency and enhance product quality.

Applications may be submitted by eligible applicants seeking to:

- increase capacity to produce young trees
- improve, expand, automate or mechanise operations, where appropriate, to increase production efficiency
- improve biosecurity through enhanced water treatment and refrigeration equipment
- improve seed processing and storage facilities
- improve quality and safety in all phases of nursery and seed processing operations
- increase capacity to undertake ground preparation work ahead of tree planting

Realise forestry potential by bringing woodlands under management and/or increasing harvesting and enabling/improving primary processing

Making Wood Work for Wales, the Timber Industrial Strategy, sets out actions to secure a reliable source that is fit for purpose for the future. Wales must take steps to increase sustainable yields of Welsh-grown timber and wood fibre. We need to increase afforestation while improving productivity from existing forests and woodlands through effective management, to increase sustainable yields of timber to meet future demand and mitigate risks to timber security.

Applications may be submitted by eligible applicants seeking to:

- bring woodlands into sustainable management, increasing the supply of timber and wood fibre grown in Wales
- enable cost-effective, small-scale, harvesting operations in under-managed conifer and broadleaved woodlands, with minimal environmental impact
- enable sensitive working of steep ground and currently inaccessible sites
- facilitate local timber primary processing at a non-industrial scale
- improve health and safety

Promote the economic and sustainable production of timber and timber products, adding value to forest products through secondary processing

Making Wood Work for Wales, the Timber Industrial Strategy, sets out actions to support local supply chains to boost the potential value we gain from our timber, all the way from forest to product. We aim to actively encourage the increased supply of timber available for long-life uses, including graded structural timber, as well as

supporting existing markets and supply chains that already rely on the steady supply of Welsh timber. We aim to promote production in Wales of wood-based products with increased value, extended durability and climate resilience.

Applications may be submitted by eligible applicants seeking to:

- promote the economic and sustainable production of timber and timber products through adding value
- improve and/or increase kiln capacity to promote adding value to sawn products (not firewood) that will lead onto further processing
- support secondary processing of homegrown hardwood and quality softwood timber at a non-industrial scale. Secondary processing is the milling of already sawn boards into components for manufacturers or builders. These are not end products (e.g. pieces of furniture) but the finished or routed components that go into them. Examples of secondary processing products are exterior cladding, beams, finished (planed) planks, interior and exterior mouldings and flooring

Support Welsh Forestry businesses to transition towards net zero.

Applications may be submitted by eligible applicants seeking to:

- Decrease use of fossil fuels by, for example, increasing uptake of electric equipment, machinery and non-road vehicles with a corresponding reduction to emissions.

Please read the scheme rules and guidance document before submitting an application. The scheme is discretionary. The amount of grant offered would always be the minimum amount necessary to allow the investments to go ahead.

Proposed investments must show that a viable market has been identified for their product(s) and that the project would not proceed without the grant.

Applicants may make more than one application per claim year. Please note that if you submit multiple applications all relevant information must be completed each time and they will be assessed as stand-alone applications, competing against all other received applications.

Any changes will be publicised via the [Welsh Government website](#) and, where necessary, we will contact you directly.

SECTION B: ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be based in Wales, with equipment purchased predominantly for use in Wales. The scheme is open to applications from:

- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) that are:
 - tree nurseries growing for forestry, not solely ornamental purposes and/or
 - engaged in forest planting and management activities, timber harvesting and/or timber processing.
 - forestry contractors
- Individuals wanting to start a tree nursery who are unable to do so without the aid of the grant.

- Sole traders
- Co-operatives
- Social Enterprises
- Private forest owners

Definition of an SME¹

An SME is an undertaking that employs fewer than 250 employees (based on full-time equivalents) and has less than or equal to £44m in annual turnover or a balance sheet total of less than or equal to £38m. Part-time staff and seasonal workers should be treated as a fraction of a full time equivalent. N.B. Micro-enterprises (having fewer than 10 employees and an annual turnover of under £2m) are included within the SME category.

Collaboration

Applicants can work individually or collaboratively. Collaborative applications must clearly be of benefit to more than one enterprise. For collaborative projects, one named applicant must take the lead and be contractually responsible for delivery of the agreed work. They will be liable for any subsequent refund claim should this be necessary.

Applications from new businesses are welcome but the business case template must be completed, and the positive impact of the purchase must be demonstrated.

You are not eligible if:

- you are a primary producer of agricultural products (with the exception of horticulture, in the case of tree nurseries). Please refer instead to the Welsh Government's other available schemes, see: [Rural grants and payments](#)
- public sector bodies e.g. Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Local Authorities

Eligible costs

The grant is awarded in the form of a capital grant. Support under this scheme can cover tangible assets such as land, buildings, machinery and equipment:

- a) the construction, acquisition, or improvement of immovable property, with land only being eligible to an extent not exceeding 10% of the total eligible costs of the investment project
- b) the purchase of machinery and equipment up to the market value of the asset
- c) general costs linked to expenditure referred to in points (a) and (b), such as architect, engineer and consultation fees, fees relating to advice on environmental and economic sustainability
- d) acquisition or development of computer software and acquisitions of patents, licenses, copyrights, trademarks

Consultant's and architect's fees, other technical design costs, site surveys and professional fees; planning application fees and costs; fees incurred for statutory

¹ [Supplementary information: Small and Medium-sized Enterprises definition \(HTML\) - GOV.UK](#)

permissions, licences and consents are also eligible even if they have been completed and paid for prior to approval, provided they are essential for the delivery of the project.

Second hand equipment is eligible where the applicant can demonstrate the following:

- it complies with current health and safety legislation
- it is fit for purpose
- it has at least five year's life expectancy remaining.

Examples of possible investments

The following list is intended to be illustrative, not exhaustive. If you have any questions, or wish to confirm eligibility of a project before developing an application, send your enquiry to pren.timber@gov.wales

- specialised tree nursery equipment including:
 - seed storage and handling, seed processing, seed sowing and seed bed preparation equipment
 - cultivators, rotavators, mechanical weed control, irrigation, root pruning and transplanting equipment
 - grading equipment, poly tunnels and cold stores and associated infrastructure such as packing sheds or coldstores
 - rainwater harvesting and irrigation systems
- ground preparation equipment e.g. special excavators, buckets, rakes, ploughs, scarifiers, continuous mowers, planting and fencing equipment (such as post knockers and machinery to dispense fencing mesh)
- equipment for reducing the negative impacts of browsing mammals through sustainable management e.g. high seats and/or passive methods e.g. tree shelters and guards
- husbandry equipment for young plantations, chain saws, brush cutters, rough terrain mowers, sprayers and biological control equipment
- on-site facilities for washing, toilets and staff welfare, including mobile welfare units
- modern electronic timber measurement, monitoring and quality assessment tools (for in-forest use)
- chainsaws for hand felling
- winches for extraction of timber, excavator, skidder or forwarder-based
- skyline towers/winches/paying-out carriages
- small-scale thinning harvesters, this is defined as machines with a gross vehicle weight of less than nine tonnes, based on the manufacturers' published gross vehicle weight.
- thinning harvester heads (able to cut up to 45 centimetres)
- small-scale forwarders and combination forwarder systems (small-scale is defined as machines with an unloaded weight of six tonnes or less)
- purpose-built forestry trailers, prime movers, dump trucks, tractors (for on-site use only)
- skidders, skidder grapples, skidder winches and skidder cranes

- timber cranes, grapples, grabs, tree shears, biomass accumulator harvesting heads, weigh links and rotators
- delimiters (harvesting site based)
- materials handling equipment, hooklifts/loaders, round wood and bulk handling systems, bins and bodies (for on-site use only)
- sawmill log handling equipment, loading shovels, log decks, log grabs, buckets, rakes, log infeeds and conveyors
- breakdown saws of all commercial types, processing machinery for dimensional sawn products
- bark, slab wood and sawdust handling equipment, dust extraction systems
- chippers of commercial size, producing chip to internationally recognised quality standards, wood chip quality control equipment
- specialist wood chip and pellet fuel blowers
- sawn timber drying kilns
- materials drying equipment, fans, boilers, combusters, driers, conveyors, bins and walking floors (fixed and mobile)
- briquetters and pelleting systems/production lines
- wood fuel machinery, processors, splitters, weighers and bundlers, moisture content measurement equipment
- mobile or small-scale static saw benches for primary processing of felled trees
- handheld timber strength graders
- circular saws or bandsaws
- planers, thicknessers and moulders
- stand-alone/table drum sanders
- production handling systems and presses for glulam, brettstaple and cross laminated panels
- generators, power producing and saving equipment, grid connections
- IT systems, hardware and software, to facilitate any of the above

Only equipment which complies with all the relevant health and safety requirements and industry standards will be eligible for grant.

All specialised harvesting equipment must be built to a forestry harvesting specification and comply with all relevant Health and Safety legislation.

See Forest Research's:

- safety guidance for selecting small and mini scale harvesting and extraction machinery for forestry harvesting: [Safety guidance for selecting small and mini scale harvesting and extraction machinery for forest harvesting \(FR TDJR131\). - Forest Research](#)
- small to medium scale self-loading timber trailers: a guide to safe use (April 2019) [A guide to safe use of small-to-medium-scale self-loading timber trailers \(FR TDJR177\)](#)

Training should be undertaken on the safe working of all equipment purchased and submission of evidence of completing this training with your grant claim is required. Support towards the cost of training may be available via the Welsh Government's Flexible Skills Programme: [Flexible Skills Programme | Business Wales](#)

Costs related to the purchase and/or refurbishment and/or adaptation of any building must be appropriate to the scale, nature and intention of the project. Grant cannot be used for the purpose of the acquisition of capital assets that are not essential for the delivery of proposed eligible activity.

Ineligible Costs

The following items are examples of expenditure, which are not eligible for grant support. This is not a definitive list, and all items of expenditure will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Purchase of land, including associated expenses, where the costs exceed 10% of the total investment
- Purchase of buildings which have previously been used for the same purpose
- Any physical work on site carried out before the authorised start of work date (any such work carried out renders the whole award liable to cancellation)
- Temporary works not directly related to the execution of the project
- Tourism or leisure and recreational projects
- Investments to replace items previously purchased with public funding, such as EU or Welsh Government grant assistance (for the same business).
- Replacement of equipment on a like-for-like basis although upgrading to more efficient or larger capacity equipment is acceptable.
- Maintenance costs
- Investments in capital items with capacity that exceeds the requirements of the enterprise e.g. the purchase of ground preparation ploughs that are primarily for agricultural use.
- Products for which no realistic normal market can be demonstrated
- Upgrades to premises and/or equipment to meet requirements arising from statutory enforcement action.
- Purchase of equipment for leasing activities.
- Replacements under an insurance claim.
- Investments that are not located on the applicant's premises.
- Investments for retail, including buildings and equipment used for retail sales
- Purchase of vehicles for public road transportation (forklift trucks, or similar, used for internal transportation and handling linked to on-site productive forestry and/or at the sawmill, within the forest and/or business premises are eligible)
- Consumables (items which are normally written off within a year).
- General office equipment and furniture
- Working capital
- Reclaimable VAT
- Contingent liabilities
- Contingencies
- Notional expenditure
- Revenue costs, such as salaries for key staff; training for directors and key staff; attendance at trade fairs; expenses of outside directors
- Costs connected with a leasing contract such as the lessor's margin, interest financing cost, overheads and insurance charges

- Costs of arranging overdraft facilities, loans or other financial support instruments including any associated fees or other charges
- Overheads allocated or apportioned at rates materially in excess of those used for any similar work carried out by the applicant
- Payments for activity of a political nature
- Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of assets purchased with the help of a grant
- Interest charges
- Service charges arising on finance leases, hire purchase and credit arrangements
- Costs resulting from the deferral of payments to creditors
- Costs involved in winding up a company
- Payments for unfair dismissal
- Payments into private pension schemes
- Payments for unfunded pensions
- Compensation for loss of office
- Compensation paid to third parties for expropriation, unharvested crops, etc
- Bad debts arising from loans to employees, proprietors, partners, directors, guarantors, shareholders or a person connected with any of these
- Payments for gifts and donations
- Entertainments
- Statutory fines and penalties
- Statutory taxes (excluding irrecoverable VAT)
- Criminal fines and damages
- Legal expenses in respect of litigation

Investments are only eligible for grant aid when the cost has been correctly defrayed and evidenced by the claimant. Therefore, the full costs of any equipment secured under a hire purchase or lease hire agreement, or any other form of financial arrangement, are not eligible for grant aid.

Maximum grant rate and maximum grant threshold

The maximum grant award is £100,000 and the minimum is £1,000.

The grant provides a maximum 40% contribution towards capital investments (excluding VAT). The grant will be a maximum 40% contribution against actual invoiced costs.

SUBSIDY CONTROL

Grants provided under this scheme are Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act (2022). MFA has a financial threshold so no recipient can receive more than £315,000 over the applicable period. The applicable period is the elapsed part of the current financial year (that is, from 1 April), and the two financial years immediately preceding the current financial year. The financial year means a period of 12 months ending 31 March.

Grant recipients are required to keep a written record of the amount of MFA subsidy received and the date/s when it was received. The written record must be kept for at

least three years beginning with the date on which the MFA subsidy was given.

SELECTING SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

To be selected a project must demonstrate:

Need for activity:

- the outputs are required and will deliver against the objectives of the scheme
- it adds to and does not displace and/or unnecessarily duplicate existing activity.

Need for funding:

- it cannot proceed now without support
- the costs are not excessive for the nature of the activity involved
- there is a market failure or funding gap, where applicable.

Ability to deliver:

- viability of the business
- legal compliance
- financial viability of project and sustainability, including exit strategy
- support and commitment of key stakeholders
- project management, monitoring and evaluation arrangements.

Each application is assessed on its potential value to the rural economy, the degree to which the investment will develop the business and the potential for long-term sustainability. The greater the importance and contribution that the project investment can make to the strategic objectives, the more likely it is to be recommended for selection.

Key requirements

- The Project would not proceed without grant assistance.
- All items must be purchased in accordance with the Welsh Government Competitive Tendering and Procurement requirements. See Section E for further details.
- Ensure all investments have been completed at the time you submit your claim.
- Ensure all investments are on the premises at the time you submit your claim.

Applications must also demonstrate that the following have been addressed:

Planning permission

If your investment requires planning consent, the payment of any grant will not be made until planning approval documents have been submitted and verified by the Welsh Government. If the project has been considered by the planning authority not to require planning consent, you will need to provide evidence from the planning authority to confirm this.

Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Approving Body (SAB) approval

If your investment requires SAB approval, the payment of any grant will not be made until SAB approval documents have been submitted and verified by the Welsh Government.

For an overview of what requires SAB approval and for more detailed guidance, please visit the Welsh Government website at: Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS): guidance <https://gov.wales/sustainable-drainage-systems-suds-guidance> .

If the project has been considered by the local SAB not to require SuDS, you will need to provide evidence from the SAB to confirm this. While SAB approval is independent of planning permission, the evidence you submit will be assessed by the appraisal team in a manner consistent with its processes relating to planning consent.

Some applications for construction with drainage implications which require approval by the SAB may not require planning permission from the local planning authority, for example, permitted development less than 100 square metres. It should, therefore, not be assumed the absence of a requirement for planning permission would negate the need for SAB approval.

Other Consents

You must ensure all other consents, licences and permissions have been granted where required.

You must ensure compliance with minimum standards and legislative requirements regarding the environment and all relevant health and safety standards.

SECTION C: HOW TO APPLY

The application process will be a one-stage process. Applications submitted will be in direct competition with one another.

The following sections of the application will be assessed and scored against selection criteria:

- strategic fit
- suitability of investment
- long term sustainability
- value for money

Applications scoring the highest will be selected in ranked order at each Decision Point, until the funds available have been allocated.

Selected applications will be assessed for eligibility and against the following five criteria:

- project delivery
- risk and risk Management
- cross cutting themes

- indicators and outcomes
- financial and compliance

Submitting an application

Eligibility queries relating to the scheme can be sent to: pren.timber@gov.wales

It is your responsibility to ensure the application is correctly completed and the information provided in support of your project is accurate.

You must complete the application in full and provide comprehensive documentation in support of the application to enable the Welsh Government to assess the project. Please ensure you follow the guidance as, failure to do so, may delay the appraisal.

As part of your application, you will be required to state for each capital item, which of the following criteria the item relates to:

- development of an existing enterprise
- establishment of a new enterprise
- development of an existing enterprise, adding value to an agricultural product or bi-product - processing on-farm produced timber and/or non-wood forest products
- establishment of a new enterprise, adding value to an agricultural product or bi-product - processing on-farm produced timber and/or non-wood forest products
- development of an existing commercial horticultural enterprise
- establishment of a new commercial horticultural enterprise

The plans and documents you must complete and submit include:

- business plan (see requirements, below)
- 3 years of certified accounts. (If certified accounts are not available for the most recent financial period, management accounts should be submitted for this period.)
- 3 years of financial projections. (The proposed investment should be accounted for in the financial forecasts.)
- evidence of funding available. (Bank loan, overdraft, etc.)
- 3 quotes for each investment item with invoiced costs of £5,000 or over. Only 1 quote is required for items with invoiced costs under £5,000.
- Planning and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) approval, where available. If you do not have planning or SuDS approval, but they are required for the project to proceed, evidence of planning and SuDS approval will be required before any grant claim can be processed.

If establishing a new horticultural enterprise as a standalone business, certified accounts or management accounts will not be available.

Business plan requirements

The business plan should provide a holistic outline of your business. As a minimum, the plan should be for the next 3 years and include the following:

- business details
- details of resources available, business activity
- recent financial performance with reference to certified / management accounts and balance sheets and evidence of business viability
- future objectives and investment proposals
- considerations and options appraisal for the future business and investment proposal, financial viability of the proposed project, and sustainability including exit strategy

The assessment will not commence until the application, together with all supporting documentation, is received by the Welsh Government. You may provide other documentation and evidence in addition to the above to support your application.

Assessment for selection

All applications submitted to the Making Wood Work for Wales capital scheme will be assessed against a set of selection criteria and scored using a scoring scale of 0 – 4 then multiplied by the associated weighting factor to give a total score.

The applications will be ranked in order of merit. Applications will be selected in ranked order at each Decision Point, until the funds available have been allocated. There is no guarantee all the funds will be allocated, nor that all applications will be selected.

Details of the selection criteria are set out below.

Selection Criteria	Score	Weighting factor
Strategic Fit	0 - 4	x 4
Suitability of investment	0 - 4	x 5
Long term sustainability	0 - 4	x 2
Value for money	0 - 4	x 3

No application will progress which scores less than the minimum quality threshold of 30.

A score of 1 or 0 (zero) in any of the selection criteria will prevent the application from being considered for selection.

For each section, the assessment will be made on the basis of the information and explanations given.

Higher scores will be achieved by providing comprehensive explanations supported by examples of proposed activities and details of how those activities will be managed.

Lower scores will be awarded where explanations are simply statements of intent, for example, “we will hold meetings with stakeholders on a regular basis throughout the project”.

Selection criteria:

Strategic fit

For a project to meet the scheme’s Strategic Fit, applicants will need to demonstrate how the proposed investment will contribute to the strategic aims and objectives of the scheme and demonstrate why the investment is required.

Applicants who can demonstrate clear links between the investment and strategic aims and who have detailed how the investment priority was established will receive a higher score.

Score	
4	A clear explanation and evidence is given of how the anticipated investment responds to the scheme objectives. A full and comprehensive description of the project is provided.
3	Strong evidence is provided which demonstrate the anticipated investment responds to the scheme objectives. A full description of the project is provided.
2	Some evidence is provided to demonstrate how the anticipated investment responds to the scheme objectives. A description of the project is provided.
1	Evidence provided does not demonstrate fully how the anticipated investment responds to the scheme objectives. Gaps in the description of the project.
0	No evidence is provided to show how the investment meets the scheme objectives.

Suitability of investment

Resource efficiency is crucial to help achieve a Well-being economy, as well as reducing emissions. For a project to meet these criteria, applicants are required to demonstrate how their planned investment will support the business to grow sustainably and, where appropriate, explain how the investment will have a positive impact on the environment, including enhancing water, soil and air quality, increasing carbon sequestration and storage, reducing emissions and enhancing forest ecosystems.

Score

- 4 A clear explanation is given, including evidence of how the anticipated investment responds to climate change. The application demonstrates how the investment enhances water, soil and air quality. Evidence shows the investment increases carbon sequestration and storage, reducing emissions and enhancing forest ecosystems.

 - 3 Strong evidence is provided which demonstrates how the anticipated investment responds to climate change. The application details how the investment enhances water, soil and air quality. The investment contributes to increasing carbon sequestration and storage, reducing emissions and enhancing forest ecosystems.

 - 2 Some evidence provided to demonstrate how the anticipated investment responds to climate change. The application provides limited details of how the investment enhances water, soil and air quality. The investment provides a small contribution to increasing carbon sequestration and storage, reducing emissions and enhancing forest ecosystems.

 - 1 Evidence provided to demonstrate how the anticipated investment responds to climate change is weak or minimal. The application does not detail how the investment enhances water, soil and air quality. The investment does not contribute to increasing carbon sequestration and storage, reducing emissions and enhancing forest ecosystems.

 - 0 No evidence is provided to show how the investment considers the impact on the environment.
-

Long term sustainability

Projects that provide long-term financial benefits and security to the business will be prioritised. Applications that demonstrate sustained benefits to the business and deliver employment opportunities, both additional paid job opportunities and

maintaining current employment will score highly. Investments could also “future proof” the business, enabling activity to continue in response to current or emerging market or environmental pressures.

Projects that are catalysts for further investments, e.g. developing infrastructure to enable further production which result in higher-value products would receive a higher score. Where an investment is part of a phased investment plan, this should be detailed.

Score

- 4 A clear explanation is given, including evidence, of how the anticipated investment provides long-term financial benefits and security to the business.
- The investment creates additional employment. The applicant will also demonstrate how the investment is a catalyst for further business development and investment in the short-term.
-
- 3 Strong evidence is provided detailing how the anticipated investment provides long-term financial benefits and security to the business. Current employment is secured. The applicant demonstrates how the investment is a catalyst for further business development and investment in the medium-term.
-
- 2 Some evidence is provided detailing how the anticipated investment provides long-term financial benefits and security to the business. There is some evidence to demonstrate how the investment is a catalyst for further potential business development and investment in the long-term.
-
- 1 Evidence provided detailing how the anticipated investment provides long-term financial benefits and security to the business is weak or minimal. The project does not result in new job creation and does not secure current employment. The applicant has not demonstrated how the investment is a catalyst for further business development and investment.
-
- 0 No evidence is provided to demonstrate that the investment has a positive impact on the long-term sustainability of the business.
-

Value for money

Projects are required to evidence value for money. Projects will be given a score based on the forecasted impact on profitability expected within three years of completion of the project.

This can be as a result of increasing overall output and turnover, resulting in increased profit, or as a result of production efficiencies which result in higher margins while output and turnover remain unchanged.

Value for money assessment will be based on forecasted increase in profitability within three years of completion (a), divided by requested grant value (b).

e.g. a project forecasting an annual increase in profit of £100,000 within three years of completion of the project and requesting a grant of £20,000 would have a (a/b) value of 5.0. A project forecasting an increase in profit of £50,000 within three years of completion of the project and requesting a grant of £40,000 would have a (a/b) value of 1.25.

The (a/b) values for all projects in the window will result in a score being allocated as shown below:

	Score
Forecasted increase in profit/grant (a/b) 1.6 or more	4
Forecasted increase in profit/grant (a/b) between 1.1 and 1.5	3
Forecasted increase in profit/grant (a/b) between 0.5 and 1.0	2
Forecasted increase in profit/grant (a/b) between 0.1 and 0.4	1
Forecasted increase in profit/grant (a/b) less than 0	0

Appraisal of the application following selection

If selected, the application will progress to assessment of the following, to complete the appraisal of the application and consideration of offer of a grant:

- project delivery
- risk and risk management
- financial and compliance
- indicators and outcomes
- Cross cutting themes

The indicators and outcomes that will be monitored as a result of the investment are:

1. Number of businesses supported.

2. Number of new businesses established
3. Number of jobs created
4. Number of jobs safeguarded
5. Increase to GVA
6. Numbers of pieces of equipment and/or machinery purchased
7. Area of outdoor forest nursery production (specify species)
8. Area of indoor forest nursery production (specify species)
9. KW of renewable energy generation installed (Specify renewable technology)
10. Volume of rainwater harvesting capacity installed
11. Area of woodland utilised for economic benefit following investment.
12. Volume of timber brought to roadside following investment
13. Volume of product processed following investment

The application will also ask you to explain how your project will contribute towards the Welsh Governments cross cutting themes of:

- Equality of opportunity and Gender mainstreaming
- Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion
- Welsh Language

The application will be appraised in accordance with the Scheme Guidance and eligibility rules. It will be subject to full due diligence (where required), appraisal and eligibility checks and only at that point will a final decision be taken to offer a grant or reject the application. There is no guarantee that a project proposal will be approved for a grant. We will aim to complete the appraisal of the application within 90 days of the window closing. Appraisal of complex applications may take longer. If you delay replying to requests for further information this will extend the time taken to complete appraisal of your application.

Assessment scoring

For the appraisal the information provided in the remaining sections will be assessed against the following rating criteria from which a decision can be taken about the award of grant assistance to the project:

- High: The applicant has provided robust and detailed responses against all of the evidence requirements
- Medium: The applicant has provided satisfactory and detailed responses against most of the evidence requirements
- Low: The applicant has provided potentially incomplete or insufficient responses against one or more of the evidence requirements.

The quality threshold is a rating of Medium across all nine categories. If the application does not meet this requirement, you may be requested to provide further information. If a Medium rating cannot be achieved the project will be rejected.

Please note that if further information is required this may delay the appraisal of the application so we recommend you follow the guidance carefully in order to provide the information requested.

You will be notified of the outcome of the appraisal via the contact email address you supplied in your application.

There are three possible outcomes from the appraisal:

1. Your project is ineligible and/or fails to meet the minimum threshold for selection and is not approved for a grant award. You will be informed of the reasons why your application was not successful. You may apply again with the same project, during an open application window (amending the application if you wish), but only if you have not started any work on the project.
2. Your application is eligible and meets the minimum threshold, however, it does not score highly enough to be selected for award. You will be informed that you have not been selected but your application will be held in reserve.
3. Your project is eligible, meets the minimum threshold for selection and is approved for an award. A Grant Award Letter will be issued to you setting out the terms and conditions of the award which you will be asked to accept as agreement that you accept the terms and conditions therein. The Grant Award Letter will also provide you with the authority to start work. You must accept or decline the Grant Award within 30 days. Failure to accept the Grant Award within 30 days will lead to the Grant Award being withdrawn.

If you decide to withdraw from the Grant Award prior to completion or if you do not purchase all of the items approved in your Grant Award Letter, you will not be able to apply for the Making Wood Work for Wales capital grant scheme in the next window and may be required to repay any payments received.

You can withdraw your application at any time prior to a Grant Award Letter being awarded without it impacting on any future applications for the Making Wood Work for Wales Capital grant scheme.

Subject to the requirements of the Welsh Government's Code of Practice on Public Access to Information, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004: all information given to the Welsh Government will be treated in strict confidence. You should be aware that if successful, the Welsh Government reserve the right to publish the name of your company, the amount of grant you were awarded and a summary of your project.

SECTION D: CONDITIONS OF GRANT

The Making Wood Work for Wales capital grant scheme is subject to a range of relevant legislation (see Section K). The Welsh Government and the applicant / recipient must act in accordance with that legislation.

The offer of a Making Wood Work for Wales capital grant is made subject to terms and conditions, which will be set out in full in your Grant Award Letter and include those set out below. The Grant Award will commence from the date the letter is issued. Failure to meet the terms and conditions of the award could result in the cancellation of your award and / or the recovery of sums already paid, or a reduction of the amount of grant payable.

Conditions:

The award is made on the basis of statements and declarations made by you or your representatives in the application form and the claim form and any subsequent correspondence. The making of false or misleading statements is an offence.

You must not begin any work on the project without first obtaining written authority to do so from the Welsh Government. You must have bought the equipment and contacted Welsh Government by the claim deadline within the Grant Award Letter. If you have not contacted Welsh Government within that time, the grant offer will be automatically rejected.

The Welsh Government may need to update the rules and conditions to take account of changes to the UK's legislative requirements, including the Government of Wales Act 2006.

You must meet any legal obligations imposed and UK law.

No alterations may be made to the project, including the location of the activity, without the written approval of the Welsh Government.

You agree to abide by any changes following notification by the Welsh Ministers.

Equipment purchased with grant aid may not be disposed of, transferred or sold during the project and for five years from the Grant Award Letter end date without the prior written consent of the Welsh Government. The grant awarded must be re-paid in full.

You are required to read and understand the relevant scheme rules and guidance notes.

You have given details that are true, accurate and complete to the best of your knowledge and belief on the applications and any supporting documentation.

You acknowledge that neither the Welsh Government, nor any adviser appointed by the Welsh Government, shall be responsible for any advice given, including, without limit, any advice given in relation to the applications and that you are solely responsible for all business decisions undertaken.

You are required to comply with the rules on eligible costs as detailed in the Scheme Guidance Notes.

Projects should be completed within the timetable agreed with the Welsh Government. You should not deviate from this without prior written agreement from the Welsh Government.

Claims must be submitted via the Welsh Government's grant claim application, which you will be supplied with after Welsh Government receives your signed acceptance

of the Grant Award Letter, and must be supported by all supporting documents as required by the scheme.

Grant can only be paid on expenditure that has been defrayed, that is, on payments that have cleared from a bank account.

All items must be purchased in accordance with the Welsh Government Competitive Tendering and Procurement requirements.

You undertake to meet any obligations in relation to obtaining planning permission, where necessary.

You must confirm none of the items covered by the application are replacements under an insurance claim.

You must provide confirmation that no other public funding has been sought. If it is found you have received public funding from another source your claim may be rejected, payments may be recovered and penalties may be applied.

Records concerning the application and claim for this grant, including all original invoices and any other related documents, must be retained for at least five years after the project end date.

You must undertake to meet any statutory obligations such as Health and Safety; employment; hygiene; environmental management and protection that apply during the time of this project.

You must allow representatives of the Welsh Government, the Auditor General for Wales, or their representatives, to access and inspect land and any relevant equipment. On request, you must provide them with information and / or access to original documentation in relation to the project.

The information provided in the application and any supporting documentation is subject to the requirements of the Welsh Government's Code of Practice on Public Access to Information, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

You should be aware that, if successful, the Welsh Government reserve the right to publish the name of your business or company, the amount of grant you were awarded and a summary of your project.

The information provided in the application is subject to the Privacy Notice. The Privacy Notice explains the Welsh Government's processing and use of your personal data and your rights under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

SECTION E: COMPETITIVE TENDERING AND PROCUREMENT

You must follow the Welsh Government guidance and requirements for Competitive Tendering and Procurement. Guidance is available via the following link: [Rural grants: competitive tendering guidance](#)

SECTION F: PAYMENTS

Claims

The Making Wood Work for Wales scheme is only available to claim using the Grants Claim form supplied by Welsh Government. Payment will be made following the successful validation of your claim. Claims will only be paid when the Welsh Government is satisfied the relevant expenditure has taken place and that the work has been completed according to plan. Payment will be made by electronic transfer to your bank account.

You can submit more than one claim, but each claim must be for an item. For example, if you have been awarded a Grant Award Letter to purchase two items; water harvesting equipment and a harvester, you can submit separate claims for each item, but you cannot submit a claim for part of the costs of one item.

In order to receive Making Wood Work for Wales capital scheme payments, you must:

- have accepted a Making Wood Work for Wales capital scheme Grant Award within 30 calendar days of the offer date and adhere to all the requirements
- ensure you have only purchased items listed in your Grant Award Letter after you have been offered a grant award
- ensure you have purchased all of the items listed in your Grant Award Letter before 31 March 2027
- ensure all items are purchased in accordance with the Welsh Government Competitive Tendering and Procurement requirements
- ensure all items purchased are on the premises at the time you submit your claim
- submit the claim using the Grant Claim form by the claim deadline – 31 March 2027
- submit invoices for all claimed items
- submit evidence of defrayment of expenditure for all claimed items
- submit geo-tagged photographs of the items on your premises
- submit evidence of planning permission and SuDS approval, if required

A claim is not considered valid unless it has been submitted via the Grants Claim page and until all supporting documentation has been submitted.

You can submit your claim at any time once the investment has been completed, it must be received by the claim deadline.

Requests for extensions to the claim deadline can only be accepted in exceptional circumstances and must be explained and received in writing by email to pren.timber@gov.wales as soon as possible and before the claim deadline.

Supporting Documentation

You must submit the following with your claim:

- Evidence of defrayment of expenditure for all claimed items.
- Invoices for all claimed items.
- Geo-tagged photographs of the items on your premises.

Where evidence cannot be provided, the claim will be rejected.

Invoices must clearly display the word 'invoice' on the document and include the following:

- a unique identification number
- your company name, address, and contact information
- the invoicing company name and address
- a clear description of what you are being charged for
- the date the goods or service were provided (supply date)
- the date of the invoice
- the amount(s) being charged
- VAT amount if applicable
- the total amount owed

Defrayment should be evidenced by bank statements. If the value of the transaction does not match the invoice value (for instance if you have bought non project items from the same supplier) a breakdown of the whole payment with supporting invoices will be required.

If making payments by cheque, then a scan or photograph of the written cheque, before it is presented to the supplier, will be required in addition to the bank statement.

A geo-tagged photograph includes location information within the photograph data. Most mobile phones with an internet connection and a camera will record GPS coordinates automatically. They also record the date and time the photograph was taken.

Detailed guidance on the geo-tagged photographs required and how to submit geo-tagged photographs specific to the Making Wood Work for Wales capital grant scheme will be available on the Welsh Government website at the claim stage.

You can submit invoices and evidence of defrayment by scanning them and sending them via email to pren.timber@gov.wales

Incorrect claims and penalties

It is your responsibility to make sure the claim submitted is eligible and accurate, it is only for defrayed expenditure (the money has gone from your bank account), all the items and costs are eligible, and the claim is submitted on time.

All of the items approved must have been purchased after the Grant Award Letter has been offered.

Your claim is incorrect if:

- you have bought investment items before the Grant Award Letter is offered
- you have not bought all of the items listed in the Grant Award Letter
- you have bought items not included in your Grant Award Letter
- you have not submitted a claim and supporting documents by the claim deadline
- not all the items claimed are present on your holding at a visit to your premises

You must claim for all of the items listed in your Grant Award Letter.

If all items are not claimed, the grant award will be terminated and any payments made may be recovered.

If the amount of ineligible items is determined to be more than 10% of the eligible costs, an amount equivalent to the value of ineligible items will be deducted from your payment.

It is essential, if you have any doubts about anything you need for your project, you request written confirmation of its eligibility before you incur the costs.

Offences

Regulation 13 of the Rural Development Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2014 (No. 3222 (W.327)) establishes criminal offences and penalties in relation to certain aspects of rural development funding. That Regulation and those offences are applicable to the Making Wood Work for Wales capital grant scheme. Examples of offences include knowingly or recklessly providing false or misleading information in relation to rural development funding, obstructing an inspector or official, and refusing to provide information when requested to do so.

SECTION G: CHANGES TO SCHEME RULES

Legislation changes (including changes in interpretation)

Legislation may change from time to time, and you will be required to abide by any changes to the scheme rules following notification from the Welsh Government.

Changes to scheme rules or grant award letter

We may need to make changes to the scheme rules and/or your Grant Award Letter for a number of reasons. For example, we may need to update the management conditions to take account of the latest scientific advice, amend scheme rules to take account of any changes to legislation. We will publicise changes on the [Welsh Government website](#) and where necessary contact you directly.

SECTION H: CONTROLS, MONITORING AND RECORD KEEPING

Controls

The Welsh Government must enforce the Making Wood Work for Wales capital grant scheme rules.

Your claim may be selected for a visit to verify the realisation of the investment before the payment is made to you or it may be selected for a visit after the payment has been made.

All the details in your application, the details in your claim and the declarations that you made in submitting the application and claim will be checked.

The Welsh Government and the specialist control bodies will try to ensure that visits cause you the minimum of disruption, but some checks require visits to be unannounced, which means it may not be possible to give you notice. You may be subject to more than one visit during a calendar year.

If you refuse to allow a visit or obstruct an officer or fail to give reasonable assistance, your claim may not be paid, we may recover payments and you may be prosecuted.

Monitoring

It is a requirement that all grant awards are monitored and the effect of the grant on the business is evaluated following completion.

You must allow officials from the Welsh Government, or their representatives, to inspect the items purchased within this five-year period.

Site visits will be made on a percentage of the projects approved within five years following final completion (Project End Date) to ensure the applicant still has and is using the equipment purchased with the grant and that the business is performing as expected.

It will be a requirement of the grant award that equipment purchased with the aid of a grant must be kept in situ, operational and in good repair, and used for the same purpose as set out in the original application, for at least five years from the date of completion of the project as set out in the Grant Award Letter. This is to ensure the longevity of the project and to guarantee primary producers a lasting share of the project's benefits.

Record keeping

You must keep all records and information you need to evidence that you have provided complete and accurate information and have complied with your undertakings for five years.

You will also be required to:

- supply to the Welsh Government any information about your Making Wood Work for Wales capital scheme Grant Award Letter and supply that information within the period determined by the Welsh Government.

- make available to the Welsh Government, its authorised persons or its agents, records, accounts, receipts, and other information including access to computer data relating to your Making Wood Work for Wales capital scheme Grant Award Letter. Permit the Welsh Government to remove any such document or record to take copies or extracts from them.

SECTION I: APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Appeals procedure

If you are selected, the Independent Appeals Process allows you to request a review if you feel Welsh Government has not reached a correct decision according to the rules of the scheme.

The appeals process consists of two stages:

- stage 1: review by Forest Resources Policy Branch, Welsh Government
- stage 2: review by an Independent Appeals Panel (if you are dissatisfied with the Stage 1 response)

The Independent Panel makes recommendations to the Welsh Ministers, who take the final decision, which concludes the process.

There is no charge for stage 1 of the process, but there is a charge at stage 2 – £50 for a written hearing or £100 for an oral hearing. These charges are repaid in full if the stage 2 appeal is either partially or fully successful.

Appeals, including supporting evidence, must be submitted by email to pren.timber@gov.wales within 60 days of the date of the letter outlining the decision you wish to appeal against.

We welcome receiving appeals in Welsh and will respond to any correspondence in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in processing your appeal.

Appellants or their representatives must not make direct contact with members of the Independent Appeals Panel. We may consider this to be unacceptable behaviour in accordance with [Managing unacceptable behaviour of Welsh Government customers](#). Unacceptable behaviour may lead to the withdrawal of payments and/or the rejection of applications, claims or appeals.

Further details of the appeals process and how to submit an appeal, using the online appeal form, can be obtained from pren.timber@gov.wales

Complaints procedure

Complaints will be dealt with under the Welsh Government's procedure on Complaints. Further advice on how to make a complaint can be obtained from the Complaints Advice Team:

Welsh Government
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park

Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Tel: 03000 251378

E-mail: complaints@gov.wales

Website: [Complaints about Welsh Government](#)

You may also choose to contact the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales:

1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed,
CF35 5LJ

Tel: 0300 790 0203

Website: [Ombudsman](#)

SECTION J: PRIVACY NOTICE: WELSH GOVERNMENT GRANTS

How we will handle any personal data you provide in relation to your grant application or request for grant funding

The Welsh Government provides a wide range of grant schemes to help deliver our policies and create a fairer, more prosperous Wales.

The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide in relation to your grant application or request for grant funding. The information will be processed as part of our public task (i.e. exercising our official authority to undertake the core role and functions of the Welsh Government) and will help us assess your eligibility for funding.

Before we provide grant funding to you, we undertake checks for the purposes of preventing fraud and money laundering, and to verify your identity. These checks require us to process personal data about you to third party fraud prevention agencies.

If we, or a fraud prevention agency, determine that you pose a fraud or money laundering risk, we may refuse to provide the grant funding you applied for, or we may stop providing existing grant funding to you.

A record of any fraud or money laundering risk will be retained by the fraud prevention agencies, and may result in others refusing to provide services, financing or employment to you.

In order to assess eligibility, we may also need to share personal information relating to your application with:

- Natural Resources Wales
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Welsh Local Authorities
- DEFRA

- other UK Government Offices
- regulatory authorities, such as HM Revenue and Customs, Local Authorities, Health and Safety Executive and the Police.

We may also share your information with organisations which deliver training, knowledge transfer and innovation advice and support on behalf of the Welsh Government for the purposes of appropriate targeting of support.

Your information, including your personal information, may be the subject of a request by another member of the public. When responding to such requests the Welsh Government may be required to release information, including your personal information, to fulfil its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental information Act 2004 or the Data Protection Act 2018.

The Welsh Government will publish details of the amounts paid to beneficiaries. Data will be published for all beneficiaries and will include the name and locality of the farmer/land manager and details of the amounts and schemes for which subsidy has been paid. However, for those receiving less than the equivalent of £1,250 in subsidies the name will be withheld. The data will be published annually on 31 May and remain available for two years from the date it is published.

We will keep personal information contained in files in line with our retention policy. If successful in your application, then your personal data will be kept for 7 years after the date when you, as grant recipient, are free from all conditions relating to the grant awarded and all payment have been made. If you are unsuccessful, your details will be kept for one year after the date you provided them.

Under the data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to access the personal data the Welsh Government holds on you
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is the independent regulator for data protection.

For further details about the information the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you want to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer
 Welsh Government
 Cathays Park
 CARDIFF
 CF10 3NQ

Email: dataprotectionofficer@gov.wales

The contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are:

2nd Floor, Churchill House
Churchill Way
Cardiff
CF10 2HH

Telephone: 0330 414 6421

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Should you have any queries regarding this privacy statement please contact prentice.timber@gov.wales

[Privacy notice: Welsh Government grants | GOV.WALES](#)

SECTION K: LEGISLATION

The Making Wood Work for Wales capital scheme delivers against a range of Government commitments and objectives, these are listed below along with the legislation and governance that applies.

The Making Wood Work for Wales capital scheme is governed by Assimilated Law (previously known as Retained EU Law) Council Regulations No. 1305/2013, 1303/2013 and 1306/2013, Implementing Regulation No. 808/2014 and No. 809/2014 and Delegated Regulation 640/2014 and 807/2014 (all as amended from time to time).

The Assimilated Law is implemented in Wales through the following domestic law (all as amended from time to time), including by the Agricultural Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) (EU Exit) Regulations 2021/400 (W.129):

- The Rural Development Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2014/3222 (W.327)
- The Common Agricultural Policy (Integrated Administration and Control System and Enforcement and Cross Compliance) (Wales) Regulations 2014/3223 (W.328)

Funding support for farmers, land managers and associated rural sectors over the next 3 years in response to four Welsh Government strategic objectives which are:

- fostering the competitiveness of agriculture
- contributing towards the sustainable management of natural resources as set out in Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- ensuring climate resilience
- achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment

In addition, there are three cross cutting objectives for the Making Wood Work for Wales grant scheme:

- climate change mitigation and adaptation
- innovation

- environment

Your project will contribute to these cross-cutting objectives.

Your project will contribute towards the Welsh Government's cross-cutting themes of:

- Equality of opportunity and Gender mainstreaming
- Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion
- Welsh Language

In addition, applications for the Making Wood Work for Wales capital grant scheme will address the strategic and thematic objectives of the Welsh Government.

Activities will address at least one of the following Welsh Government priorities:

(1) Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas.

(2) Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests.

(3) Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture.

(4) Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry.

(5) Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in the agriculture, food, and forestry sectors.

(6) Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

SECTION L: CONTACTS

Enquiries

For all enquiries, please email: pren.timber@gov.wales

Access to Welsh Government offices for people with disabilities or special needs

If you have any special needs which you feel are not met by our facilities, contact the Customer Contact Centre on 0300 062 5004. Welsh Government officials will then endeavour to make arrangements to accommodate your requirements.

Welsh Government Website

For all the latest Forestry, Farming and Countryside information, visit the [Welsh Government's website](#).

Gwlad

Gwlad is the Welsh Government's e-newsletter for farm and forestry businesses and all those involved with agriculture and rural Wales. It contains news stories,

guidance and information in an accessible, easy-to-read format. To keep informed and up to date with all the latest agriculture news and developments in future, we would encourage you to sign up to receive the Gwlad e-newsletter. You can do this either at [Announcements | GOV.WALES](#)