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John Dougan Forestry Commission Scotland

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Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

New Woodlands and the Public Road Network

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- The Scottish Government has a strong commitment to new Woodland Creation as part of its Climate Change Plan
- Target for Woodland Creation set to progressively rise from 10,000 ha per annum to 15,000 ha per annum by 2024-25
- To date almost 18,500 ha of new woodlands have been approved for Scottish Government support through the Forestry Grant Scheme



- Recognition of pressure on public road network from existing forests is well understood
- Sector and Roads Authorities have worked well together to successfully find positive ways to manage those pressures (Timber Transport Groups)
- Scottish Government has actively supported strategic solutions through Strategic Timber Transport Fund







- To ensure a consistent and logical approach to considering the issue, all TTG's should put in place a simple, accessible mechanism for those interested in creating new woodlands to seek an opinion on the suitability (or otherwise) of the public road network to accommodate the future timber transport impact
- Where limitations are identified, a suite of potential solutions are developed and shared by TTG's to enable otherwise appropriate areas to come forward for planting
- The Sector, Roads Authorities and Government, may wish to reflect on whether, at a strategic scale, interventions may be justified to better realise the planting potential of some areas