

Tree Production Innovation Fund Application Form

Background and information about the grant can be found on the [Tree Production Innovation Fund \(TPIF\) gov.uk page](#).

Guidance on completing your TPIF application can be found on the [Tree Production Innovation Fund Application Form page](#). Please read this before starting your application.

To apply, you must complete a:

- TPIF application form
- TPIF finance spreadsheet
- timeline or equivalent

Forms must be submitted to tpif@forestrycommission.gov.uk by **11.55pm Wednesday 29 July 2026**.

We will notify applicants of their TPIF funding decision by 16 September 2026.

You must:

- answer all questions on the application form
- give your answers in English and costs in £ Sterling
- keep within stated word limits
- define any abbreviations and acronyms
- not change the format of the forms

Failure to comply with these requests may lead to your application being rejected.

If you have any questions about the application process or need the form in a different format, please contact tpif@forestrycommission.gov.uk

Part 1: Application Details

Applicant Details

Title of proposed project:	
Legal name of applicant organisation:¹	
Legal name of partner organisation(s):²	
Lead applicant full name:³	
Lead applicant position:	
Telephone number:	
Email:	
Postal address:	
Postcode:	
Country:	

¹ Provide the legal name of the organisation to whom grant payments would be made. If this is different to how you are known publicly, include the public facing name in brackets.

² If multiple organisations are involved in the project, please nominate one as the applicant organisation for all correspondence. This organisation will assume all responsibilities under the grant agreement and, if successful, will become the sole grant recipient and agreement holder, receiving all funding upon valid claims.

³ The lead applicant must be authorised to sign and submit this application on behalf of their organisation. They will be the primary point of contact during the application process.

Organisation Details

Please provide <u>one</u> of the following:⁴		
Company Registration Number		
Charity Number		
UKPRN Number		
VAT Registration Number		
Unique Taxpayer Reference		
How many employees does your organisation have?	☐	Under 250 employees
	☐	Over 250 employees
Organisation type:	☐	Private limited company, public limited company, limited liability partnerships or limited partnerships
	☐	Charitable company, registered charity, CIC
	☐	Sole trader, self-employed or private individual, business partnership
	☐	Trust, charitable trust, community group
	☐	Local Authority
	☐	Public body
	☐	Educational institution
	☐	Other
If other, please specify:		

⁴ Universities or other learning providers should provide their UKPRN number. Other organisations should provide their Company Registration or Charity Number if they have one.

TPIF Directory & Marketing

	YES	NO
The Forestry Commission will create a TPIF Directory to distribute to all TPIF grant recipients. This aims to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing between projects. Would you be happy for us to include the lead applicant's name and email address in the TPIF Directory? The Directory will only be shared with other successful TPIF grant recipients.	☐	☐
If you do not wish to add the lead applicant's contact details, but still wish to appear on the TPIF Directory, please provide the relevant person's name and email address:		

Where did you hear about this grant?	☐	Forestry Commission eAlert
	☐	Social media
	☐	Press article
	☐	Web search
	☐	Word of mouth
	☐	Forestry Commission staff member
	☐	Can't remember
	☐	Other
If other, please specify:		

Description of Project

Funding period	
Please select the financial year(s) in which the proposed project will take place	
☐	2026/27 (activities complete by 27 March 2027)
☐	2027/28 (activities complete by 27 March 2028)
☐	2028/29 (activities complete by 27 March 2029)

In two sentences or less, summarise your project's main aims and objectives (50 words max.)

Eligibility Criteria

Answer all eligibility criteria questions by marking "Yes" or "No". Question 11 only may be answered with "N/A" if it does not apply.

Eligibility criteria	Eligibility question	YES	NO
1) Scope – This grant is designed to support innovative projects that will address one of the TPIF challenges, with a view to enhancing the quantity, quality and diversity of planting stock available for tree planting in England.	Is your project within scope?		
2) Innovation – This grant supports the development of technologies or approaches that are not currently used within tree nurseries/production in England.	Is your technology/approach currently unused in tree nurseries/production in England?		
3) Programme Scope – The TPIF has been designed to support pre-commercial development and piloting of innovative proposals.	Is your proposal limited to activities ahead of launch to the market, such as prototyping, field testing, trials, demonstration and dissemination of knowledge obtained from the demonstration activity?		
4) Project Status – The Forestry Commission is unable to fund retrospective work on projects.	Can you confirm that your application does not seek retrospective funding for work already carried out in this project, or to be carried out before any grant agreement is signed?		
5) Additionality – Projects can only be funded if innovation would not be taken forwards (or would be taken forwards at a much slower rate) without public sector funding.	Can you confirm that this project would not be taken forward (or would progress at a much slower rate) without public sector funding?		
6) Applicant Organisation – the applicant organisation must be an individual, registered company, academic, research,	Can you confirm that the applicant organisation meets eligible organisation requirements?		

third sector or community organisation based in the UK.				
7) Budget – Proposals, whether standalone or multi-year must have a minimum total cost of £20k to be eligible for funding. Projects may be costed at up to a maximum of £200k in any given financial year (2026/27, 2027/28 and/or 2028/29). A full list of eligible project costs is set out in the TPIF gov.uk guidance.	Can you confirm that the requested project funding is within the eligible expenditure limits and is for eligible costs only?			
8) Timescales – Projects can span up to three financial years, ending 27 March 2029. All project activities must be completed and evidence of spend provided by 27 March of the financial year(s) in which funding has been applied for (2026/27, 2027/28 and/or 2028/29).	Will the eligible project activities be completed and evidence of spend provided by 27 March of the financial year(s) in which funding has been applied for (2026/27, 2027/28 and/or 2028/29)?			
9) Risk-Benefit sharing – The sharing of risks and benefits is an important aspect to the Research and Development Grant approach. Projects receive financial support and retain any intellectual property generated, with certain rights of use retained by the Forestry Commission. Summaries of project outputs and outcomes are expected to be shared within the forestry press and project teams are not permitted to include profit in the eligible project.	Have you accounted for risk-benefit sharing in the cost of your application?			
Eligibility Criteria	Eligibility Question	N/A	YES	NO
10) Delivering multiple projects – If the applicant organisation or any project partners (including sub-contractors) are part of	a) If you or your project team are part of multiple successful bids, would you be able to successfully			

multiple successful bids, then the applicant organisation must ensure they have sufficient capacity to deliver all proposed activities. Organisations must not apply for funding for the same piece of work more than once.	deliver all projects if necessary?			
11) Public Bodies – To be eligible for funding public bodies must partner with a third-party private sector organisation.	b) If you or your team are part of multiple successful bids, can you confirm that you have not applied for funding for the same piece of work more than once?			
12) Terms and conditions – The applicant must agree to the grant Terms and Conditions which can be found on GOV.UK.	Please confirm acceptance of the Terms and Conditions.			

Part 2: Project Summary

If we receive more than 40 applications, an initial sift will be undertaken using the information provided in Part 2. Only the highest scoring proposals from this sift will progress to full assessment.

A. What will you do?

Describe your project and explain how it will address one or more of the TPIF Challenges. Summarise the problem and intended solution in plain English. (150 words max.)

Which TPIF challenge(s) does your project address? Tick all that apply.

☐	1	Efficient use of Forest Reproductive Material
☐	2	Ensuring a diverse and resilient supply of Forest Reproductive Materials and saplings
☐	3	Development and adoption of automation and other technologies to enhance productivity
☐	4	Weed control
☐	5	Sustainability
☐	6	Weather
☐	7	Biosecurity
☐	8	Tree establishment

Technological Readiness Level (TRL)

Please select the TRL that best describes your technology or innovation at the start of the project and the level you expect to reach by the end of the funding period. TRL is a scale from 1 (basic principles observed) to 9 (system proven in operational environment) used to assess the maturity of a technology.

If your project involves multiple workstreams at different TRLs, please reflect the TRL for the **primary technology or innovation that is the main focus of the application** - the one most critical to achieving the project's objectives.

	Current TRL	Estimated TRL by the end of the funding period
1. Basic principle observed	☐	☐
2. Technology concept formulated	☐	☐
3. Experimental proof of concept	☐	☐
4. Technology validated in lab	☐	☐
5. Technology validated in relevant environment	☐	☐
6. Technology demonstrated in relevant environment	☐	☐
7. System prototype demonstration in operational environment	☐	☐
8. System complete and qualified	☐	☐
9. Actual system proven in operational environment	☐	☐

B. How will you do it?

What activities will you undertake? Reference methods (e.g., field trials, microscopy, 3D X-ray) and name key partners.
(150 words max.)

C. Key outputs

List any tangible outputs you will deliver during the project (e.g., protocols, datasets, prototype demonstrated, product commercially available).
(100 words max.)

D. Impact on the sector

Who would benefit from the proposed activities and outputs (e.g., tree nurseries, seed suppliers)? How and when would they benefit?
(100 words max.)

Part 3: Assessed Questions

Question 1: Challenge (20%)

- a) Explain how and to what extent the proposed innovation will overcome barrier(s) to domestic tree and tree seed production.
- b) Describe how the outputs of the proposal will:
 - i. address one or more of the TPIF Challenges
 - ii. result in enhanced quantity, quality and/or diversity of planting stock available for tree planting in England
 - iii. enhance the resilience and productivity of domestic tree and tree seed production
- c) Outline the specific need for and benefits of the proposed innovation in the context of current technologies/approaches.

(300 words max.)

Question 2: Approach and Innovation (10%)

- a) What approach will you take and where will the focus of the innovation be?

Approaches may include:

- i. application or development of existing practices or technologies used elsewhere in the world
 - ii. application or development of existing practices or technologies used in other sectors
 - iii. development of totally new practices or technologies
- b) How will the project and its outputs compliment/improve upon current practices or technologies?

(250 words max.)

Question 3: Team, Resources and Track Record (10%)

- a) Who is in the project team, what expertise and experience do they have, and what will be their roles within the project?
- b) How will you work with industry stakeholders to deliver the project?
- c) Describe the resources, equipment and facilities required for the project and how you will access them.
- d) Provide details of any external parties, including sub-contractors, who you will be working with.
- e) If collaborative, describe the current relationships between the project partners and if/how these will develop as a result of the project.
- f) Highlight any roles in the team that will need to be recruited and outline how you will ensure that posts are filled to meet critical project milestones.

(300 words max.)

Question 4: Sector Impact (20%)

- a) How will the project outputs benefit domestic tree and tree seed production?
- b) What are the expected impacts of the project? How will you ensure the outputs are widely beneficial to the tree production sector?
- c) How have you engaged with industry stakeholders to develop your proposal?
- d) Explain how you will ensure outputs are accessible to the sector and practical to implement? What will the route to market look like?
- e) Will the project require or result in collaboration? What will this collaboration look like and how will it benefit the tree and tree seed production sectors?

(250 max.)

Question 5: Deliverability & Risks (15%)

- a) What is your overall delivery approach and how will you deliver your project effectively? Include key work packages and milestones and explain how these ensure the project is achievable within the proposed timescales.
- b) What processes, tools or methodologies will you use to monitor progress and maintain quality?
- c) What are the main risks (technical, commercial, managerial, environmental) associated with the project and how will you mitigate these? Highlight the most significant risks, providing a risk register if appropriate.
- d) How will you manage and mitigate the most innovative or uncertain elements of the project?

In support of responses to this question, you must submit a Gantt chart or equivalent outlining key activities, milestones and deliverables with your application.

(250 max.)

Question 6: Additionality and Value for Money (15%)

- a) How much will the project cost and how does it represent value for money for the Forestry Commission and the taxpayer?
- b) In your response justify:
 - i. the total project cost in relation to project goals and refer to your finance spreadsheet where appropriate
 - ii. the costs quoted for project partners and sub-contractors. Explain why they are critical of the delivery of the project.
- c) What impact would public funding have on the project, and could it proceed without it? How would this funding change the nature or scope of activities undertaken?
- d) What financial contributions or match funding will be provided by the lead organisation or project partner(s)?⁵
If you have received, applied for, or intend to apply for any other government funds, please declare it here.

(250 words max.)

⁵ Match funding is not a requirement to be eligible for the TPIF. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to consider match funding where possible to demonstrate better value for money.

Part 4: Work Packages and Outputs/Outcomes

Work Packages and Activities

Provide a numbered list of work packages for your project.

FY 2026/27 Funded Activities

Relate these to the work packages listed above.

FY 2027/28 Funded Activities

Relate these to the work packages listed above.

FY 2028/29 Funded Activities

Relate these to the work packages listed above.

What knowledge transfer and exchange activities do you have planned for the project?

Outputs

What are the expected outputs of the project? What will result from the completion of the funded activities? Please identify quantifiable milestones where possible.

FY 2026/27 (October 2026 – 27 March 2027)
FY 2027/28 (April 2027 – 27 March 2028)
FY 2028/29 (April 2028 – 27 March 2029)

Long Term Outcomes

What do you expect the outcomes of the funding will be beyond the period of the grant award? Please identify quantifiable milestones where possible.

Part 5: Finances

You must provide full details of project costs and funding for each organisation involved in your project using a finance spreadsheet.

The template for this can be found at the [Tree Production Innovation Fund Application Form](#) page.

Part 6: How we process your application

Once we receive your application an evaluation panel comprising Forestry Commission staff and experts from the forestry sector will score each assessed question.

We will notify all applicants of funding decisions by 16 September 2026, with successful projects starting shortly thereafter.

A diagram outlining the TPIF application process is available on [GOV.UK](#).

Part 7: Privacy notice

Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Data protection

Please read the below statements and ensure you understand how the Forestry Commission will handle any personal information submitted.

As the lead applicant, you are responsible for informing any third parties of how the Forestry Commission will handle any personal information relevant to them.

The Forestry Commission will use any information you provide to support the administration of the scheme. Without any personal information, we will not be able to process your application.

The Forestry Commission or its appointed agents may also use your data in the following ways:

- for communication with other organisations including the Department of Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Natural England, other government departments and their agencies, and local authorities in the administration of the grant application and subsequent grant agreement
- for assessment by an independent panel, referring to external technical experts where appropriate

The Forestry Commission may, on the basis of its legitimate interest, contact the lead applicant and project representative(s) in connection with occasional research about the sector and events and resources related to tree and tree seed production.

Your personal information will be stored securely in the UK or European Economic Area and will be kept for a period of 7 years after either final payment of Grant, the last financial transaction, or after the application is withdrawn or rejected.

Release of information

As a public authority the Forestry Commission is subject to the provisions in the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and Freedom of Information Act 2000. This may result in the disclosure of information you provide to us including the applicant details, grant recipient organisation, type of grant or grant value. However, we will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality, nor will it act in contravention of its obligations under the Data Protection Act/UK GDPR.

The Forestry Commission may also publish information on the assistance it has given on its own or other Government websites.

Details of the organisation, and the value and timing of grants applied for will be entered into the Government Grant Information System and the UK Subsidy Database.

The Forestry Commission may carry out checks on each application using a variety of government tools including the Cabinet Office's automated grants due diligence tool called 'Spotlight' and Bank Account Verification software. As part of the due diligence process, the Forestry Commission may share details of organisations involved in applications with other parts of government.

Your Rights

The Forestry Commission is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018 (Registration No: Z6542658). The Forestry Commission's Personal Information Charter provides detailed information about how we process your personal data and your rights. You can read our Personal Information Charter on our website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission/about/personal-information-charter>.

You have a number of rights under the Data Protection Act 2018, which are listed out in full on the Information Commissioner's website. You have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority, the Information Commissioners' Officer <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Part 8: Intellectual property

Intellectual property shall remain with the grant recipient. The Forestry Commission reserves the right to publish a summary of project outcomes and outputs online and in relevant trade press articles.

Part 9: Declarations

Please check each box to show you have read, understood and agree to each declaration.

Failure to comply with any obligations below could lead to elimination from the process.

1.	The lead applicant understands that this grant can only be used to cover agreed eligible expenditure.	☐
2.	The lead applicant understands that any costs and liabilities of submitting this application are to be borne by the applicant organisation, regardless of the outcome of the award.	☐
3.	The lead applicant confirms that they or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control in the organisation have not been convicted anywhere in the world of any of the offences within those listed here . If a conviction has been made, the Forestry Commission may choose to contact the lead applicant and/or eliminate the bid from the process.	☐
4.	The lead applicant agrees to read, sign and fully comply with all obligations detailed in the Terms and Conditions.	☐
5.	The lead applicant agrees to comply with the Government Grant Recipient Code of Conduct .	☐
6.	The lead applicant confirms that none of the organisations' Directors or Executive Officers have been in receipt of enforcement/remedial orders in relation to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) or equivalent body in the last 3 years? If action has been made by the HSE or equivalent body the Forestry Commission may choose to contact the lead applicant and/or eliminate the bid from the process.	☐
7.	The lead applicant confirms that no collusion has taken place with government employees associated with this grant.	☐
8.	The lead applicant confirms that all activities undertaken as part of their project supported by this grant comply with current health and safety legislation. Where applicable, the lead applicant confirms that any forest operation undertaken will adhere to best practice developed by the Forestry Industries Safety Accord.	☐
9.	Where relevant, the lead applicant confirms that any claims of match funding secured to assist with furthering the project outcomes are true and correct.	☐
10.	The lead applicant will ensure that delivery of the funded activities does not put the Authority in breach of the UK's international obligations in respect of subsidies.	☐

Part 10: Communication and ensuring an open and fair process

We will maintain communications with the lead applicant via email to:

- notify you of any changes to any part of the application process prior to application deadline
- provide clarification on significant application criteria to all applicants to ensure a fair and open process
- provide timescales for a decision on your application
- notify you of the outcome of your application
- where successful, provide timelines and updates on the funding timetable and grant signing process
- where successful, provide the relevant communication relating to your grant including monitoring requests
- monitor progress of the project to help manage risks associated with delivery
- carry out project evaluation to better understand the impact of the work funded

If you wish to clarify anything about the application requirements or process, please email tpif@forestrycommission.gov.uk. If we consider information requests relevant to any applicant, we will provide additional guidance to all applicants to ensure a fair and open process. We may be unable to respond to the other support requests as this is a competitive bid process.

Applicants must submit:

- a TPIF application form (completed and signed)
- a TPIF finance spreadsheet (completed)
- a timeline or equivalent
- evidence of financial viability if applicable

Part 11: Authorisation

I confirm that I have read and understood the guidance, rules and Terms and Conditions relating to the Tree Production Innovation Fund, and that the information provided in this application form is accurate and complete.

I confirm that I am authorised to submit the above application on behalf of my organisation and have complied with all requirements of the grant.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print name _____

The person signing this section must match the lead applicant named in Part 1 of this form.

The Forestry Commission is only able to accept digital e-signatures or 'wet' signatures. We cannot accept typed signatures.

Completed applications should be sent to: tpif@forestrycommission.gov.uk