

Creating new woodland: HS2 Woodland Fund



Grant funding available for:

- Restoring existing Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
- Creating new native woodland

Reopened for applications March 2019 | 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 completed by 2026, 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 sites, 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 natural flood management items. Payments are capped at £4,000 per net hectare of planting (for planting costs only).

The Fund also provides capital funding at 100% of the standard costs of creating and protecting new native woodland. Capital payments are capped at £8,500 per gross hectare of new woodland.

Maintenance payments of £200 per hectare per year for ten years (paid at years five and ten) are also available to help with the costs of maintaining new woodland, where eligible.

Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) customers that meet certain eligibility criteria will be able to continue claiming BPS on the land where new woodland is planted, for up to ten years following establishment or until BPS ends, whichever is sooner.

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.

For **native woodland creation**, your proposed woodland must be between 1ha and 25ha in size (or between 5ha and 25ha if not connecting or expanding existing woodland).

Land owned by local authorities is not eligible for maintenance payments. Further criteria apply.

What are the benefits?

By creating connected new woodlands that link up existing native woodland habitats, habitat fragmentation can be reversed and their resilience enhanced.

PAWS are ancient woodland sites where semi-natural woodland has been replaced with a plantation. Removing exotic 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.

How do I apply?

The HS2 Woodland Fund opened for applications in **January 2018** and the first £1 million was committed during 2018. **The fund re-opened in March 2019** with a further £4 million to be allocated over four years.

Applications are welcomed year-round, but this is a competitive scheme and a Review Panel will meet quarterly to provisionally commit funding to the highest quality applications received during each quarter.


All work funded through the HS2 Woodland Fund must be completed during the next viable planting season, specified on the current version of the application form.

The forms and information you need to start preparing your application are available now at www.gov.uk/guidance/hs2-woodland-fund



Eligibility area



 HS2 Woodland Fund eligibility area

 No grant planting

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 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.



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