

Creating new woodland: The England Woodland Creation Offer

Grant funding to:

- Reward farmers and land managers for establishing new woodland that offers environmental and social public benefits
- Cover standard costs for the capital activities and items required to create woodland
- Maintain young trees with annual payments
- Support the actual costs of installing infrastructure to manage the woodland or improve recreational access



What is the England Woodland Creation Offer?

The England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) is a flagship grant scheme for farmers and land managers to encourage investment in woodland creation. These woodlands will help to mitigate climate change, deliver nature recovery and provide wider environmental and social benefits.

Administered by the Forestry Commission and funded by the government's Nature for Climate Fund, EWCO supports the creation of a range of woodland types that meet the UK Forestry Standard. It particularly incentivises the creation of new native woodland, especially where this will extend existing native woodland, will be created alongside watercourses that lack shade, or where woodland can provide public access.

Applications can be from as little as one hectare, and can include natural colonisation as well as, or instead of, tree planting.



What are the benefits?

Through supporting diverse woodland types at different scales, EWCO has the flexibility to allow land managers and farmers greater opportunity to create woodland that works for their objectives.

In addition to covering the standard capital costs of tree planting (up to a cap of £10,200 per hectare), and annual maintenance payments of £350 per hectare for 15 years, EWCO will also give greater recognition of the public benefits and ecosystem services provided by woodland by offering Additional Contributions that encourage the provision of those benefits and services through the design and location of new woodlands.

These optional Additional Contributions (which are optional and can be combined) are for:

- **Nature recovery** - available where woodland creation will expand areas of existing native woodland, create areas of new native woodland, or expand habitat for red squirrel populations. Support for these activities will help woodland-dependent priority species to spread.
- **Water quality** - available where woodland creation will help reduce pollutants through land use change that reduces fertilizer application or by creating woodland that intercepts pollution and sediment before it reaches watercourses.



- **Flood risk management** - available where woodland creation can help reduce the risk of flooding.
- **Riparian buffers** - available where the creation of native broadleaved woodland along watercourses will improve river habitats.
- **Close to settlements** - available where woodland creation will provide social and environmental benefits by being close to people.
- **Access** - will provide new long-term permissive access for recreation.

EWCO will also support planting to capture ammonia in areas where this can protect sites sensitive to air pollution.

Eligible land under EWCO agreements can also be used to continue claiming payments under the Basic Payment Scheme.

Projects that have been registered under the Woodland Carbon Code can generate carbon ‘credits’ which can be sold on the private market to companies working towards carbon neutrality, or potentially to the government for an agreed price if the project is successful in a Woodland Carbon Guarantee auction.

The rates for Additional Contributions (determined at the woodland block level) are:

Public benefit	Total £/ha	Notes
Nature recovery - high	£2,800	} Only one of these rates will apply to any one area.
Nature recovery - medium	£1,100	
Water quality	£400	
Flood risk management	£500	
Riparian buffers	£1,600	Will also qualify for one of the nature recovery Additional Contributions.
Close to settlements	£500	
Access	£2,200	Will also qualify for the 'Close to settlements' Additional Contribution.





Am I eligible?

Anyone with management control over eligible land can apply for EWCO. If you are not the landowner, you will need their agreement to apply. Land managers can also come together to make joint applications across multiple

landholdings, but they will need to nominate a lead applicant who will be responsible for any grant agreement.

There is no deadline for applications – you can apply at any time.

Can I apply for the Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG)?

We recommend that you consider applying to the WCPG prior to EWCO if your EWCO proposal will be five hectares or more in size. WCPG contributes towards the costs of designing your new woodland and offers you access to expert advice from the Forestry Commission early in the process.

See: www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-creation-planning-grant

How do I apply for EWCO and find out more?

You can find out more and download an application form from gov.uk (www.gov.uk/guidance/england-woodland-creation-offer).

If you don't have access to the internet or email you can call **0300 067 4000**.

For more information on EWCO, or to discuss your eligibility, you can also speak to your local Forestry Commission Woodland Creation Officer or Woodland Officer. Their details can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission/about/access-and-opening



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