

Priority 6 – Support for increasing forestry productivity

What the grants are for

These grants are for projects that increase forestry productivity. The aim is to:

- increase economic return through more efficient felling and extraction
- add value to felled timber by primary processing
- deliver permanent new supply chains and jobs
- restore regular management to local woods

Who can apply

Private forest holders and micro, small or medium-sized forestry contractor businesses can apply under this funding priority.

You'll need to send us a copy of your woodland management plan if you are a private forest holder with more than 10ha of woodland.

Private forest holders of forests less than 10ha cannot apply for funding solely for their own forest holdings under this priority, but could apply if they will be working as contractors on other holdings too.

Are you a private forest holder?

A private forest holder has the legal right to manage the forest land of either private or public ownership.

Check the size of your forestry contractor business

The size of the forestry contractor business depends on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees it has and its financial performance.

The table in chapter 2 shows what qualifies as a micro, small or medium business.

Who can't apply

The following are not eligible for grants under this priority:

- non departmental public bodies
- Crown bodies
- forestry contractor businesses classed as large – check the size of your business using the table in Chapter 2
- businesses not specifically engaged in forestry contracting such as landscape gardeners, tree surgeons and arboriculturalists, although such businesses may be eligible under priority 2.

How much funding is available:

The minimum grant is £2,500 and the maximum grant that REAL Devon LAG will offer is 150,000. The grants can only fund up to 40% of eligible costs.

Grant funding can help for:

- machinery and equipment to harvest and extract timber
- investments that add value to felled timber by primary processing
- the costs of developing wood-fuel supply chains
- transportation of wood within a forest by specialised forestry equipment, excluding standard transport activities

Costs could include:

Eligible items	Comments
Timber processors and harvesting heads for primary processing of felled trees	Forestry equipment must meet all Health and Safety Executive guidelines on rollover, operator and falling objects protection.
Winches and associated equipment for extraction (including skyliners)	
Tractor or trailer mounted Cranes designed for extracting timber from woodland.	
Skidders – these must be used in line with UK Forestry standards	
Tractor-mounted forestry grabs or tongs	
Forwarders (log-moving vehicles)	
Trailers designed specifically for hauling timber or logs	
Forestry tractors	Forestry guarding must be factory or dealer fitted and meet CE standards.
Crane-fed wood chippers	The equipment must be able to produce woodchip that meets European chip size standards for biomass heating systems
Trommels or other types of chip-screening equipment	
Mechanical log splitters, Firewood processors and kindling machines	
Log decks, log lifters, conveyors, bagging chutes and bagging or bundling machines	
Mobile saw bench or mobile saw mill	
Covered areas and associated hardstanding for processing, storing and seasoning timber or woodchip; including solar kilns	Buildings must be constructed in accordance with BS5502 and fabricated steelwork must meet CE

	standards
Moisture meters	
Force drying systems	
Equipment for creating fencing material	The machine must be able to convert felled timber into round and half round fencing posts
Equipment for applying preservative	Equipment must be able to apply preservative at cellular level using vacuum and high pressure

It's your responsibility as an individual operator or employer to ensure that any forestry machinery or equipment is operated in accordance with relevant Health and Safety legislation and felling licences, and that any buildings meet relevant construction standards.

What isn't covered

In addition to [the general list of costs which can't be claimed](#) the following costs are not eligible under this priority:

- large scale or industrial processing undertaken by static machinery with an annual processing capacity that is more than 10,000m³ (excluding firewood processors producing logs)
- construction of hardstanding areas in forests
- construction of woodchip stores to service on site biomass heating systems
- wood-fired boilers
- standard or small scale tractors
- all-terrain vehicles
- tipping trailers
- flatbed trailers
- box trailers
- items required for brashing and ride-clearance
- standard forestry equipment (including chain saws, strimmers, brush cutters and other hand tools) and consumables (including safety equipment and clothing)
- investments in woodland creation or the management of woodland itself
- the preparation of woodland management plans