Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Sustainable Farming Scheme Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant

Technical Guidance

Contents

SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant Technical Guidance

Introduction

SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant is a scheme aimed at farmers and other land managers to encourage planting of small areas of trees on land which are agriculturally improved or low environmental value in Wales.

Funding is available for tree planting, fencing and gates in a range of locations, including alongside waterbodies, in field corners, or small fields.

Tree planting supported through the grant can deliver a range of practical and environmental benefits. These include providing shelter for livestock, producing timber and woodfuel, and creating valuable wildlife habitat. It can also enhance landscape character and offer opportunities for personal recreation.

The SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant also offers 12 years of Maintenance and Premium payment in respect of the new planting.

The grant can also fund professional advice to help your tree planting deliver greater benefits for your farm.

The application process provides a way of ensuring planting proposals meet the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) requirements without the need for verification of a woodland creation plan by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Funding is available for planting total areas between 0.1 ha and 1.99 ha with a minimum block size of 0.01 ha.

This scheme offers support for planting on the eligible area shown on the RPW Online map only. This excludes priority habitats as well as land above the upper limit of enclosure and common land due to potential landscape impact and other complexities. You should check that the areas you are proposing are in the eligible area before going any further. Areas that are eligible are shown in orange on the map. If not, you will be ineligible for the SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant and will need to apply to the Woodland Creation Planning Scheme (WCPS).

SECTION A - SITE ASSESSMENT

Before you complete your expression of interest you will need to carry out a site assessment of your proposed area for planting. The assessment will help you gather information about the suitability of your location and to develop proposals for your application.

You should refer to the guidance below on **Habitat in the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS)** when considering tree planting on land classed as habitat.

Type of land eligible for support

To protect potentially sensitive habitats, you will need to confirm the area to be planted has been agriculturally improved or is of low environmental value by carrying out a site assessment and referring to the following photos. Photographs giving examples of the types of land eligible for support are shown below. These include areas where agricultural improvement may have occurred some years ago and the land is not species rich.

Improved upland or hill grazing

Areas of dense bracken or soft rush with little species diversity (including under bracken)

Areas of improved lowland type grazing (may include patches of nettles/thistles)

Type of land not eligible for support

You will need to establish if there are any Priority Habitats, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, or species-rich semi-natural habitats where you wish to plant trees, as these areas will not be eligible for support. This should be considered as part of your site assessment. If these habitats are present, you may still be able to apply to the Woodland Creation Planning Scheme instead so that a woodland creation plan can be developed with support from a registered Woodland Planner.

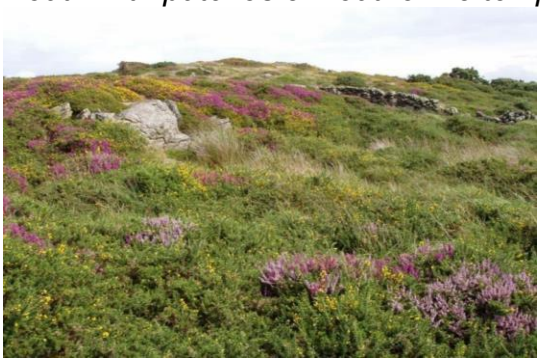
The following photographs are intended as a guide to potential priority and species-rich semi-natural habitats that are not eligible for support. If after comparison with the photos below you are in doubt whether the land is priority or species-rich semi-natural habitat you should seek advice (see Section O of the SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant scheme rules) or consider applying to the Woodland Creation Planning Scheme.

Flower rich hay-meadows and pastures

(Courtesy of Natural Resources Wales)

Areas of rush pasture with high levels of flowering broad-leaved plants (these may only be visible during summer)

Heath with patches of heather - often purple in late summer.



Tussocky Rhos pasture (Purple moorgrass), often wet and unpalatable to livestock

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) are designated by Local Authorities. If you are aware of any such sites on your land, these are ineligible for the SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant. If you wish to plant on these areas you will need to consider applying to the Woodland Creation Planning Scheme (WCPS).

Curlew and other breeding waders

New woodland in some cases may cause detrimental impacts to birds such as curlew, lapwing, redshank, golden plover, dunlin and snipe that occupy open areas. If you are aware of the presence of these birds within 700 metres of your planned woodland creation site, we would encourage you to take expert advice or consult NRW for pre-application advice.

If your planting is in an Important Curlew Area (see link Important Curlew Area) you are also encouraged to take expert advice or consult NRW for pre-application advice. NRW pre-application advice is available for free by contacting gwiriocynlluncoetir@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Consents, permissions, and other considerations

Public rights of way

Owners or occupiers of land with a public right of way across it must keep the route visible and not obstruct or endanger users. Local authorities are responsible for the management of public rights of way. SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant works must not lead to an obstruction or cause a danger to the public. You should consult your Local Planning Authority if any Capital Works require gates or signs to ensure the right of way remains open and fit for use. Where public rights of way are confirmed, conditions will be included in the contract.

You must ensure that any work carried out under SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant is compliant with your responsibility on public rights of way (PRoW). Where fencing is required across a PRoW you will need to contact your Local Authority for authorisation for your proposals for fencing and gates. Specification for fencing and gates supported by the SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant are given at the end of this Technical Guidance booklet. Where public rights of way are confirmed, conditions will be included in the contract which you will need to observe.

Overhead or Underground utilities

As part of the application process, you will need to indicate if there are any overhead or underground utilities within the proposed area. The following websites can help identify any overhead or underground utilities you may not be aware of –

- Wales and West Utilities: gas connections & services (selectra.co.uk)
- Western Power Distribution - Check before you dig - location of our cables and equipment

Where you confirm you have overhead or underground utilities within the planting area, conditions will be included in the contract which you will need to observe.

Planting near main rivers, streams and ponds

The Wet Woodland and Streamside category (1100 or 1600 trees/ha) must be used for any planting within 20 m of a permanent watercourse or pond – see Species Choice section. The category is also appropriate for wetter areas and springs.

You should leave an unplanted buffer of at least 15 m on the south side of a pond, otherwise shading could cause deterioration in the pond. You should ensure rides/paths are planned to enable appropriate access for maintenance.

Work including tree planting, fences or gates on or near a watercourse is likely to need permission. The type of permission depends on whether the watercourse is designated a main river or an ordinary watercourse.

Main rivers

A main river is legally defined as a watercourse shown on the main rivers map – see Natural Resources Wales / Environmental permits for flood risk activities. Main rivers have been designated due to the importance of managing flood risk. Note, even small watercourses may be classed as main rivers.

If applicants want to carry out works in, over, under or near (within 8 metres of) a main river or flood defence (including a sea defence), or within a flood plain, they may need to apply for Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP). This can be obtained from NRW to ensure activities do not cause a risk of flooding or make existing flood risk worse. A permit is also necessary to ensure work will not interfere with NRW flood risk infrastructure or adversely affect the local environment, fisheries or wildlife.

NRW determine FRAP applications to manage flood risk by regulating works and development activities. Certain activities will be permitted in, over, under or adjacent to a main river without charge and without needing a permit, providing certain conditions are met. These activities are classed as exemptions or exclusions: All remaining activities will require a bespoke FRAP.

If applicants do not apply for a FRAP, the consequences could be expensive. NRW can reclaim the costs of putting things right and applicants could also be prosecuted. The Welsh Government may also withhold or recover payments.

Ordinary watercourses

If the watercourse is not a main river, it could be an ordinary watercourse. SG-WC Capital Works will not cause an obstruction to flow, restrict storage or involve erecting a culvert, so do not require Ordinary Watercourse Consent.

Where planting near main rivers, streams and ponds, conditions will be included in the contract which you will need to observe.

Evidence of badgers

Look for evidence such as footprints, hair on fences or spoil heaps. The photographs below give examples of what to look for.

Where evidence of badgers is confirmed, conditions will be included in the contract which you will need to observe to protect a known badger sett.

Badger hair on barbed wire or badger sett spoil heaps

Hedgerows, stonewalls and earth banks included or adjacent to the proposed planting

Boundary features such as hedgerows, stonewalls and earth banks provide habitat connectivity, landscape character and can often provide important information about historical land use and farming practices. This includes ‘old’ redundant hedgerows such as the one pictured below. Earth banks can vary in size from subtle, difficult to detect features, to substantial ramparts. They may indicate settlement areas or boundaries. The latter may have other boundary markers such as old trees, hedges or stones.

Where planting includes or is adjacent to hedgerows, stonewalls or earth banks, conditions will be included in the contract not to plant broadleaves within 2 m and conifers within 5 m of such boundaries.

Red Squirrel Areas

Planting proposals in Red Squirrel Areas must use the Red Squirrel category (1600 or 2500 trees/ha), unless within 20m of permanent watercourse when the Wet Woodland and Streamside category (1100 or 1600 trees/ha) should be used.

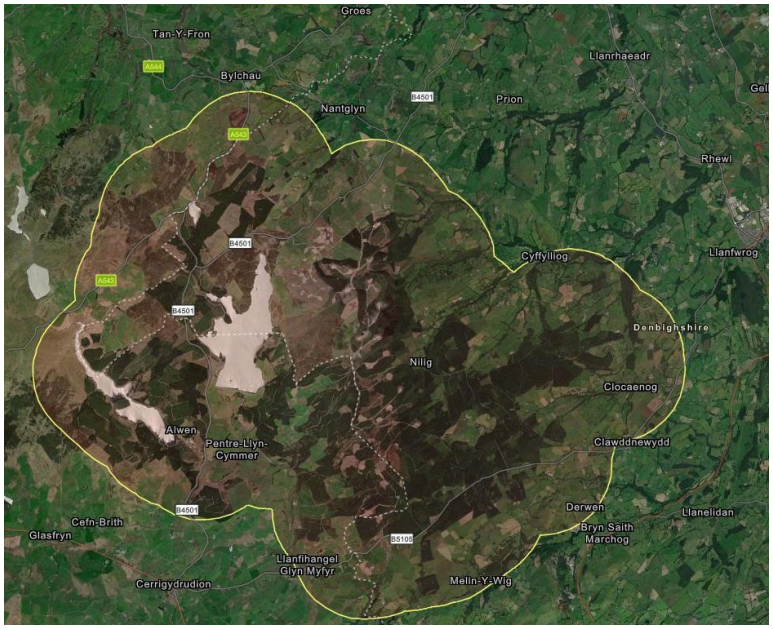
The Red Squirrel Areas below indicate where both red and grey squirrels live,and as such new woodland creation needs to be planned to favour the native species – incorporating a mixture of conifer trees. Areas where grey squirrels are no longer

present (such as Anglesey) arenot included.

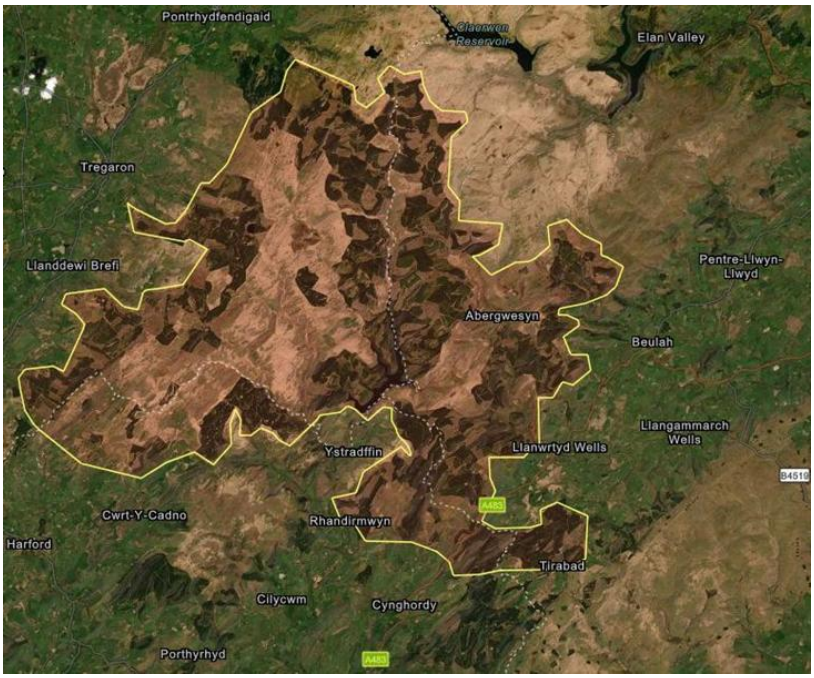
There are two areas, one in the north covering parts of Denbighshire and Conwy, and one in mid Wales covering parts of Ceredigion, Powys and Carmarthenshire. Further information is available from [Squirrels Map - Red Squirrels Trust Wales]

Red Squirrel Areas are available on DataMapWales here: [https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:wom_red_squirrel_areas]

Areas within Denbighshire and Conwy



Areas within Ceredigion, Powys and Carmarthenshire



Protection from deer

Deer are a serious problem on planting sites when they are present in large numbers. Some planting situations may require deer guards to be fitted to the trees; these tend to be large and relatively expensive and may stand out in the landscape.

Where the proposed planting will require protection from deer, you may need to use deer fencing – see specification SW13 in Section 3 – Capital Works Specifications.

Existing Trees

Existing trees (diameter of 8 cm or over) and scrub (areas of poorly formed trees or bushes unsuitable for conversion to timber) have a high environmental value and should not be cleared for new planting but should be incorporated in the planting design up to a maximum of 15%. The total number of trees planted in the plot must match the prescribed planting density. Where there are existing trees and shrubs, trees should be planted closer together in the remainder of the plot to achieve the planting density. The minimum distance between trees should be no less than 1 metre. Where the proposed planting includes existing trees, conditions will be included in the contract.

Note that significant blocks of three or more existing trees (SAF crop codes ZZ10 and ZZ11) will be excluded from the eligible area for this scheme.

Planting adjacent to a non-agricultural building

Tree planting adjacent to residential or commercial properties can have a detrimental impact if not fully considered. If you intend to plant next to a non-agricultural building it is better to engage a registered woodland planner through the Woodland Creation Planning Scheme.

Where the proposed planting is adjacent to a non-agricultural building conditions will be included in the contract.

Habitat in the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) – Universal Layer

This guidance explains where trees may be planted on land classed as habitat under the SFS – Universal Layer, using the SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant (SWCG).

Farmers in the Universal Layer must retain and maintain all semi-natural permanent habitat on their holding and must meet the scheme's 10% habitat requirement. However, in some circumstances, this habitat can be converted to woodland or areas of tree planting.

This guidance should be read alongside the SFS Universal Layer rules booklet, including on your **Tree and Hedgerow Planting Opportunity Plan**, which helps you identify where planting may be appropriate on your farm.

Planting rules

If your farm has 10% permanent habitat (including eligible broadleaf woodland) or more:

- You may plant trees on areas of habitat above the 10% threshold, if:
    - it is shown as eligible on RPW Online, and
    - your site assessment confirms the land is suitable (i.e. it is of low environmental value and is not species-rich habitat).

- You cannot plant on the permanent habitat needed to meet the 10% habitat requirement, unless it is identified as dense bracken – see '*Planting on dense bracken*' below.

- Any SWCG species mixture can be used to plant on eligible land above the 10% threshold. Planting here in blocks of 0.1 ha or more can count as permanent habitat if at least 80% of the area is made up of broadleaf trees.

If your farm has less than 10% permanent habitat (including eligible broadleaf woodland):

- You cannot plant on any existing permanent habitat using SWCG.

- The only exception is dense bracken, which can be planted using the species mixtures listed below.

- Any SWCG species mixture can be used to plant on eligible non-habitat land. Planting here in blocks of 0.1 ha or more can count as permanent habitat towards the 10% requirement if at least 80% of the area is made up of broadleaf trees.

Note – If you are using UA6: Temporary Habitat Creation to meet your 10% habitat requirement, you can use areas of new tree planting (using the SWCG Woodland Categories below) to reduce the amount of temporary habitat needed in future years. For the planting to count towards a scheme year's 10% habitat requirement, it must be completed by 15 May.

Planting on dense bracken

- You can plant the following SWCG species mixtures on permanent habitat identified as dense bracken on your SFS Map:

    - Native Biodiversity 1100 Species Mixture
    - Native Biodiversity 1600 Species Mixture
    - Red Squirrel 1600 Species Mixture
    - Wet Woodland and Streamside 1100 Species Mixture
    - Wet Woodland and Streamside 1600 Species Mixture
    - Fruit and Nut Species Mixture
    - Coastal Species Mixture

- These are mainly native broadleaved and are designed to create or enhance wildlife habitat.

- For the definition of dense bracken see Sustainable Farming Scheme: habitat photo guide.

- New areas of tree planting on dense bracken using these Woodland Categories will continue to count as habitat towards the 10% requirement.

Example – A farm with 10% permanent habitat (including eligible broadleaf woodland) or more

A farm is 100 ha. It has 12 ha of permanent habitat in total, so it is 2 ha above the 10% habitat requirement threshold.

8 ha is mapped as enclosed wetland (bog, fen, mire). The remaining 4 ha has been mapped as dense bracken and is within the eligible area on the SWCG map.

The 8 ha of enclosed wetland is not in the eligible area and cannot be planted on under the SWCG. In the SFS Universal Layer it is managed under UA5: Habitat Maintenance.

The farmer plants "Native Biodiversity 1100 Species Mixture," a broadleaf native mix, on 2 ha of dense bracken to meet the 10% requirement.

The "SW19 - Productive (Woodfuel and Shelterwood) Species Mixture" is planted on the remaining 2 ha of dense bracken (over the 10% requirement threshold).

Example – A farm is considering entering the SFS Universal Layer in the future

and has less than 10% habitat (including eligible broadleaf woodland).

A farm is 100 ha. It needs a minimum of 10 ha to meet the 10% habitat requirement, should they wish to enter the scheme.

There is 7 ha of existing permanent habitat. 5 ha of this is salt marsh and is not in the eligible area on the SWCG map. 2 ha is dense bracken and is in the eligible area.

The farm could plant on the 2 ha of dense bracken using the native broadleaf woodland categories under SWCG. This would continue to count towards the 10% habitat requirement. Alternatively, they could choose to retain the dense bracken or create another new permanent habitat.

The farm needs a further 3 ha to meet the 10% habitat requirement.

Several options are available. These include selecting a combination of options from UA6: Temporary Habitat, creation of new permanent habitat, and/or planting of native broadleaf woodland under the SWCG. The farmer decides to plant 2 ha under the SWCG “Native Biodiversity 1600 Species Mixture”, with 1 ha of UA6: Temporary Habitat planned if they claim the SFS Universal Layer.

The farmer is considering entering the SFS Universal Layer in the following year. The woodland they have created will count towards the 10% requirement when they enter the scheme.

SECTION B - WOODLAND CATEGORY AND SPECIES MIX

The tree species mixtures for each Woodland Category permitted under the SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant are set out in the tables below, along with planting criteria and the potential benefits each Category may offer your farm. If you wish to use other species or mixes you will need to apply to the Woodland Creation Planning Scheme.

It will be important to consider the physical characteristics of the area you wish to plant and your objectives for woodland creation. You should consider whether one Woodland Category will suit the whole area, or whether the area should be sub-divided into areas of the same type. For example, you may have a wetter area at the bottom of a slope where the Wet Woodland and Streamside category (1100 or 1600 trees/ha) is suitable, and an adjoining drier bank where you may wish to use the Native Shelterwood category. The areas to be planted with different Woodland Categories will need to be indicated on a map as part of the on-line application process.

The Wet Woodland and Streamside category (1100 or 1600 trees/ha) is essential for all areas within 20 m of a watercourse and can also be used on wetter ground away from watercourses. The Red Squirrel (1600 or 2500 trees/ha) category is essential within the Red Squirrel Areas but can also be used elsewhere.

You are advised to responsibly source planting stock through nurseries or suppliers that adhere to national standards such as the Plant Health Management Standard, or that have their own biosecurity policy in place that you trust. Also, to specify British-grown plants when sourcing planting stock, to reduce the risk of an accidental introduction of invasive non-native pests or diseases.

The level of protection required to enable trees to establish will vary depending on the site being planted. In some cases, tree guards will not be required, but where they are considered necessary, we would encourage land managers to consider the use of non-plastic alternatives if appropriate for the site conditions. For further advice if required, see Section O of the SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant scheme rules booklet.

SW01 - Native Biodiversity 1100 Species Mixture

Why choose this category

- Create and connect habitat for native Welsh wildlife

Additional benefits

- Store carbon in trees and soil
- Provide a sustainable source of biomass and firewood (e.g. for biomass burners)
- Support farm diversification
- Reduce farm business dependence on buying in biomass or firewood
- Increase resilience to timber price volatility

Criteria

- 100% broadleaves
- Average density of 1,100 trees/ha equivalent to 3 m spacing between trees. Aim for non-uniform spacing – some trees close together with gaps between small clumps of trees.
- Where possible plant next to existing woodland and hedges
- Minimise use of herbicide
- Manual planting or mechanical mounding/screefing
- Leave at least 1 metre gap from any fence (new or existing)
- Plant a minimum of 5 species and a maximum of 10 species from the table below, with no species consisting of less than 10% or more than 25% of the total trees planted
- No more than three woody shrubs (indicated with an * in the table below) up to a maximum of 30% of the total can be chosen.

	Challenging Planting Conditions					
Species *shrubs	Drought Prone Sites	Exposed (upland)	Exposed (coastal)	Alkaline Soils	Winter Waterlogging	**All other land**
Crab apple	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Field Maple	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Alder	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Silver Birch	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Downy Birch	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Hornbeam	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Black poplar	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Aspen	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Wild Cherry	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Bird Cherry	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Sessile oak	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Pedunculate oak	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Goat Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Grey Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Rowan	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Small-leaved lime	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Wild Service	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Elder	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Guelder rose*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable

Hawthorn*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Blackthorn *	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Holly*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Hazel*	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Dogwood*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable

SW02 - Native Biodiversity 1600 Species Mixture

Why choose this category

- Create and connect habitat for native Welsh wildlife

Additional benefits

- Store carbon in trees and soil
- Provide a sustainable source of biomass and firewood (e.g. for biomass burners)
- Support farm diversification
- Reduces farm business dependence on buying in biomass or firewood
- Increase resilience to timber price volatility

Criteria

- 100% broadleaves
- Average density of 1,600 trees/ha equivalent to 2.5 m spacing between trees. Aim for non-uniform spacing – some trees close together with gaps between small clumps of trees.
- Where possible plant next to existing woodland and hedges
- Minimise use of herbicide
- Manual planting or mechanical mounding/screefing
- Leave at least 1 metre gap from any fence (new or existing)
- Plant a minimum of 5 species and a maximum of 10 species from the table below, with no species consisting of less than 10% or more than 25% of the total trees planted
- No more than three woody shrubs (indicated with an * in the table below) up to a maximum of 30% of the total can be chosen.

	Challenging Planting Conditions					All other land
Species *shrubs	Drought Prone Sites	Exposed (upland)	Exposed (coastal)	Alkaline Soils	Winter Waterlogging	
Crab apple	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Field Maple	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Alder	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Silver Birch	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Downy Birch	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Hornbeam	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Black poplar	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Aspen	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Wild Cherry	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Bird Cherry	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Sessile oak	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Pedunculate oak	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Goat Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Grey Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Rowan	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Small-leaved lime	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Wild Service	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable

Elder	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Guelder rose*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Hawthorn*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Blackthorn *	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Holly*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Hazel*	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Dogwood*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable

SW03 - Native Shelterwood Species Mixture

Why choose this category

- Provide shade and shelter for stock in adjoining fields
- Improve farm biosecurity

Additional benefits

- Extend grazing season
- Create and connect habitat for native Welsh wildlife
- Store carbon in trees and soil

Criteria

- 100% broadleaves
- Average density of 2,500 trees/ha to improve impact of shelterwood equivalent to 2 m spacing between trees
- Minimise use of herbicide
- Manual planting or mechanical mounding/screefing
- Leave at least 1 metre gap from any fence (new or existing)
- Plant a minimum of 5 species and a maximum of 10 species from the table below, with no species consisting of less than 10% or more than 25% of the total trees planted
- No more than three woody shrubs (indicated with an * in the table below) up to a maximum of 30% of the total can be chosen.

*	Challenging Planting Conditions					All other land
Species *shrubs	Drought Prone Sites	Exposed (upland)	Exposed (coastal)	Alkaline Soils	Winter Waterlogging	
Crab apple	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Field Maple	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Alder	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Silver Birch	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Downy Birch	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Hornbeam	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Black poplar	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Aspen	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Wild Cherry	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Bird Cherry	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Sessile oak	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Pedunculate oak	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Goat Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Grey Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Rowan	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Small-leaved lime	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Wild Service	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Elder	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Guelder rose*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Hawthorn*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable

Blackthorn *	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Holly*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Hazel*	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Dogwood*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable

SW04 - Red Squirrel 1600 Species Mixture

Why choose this category

- Suitable for Red Squirrel Areas.
- Create and connect habitat for the endangered red squirrel and other native species

Additional benefits

- Stores carbon in trees and soil
- Grow trees for timber
- Increase resilience to timber price volatility
- Provide a sustainable source of biomass and firewood (e.g. for biomass burners)
- Support farm diversification

Criteria

- Average density of 1,600 trees/ha equivalent to 2.5 m spacing between trees. Aim for non-uniform spacing – some trees close together with gaps between small clumps of trees.
- Minimise use of herbicide
- Manual planting or mechanical mounding/screefing
- Leave at least 1 metre gap from any fence (new or existing)
- Plant a minimum of 5 species and a maximum of 10 species from the table below, with no species consisting of less than 10% or more than 25% of the total trees planted
- This can include a maximum of 10% woody shrubs (indicated with an *) and 20% conifer species (indicated with ©).

	Challenging Planting Conditions					All other land
Species *shrubs	Drought Prone Sites	Exposed (upland)	Exposed (coastal)	Alkaline Soils	Winter Waterlogging	
Silver Birch	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Downy Birch	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Guelder rose*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Hawthorn*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Blackthorn *	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Holly*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Dogwood*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Sitka Spruce ©	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Norway spruce ©	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Scots Pine ©	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Douglas fir ©	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Lodgepole Pine ©	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable

SW05 - Red Squirrel 2500 Species Mixture

Why choose this category

- Suitable for Red Squirrel Areas
- Create and connect habitat for the endangered red squirrel and other native species

Additional benefits

- Stores carbon in trees and soil
- Grow trees for timber
- Increase resilience to timber price volatility
- Provide a sustainable source of biomass and firewood (e.g. for biomass burners)
- Support farm diversification

Criteria

- Average density of 2,500 trees/ha equivalent to 2 m spacing between trees
- Minimise use of herbicide
- Manual planting or mechanical mounding/screefing
- Leave at least 1 metre gap from any fence (new or existing)
- Plant a minimum of 5 species and a maximum of 10 species from the table below, with no species consisting of less than 10% or more than 25% of the total trees planted
- This can include a maximum of 10% woody shrubs (indicated with an *) and 20% conifer species (indicated with ©).

	Challenging Planting Conditions					All other land
Species *shrubs	Drought Prone Sites	Exposed (upland)	Exposed (coastal)	Alkaline Soils	Winter Waterlogging	
Silver Birch	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Downy Birch	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Guelder rose*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Hawthorn*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Blackthorn *	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Holly*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Dogwood*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Sitka Spruce ©	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Norway spruce ©	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Scots Pine ©	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Douglas fir ©	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Lodgepole Pine ©	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable

SW10 - Wet Woodland and Streamside 1100 Species Mixture

Why choose this category

- Improve water quality
- Reduce surface water run off – slow the flow
- Reduce soil erosion
- Create and connect habitat for native Welsh wildlife
- Create more dappled shade along watercourses (e.g. for salmon)

Additional benefits

- Store carbon in trees and soil
- Stock management and biosecurity

Criteria

- Use this option if within 20 m of permanent watercourse or pond
- 1,100 trees/ha with non-uniform spacing – some trees close together with gaps between small clumps of trees
- Establish and maintain a variable, predominantly open woodland canopy with half the watercourse open to sunlight and the remainder under dappled shade
- Leave 1 m open ground at the water edge for bank side vegetation
- No herbicide/pesticide use
- Manual planting only
- Leave at least 1 metre gap from any fence (new or existing)
- Plant a minimum of 5 species and a maximum of 10 species from the table below, with no species consisting of less than 10% or more than 25% of the total trees planted
- This can include a maximum of 20% woody shrubs (indicated with an *)
- No more than 10% alder should be planted

	Challenging Planting Conditions					
Species *shrubs	Drought Prone Sites	Exposed (upland)	Exposed (coastal)	Alkaline Soils	Winter Waterlogging	**All other land (inc. acidic soil)**
Alder	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Bird Cherry	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Silver Birch	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Downy Birch	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Black poplar	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Aspen	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
White Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Goat Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Grey Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Elder	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Guelder rose*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Hawthorn*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Blackthorn *	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Holly*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable

SW11 - Wet Woodland and Streamside 1600 Species Mixture

Why choose this category

- Improve water quality
- Reduce surface water run off – slow the flow
- Reduce soil erosion
- Create and connect habitat for native Welsh wildlife
- Create more dappled shade along watercourses (e.g. for salmon)

Additional benefits

- Store carbon in trees and soil
- Stock management and biosecurity

Criteria

- Use this option if within 20 m of permanent watercourse or pond
- 1,600 trees/ha with non-uniform spacing – some trees close together with gaps between small clumps of trees
- Establish and maintain a variable, predominantly open woodland canopy with half the watercourse open to sunlight and the remainder under dappled shade
- Leave 1 m open ground at the water edge for bank side vegetation
- No herbicide/pesticide use
- Manual planting only
- Leave at least 1 metre gap from any fence (new or existing)
- Plant a minimum of 5 species and a maximum of 10 species from the table below, with no species consisting of less than 10% or more than 25% of the total trees planted
- This can include a maximum of 20% woody shrubs (indicated with an *)

	Challenging Planting Conditions					
Species *shrubs	Drought Prone Sites	Exposed (upland)	Exposed (coastal)	Alkaline Soils	Winter Waterlogging	**All other land (inc. acidic soil)**
Alder	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Bird Cherry	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Silver Birch	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Downy Birch	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Black poplar	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Aspen	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
White Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Goat Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Grey Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Elder	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Guelder rose*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Hawthorn*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Blackthorn *	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Holly*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable

SW14 - Fruit and Nut Species Mixture

Why choose this category

- Produce food
- Create and connect habitat for native Welsh wildlife (e.g. pollinators)
- Support farm diversification

Additional benefits

- Reduce soil erosion
- Improve water quality
- Reduce surface water run off – slow the flow

Criteria

- Average density of 800 trees/ha equivalent to 3.5 m spacing between trees
- Minimise use of herbicide
- Manual planting or mechanical mounding/screefing
- Leave at least 1 metre gap from any fence (new or existing)
- Plant a minimum of 5 species and a maximum of 10 species from the table below, with no species consisting of less than 10% or more than 25% of the total trees planted
- This can include a maximum of 15% woody shrubs (indicated with an *) and 30% commercial fruit trees (indicated with an f).

Species *shrubs	Suitable for sheltered sites on well-drained soil
Apple (f)	
Crab apple	
Elder	
Pear (f)	
Plum (f)	
Wild cherry	
Walnut	
Black Walnut	
Blackthorn *	
Hazel*	

SW18 - Coastal Species Mixture

Why choose this category

- Reduce soil erosion
- Provide shade and shelter for stock in adjoining fields

Additional benefits

- Improve water quality
- Stores carbon in trees and soil
- Reduce surface water run off – slow the flow
- Create and connect habitat for native Welsh wildlife

Criteria

- Available within 500 m of the coast
- Average density of 800 trees/ha equivalent to 3.5 m spacing between trees. Aim for non-uniform spacing – some trees close together with gaps between small clumps of trees.
- Minimise use of herbicide
- Manual planting or mechanical mounding/screefing
- Leave at least 1 metre gap from any fence (new or existing)
- Plant a minimum of 4 species and a maximum of 10 species from the table below, with no species consisting of less than 10% or more than 35% of the total trees planted
- This can include a maximum of 50% woody shrubs (indicated with an *)

	Challenging Planting Conditions					All other land
Species *shrubs	Drought Prone Sites	Exposed (upland)	Exposed (coastal)	Alkaline Soils	Winter Waterlogging	
Crab apple	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Elder	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Aspen	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Alder	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Sessile oak	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Black Poplar	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Lime	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Wild Cherry	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Rowan	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Sycamore	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Hawthorn*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Guelder rose *	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Blackthorn *	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Holly*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Hazel*	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable

SW19 - Productive (Woodfuel and Shelterwood) Species Mixture

Why choose this category

- Grow trees for timber, biomass and firewood (e.g. for biomass burners)
- Increase resilience to timber price volatility
- Improve farm biosecurity
- Store carbon in trees and soil
- Provide shade and shelter for stock in adjoining fields
- Support farm diversification
- Improve farm self sufficiency

Additional benefits

- Create and connect habitat for native Welsh wildlife
- Extend grazing season

Criteria

- Average density of 2,500 trees/ha to improve impact of shelterwood equivalent to 2 m spacing between trees
- Minimise use of herbicide
- Manual planting or mechanical mounding/screefing
- Leave at least 1 metre gap from any fence (new or existing)
- Plant a minimum of 5 species and a maximum of 10 species from the table below, with no species consisting of less than 10% or more than 25% of the total trees planted
- This can include a maximum of 15% woody shrubs (indicated with an *) and 45% conifer species (indicated with ©).

	Challenging Planting Conditions					All other land
Species *shrubs	Drought Prone Sites	Exposed (upland)	Exposed (coastal)	Alkaline Soils	Winter Waterlogging	
Crab apple	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Field Maple	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Alder	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Silver Birch	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Italian Alder	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Downy Birch	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Hornbeam	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Black poplar	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Aspen	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Wild Cherry	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Bird Cherry	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Sessile oak	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Pedunculate oak	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Goat Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Grey Willow	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Rowan	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Small-leaved lime	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Service	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Elder	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable

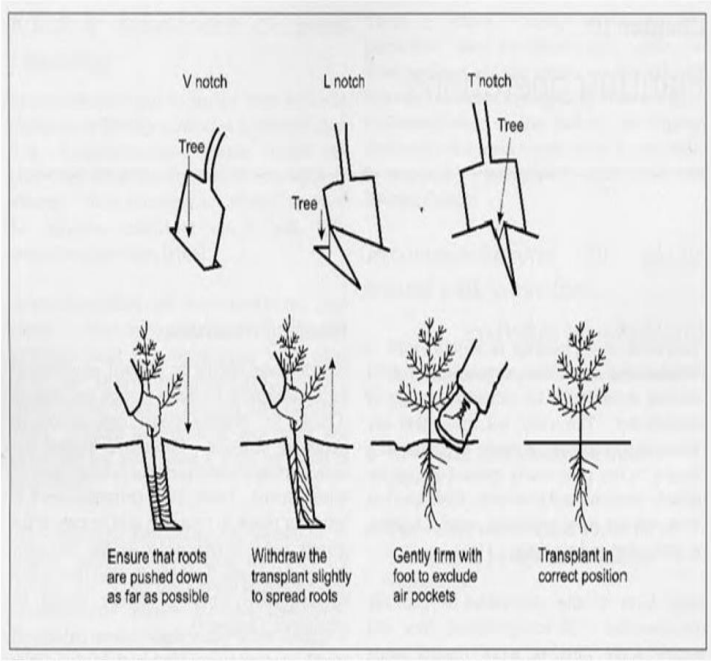
Sycamore	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Sweet Chestnut	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Guelder rose*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Hawthorn*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Blackthorn *	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Holly*	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Hazel*	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Dogwood*	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Sitka Spruce ©	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable
Norway spruce ©	Unsuitable	Suitable	Unsuitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
Red cedar ©	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Douglas fir ©	Yes	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Unsuitable	Suitable
Lodgepole Pine ©	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable

SECTION C - CAPITAL WORKS SPECIFICATIONS

Methods of Planting

Planting must be carried out using manual planting, scarification, or inverted & hinge mounding. If you intend to carry out your proposed planting using an alternative method, your expression of interest will be ineligible.

Manual planting - refers to using a planting spade to make a notch in which to plant a tree. The type of notch will depend on the soil conditions and the size of tree. The simple “V” notch is often suitable for smaller bare-root stock; “L” and “T” notches may work better for tree stock which has larger roots.



Scarification is the shallow cultivation of topsoil, including moving away any debris and vegetation, prior to planting. When mechanised, this is done in rows with spacing corresponding to the required tree stocking density. A manual alternative is screefing which involves moving the topsoil with (depending on the difficulty of the site) the planting spade, the heel of a boot, a mattock or a grub hoe. **Mechanised scarification cannot be used for Wet Woodland and Streamside 1100 and 1600.**

Inverted mounding uses machinery to turn over the surface layers to a depth of about 20 cm. The extracted material is placed back in the hole that it came from. **Cannot be used for Wet Woodland and Streamside 1100 and 1600.**

Hinge mounding uses machinery and the mound of earth turned over is placed next to the hole, with the vegetation acting as the hinge. **Cannot be used for Wet Woodland and Streamside 1100 and 1600.**

SW06 - Post and Wire Fencing with Stock Netting

These are the minimum standards of work required in order to be eligible to receive payment for 'Post and Wire Fencing with Stock Netting'.

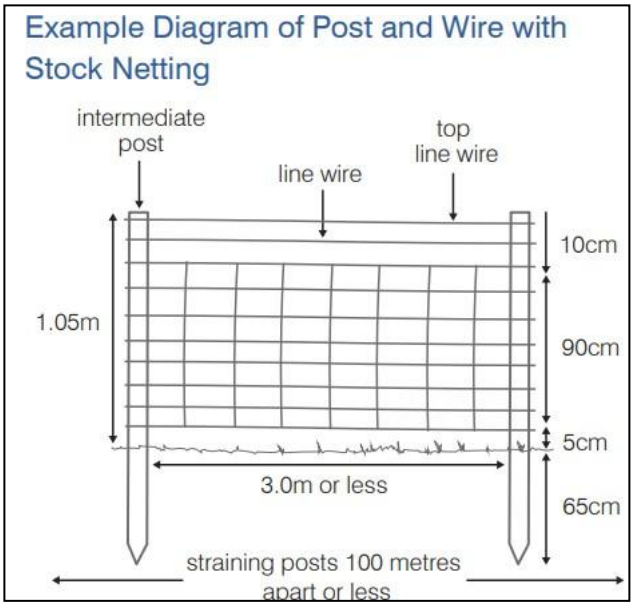
You must adhere to the following:

- Ensure that you have obtained, and adhere to any licences, consents or permissions that are needed.
- Use fencing timber comprising either hardwood or pressure treated softwood.
- Ensure that timbers, wire, netting and galvanised staples consist of new materials.
- Use straining posts that are a minimum of 12.5 cm cross section and at least 2 m long. Straining posts must be set into the ground at a sufficient depth to ensure stability. Straining posts must be placed at either end of the fence line and at centres of 100 m or less, as well as at every horizontal or vertical change of direction.
- Attach struts at each end of the fence line and at all changes of slope and direction. Struts must have a top diameter of at least 6.5 cm and must be supported to prevent them splaying outwards. Use intermediate posts that are at least 6.5 cm diameter (round posts and sawn timber) and at least 1.7 m long. Half round posts are acceptable provided they measure at least 6.5 cm from the midpoint of the sawn side to the midpoint of the round side. Intermediate posts must be set at centres of 3 m or less.
- Attach netting to posts with galvanised staples.
- Attach wire to posts with galvanised staples with the distance from the ground to the top wire no less than 1.05 m. In cases where there is heavy pressure from sheep or cattle, a second line wire on top of the netting as well as an additional wire at the bottom should be added. The top wires of any fencing erected next to public access routes must consist of plain wire or an additional line of plain wire must be affixed to the outside of the posts closest to the route in question.
- Ensure that the new fencing conforms to British Standards 1722 and 4102, as amended.
- Use trees and shrubs as strainers or fencing posts, or attach wire, staples or netting to them.

Requirements and guidance in addition to the specifications above

- Best practice is to set the posts at least 1 m into the ground to ensure stability.
- Diagonal struts must be supported with either a base plate or a suitably positioned intermediate post to prevent them splaying outwards.
- Ensure that you have the appropriate Flood Risk Activity Permit if you are planting or fencing near a main river, flood plain or flood defence structure. As such, the permit/consent (or confirmation that a permit/consent is not needed) should be retained and made available on request. See Terms and Conditions for more details.

- Where Small Grants - Woodland Creation activities include the installation of access furniture such as stiles or gates on a Public Right of Way, it is your responsibility to ensure you obtain approval under Section 147 of the Highways Act, 1980, from the appropriate Highway Authority.



SW13 - Deer fencing

These are the minimum standards of work required in order to be eligible to receive payments for deer fencing. Fencing timber must comprise either hardwood producedfrom Welsh woodlands or pressure treated softwood. A minimum life of 10 years is required for all timbers used. Trees and shrubs must not be used as strainers or fencing posts nor may they be used to support fencing wire, staples or netting.

Fencing timbers, line wire, netting and staples used to construct approved fence lines must always consist of new materials. The standard payments include an allowance for the dismantling, removal and safe disposal of existing derelict fences.All materials and construction standards must also conform to the following detailed specifications in addition to British Standards 1722 and 4102:

Materials And Construction – Deer Fencing

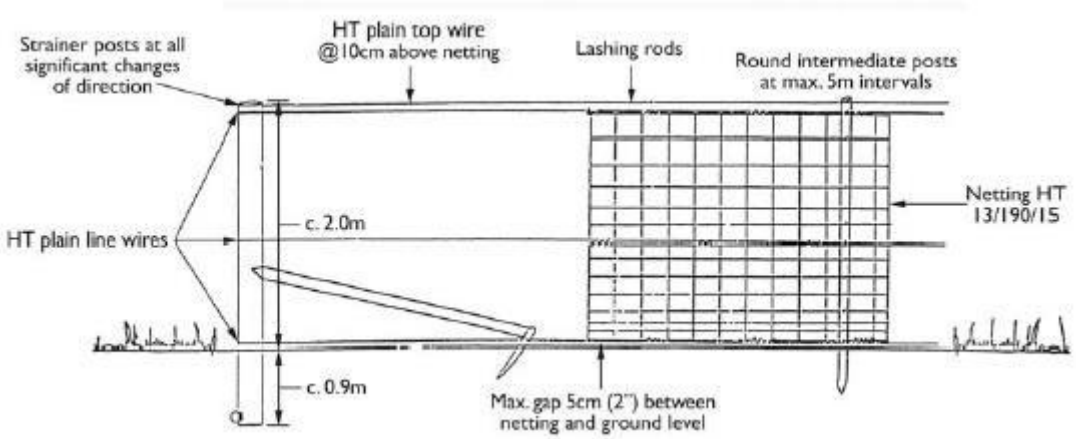
Straining posts	3 m x 15 cm top diameter minimum	10 ft x 6”
Struts	2.75 m x 10-13 cm top diameterround timber	9 ft x 4-5”
Intermediate posts	2.75 m x 8-10 cm top diameterround timber	9 ft x 3-4”
Netting	Either High Tensile type Or Light Weight High Tensile type	HT/13/190/15 LHT/13/190/15
Top wire	1 x 12 ½ g high tensile plain wire	
Line wire	3 x 12 ½ g high tensile plain wire	
Staples	4 cm (1 ½ “) 8g	
Finished height	1.9 m – 2 m (6ft4” – 6 ft6”)	

Construction

Strainer posts to be situated at change of direction (either horizontal or vertical) or maximum 200m (ca. 600ft) on straight run. Dug or driven a minimum 90 cm (3ft) intothe ground. The strainer struts to be notched and nailed to straining posts stabilisedwith a sawn rail thrust plate of 50 cm x 38 cm x 76 cm (1 ft9” x 1½” x 3”). Intermediateto be spaced at 5m (16 ft6”) intervals maximum.

The netting must be properly strained and fixed to give a maximum gap of 5 cm (2”) between the bottom of the net and the ground. A single top wire to be set 10 cm (4”) above the top of the netting. The line wires to be set such that the bottom strand runsalong the bottom of the netting; the middle strand runs at a height of 1m (3 ft4”) from ground level and the top strand to run along the top of the netting. All line wires to befixed securely to the netting with pig rings or lashing rods.

Diagram – D



SW07 - Timber Bridle Gate and Posts

These are the minimum standards of work required in order to be eligible to receive payments for 'Timber Bridle Gate and Posts'.

You must adhere to the following:

- Install Timber Bridle Gates and Posts constructed from either pressure treated softwood or hardwood.
- Install gates that are at least 1.5 m wide and 1.3 m high. Ensure there is sufficient space on one side of the gate for the horse to stand while the gate is being opened.
- Use a ready-made gate or construct a gate. All gate timbers must meet the following dimensions:
  – Uprights should be at least 10 cm x 7.5 cm in cross section.
  – All rails should be 7.5 cm x 2.5 cm in cross section except the top rail which should be 10 cm x 7.5 cm.

- Hang the gate so that it can be opened from both directions.
- Fit latches that allow the gate to be opened without the rider dismounting.
- Ensure that all post timbers must meet the following dimensions: – Hanging posts must be at least 15 cm diameter – Shutting posts must be at least 12 cm in diameter – Posts must be set into the ground to a sufficient depth to ensure stability.
- Ensure the gate is compliant with BS5709.

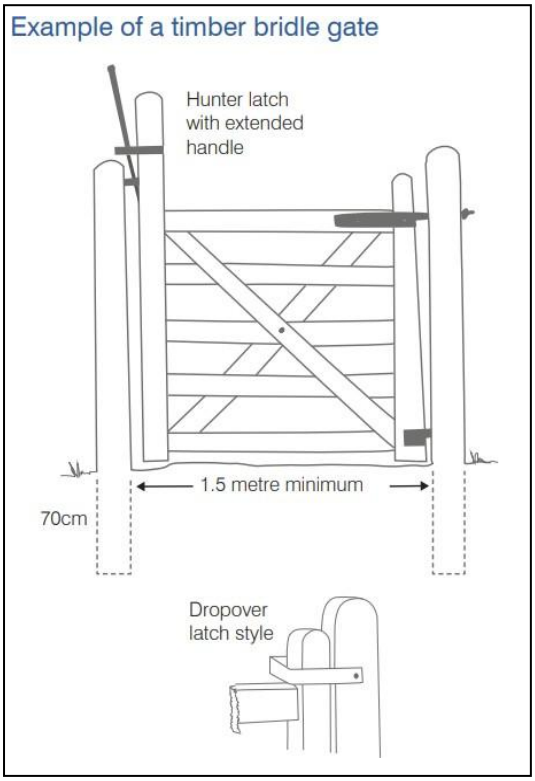
Do not:

- Install bridle gates and posts on Public Rights of Way (PRoW) unless approved by the Welsh Government.
- Use concrete to secure posts in the ground, as it can lead to rotting of the posts at ground level.

Requirements and guidance in addition to the specifications above:

- Use an 'extended' or a 'drop over' latch to allow the gate to be opened without the rider dismounting.
- In areas prone to vandalism, the top hook can be reversed to prevent the gate being lifted off.
- Best practice is to set the posts at least 70 cm into the ground to ensure stability.

Example of a timber bridle gate



SW08 - Timber Kissing Gate and Posts

These are the minimum standards of work required in order to receive payments for 'Timber Kissing Gate and Posts'. Kissing gates are used to allow walkers to cross field boundaries.

You must adhere to the following:

- Install Timber Kissing Gates and Posts constructed from either pressure treated softwood or hardwood.
- Install a kissing gate that is stock-proof with the gate in any position yet allowing free passage for pedestrians.
- Ensure that the kissing gate is an effective barrier against motorcycles and horses.
- Use a ready-made gate or construct a gate. All gates must meet the following dimensions;
- The gate must be 1.2 m wide and 1.2 m high.
- A 1m cylinder, must be able to pass through. Note that the 'throat' dimension (the narrowest space to pass through when the gate is opened) must be at least 1m.
- Ensure that post and rails meet the following dimensions;
  – Uprights should be at least 10 cm x 7.5 cm in cross section.
  – Rails should be 7.5 cm x 2.5 cm in cross section except the top rail which should be 10 cm x 7.5 cm.
  – Hanging posts must be at least 15 cm diameter.
  – Shutting posts must be at least 12 cm in diameter.
  – Posts must be set into the ground to a sufficient depth to ensure stability.

- Hang the gate so that the gate hooks are 'offset' by 3 cm. This will cause the gate to close against one of the side posts when released.
- Ensure the gate is compliant with BS5709. The least restrictive furniture must be used as possible e.g. a gate is less restrictive than a stile.

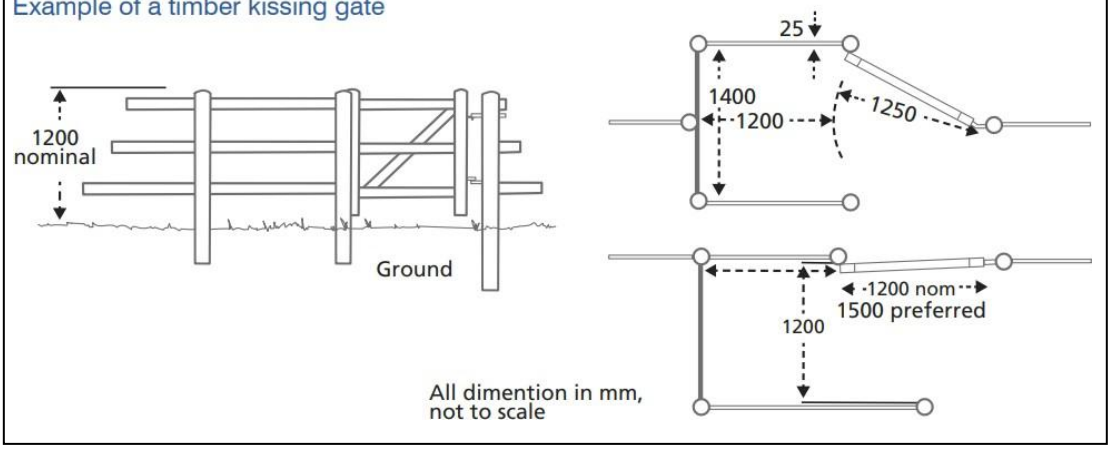
Do not:

- Use concrete to secure posts in the ground, as it can lead to rotting of the posts at ground level.
- Use any barbed wire on the kissing gate.

Requirements and guidance in addition to the specifications above:

- For added protection against stock, a self- closing latch can be fitted.
- In areas prone to vandalism, the top hook can be reversed to prevent the gate being lifted off.
- Best practice is to set the posts at least 70 cm into the ground to ensure stability

Example of a timber kissing gate



SW15 - Standard Gate (metal)

This technical note describes the minimum standard of work required in order to receive payment.

Requirements

- A standard new 12 ft galvanised seven bar pattern field gate, hot-dip galvanised steel.
- Top and bottom rails should be at least 41 mm. Diameter tubes and middle rails at least 32 mm. Hanging and slamming posts should be either galvanised steel 88 mm diameter tubes or treated softwood at least 175 mm x 175 mm in cross section.

SW16 - Standard Gate (hardwood)

This technical note describes the minimum standard of work required in order to receive payments for 'Standard Gate (Hardwood)'. Any variation must be approved by the Welsh Government prior to starting the work.

You must adhere to the following

- Install timber field gates that are at least 2.4 m wide, but no more than 4.2 m wide. Any openings greater than 4.2 m must have two leaves.
- Use timber field gates constructed from hardwood only, which complies with the dimensions set out in the diagram below.
- Use timber field gates that conform to the specifications set out in the diagram below as well as those of British Standard 3470, as amended.
- Hang gates on timber gate posts at least 2.1 m long. Hanging posts must be at least 200 mm x 200 mm in cross section. Shutting posts must be at least 175 mm x 175 mm in cross section.
- Set gateposts correctly into the ground, using concrete if necessary and fit with appropriate hangings and latches.

Do not

- Use hanging or shutting posts as straining posts for fencing. A short length of split timber should be used to form a horizontal strut between the gate post and adjacent straining post.
- Use second hand material for constructing gates unless approved in advance by the Welsh Government.

SW17 - Standard Gate (softwood)

This technical note describes the minimum standard of work required in order to receive payments for ‘Standard Gate (Softwood)’. Any variation must be approved by the Welsh Government prior to starting the work.

You must adhere to the following

- Install timber field gates that are at least 2.4 m wide, but no more than 4.2 m wide. Any openings greater than 4.2 m must have two leaves.
- Use timber field gates constructed from hardwood or pressure treated softwood, which complies with the dimensions set out in the diagram below.
- Use timber field gates that conform to the specifications set out in the diagram below as well as those of British Standard 3470, as amended posts must be at least 175 mm x 175 mm in cross section.
- Set gateposts correctly into the ground, using concrete if necessary and fit with appropriate hangings and latches.

Do not:

- Use hanging posts or shutting posts as straining posts for fencing. A short length of split timber should be used to form a horizontal strut between the gate post and adjacent straining post.
- Use second hand material for constructing gates unless approved in advance by the Welsh Government.

SW99 - Funding for Advice

The payment covers the costs of farm specific advice not covered in technical guidance. The advice payment accompanies the establishment payment and is limited to one payment per applicant, per year.

The payment is not automatic and should be claimed for in the same way as other capital items after completion of the works.

SW63 - Piped Water Supply

This technical specification describes the minimum standard of work required in order to receive payments for 'Piped Water Supply'. Any variation must be approved by the Welsh Government prior to starting the work. Piping can be used to supply drinking water to water troughs where stock have been prevented from accessing a permanent watercourse or pond by SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant activities.

This grant is only available where it is necessary to exclude stock from areas to be planted with the following tree species mixes:

- **SW10 Wet Woodland and Streamside 1100 Species Mixture**
- **SW11 Wet Woodland and Streamside 1600 Species Mixture**
- **There can be a maximum of 500m of Water Pipes per application**

You must adhere to the following:

- Install piping made from medium density blue polyethylene with a minimum external diameter of 2.5 cm.
- Use watertight joints made of brass or plastic.
- Bury pipework to a sufficient depth to prevent damage from surface activities.
- Reinstate disturbed ground to match the surrounding ground once pipework has been
- completed.
- Protect any pipework above ground from animal or frost damage.
- Ensure any pipes crossing open ditches or tracks are suitably protected. The pipe must be covered by a tubular steel guard or sleeve pipe, laid sufficiently below the ditch to allow space for ditch cleaning. When crossing farm tracks, ensure the pipe is sufficiently protected below the track.
- Control water supply at the point of supply and at each trough by isolating valves/stop cocks.
- The isolating valves/stop cocks must be protected against frost and damage from stock, and must be easily accessible.
- Where valve/stop cocks are buried, this must be at a minimum of 60 cm and access should be available through a covered inspection chamber.
- Ensure that the water is able to supply sufficient cold potable water to continuously refill all the water troughs along its length throughout the year within 10 minutes.
- Ensure all water supply works are compliant with British Standards Codes of Practice BS 6572, as amended.

Do not:

- Damage other services such as water supply, waste, gas, electricity or telephone.

Requirements and guidance in addition to the specifications above:

- Consider combining access to valve positions with field drains to make inspection access easier.

- Consider a range of factors when determining pipe diameter. These include: water pressure, water capacity, variable flow, length of pipe, changes in altitude, volume of water required, number of troughs, number and type of stock using each trough.
- Where joints are buried underground, it is advisable to mark their locations, on fence posts for example, to assist with future maintenance.
- Bury pipework to a minimum depth of 60 cm although this may need to be deeper if future deep ploughing or sub-soiling is envisaged.
- Lay pipes by trenching, mole plough or sub-soiler, depending on soil type and machinery available.
- Best practice when laying pipes under a ditch is that it is laid 60 cm below the ditch to allow space for ditch cleaning.
- Best practice when laying pipes under farm tracks is to lay the pipe on a 7.5 cm bed of sand and then covered by a further 10 cm of sand before being overlaid by backfill.

SW21 - Water Gate

This technical specification describes the minimum standard of work required in order to receive payments for 'Water Gate'. Any variation must be approved by the Welsh Government prior to starting the work. Water gates are required to control stock where fence lines cross rivers and streams. They are especially useful where the water level varies considerably throughout the year.

This grant is only available where it is necessary to exclude stock from areas to be planted with the following tree species mixes:

- **SW10 Wet Woodland and Streamside 1100 Species Mixture**
- **SW11 Wet Woodland and Streamside 1600 Species Mixture**
- **There can be a maximum of 5 Water Gates per application**

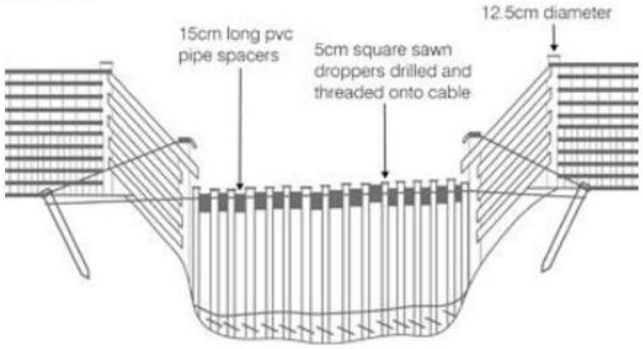
You must adhere to the following:

- Construct a gate comprising a series of wooden droppers attached to a length of cable or a round wooden rail which is suspended horizontally between straining posts. Each gate has to be constructed to fit the profile of the individual stream.
- Ensure the water gate is separated from the main fence line by short lengths of wooden rail or netting, fixed to straining posts that have been suitably positioned.
- Attach droppers that are at least 5 cm square in cross section. Droppers must be constructed from sawn untreated timbers. The droppers must be drilled and threaded onto the cable of fencing wire with 15 cm lengths of plastic pipe acting as spacers. As a result, each dropper is 15 cm apart.
- Increase the dimensions of the droppers to at least 7 cm square, where the stream gully is over 1.5 m deep. Hang droppers on a round wooden pole using loops of fencing wire.

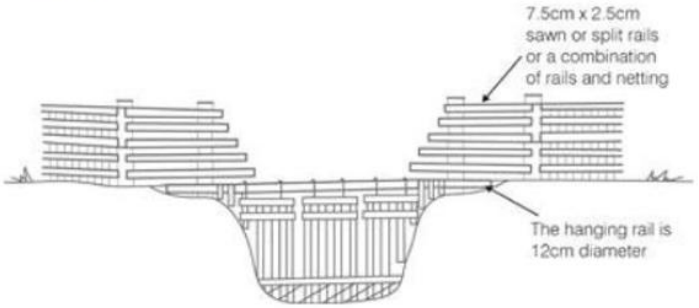
Requirements and guidance in addition to the specifications above:

- Suitable crossing points will have a hard river bottom and reasonable access from both banks.
- The correct choice of crossing points will make both construction and maintenance easier.
- Hanging the gate separately from the main fence allows the gate to be pulled off during heavy floods without damaging the main fence. Minimum damage will be caused to the gate which can then be recovered, repaired and repositioned.
- It is advisable to create larger water gates in several sections which will reduce the risk of the whole gate being lost or damaged during severe floods.
- It is advisable to periodically clear the base of the water gate, as the accumulation of debris at the base of the water gate will put pressure on both wires and stakes and can result in damage.
- Hang water gates at an angle, with the bottom of the gate resting on the streambed on the downstream side. This prevents stock passing underneath when the water level drops.

Examples of water gates



Examples of water gates



SW22 - Water Troughs

This technical specification describes the minimum standard of work required in order to receive payments for 'Water Troughs'. Any variation must be approved by the Welsh Government prior to starting the work. Water troughs can be used to supply drinking water to livestock where they have been prevented from accessing a permanent watercourse or pond by SFS Optional: Small Woodland Creation Grant activities.

This grant is only available where it is necessary to exclude stock from areas to be planted with the following tree species mixes:

- **SW10 Wet Woodland and Streamside 1100 Species Mixture**
- **SW11 Wet Woodland and Streamside 1600 Species Mixture**
- **There can be a maximum of 5 Water Troughs per application**

You must adhere to the following:

- Use water troughs made of galvanised steel, plastic or concrete.
- Install a trough at least 1.8 m length. They must either be connected to a water supply or
- supplied from a bowser on a regular basis, in order to provide sufficient potable water.
- The standard payment includes the cost of fittings such as ball cocks etc.
- Use water troughs that have been specifically designed for the purpose.
- Install the trough so that it does not spill or leak water – the payment rate includes an
- allowance for base supports.
- Ensure that water troughs conform to current British Standard Codes of Practice.

Do not:

- Locate water troughs in gateways or near footpaths.
- Locate water troughs in wet ground due to the risk of poaching.

Requirements and guidance in addition to the specifications above:

- Do not locate water troughs in known areas of botanical or wildlife interest.
- Aim to cause least landscape impact by locating the trough at the edge of fields, and choose a material that has the minimum impact when viewed as part of the surrounding landscape.
- Install troughs of sufficient size to supply the type and number of stock in the field with their water requirements.