

Designing new woodland: Woodland Creation Planning Grant

Support to design new UKFS-compliant woodland



What is the funding?

The Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG) provides funding to landowners, land managers and public bodies to help cover the costs of producing a UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) compliant woodland creation plan. This can be used to support applications to other funding sources for woodland creation, such as the England Woodland Creation Offer.

The WCPG contributes towards the costs of gathering and analysing the information land managers need to consider in order to ensure their proposals for new woodland take account of any impacts on biodiversity, landscape, water, soil, climate change, the historic environment, and local stakeholders.



Planting for the future

What support is on offer?

The WCPG is awarded in staged payments.

Stage 1 – Fixed Payment:

£1,500 will be paid to assist with desk-based data gathering to identify any constraints on the site. This information is compiled through completion of a Stage 1 checklist and supporting documents including at least one map. This will determine whether there is a potential scheme that is eligible for Stage 2 (see below).

Stage 2 – Standard Payment:

Funding will only be offered where the Stage 1 process has confirmed that there is potential for a UKFS-compliant woodland scheme on the site. Stage 2 payments assist with the costs associated with preparing the following:

- Site Appraisal Map
- Design Concept Plan
- Draft UKFS compliant Woodland Creation Design Plan, based on a mandatory Forestry Commission template

Stage 2 funding pays £150 per gross hectare (capped at the net planting area plus 20% to account for designed open space, minus the £1,500 paid at Stage 1). The amount of total funding paid will depend on the area of proposed woodland in the final plan. You will never be paid less than £1,500 for approved Stage 1 work and a minimum of £500 for approved Stage 2 work. In cases where more detailed analysis is required – for example to undertake a landscape and visual impact assessment – applicants can also apply for a discretionary additional Supplementary Payment.

The total payments combined across Stage 1 and Stage 2 (including any discretionary Supplementary Payments) is capped at £30,500 per application.



What are the benefits?

The WCPG provides financial assistance to help prepare plans for woodland creation projects. The funding also ensures that plans are UKFS compliant, which is a requirement for accessing capital grants to support planting. This can also help woodland creation proposals to progress through the grant application and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) determination processes more smoothly.

Am I eligible?

Your proposed woodland must:

- be a minimum of five hectares in total size. If the proposed woodland is split into different blocks, each block must meet the definition of woodland set out by the National Forest Inventory: a minimum area of 0.5 hectares and a minimum width of 20 meters;
- be located in England.

Landscape-scale applications that span multiple land holdings may be accepted. You do not need to own or control the land, but will need a letter confirming that the landowner(s) support the application.

How do I apply?

You will need to submit an application to the Forestry Commission. See **More Information** to apply now.

Applications are accepted year round.

Once we receive your application, we will acknowledge it and make some basic checks to confirm your proposal is eligible. We may need to contact you to finalise some of the details. We aim to provide you with an answer within fifteen working days of receiving your application.

Applying for WCPG alongside other grants

Once you have received your WCPG Stage 2 offer, you can then apply to other funding sources, such as the England Woodland Creation Offer, to help support the costs of tree planting and maintenance but you will not be offered funding until the WCPG process is complete.

More information

For more information and to access the WCPG Application and Plan, please visit: www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-creation-planning-grant

The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. It outlines the context for forestry, sets out the approach of the UK governments to sustainable forest management, defines standards and requirements, and provides a basis for regulation and monitoring, including national and international reporting.



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