

# **Mackinnon and Woodland Creation Essentials**

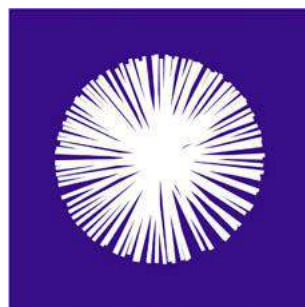
## **Welcome and Mackinnon Review update**

Tim Liddon FICFor  
March 2018

# Welcome



**Forestry Commission Scotland**  
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba



Scottish  
Environment

**LINK**



# Mackinnon

- **The Report**
  - **2 Key Issues**
  - **9 Areas of Concern**
  
- **These can be split into:**
  - **Process**
  - **Culture**

# Workstreams and Delivery Reference Group

- Six work streams
  1. Pre-application and consultation process
  2. EIA processing improvement
  3. Approval process
  4. Management information and targets
  5. Promotion training and public information
  6. Pilot with Local Authority
- Primarily aimed to improve process times

## Members included:

- ConFor
- Environmental Link
- FCS
- ICF
- SEPA
- SG
- SNH
- UKFPA
- Offer advice
- To look at Culture

# Culture

	FCS	Applicants	Stakeholders
Negative	Risk averse – Fear of Failure Micro management Confrontational approach Too helpful Inconsistent	Confrontational approach Fear of failure/rejection Unrealistic Uncompromising	“Risk averse” (prove the –ve) Confrontational approach NIMBY’s (Initial thoughts are negative)
		Inconsistent Extreme/single interest	
Positive	Professional UKFS Agreed Standards Respect Technically Competent Open-minded		
	Confident Constructive Informative/Expert Focused	Realistic Breadth of scope Listening	Proportionate Compromising Understanding of their role
	Business-like Honesty / transparency		

- We need to see a bigger shift from negative to positive
- FCS
- Applicants
- Stakeholders

# The Elephant in the Room



# Elephant Examples

- UKFS

In ancient semi-natural woodlands, avoid introducing non-native species unless they would maintain or enhance the ecological function of the woodland.

- Consultation

Due diligence inadequate on a 10ha mixed scheme – an SAC was missed and neighbours not consulted.

# Elephant Examples

- UKFS

In ancient semi-natural woodlands, avoid introducing non-native species unless they would maintain or enhance the ecological function of the woodland.

- Consultation

Due diligence inadequate on a 10ha mixed scheme – an SAC was missed and neighbours not consulted.



# A professional is...



# Professionalism in Forestry

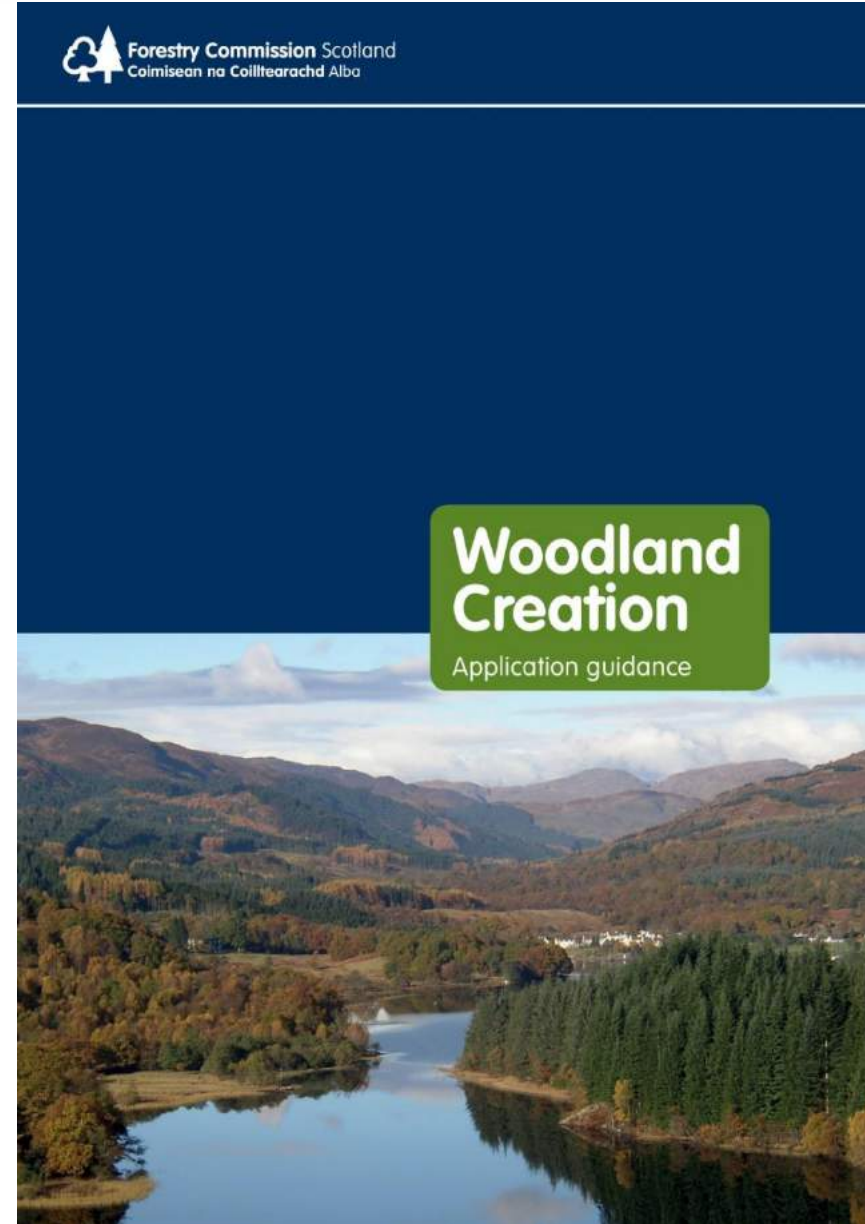
- Act with integrity
- Always provide a high standard of service
- Treat others with respect
- Take responsibility
- Act in a way that promotes trust in the profession
- Have regard for sustainability throughout your work

# Introduction to Woodland Creation Application Guidance

Presenter varied with location



- Work through three stages of the guidance
  - Exercises
- Local woodland creation case example
- FGS Update



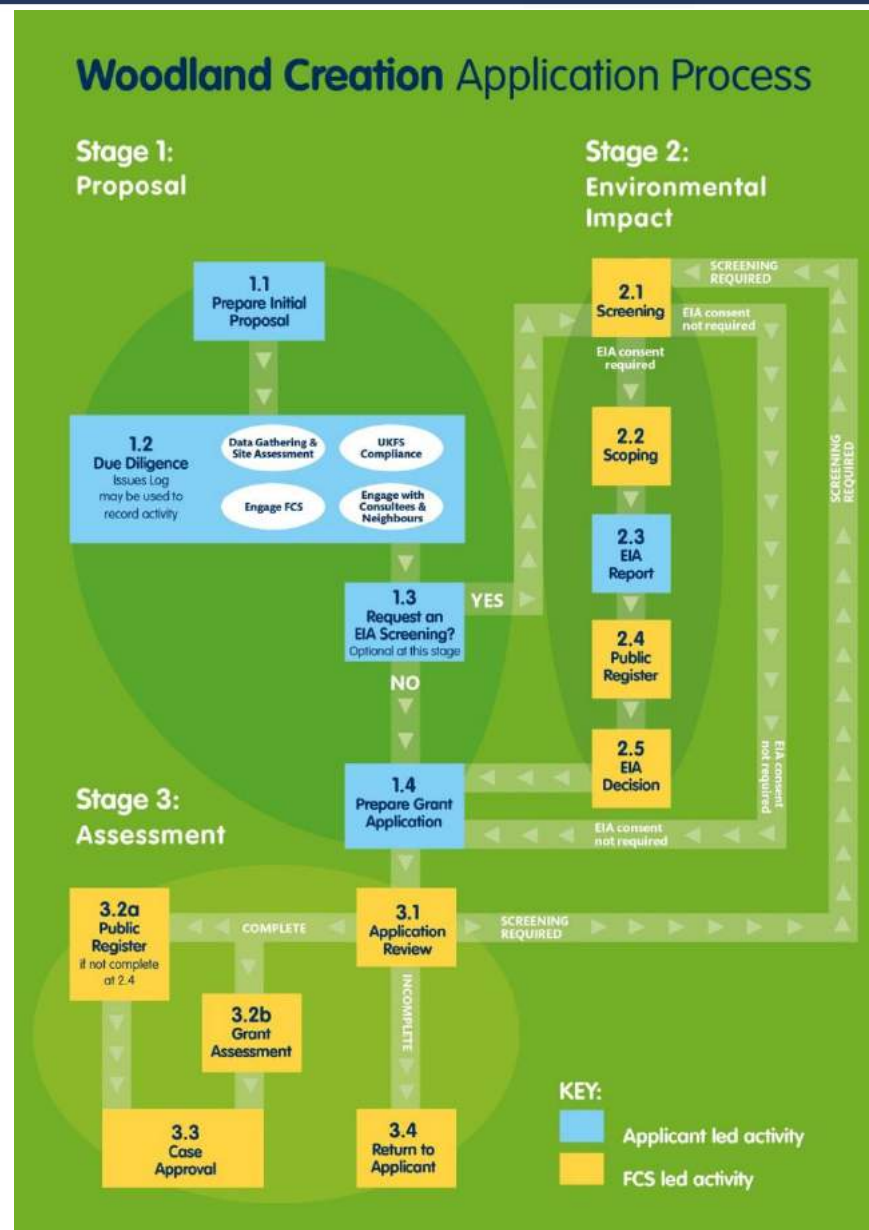
- Why follow the guide?
  - Sets out objectives
  - Demonstrates an understanding of site constraints and opportunities
  - Help prevent surprises
  - Provides information for EIA screening opinion
  - Takes account of grant requirements



- Grant support for woodland creation
- The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
- Woodland compensatory planting

## • Three Stages

- Proposal – due diligence
- Environmental Impact – screening and scoping opinions, EIA report
- Assessment – grant assessment, UKFS, public register





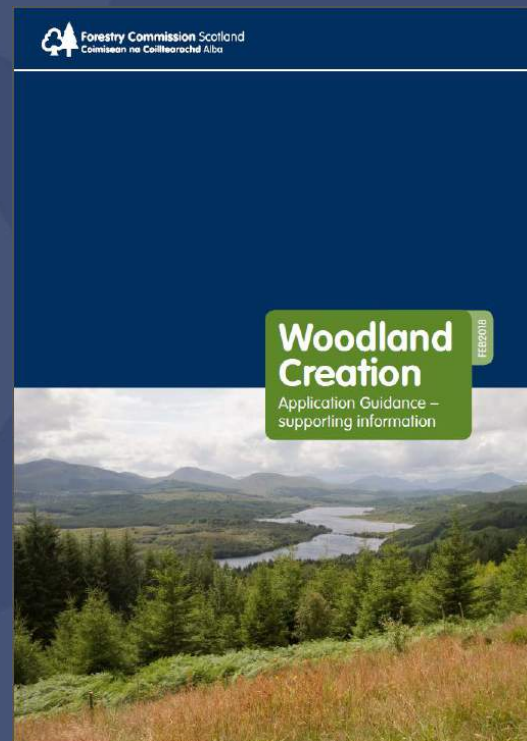
- Depends on the size and complexity of your proposal
- Concise, clear rationale, use of tables and maps
- Templates are provided
  - Operational Plan
  - Issues Log
  - EIA Screening Opinion Request Form

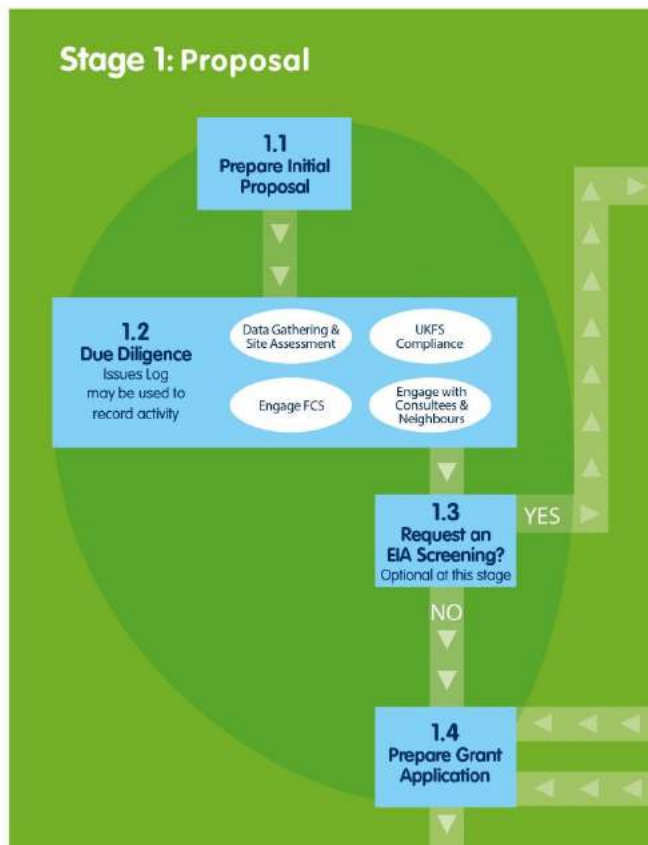
**Example Issues Log**

Issue (include date and raised by)	Applicant's response	FCS Comments	Agreed Mitigation	Status (Open, Closed)	Significance of Impact (High, Medium, Low)
e.g. Archaeology – Scheduled Monument at NS123456. HES, 23/10/16.	e.g. Scheme design includes OG to buffer Scheduled Monument as per UKFS. John Smith, 25/10/16	e.g. Applicant has taken on board HES feedback and designed the scheme in accordance with best practice. Susan Jones, 27/10/17.	e.g. 20 metre OG buffer around scheduled monument (SM).	e.g. Closed	e.g. Low
<b>Population &amp; Human Health</b>					
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>					
<b>Soil</b>					
<b>Biodiversity</b>					
<b>Landscape</b>					
<b>Material Assets</b>					
<b>Water</b>					
<b>Air</b>					
<b>Climate</b>					
<b>Land Use</b>					

# Preparing your Woodland Creation Proposal

Presenter varied with location











We provide guidance that:

- will help guide collection of **relevant** information,
- will encourage **early engagement** with FCS and others,
- is centred on **UKFS** compliance.

## UKFS Requirements for Forests and Biodiversity

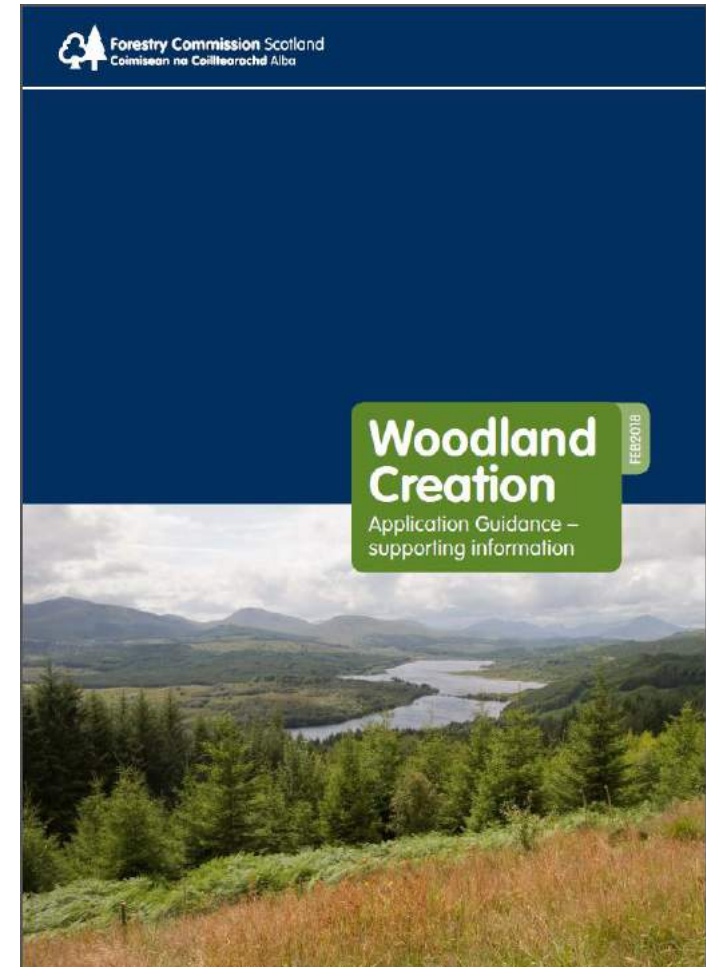
### Protected habitats and species

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-   **1** Appropriate protection and conservation must be afforded where sites, habitats and species are subject to the legal provisions of EU Directives and UK and country legislation. Advice can be obtained from the relevant authorities on minimising potentially adverse effects for management activity likely to affect them. An appropriate assessment for a Natura 2000 site should be undertaken as part of a Habitats Regulations Appraisal required under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).   **12**
-   **4** Particular consideration should be given to conserving, enhancing or restoring priority habitats and species identified in the statutory lists of priority species and habitats for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, through the delivery of country biodiversity strategies and local level plans.

## Scope of Site Investigation

1. Determine if there are existing survey data or maps that can be used.
2. Stratify the site to recognise those areas with a feature of interest from areas where there are none.
3. To recognise (and map) the location of features that will require **mitigation** or provide opportunities for **supporting** woodland creation.



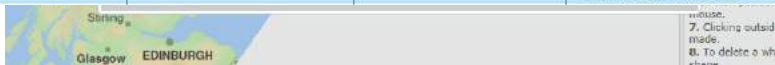
## Process Outline

1. The Applicant takes a **proactive** approach to collection and presentation of individual site information prior to application submission.
2. The Applicant should **engage** early with FCS staff. To help provide guidance on key areas to consider for each site.
3. Early information collection may help stratify the site for more **rapid** assessment.

## Two Main Information & Evidence Collection Processes That Could be Utilised for the Preliminary Investigation:

### 1) Existing data sources: Desk Based Assessment

Desk based assessment of the following areas:	Data or information type	Source of information	Additional guidance
<b>Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suitability of soils for planting</li> <li>If there is deep peat on site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forests and Scotland's soils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deep peat (This shows where peat is likely to be found, but not its depth: the applicant will need to undertake a survey to establish the extent of deep peat)</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the site is next to a flood defence</li> <li>If the site is in an acidified catchment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital maps showing catchments vulnerable to acidification</li> <li>Flood maps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing forests in acid sensitive water catchments</li> </ul>
<b>Historic Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presence of known historic environment sites and features, and/or areas identified as having high potential for identifying and recording new sites and features.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCS Historic Environment Resource Guide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic Environment Scotland should be consulted on Scheduled Monuments and Inventory Battlefield and Gardens &amp; Designed Landscapes</li> <li>The relevant Local Authority should be consulted on non-scheduled historic environment features</li> <li>The provision of archaeological information and advice in Scotland to meet the UKFS</li> </ul>



### 2) Ground Truthing: (for example Walkover Survey, Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey).

Desk based assessment of the following areas:	Data or information type	Source of information	Additional guidance
<b>Habitats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location of Priority Habitats as identified by Article 1 of the Habitats Directive</li> <li>Location of plants named on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atlas of Living Scotland (NBN Scotland)</li> <li>Local record centre</li> <li>Local Vice County recorders,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Protected Habitats and Plant Species</li> <li>Annex I habitats and Annex II species occurring in the UK</li> </ul>



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Environment | **Scottish Biodiversity List**

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
	Main group	Taxon group	Scientific Name	Common name	Conservation action needed	Avoid negative impacts	Watching brief only	Link to Species Records on NBN Gateway	Threatened species	Legally protected species	S1 - on UKBAP list	S2 - Internatnl. Obligation	S3 - Rare in the UK (<16 10km sqs)	S4 - <6 Scottish 10km sqs	S5 - >25% Scottish Decline		
1	Mammals	land mammal	<a href="#">Felis silvestris</a>	<a href="#">Wildcat</a>	Yes	Yes		<a href="#">NBN map</a>		EPS 1,2,3		Yes				Yes	
2	Mammals	land mammal	<a href="#">Lepus europaeus</a>	<a href="#">Brown Hare</a>	Yes			<a href="#">NBN map</a>			Yes					Yes	
3	Mammals	land mammal	<a href="#">Lepus timidus</a>	<a href="#">Mountain Hare</a>		Yes		<a href="#">NBN map</a>		HR 1994 <sup>3</sup>						Yes	
4	Mammals	land mammal	<a href="#">Lutra lutra</a>	<a href="#">Otter</a>		Yes		<a href="#">NBN map</a>	NT	EPS 1,2,3	Yes	Yes					
5	Mammals	land mammal	<a href="#">Martes martes</a>	<a href="#">Pine Marten</a>		Yes		<a href="#">NBN map</a>		HR 1994 <sup>2,3</sup>	Yes						
6	Mammals	land mammal	<a href="#">Microtus arvalis</a>	<a href="#">Orkney Vole</a>			Yes	<a href="#">NBN map</a>					Yes				
7	Mammals	land mammal	<a href="#">Mustela putorius</a>	<a href="#">Polecat</a>		Yes		<a href="#">NBN map</a>		HR 1994 <sup>3</sup>	Yes						



# Ground truthing

All sites should be visited by the applicant for a “Ground truthing”


Level of inspection dependant on site:

- Size
- Complexity
- Sensitivity

Verify desk based assessment

Identify missing data

- E.g. Notable or protected habitats
- Protected species
- Archaeological features
- Areas of potential GWDTE



### RSPB DATA REQUEST FORM

OFFICE USE

This Data Request Form enables you to specify the data you need for your purpose. We will use the information you provide to assess the appropriate data for supply. We will respond within 10 working days of receipt of this form to confirm whether the data are available, normally by issuing a Data Supply Contract specifying the data that can be supplied and their conditions of use. There may be a charge made to cover the time we spend assessing and fulfilling your request if this is substantial or if you are using the data for commercial purposes.

We will make every attempt to fulfil all reasonable requests for data and to supply data within 30 days of the signed return of our Data Supply Contract.

When applicable, charges relate to the time taken by RSPB to extract and supply the data. The charges consist of £150+VAT for the first hour taken plus £75+VAT per hour for the second and subsequent hours. If the data requested are already wholly available via the NBN Gateway but you prefer to request the data direct from the RSPB, the charges are £150+VAT per hour for each and every hour taken to supply the data.

Please note that many RSPB datasets are now available through the NBN Gateway (see: [www.nbn.org.uk](http://www.nbn.org.uk)). You may prefer to access data through via the NBN as no charges are applied and the data may be immediately available for you to download. It is not yet possible to supply geographic subsets of datasets via the NBN.

**1 DETAILS OF PERSON/ORGANISATION REQUESTING RSPB DATA**  
Your details are held on file so that we can administer your request and retain your request history. If you are requesting access to a jointly owned or licensed dataset, we may share the information provided below with those co-owners or licensors.

CONTACT NAME	
ADDRESS	DELIVERY ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT
POSTCODE	POSTCODE
EMAIL	TELEPHONE
MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES OR OTHER ACCREDITATION (including membership numbers):	

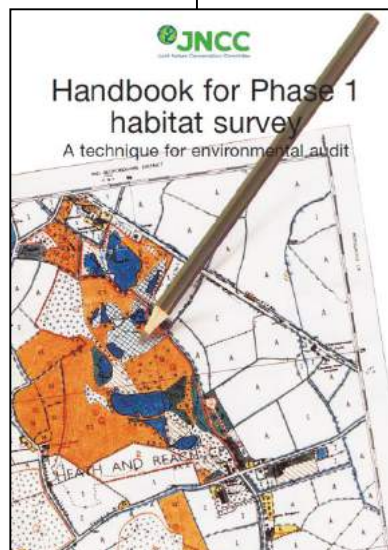
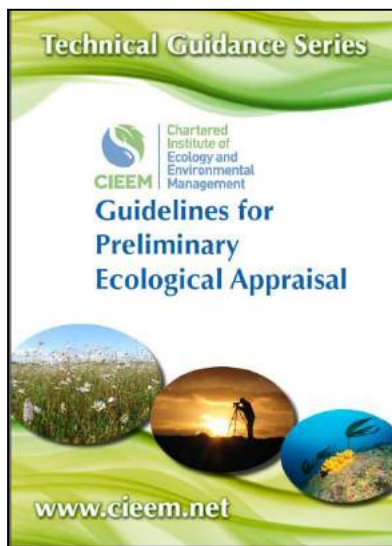
Corncrake	CE	Red	Not recorded. Passage birds a low possibility in spring.	The possibility of corncrake using this site on passage is remote. There are numerous other areas of marshy grassland in the wider area and it is very unlikely that this species would be affected.
Curlew	CU	Red	Not recorded. Breeding is considered possible.	See text above.
Goldfinch	GO	Green	Small post-breeding flock noted. May breed in small numbers.	A common widespread species. This species will likely increase in the long term following planting.
Grasshopper Warbler	GH	Red	Not recorded on site. May breed in wetter areas.	If present as a breeding bird, this species is likely to be associated with the margins of the wetter areas such as the peatlands. These areas will be retained as open ground. There may be some loss of habitat for this species.
Jay	J.	Green	Recorded on site. Likely to breed in existing woodland either on site or nearby.	A common widespread species. This species will likely increase in the long term following planting.

Would flag the potential need for breeding habitat survey and early consultation with RSPB.

For the collection of missing evidence for Water, Soils, Habitats, and Species a ground survey is necessary: walkover or extended Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Phase 1 survey are options.

1) Existing data sources:  
Desk Based Assessment

2) Ground Truthing: (for example Walkover Survey or Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey).

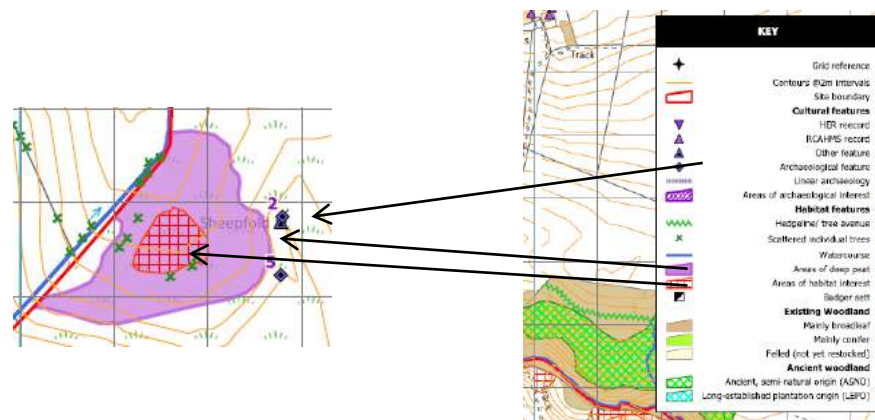


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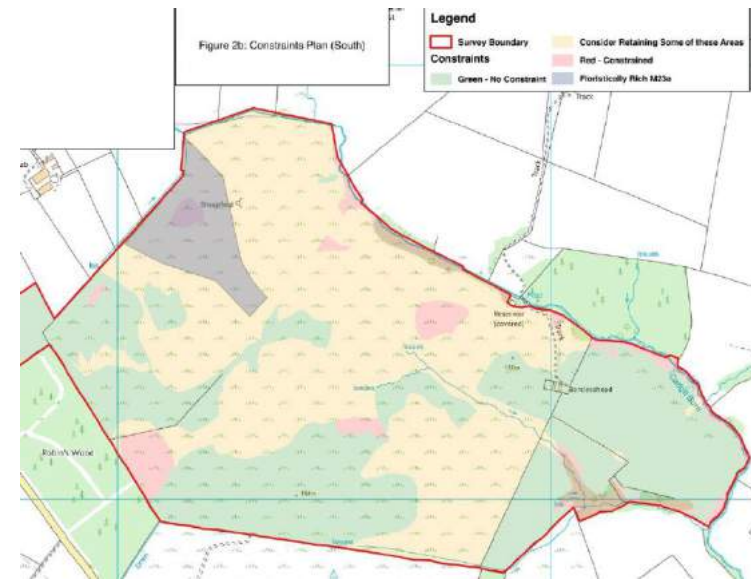
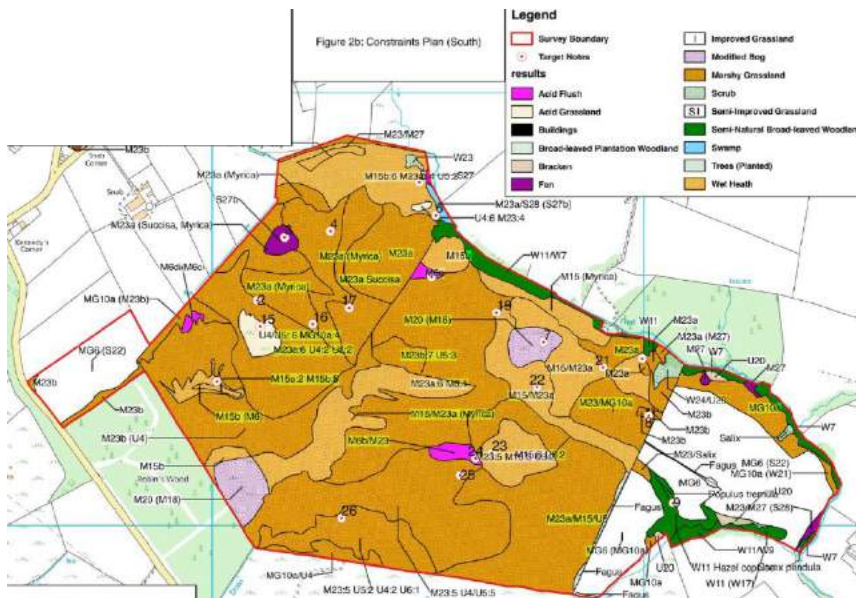
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# Habitat Sensitivity

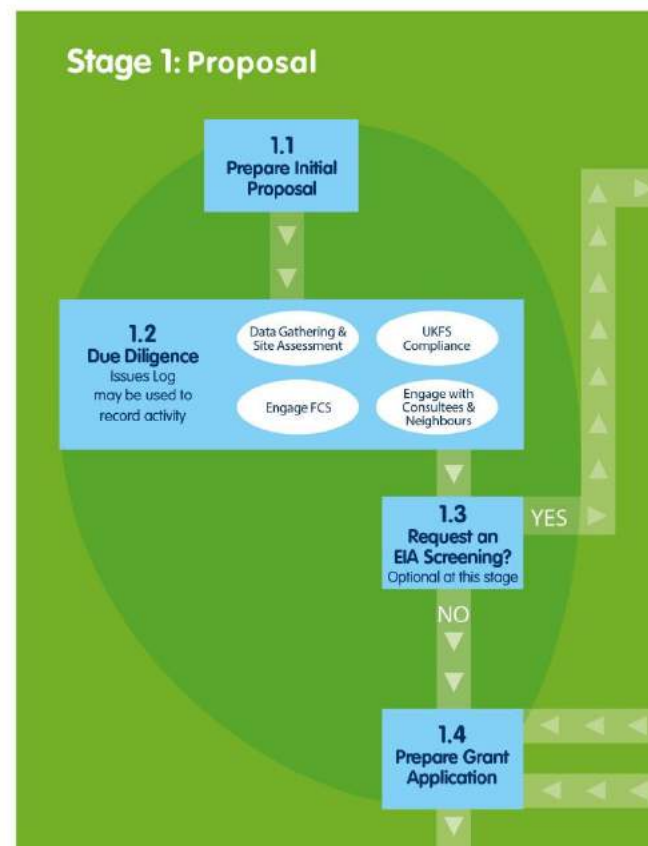
For sites with **significant sensitivity** a single map could combine all this desk and survey information into an assimilated Red/Amber/Green map of Habitat Sensitivity: with

**Red** being sites that must be protected or surveyed in detail,  
**Amber** where new information will be required, and  
**Green** being sites with no issues, features or constraints.



## Summary

- Engage early.
- Collect **relevant** information to support proposal (e.g. mitigation) OR **evidence** of investigations that reveal no constraints.
- Consider using the **Issues Log** to record this process from start – good evidence and **known history**.
- Consider the use of RAG mapping to present site evidence for **significantly sensitive** sites.



# Woodland Creation Proposal

Exercise answers

*From the information provided what are the main constraints and opportunities and how will these impact on the extent or design of woodland creation on the estate?*

*On the Issues Log provided list constraints and opportunities under the following headings Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Biodiversity, Landscape, Material assets, Water, Air, Climate and Land.*

Constraints or Opportunity	Impact on design
Population and Human Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water supplies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and protect with OG,</li> <li>May limit cultivation options</li> </ul>
Cultural heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archaeology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and protect</li> </ul>
Soil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESC limits</li> <li>Deep peat</li> <li>GWDTE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limits WC area and area eligible for grant</li> <li>Identify and protect</li> </ul>
Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deer</li> <li>Birds</li> <li>European protected species</li> <li>Designated sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need protection</li> <li>Identify species using site then adapt design accordingly.</li> <li>May limit WC area, species choice and area eligible for grant.</li> </ul>
Landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Viewpoints</li> <li>Wildland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify key views and design edges carefully</li> <li>May limit tracks/roads</li> </ul>
Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preferred area on forestry strategy</li> <li>Loss of agriculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced grant available</li> <li>Quantify agricultural use and significance regionally</li> </ul>
Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River system</li> <li>GWDTE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May limit cultivation options</li> <li>Identify and protect</li> </ul>



*What sources of information could be used to inform the desk assessment?*

- Scotland's Environment Web
- Land Information Search
- NWSS / ESC
- Aerial photos,
- Local forestry strategy
- Deer Management Plan
- Timber Transport preferred routes map
- National Record of Historic Environment
- Site link
- National Biological Network
- River Basin Management Plan etc.

*What surveys or assessments do you think will be required? Which of these could you do and which would need commissioning?*

- Peat depth
- Soils
- Phase 1 Habitat / NVC if sensitivity identified
- Archaeology
- Visual appraisal
- Water supply locations and catchments
- Mammal/EPS survey
- Breeding birds if sensitivity identified

*Who are the key stakeholders and how would you expect the agent to engage with them?*

Constraints or Opportunity	Stakeholder
Population and Human Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water supplies</li> </ul>	Neighbours Scottish Water
Cultural heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archaeology</li> </ul>	Neighbours Local authority archaeologist
Soil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESC limits</li> <li>Deep peat</li> <li>GWDTE</li> </ul>	FCS SEPA
Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deer</li> <li>Birds</li> <li>European protected species</li> <li>Designated sites</li> </ul>	DMG & SNH RSPB FCS & SNH SNH
Landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Viewpoints</li> <li>Wildland</li> </ul>	Community Council & Local Authority SNH
Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preferred area on forestry strategy</li> <li>Loss of agriculture</li> </ul>	Local Authority RPID and farming tenant
Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River system</li> <li>GWDTE</li> </ul>	Fisheries Board SEPA
Material Assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmhouse/Cottages</li> <li>Radio Mast</li> </ul>	Neighbours and farming tenant Police Scotland

# EIA Process and the Issues Log

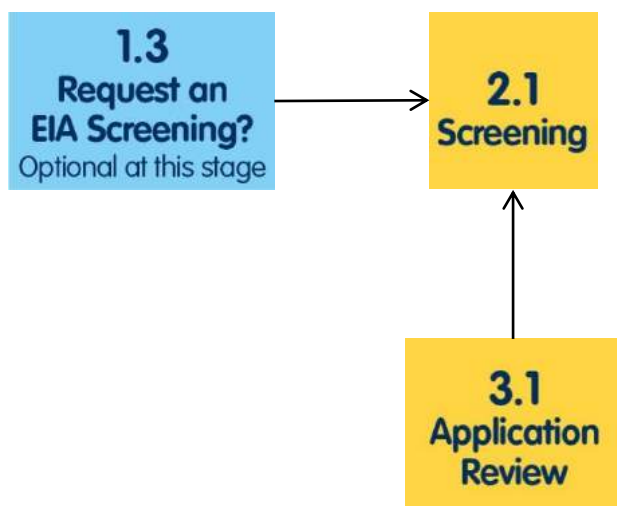
Presenter varied with location

- Changes to EIA resulting from guidance
  - Issues Log
- Mackinnon recommendations
  - 21 recommendations
  - 8 pertaining to EIA for woodland creation
- 2017 Regulations changes





- Design (and EIA process) should be separate to the FGS grant application process

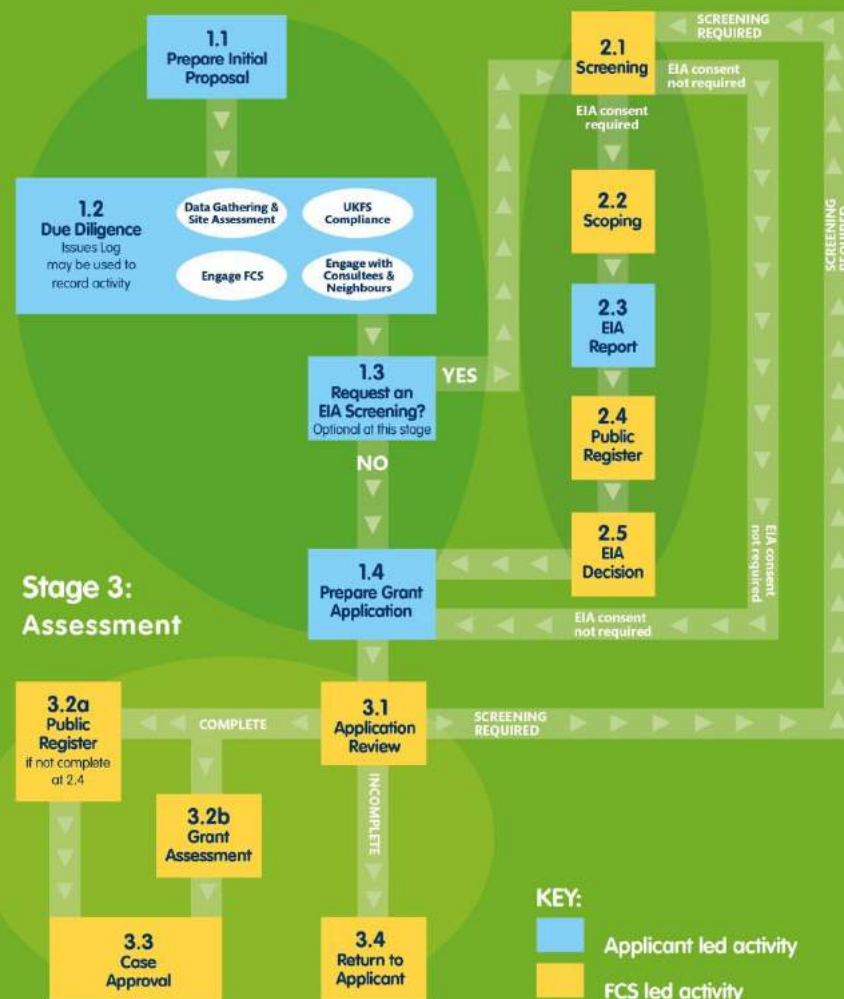


- EIA screening opinions can be accessed two ways

## Woodland Creation Application Process

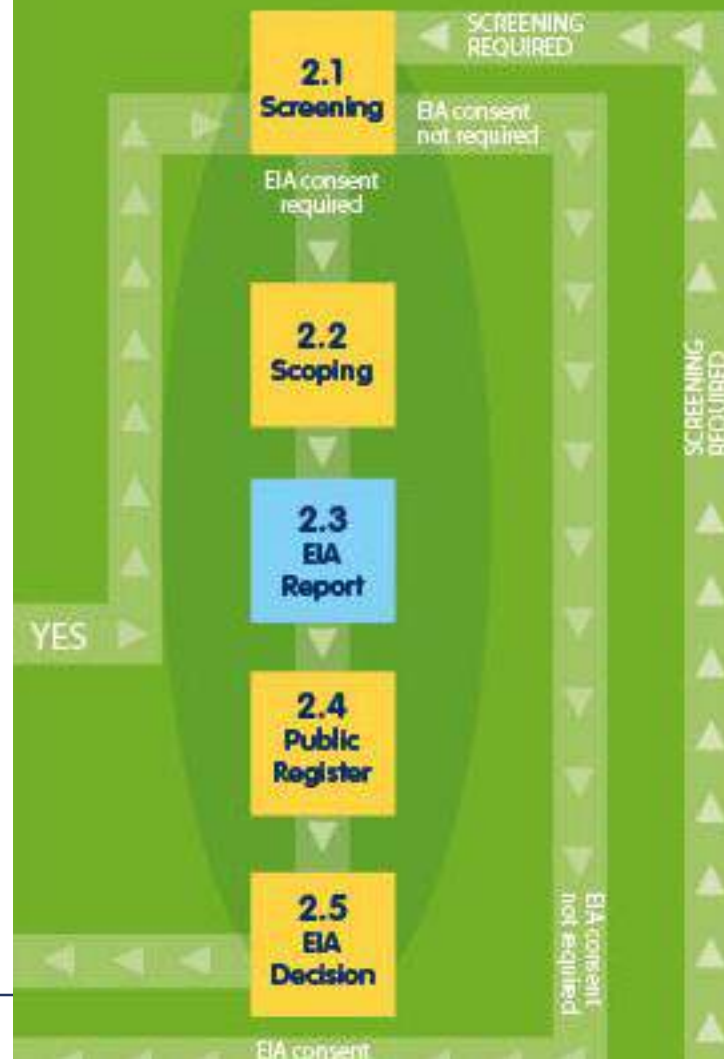
### Stage 1: Proposal

### Stage 2: Environmental Impact



- No change to general process but new 2017 Regulations
- New *EIA for Forestry Projects* guidance available on our website

## Stage 2: Environmental Impact



# Screening

Project	Threshold where any part of the land is in a sensitive area	Threshold where no part of the land is in a sensitive area
Afforestation	2 hectares in a National Scenic Area (NSA) No threshold in other sensitive areas	20 hectares

## Sensitive Areas

- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- Special Protection Area (SPA) or Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- World Heritage Site (WHS)
- Scheduled Monuments (SM)
- National Scenic Area (NSA)
- National Park (NP)
- **Deep peat soil**

## Screening

- FCS screening opinions without the need for consultation
- Applicant responsibility to contact consultees / stakeholders early
- Consultees and stakeholders need to make information available
- Requests for information must be clearly justified

- Screening: map, request form, Issues Log
- Convenient
- Iterative
- Summary of issues and mitigation
- Outlines significance

**Example Issues Log**

Issue (include date and raised by)	Applicant's response	FCS Comments	Agreed Mitigation	Status (Open, Closed)	Significance of Impact (High, Medium, Low)
e.g. Archaeology – Scheduled Monument at NS123456. HES, 23/10/16.	e.g. Scheme design includes OG to buffer Scheduled Monument as per UKFS. John Smith, 25/10/16	e.g. Applicant has taken on board HES feedback and designed the scheme in accordance with best practice. Susan Jones, 27/10/17.	e.g. 20 metre OG buffer around scheduled monument (SM).	e.g. Closed	e.g. Low
<b>Population &amp; Human Health</b>					
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>					
<b>Soil</b>					
<b>Biodiversity</b>					
<b>Landscape</b>					
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<b>Climate</b>					
<b>Land Use</b>					

- Screening: map, request form, Issues Log
- Convenient
- Iterative
- Summary of issues and mitigation
- Outlines significance

Please complete this form to find out if you need consent from Forestry Commission Scotland, under the **Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**, to carry out your proposed forestry project. Please refer to Schedule 2 Selection Criteria for Screening Forestry Projects under [Applying for an opinion](#). If you are not sure about what information to include on this form please contact your [local Conservancy office](#).

Proposed Work							
Please put a cross in the box to indicate the type of work you are proposing to carry out. Give the area in hectares and where appropriate the percentage of conifers and broadleaves							
Proposed Work	select	Area in hectares	% Conifer	% Broad-leaves	Proposed work	select	Area in hectares
Afforestation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Forest roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Deforestation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Forest quarry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Location of work		<input type="text"/>					

Description of Forestry Project and Location
Provide details of the forestry project (size, design, use of natural resources such as soil, and the cumulative effect if relevant). Please attach map(s) showing the boundary of the proposed work and other known details.
<input type="text"/>

Provide details on the existing land use and the environmental sensitivity of the area that is likely to be affected by the forestry project.
<input type="text"/>

Description of Likely Significant Effects
Provide details on any likely significant effects that the project will have on the environment (resulting from the project itself or the use of natural resources) and the extent of the information available to assist you with this assessment.
<input type="text"/>

Include details of any consultees or stakeholders that you have contacted in order to make this assessment. Please include any relevant correspondence you have received from them.
<input type="text"/>

## Scoping / EIA Report

- Rigorous and focussed approach
- If your proposal is **likely to have a significant effect** on the environment
- Scoping meeting and Scoping Report
- FCS must consult
- Other aspects can be addressed, but not part of EIA Report
- Consultation of EIA Report now 30 days



## Other Recommendations

- FCS Complex Case Support Team
  - Consistency and guidance
  - Advice on legislation
  - Technical support
  - Processing Agreements
- Improvements on management information
  - Planned system improvements
  - Monitoring
- Training

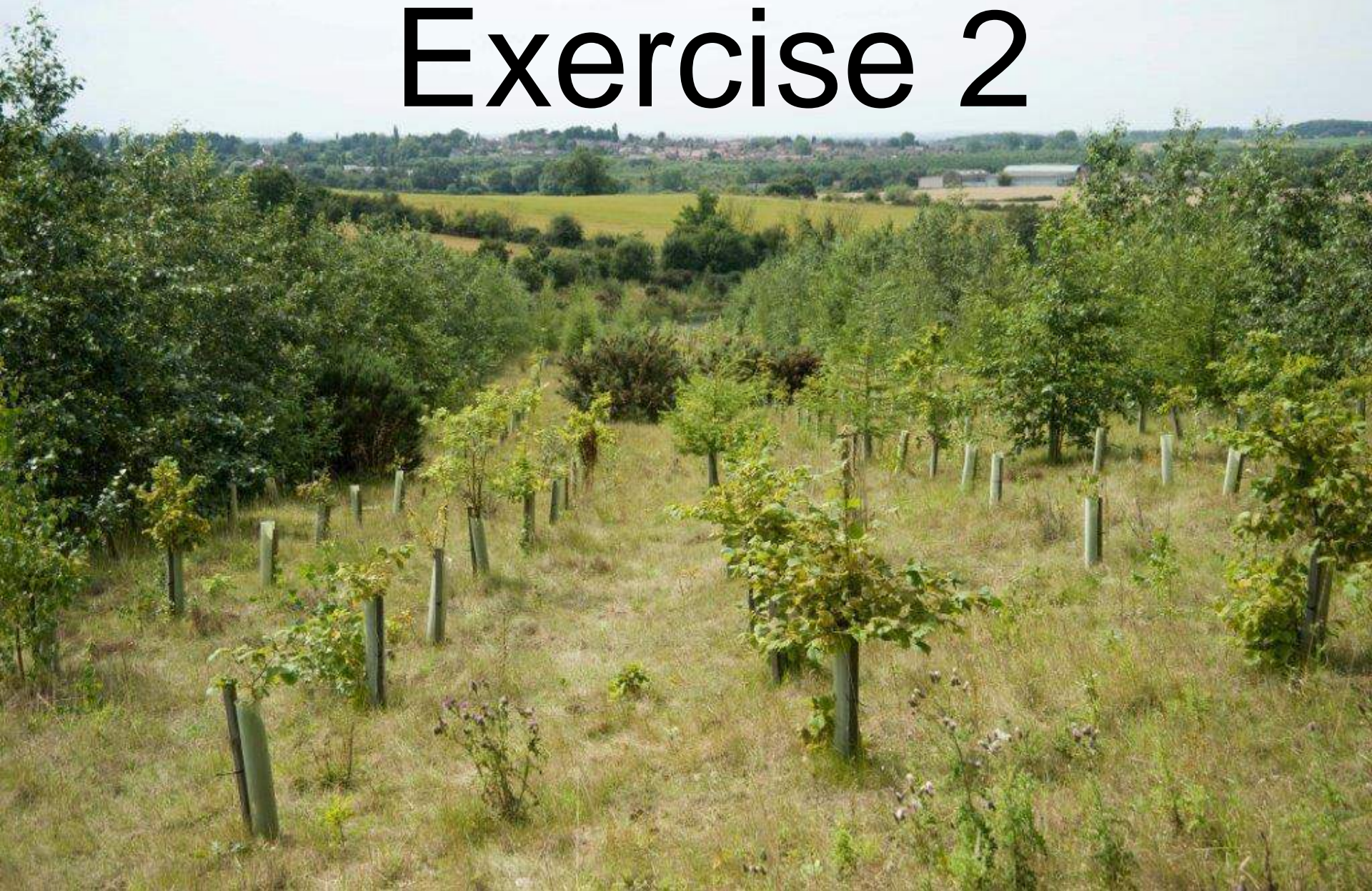


## Benefits

- Targeted requests for information
- Consistent approach
- Experienced team
- Reduced processing times
- Reduced complexity of environmental statements (EIA Reports)
- Reduce cost of application process



# Exercise 2



# Getting ready to apply for FGS funding

## Achieving Faster Approval Times

Lindsay Bisset  
Grant Schemes Manager  
FCS

## Woodland Creation Application Process

### Stage 1: Proposal

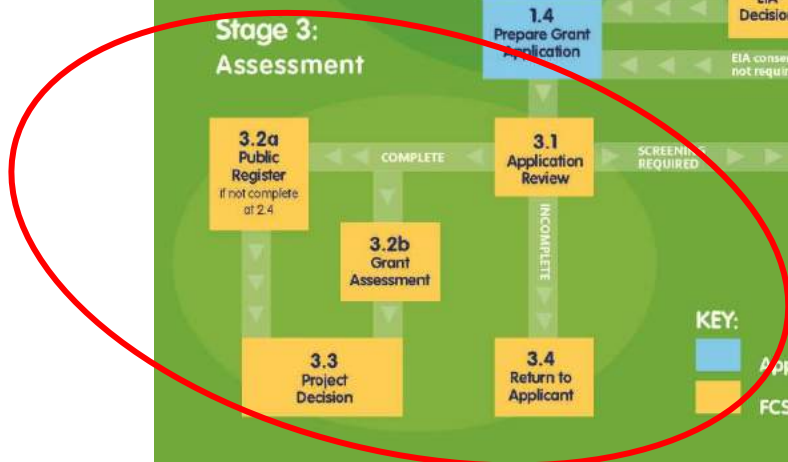
### Stage 2: Environmental Impact

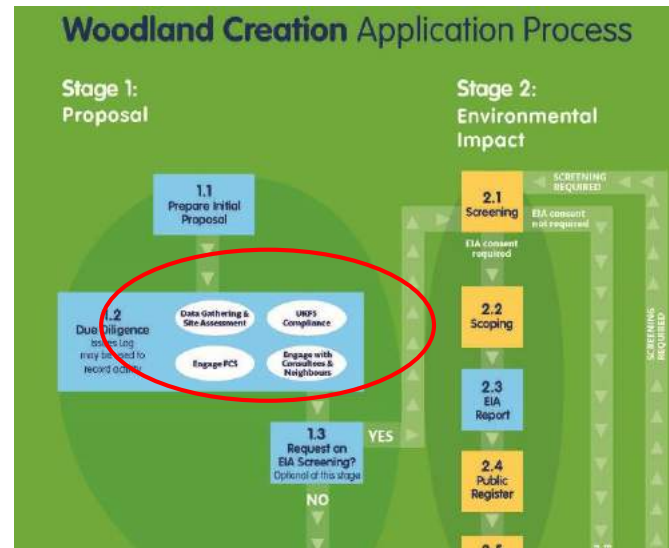


### Stage 3: Assessment



**KEY:**  
■ Applicant led activity  
■ FCS led activity





# 1.2 Due Diligence

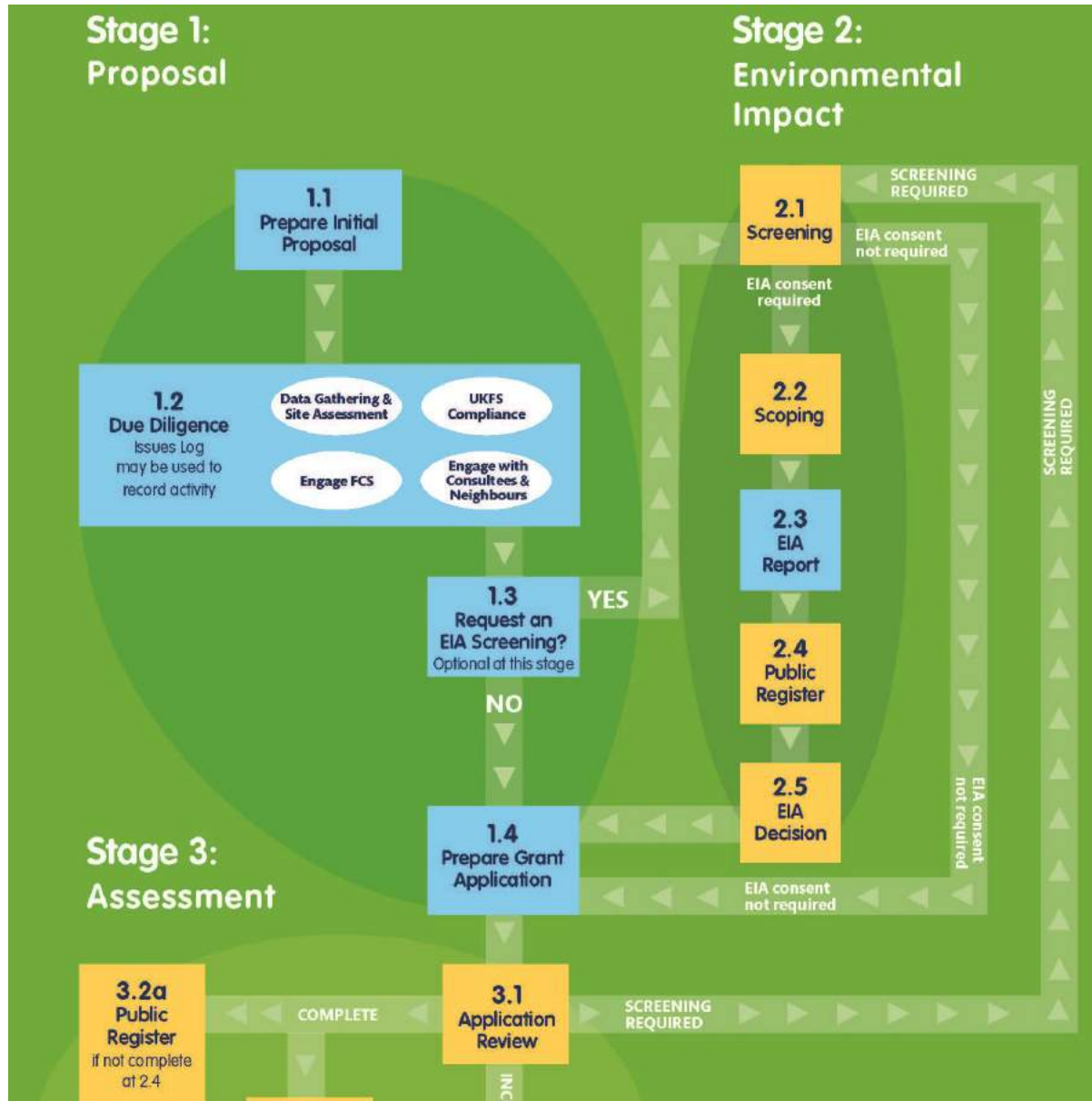
Issues Log may be used to record activity

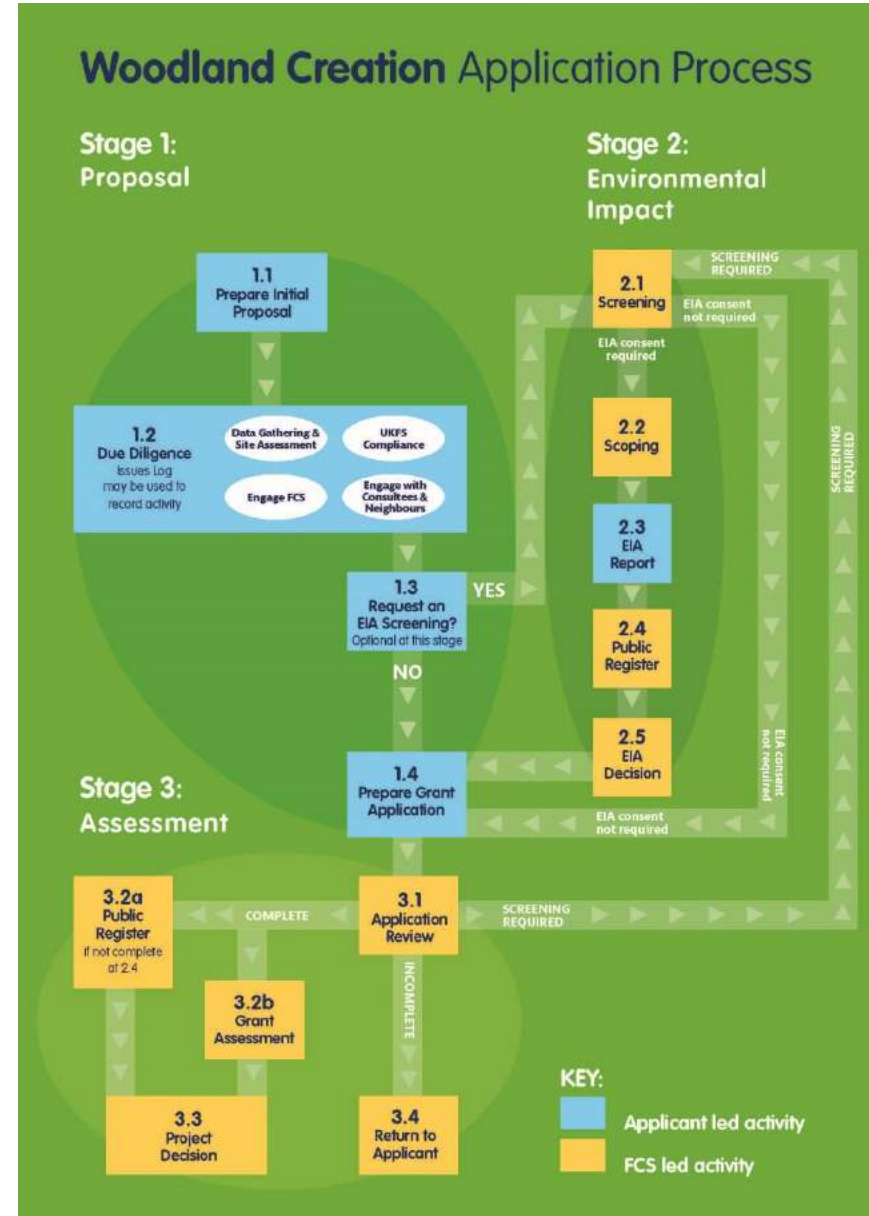
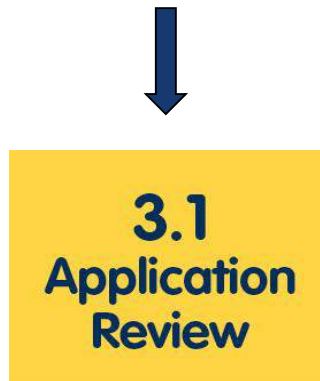
Data Gathering & Site Assessment

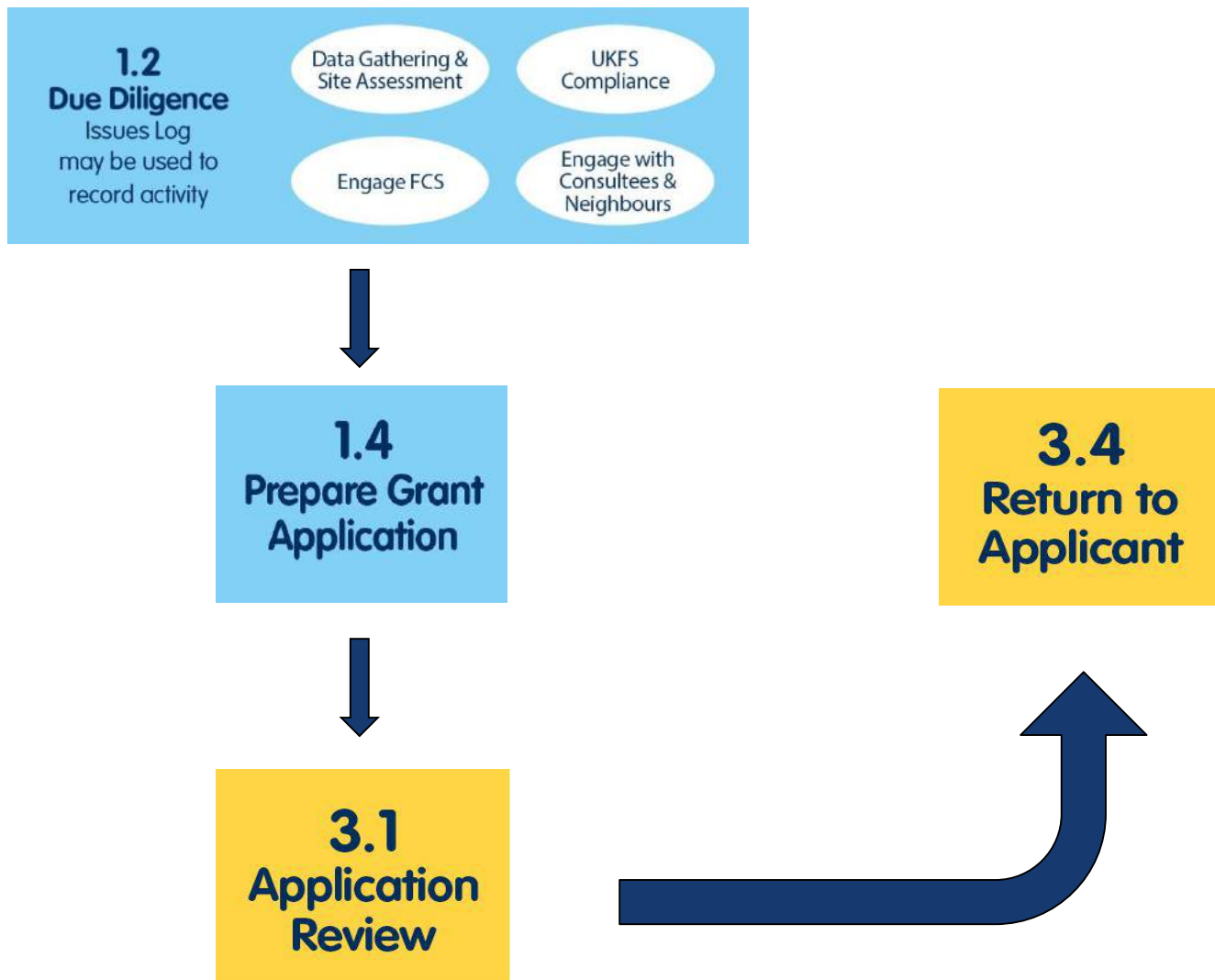
UKFS Compliance

Engage FCS

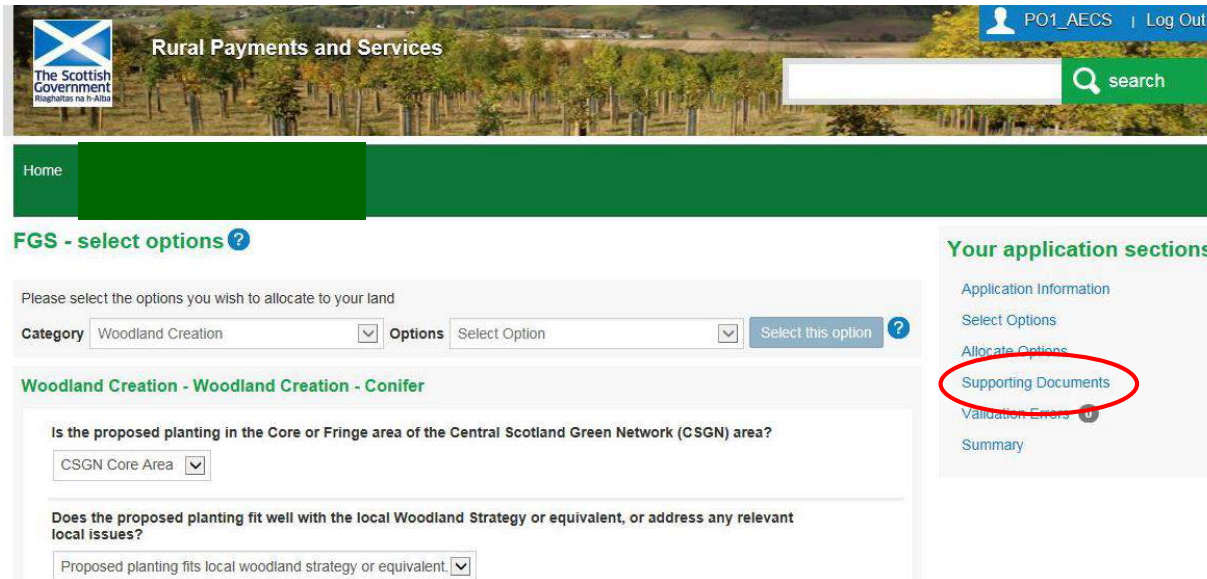
Engage with Consultees & Neighbours











The screenshot shows the 'Rural Payments and Services' portal. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Scottish Government logo, the title 'Rural Payments and Services', a search bar, and a user profile for 'PO1\_AECS' with a 'Log Out' link. Below the navigation bar is a green header with a 'Home' link. The main content area is titled 'FGS - select options' and contains a form for selecting options for a woodland creation application. The form is for 'Woodland Creation - Woodland Creation - Conifer'. It includes a 'Category' dropdown set to 'Woodland Creation', an 'Options' dropdown set to 'Select Option', and a 'Select this option' button. Below this, there are two questions: 'Is the proposed planting in the Core or Fringe area of the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) area?' with a dropdown set to 'CSGN Core Area', and 'Does the proposed planting fit well with the local Woodland Strategy or equivalent, or address any relevant local issues?' with a dropdown set to 'Proposed planting fits local woodland strategy or equivalent'. On the right side, there is a sidebar titled 'Your application sections' with a list of steps: Application Information, Select Options, Allocate Options, Supporting Documents (circled in red), Valuation Errors, and Summary.

## Assessing:

- Issues logged have been **mitigated**
- meets **UKFS**
- meets **FGS eligibility**
- Leading to: no issues post Public Register stage

## Where is the Public Register process?



PR continues to be during the FCS assessment of grant application phases

**Customer  
Charter**  
Forestry Grant Scheme

FEB2018

- Customer Charter is a Mackinnon Recommendation
- Customer Charter is only for FGS application processes.
- Charter also for non-WC FGS grant applications through to approval & for Capital Claims
- Processing Agreements for complex proposals

## FGS Customer Charter on applications:

- FGS application assessment 4 weeks
  - (Post assessment information 1 week)
  - FGS Public register 4 weeks
  - (Post PR/Consultation assessments 2 weeks)
- To Clearing: 11 weeks

## Revised Clearing arrangements:

- Pre-approval Clearing process for applications that meet the higher threshold score, allowing Conservancies to Issue Contracts within 2 weeks.
- Monthly clearing processes for low scoring applications/options under budget pressures may take up to 5 weeks to Issue Contracts

## Our Aim

**To deal with 90% of applications:**

**Issue a contract**

**within 13 weeks** of accepting your completed and submitted application if woodland creation included in your application scores highly against our threshold score, is under no current budget pressures and where you have engaged and followed our guidance for “Preparing a woodland creation proposal”

## Earned Recognition Scheme

ER scheme will run alongside main application processes, available as a “fast track” option

Available to all who chose to demonstrate competence

Assessment of the individual and assessment of their work

Initially, only available for Woodland Creation and Forest Plan work

## Earned Recognition status.

### **Benefits:**

There will be acceptance that applications, as submitted, are competent, and will go straight to Woodland Creation Public Register / consultation with no pre-checking or assessment by FCS

At the same time we will carry out the application assessments.



	Usual route	Approved applicant route	Mackinnon recommendations
<b>EIA screening decision</b>			28 days
<b>Accredited forester sign-off</b>			28 days
<b>FGS assessment</b>	28 days	28 days	28 days
<b>Public register period</b>	28 days		0 days
<b>Post assessment</b>	7 days	7 days	
<b>Post PR / screening</b>	14 days	14 days	
<b>Clearing through to contract issue for high scoring applications</b>	14 days	14 days	14 days
<b>Totals</b>	91 days [13 weeks]	63 days [9 weeks]	98 days [14 weeks]

**Customer  
Charter**  
Forestry Grant Scheme

FEB 2018

Performance against the Charter will be assessed through sample monitoring of FGS casework.

The future aim is to develop our workflow based Case management IT system

# LOCAL CONSERVANCY EXAMPLE CASE STUDY

# Forestry Grant Scheme Update

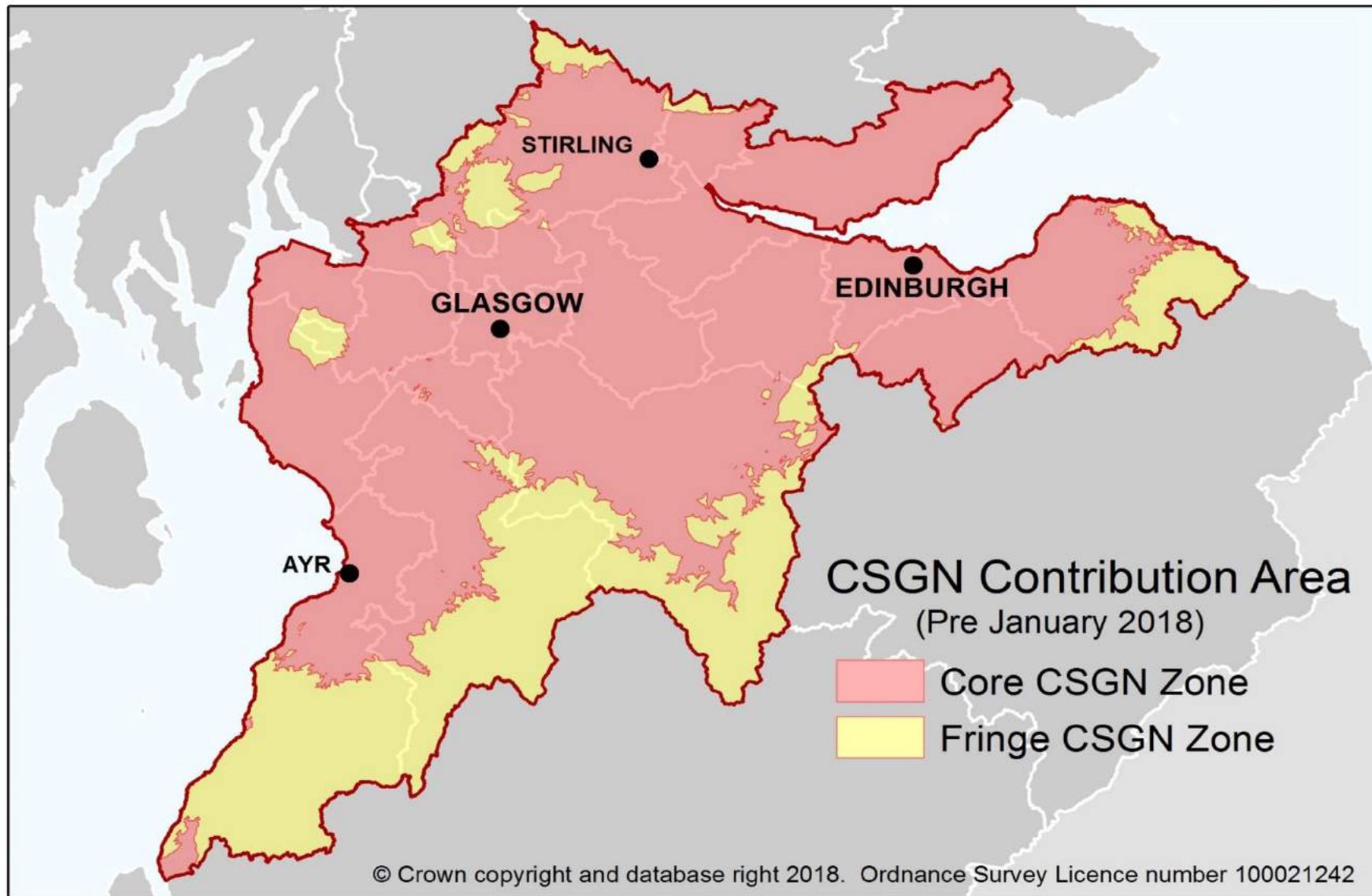
Brendan Callaghan MICFor  
Head of Delivery & Regions  
Forestry Commission

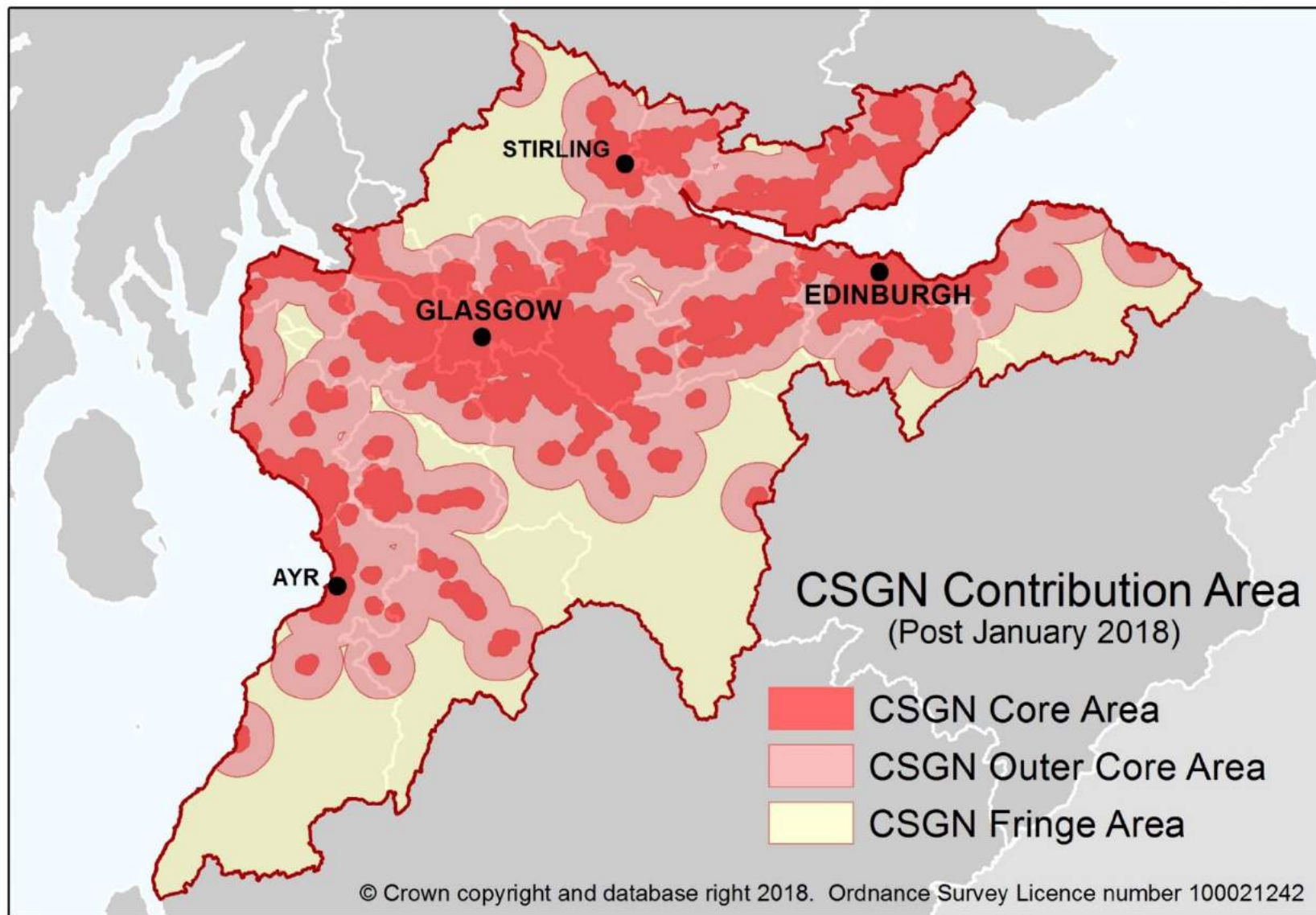
## FGS Update

- Recent Changes
- FGS Demand
- Budget Availability
- Future of FGS

## Recent FGS and Option Changes

- Main change - Central Scotland Green Network Contribution (CSGN)
- New Woodland Creation budget categories
- New capital items from January 2018
  - Gorse Removal under Woodland Creation options
  - 'Uneconomic Felling of Larch for Islands' under Tree Health option
  - Harvesting and Processing expanded – Nurseries and ground prep
- Updated natural regeneration option guidance







## CSGN Approved Area – Since Oct 15

<b>Conservancy</b>	<b>Approved Area (ha)</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Perth &amp; Argyll</b>	537	15
<b>Central Scotland</b>	2073	60
<b>South Scotland</b>	862	25
<b>Total CSGN</b>	<b>3472</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>% of Total Woodland Creation</b>	<b>19.5%</b>	-

# CSGN Option Changes

- Summary of Changes
  - Redefined map areas
  - Introduced a new rate of 'Outer Core' of £1500/ha with area cap of 65ha
  - Core rate (£2,500/ha) and Fringe rate (£750/ha) remain the same
- Benefits
  - Continued support for productive woodlands in Central Scotland
  - Reduces the cost/ha
  - Helps to manage the finite grant budget

## FGS Demand

- To Date
  - £136m in applications
  - £109m approved funding
  
  - 2608 applications
  - 2176 approved options
  - 1035 WC options
  
  - £111m of WC applications
  - £86m WC approvals
  - 18103 ha
- Monthly Clearings
  - £5m approved each month
  - Average of 800 ha woodland creation

# Woodland Creation

January 2018	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Pre-application	0	2686	7526
Submitted not approved	0	4199	1910
Approved and not paid	3926	7323	947
Grant paid	3089	N/A	N/A
<b>FGS sub-total</b>	<b>7015</b>	<b>14208</b>	<b>10383</b>
FES	900	650	650
<b>Total</b>	<b>7915</b>	<b>14858</b>	<b>11033</b>

## Budget Availability

- £46m for 2018(approved) & 2019(planned)
- Split £40m for WC and £6m for management
- 2018
  - £38 m approved (83%)
  - £8m headroom
  - Expect to be committed by April/May 2018
- 2019
  - £15 m approved (33%)
  - £31m headroom

## Future FGS – Pre April 2019

- UK Treasury guarantee
  - Provides cover for all contracts **approved** before the April 2019
  - even if payments are beyond date of Brexit
- Forward commit approvals into 2019 & 2020
- Future years also available as long as projects start in 2020

## Future FGS – Post April 2019

- FGS to remain open with minimal changes
- Will need to confirm funding arrangements during transition and after EU exit
- Consider other changes required eg contract changes
- Explore opportunities to improve FGS

# What does success look like?

- Professional exchanges on UKFS
- Higher quality schemes
- Successful Earned Recognition process
- Less EIAs
- Faster end to end process
- A reduction in application costs



# It is your hands

- Thank you for your attendance
- Thank you for your questions
- Let's make this work
- Safe Journey home



# Thank you

