<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>England Woodland Creation Grant (EWCG)</th>
<th>HS2 Woodland Fund (HS2WF)</th>
<th>Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf)</th>
<th>Woodland Carbon Code (WCC)</th>
<th>Woodland Carbon Guarantee (WCG)</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>The UTCf provides funding to prepare a Woodland Creation Design Plan which is UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) compliant. Landowners, land managers and public bodies can apply to the FC to support the planning of woodland creation.</td>
<td>The EWCG 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.</td>
<td>The HS2WF provides funding for woodland creation and restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS). Your land will need to be within a 25-mile zone of phase one of the HS2 route from London to the West Midlands. From May 2023 the woodland creation element will be delivered via EWCG.</td>
<td>The UTCf provides capital funding to plant and establish large ‘standard’ trees in urban and peri-urban areas. The fund will provide three years of establishment following planting of the trees.</td>
<td>The WCC is the UK’s voluntary carbon standard for woodland creation projects. If you are a landowner and can demonstrate that you meet this standard, you can sell the carbon sequestered in your woodland in the form of Woodland Carbon Units.</td>
<td>The WCG is an incentive scheme to help accelerate woodland planting rates across England to mitigate for the effects of climate change. These new woodlands will permanently remove carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can I apply year round?</td>
<td>Yes - open year round.</td>
<td>Yes - open year round.</td>
<td>Yes - open year round, but the PAWS element will be subject to quarterly application review panels.</td>
<td>Applications are assessed year-round but your application needs to be submitted by a specific date. See GOV.UK for details.</td>
<td>Yes - applications are open year round, however participation in the scheme is through periodic auctions and there is a cut-off date for applications in advance of each auction. Auction dates are advertised online.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are there financial incentives available?</td>
<td>You can apply for £1,500 to complete a stage one checklist. At stage two, you can get £500 per hectare to produce a woodland creation design plan, minus the £1,500 offered at stage one. You can also receive a funding contribution towards any additional, specialist surveys that we agree need to be undertaken. Funding is capped at £350,000 per project. You will never be paid less than £1,500 for approved Stage 1 work and a minimum of £500 for approved Stage 2 work.</td>
<td>In addition to covering the standard capital costs of tree planting up to a cap of £150,250 per hectare and annual maintenance payments of £8,500 per hectare for 10 years, EWCG also offers an additional £1,100 per hectare when planting on low sensitivity land and ‘additional contributors’ per hectare for: • Nature recovery: Up to £3,300 • Water quality: £500 • Flood risk: £1,000 • Riparian buffers: £200 • Close to settlements: £600 • Public access: £13,700.</td>
<td>PAWS restoration will pay 100% of fixed standard costs for a range of capital items to plant and protect new trees. Woodland creation will be delivered via EWCG which has a range of financial incentives available.</td>
<td>The UTCf provides 80% of published standard costs for planting large ‘standard’ trees and their establishment costs for three years following planting. The remaining funding must be met via the recipient, either in the form of money or labour.</td>
<td>A new native woodland can capture 400-500 tonnes of CO2e/ha over 100 years. Buyers have recently paid between £5 and £15/CO2e for carbon units captured by woodland projects verified through the Woodland Carbon Code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can I apply alongside other FC grants and funding schemes?</td>
<td>If you’ve already applied for a woodland creation grant such as EWCG, or submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment enquiry form to plant a new woodland, you’re not eligible to apply for a WCPG on that site. You can however apply for EWCG once the FC have made you a Stage 2 Offer under the WCPG.</td>
<td>Before you apply to the EWCG you may want to consider using the WCPG. The WCPG provides funding to prepare a UKFS-compliant Woodland Creation Design Plan – this plan can subsequently be used to support a WCC application.</td>
<td>You can’t get an HS2WF agreement if your land is already under an Environmental Stewardship agreement or a Countryside Stewardship agreement, but you may still apply if the existing agreement is due to expire or you are planning to withdraw the land from it financial penalties may apply - check with the relevant grant administrator.</td>
<td>If you apply for registration with the WCC you are not excluded from applying for other FC grants and funding schemes.</td>
<td>With a minimum block size of 2 hectares a successful WCG project will therefore be the threshold of any associated establishment grant scheme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum area</td>
<td>5 hectares or more.</td>
<td>The minimum total size of woodland included in a EWCG application is 1 hectare.</td>
<td>For PAWS restoration the minimum application size is 0.5ha.</td>
<td>There isn’t a minimum area size to apply, but individual applications will be required to meet a minimum value threshold! This is at least £125,000 for block bids, or £10,000 for individual applications.</td>
<td>There’s no minimum size for the WCC and there’s a streamlined process for small woodlands. Minimum block size of 10 hectares.</td>
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<td>Minimum woodland block size</td>
<td>Any block must meet the definition of woodland set out by the National Forest Inventory. A minimum area of 0.3 hectares and a minimum width of 20 metres.</td>
<td>All woodland blocks within a EWCG application must be 0.1 hectares or more in size. Blocks must have a minimum width of 20 metres except for riparian buffers and shelterbelts, where the minimum width is 10 metres.</td>
<td>For PAWS restoration the minimum felling coup size is 0.1ha.</td>
<td>Woodland creation thresholds match EWCG.</td>
<td>The WCG does not have specific minimum area thresholds. The minimum area of a successful WCG project will therefore be the area threshold of any associated establishment grant scheme.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applicant and Land Registration with the RPA</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Applicant and land registration is not required for the PAWS restoration element of the woodland fund.</td>
<td>Applicants will need to register with Rural Payments to obtain a Single Business Identifier (SBI). Visit <a href="http://www.gov.uk/guidance/rural-payments-service-registering-and-updating-your-details">www.gov.uk/guidance/rural-payments-service-registering-and-updating-your-details</a></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility with Delinked Payments - Delinked Payments (land manager and land must be registered with RPA)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Eligible land under EWCG can also be used to claim delinked payments.</td>
<td>Eligible land under EWCG can also be used to claim delinked payments.</td>
<td>Eligibility with delinked payments will be dependent on the eligibility of any associated establishment or maintenance grant.</td>
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<td>Does it include support for leaky woody dams?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>For PAWS restoration this is dealt with on a case by case basis if applicable.</td>
<td>This is dealt with on a case by case basis if applicable.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
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</table>

1 Please note you cannot switch from one grant that pays for woodland establishment to another. E.g. you can’t withdraw from a CS agreement to apply for the HS2WF or vice versa.
2 Minimum value subject to change.
### Woodland Management Plan (WMP)
Part of Countryside Stewardship

**Summary**
The WMP is a one-off payment to create a 10 year Woodland Management Plan which is UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) compliant. You have two years from the agreement start date to write your plan and secure approval from the FC. Once your plan is approved you can claim the grant payment. You must make your claim within two years and three months of the agreement start date.

**Can I apply year round?**
Yes - open year round.

**Are there financial incentives available?**
The payment rate for the WMP is based on the area of woodland:
- 3 - 50 hectares: flat rate of £1,500
- 51 - 100 hectares: flat rate of £1,500 for first 50ha, plus £30 per additional hectare
- Over 100 hectares: flat rate of £3,000 + £15 per additional hectare over 100 hectares

**Is this Higher Tier, Mid Tier or a capital item?**
Capital only

**Can I apply alongside other FC and CS grant and funding schemes?**
Yes - but to apply for the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Improvement Grant (part of Higher Tier) your Woodland Management Plan must be approved.

**Minimum area**
3 hectares

**Minimum woodland block size**
0.5 hectares

**Applicant and Land Registration with the RPA**
Yes

**Does it include support for leaky woody dams (RP32 and RP33)?**
No

**Does it include support for woodland infrastructure (FY2)?**
No

**Where can I find out more?**

### Woodland Tree Health
Part of Countryside Stewardship

**Summary**
There are two elements within this grant:
- Restoration provides support for restocking woodland after felling due to a tree health issue.
- Improvement provides support for the removal of diseased trees and infected rhododendron.

**Are there financial incentives available?**
To restock native tree species on an ancient woodland site the payment is capped at an average of £6,000 per hectare (£3,000 per hectare for non-native species), whilst on other sites it’s £4,720 per hectare for native species (£3,850 per hectare for non-native species).
To fell diseased trees you can receive between £375 and £2,424.20 per hectare, and between £3,500 and £5,500 per hectare for rhododendron control.

**Is this Higher Tier, Mid Tier or a capital item?**
Capital only

**Can I apply alongside other FC and CS grant and funding schemes?**
Yes - a Woodland Management Plan is strongly recommended and the woodland can already be subject to other grants.

**Minimum area**
0.25 hectares

**Minimum woodland block size**
0.1 hectares

**Applicant and Land Registration with the RPA**
Yes

**Does it include support for leaky woody dams (RP32 and RP33)?**
No

**Does it include support for woodland infrastructure (FY2)?**
No

**Where can I find out more?**
[www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-tree-health-grant-countryside-stewardship](www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-tree-health-grant-countryside-stewardship)

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Applications for Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier, including the woodland improvement grant (WD2), are currently closed. For information about the Higher Tier offer, when you can apply and what improvements have been made read Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (www.gov.uk/government/publications/countryside-stewardship-higher-tier).

* There are three main elements within Countryside Stewardship:
  - Mid Tier: multi-year agreements for environmental improvements in the wider countryside, that include multi-year options and capital items;
  - Higher Tier: multi-year agreements for environmentally significant sites, commons and woodlands where more complex management requires support from Natural England or the Forestry Commission, that include multi-year options and capital items; and
  - Capital-only grants: a range of grants specific to outcomes for hedgerows and boundaries, developing implementation plans, feasibility studies, woodland management plans, woodland creation (establishment), and tree health - normally two year agreements.*

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June 2024