

## Creating and restoring woodlands: HS2 Woodland Fund



Grant funding available for:

- Restoring existing Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
- Creating new native woodland delivered via the England Woodland Creation Offer

Reopened for applications May 2023

[www.gov.uk/guidance/hs2-woodland-fund](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/hs2-woodland-fund)

## What is the funding?

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited is the company responsible for developing and constructing the UK's new high speed rail network. It has started construction work on Phase One of the railway, from London to the West Midlands, including a major ecology programme.

Phase One will be accompanied by a 'green corridor' of connected wildlife habitats running alongside the railway. To support HS2's ecology programme, the HS2 Woodland Fund is a £5 million grant scheme aimed at helping landowners to restore Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and create new native woodland, at 100% of standard costs.

**See more:**

[www.gov.uk/guidance/  
hs2-woodland-fund](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/hs2-woodland-fund)

## What support is on offer?

The HS2 Woodland Fund provides capital funding to restore PAWS, at 100% of the standard costs for eligible activities. This includes restocking with native trees and shrubs, and associated items including fencing and gates, as well as natural flood management items.

From May 2023, HS2 funding for woodland creation will be delivered via the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO). Applications to EWCO within the 25-mile zone of the HS2 Phase One route will be identified and administered by the Forestry Commission; those applications that are planting native woodland will be earmarked to receive funding from HS2 Ltd. HS2 Ltd will cover the costs of all capital items for tree planting and maintenance works, whilst EWCO will fund any additional contributions such as payments for nature recovery, riparian buffering and flood risk reduction. Applicants will be notified through their EWCO agreement offer and will have the option to opt out of receiving funding from HS2 Ltd if desired.

Support from the Forestry Commission is available throughout the application process.



## Am I eligible?

Your existing PAWS woodland or proposed native woodland must be **within 25 miles of the HS2 Phase One line** from London to the West Midlands (see map overleaf).

You must:

- have **full management control or consent to use the land** for the lifetime of your agreement; and
- have **no existing land management grant schemes** (such as Countryside Stewardship or Environmental Stewardship) on the land.

For **PAWS restoration** funding your PAWS woodland must be at least 0.5ha in size. A woodland management plan must have been approved in principle by a Woodland Officer before you submit your application. All felling permissions must be in place before an agreement is offered. Further criteria apply please read the grant manual to find out more [www.gov.uk/guidance/hs2-woodland-fund](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/hs2-woodland-fund)

## What are the benefits?

PAWS are ancient woodland sites where semi-natural woodland has been replaced with a plantation. Removing non-native species and restoring the native tree species on PAWS sites can encourage the rich and distinctive tapestry of flora and fauna that are often associated with ancient woodland.

Supporting the creation of more woodland and connecting new woodlands with existing native woodland habitats helps to reverse habitat fragmentation and enhance resilience.

## How do I apply?

### PAWS Restoration

Applications for PAWS restoration are welcomed year-round, but this is a competitive scheme, and a Review Panel will meet quarterly to provisionally commit funding. All work funded through the HS2 Woodland Fund must be completed during the next viable planting season. The forms and information you need to start preparing your application including applications dates are available now at [www.gov.uk/guidance/hs2-woodland-fund](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/hs2-woodland-fund)

### Woodland Creation

From May 2023 HS2 funding for woodland creation will be delivered via the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO). Visit [www.gov.uk/guidance/england-woodland-creation-offer](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/england-woodland-creation-offer)



# Eligibility area



■ HS2 Woodland Fund eligibility area

■ No grant activity

## More information

For more information on the HS2 Woodland Fund, or to discuss your eligibility, speak to your local Forestry Commission Woodland Officer:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

or visit [www.gov.uk/guidance/hs2-woodland-fund](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hs2-woodland-fund) for an application form. The HS2 Woodland Fund is an initiative led by the Forestry Commission and supported by the Department for Transport and High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd.