



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

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# Glastir

## Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme Rules

### *Introduction*

The Glastir Woodland Creation scheme supports a range of woodland planting and aims to help fulfil the commitment to an increased area of native and mixed woodland set out in Woodlands for Wales (WfW), the Welsh Government's woodland strategy.



There are 3 grants available:

1. Establishment grants. These grants are claimed by the agreement holder in the year that the planting is carried out and in the two years following the planting. No additional grants are available for any site preparation. See Table 1 for available rates

2. Fencing grant rates £3.15/m which includes an allowance for any gates or stiles. Landowners can upgrade to deer or rabbit fencing at their own cost but this must be in addition to the standard stock fence. These rates are only available for new planting.

The new fence must follow the boundary of the new planting area. Exceptionally the fence line can include existing woodland that is adjacent to the new planting area and under the same ownership, NOTE: the amount claimed must not exceed the cost of fencing the boundary of the new planting area. The reason for fencing new planting is to ensure that it remains 100% stock proof.

3. Income foregone payments, which for farmers is £300/ha/year for 15 years and for non farmers £66/ha/year for 15 years. This is known as the 'woodland creation premium' (WCP) and is claimed annually on the SAF.

You must not start any work until you have been accepted into the Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme through the offer and return of a signed contract.

**Table 1 Woodland category, specifications and grant rates:**

Woodland Category	Specification	Glastir New Planting - Establishment Grant £/ha		
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<b>Small Simple Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No species restriction providing they are suited to site &amp; woodland meets UKFS and environmental standards</li> <li>Stocking density 2500/ha</li> </ul>	500	150	150
<b>Basic Mixed Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 3 species with no more than 75% of any one species</li> <li>Minimum of 25% broadleaves inclusive of woody shrub element</li> <li>Maximum of 10% woody shrub element</li> <li>Stocking density 2500/ha</li> </ul>	980	500	500
<b>Enhanced Mixed Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 5 major species (at least 10% of each)</li> <li>Minimum of 25% broadleaves inclusive of woody shrub element</li> <li>Maximum 10% woody shrub element</li> <li>No more than 50% of a single species</li> <li>Stocking density 2500/ha</li> </ul>	2350	500	500
<b>Native Woodland - Carbon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native species mix should be site native</li> <li>Suitable provenance planting stock*</li> <li>Maximum 20% woody shrubs allowed</li> <li>Stocking density 2500/ha</li> </ul>	3500	500	500
<b>Native Woodland - Biodiversity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native species - mix should be site native and largely conform to HAP types, however, local conditions may necessitate some variation from these.</li> <li>Suitable provenance planting stock*</li> <li>Maximum 20% woody shrubs allowed</li> <li>Clumped distribution of species with variable spacing</li> <li>Stocking density 1600/ha</li> </ul>	1890	500	500

**\* Indications from Research are that the use of locally native provenance alone may not be resilient enough to cope with predicated climate change. Guidance is being developed on widening the genetic material used within a species.**

## ***Eligibility***

These grants are available to all landowners across Wales. However landowners will need to contact Welsh Government's (WG) Rural Payments Division to get a Customer Reference Number (CRN) and to register the land before applying for the grants. Details can be found at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infid-6j2h7x>

There is no limit on size of holding.

## ***Relationship with other Glastir options***

Glastir woodland creation grants are stand alone grants within Glastir which means that:

- Glastir woodland creation grants are available to all landowners without the need to have indicated an interest in, or to have applied for, the Glastir All-Wales element (AWE).
- Planting using the Glastir woodland creation grants will not have any effect on a future application to Glastir AWE.
- Landowners who have already applied for the Glastir AWE can still apply for Glastir woodland creation grants.
- The planted area will not reduce the points that a landowner can claim for AWE unless he/she chooses to exclude woodland areas from the Glastir AWE application.

The Glastir whole farm code states that '***Do not introduce any non-native animal or plant species to your agreement land***, other than for agricultural production (including game), or commercial timber production purposes'. It is also acceptable to use non-native trees for carbon planting as well.

## ***Woodland Creation Premium (WCP)***

The grant rate for WCP is payable for the whole sub-compartment, including areas of open space.

WCP is only paid for new planting on agricultural land designated as either arable land or 'agriculturally improved or acid grassland and bracken land'.

Single Payment Scheme - Farmers can now use land taken out of agricultural production for new planting under Glastir Woodland Creation grants, to support claims on SPS entitlements, provided that the land was used to claim SPS in 2008. The land may be used for SPS claims for the duration of the Glastir Woodland Creation agreement.

### ***Proof of Farmer status***

Where the applicant has declared that they are a farmer, prior to claiming WCP, the applicant must provide written evidence from a Chartered Accountant confirming the level of income is above the minimum threshold.

### ***Farmer definition***

A Farmer is defined as 'a person who devotes an essential part of their working time to agricultural activities and who derives at least 25% of their gross income from farming, taking into account all of the land that they farm in Wales'.

### ***Stock exclusion***

The area must remain free from livestock for 10 years following the payment of the 1<sup>st</sup> instalment of grant. 15 years stock exclusion if WCP is claimed. The fencing specification can be found in the Planting Guidance notes.

### ***Woodland Creation officers***

Approved forestry consultants (Woodland Creation officers) will be provided by FCW to assist the landowner by explaining the rules and developing their application for them. This is at no cost to the landowner. WCO shall not charge landowners any additional fees for any services associated with Glastir Woodland Creation application.

### ***Strategic Creation Areas***

FCW, CCW and others including Archaeological Trusts, Wales Environment Link, EAW, the National Parks and AONBs have worked together to develop strategic woodland creation maps for both native woodlands & mixed woodlands. These maps will consist of 4 zones: red, amber, green and green hatched.

**RED** – no planting allowed, (inappropriate site such as designated areas, deep peat)

**AMBER**<sup>1</sup> – planting plans to be further informed by local consultation or where there are other barriers to overcome prior to making an application e.g. common land.

**GREEN** – planting can go ahead – no consultation required.

**GREEN hatched** – planting can go ahead with use of specific prescriptions

### ***Minimum planting area***

<b>Woodland Category</b>	<b>Maximum application area ha</b>	<b>Minimum application area ha</b>	<b>Minimum block size within application ha</b>
<b>Small simple woodland</b>	0.5	0.25	0.1
<b>Basic mixed woodland</b>	n/a	0.25	0.1
<b>Enhanced Mixed woodland</b>	n/a	0.5	0.5
<b>Native woodland – carbon</b>	n/a	0.5	0.5
<b>Native woodland - biodiversity</b>	n/a	0.25	0.1

Woodland blocks must be at least 12m in width between fences at their narrowest point although applications for linear riparian woodlands that do not meet this requirement will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

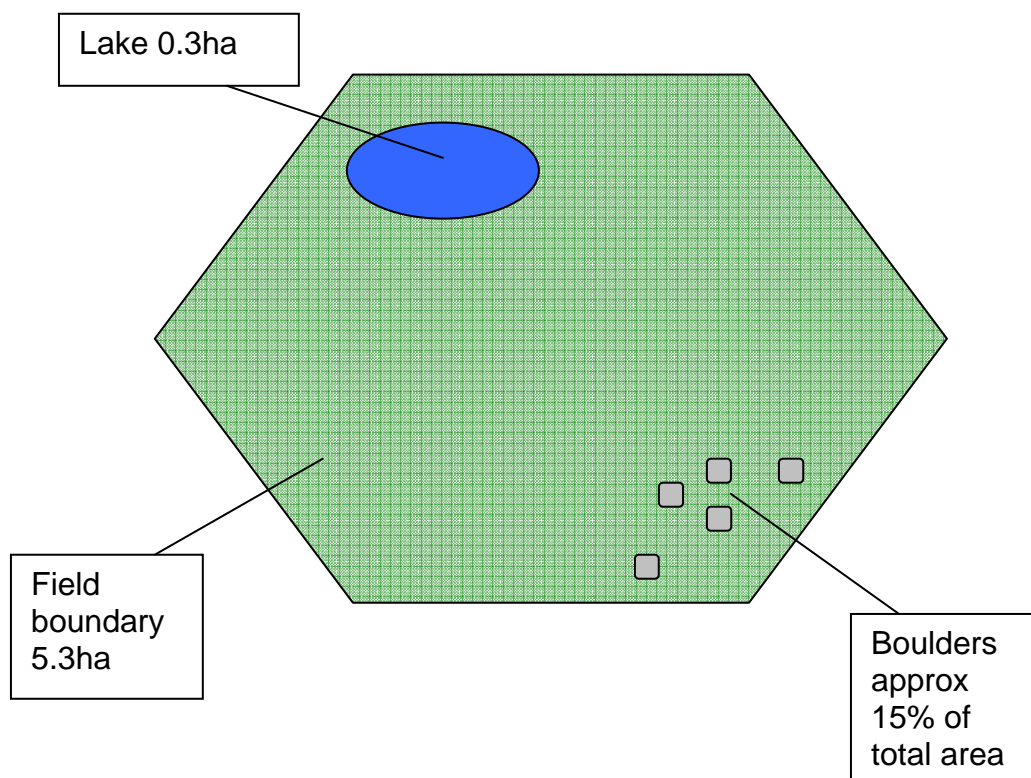
### ***Planting layout & design***

Planting design & layout must follow the UKFS guidelines, the landscape principles within the FCW guidance for farm woodlands (currently FCS creation of small woodlands on farms <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-6pwmv7> ) and FCW corporate Guidance on Species Diversity.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to detailed guidance document on 'Mapping & consultation'.

## Open Ground



Open ground is desirable in woodlands for both management and environmental reasons. We will agree how much open ground is needed and where it should be. The stocking density shown in the planting specifications is based on number of stems per gross hectare and the presumption is that the woodland will be fully stocked with trees. Unplantable/open ground areas within the woodland (i.e. open ground for habitat land etc) over 0.1ha must be mapped and excluded from the grant aided area. Scattered and unmappable open ground (i.e. less than 0.1ha) can be included within the planting area up to a total of 15% of the gross area. In these situations the plant spacing must be adjusted (closer) to ensure that 2500 or 1600 (as specification) stems per hectare are evenly planted across the gross planting area. Failure to achieve the specified stocking density across the gross area of the scheme will result in grant reclaim.

### Example 1

The gross area within the field boundary is 5.3ha. The unplanted land is the lake (0.3ha) and is over the 0.1ha limit. It must be mapped and excluded from the grant application. The area for grant claim is 5ha.

In this example the grant supports planting 2500 stems per ha. 15% is unplantable, but cannot be mapped. The tree spacing needs to be adjusted to reflect 2500 stems per ha over the grant claim area. In this example across

the plantable area trees will be spaced at 2941 per ha which is a spacing of 1.84m to give 2500 over 5ha.

### Example 2

Enhanced mixed woodland	2500spha
Overall area	10ha
Mappable open space	1.2ha
Net grantable area	8.8ha
Unmappable open space	10%
Trees required	8.8x2500 = 22,000
Plantable area	7.92ha
Trees per plantable ha	2777
Spacing	1.9

### Example 3

Native woodland - biodiversity	1600spha
Overall area	10ha
Mappable open space	1.2ha
Net grantable area	8.8ha
Unmappable open space	10%
Trees required	8.8x1600 = 14,080
Plantable area	7.92ha
Trees per plantable ha	1778
Spacing	2.37

**Table 2 Spacing distances for varying percentages of open space**

### Stocking density of 2500 stems per hectare

% open space	spacing mxm	stems/ha in net area
0%	2.00	2500
5%	1.95	2631
10%	1.90	2777
15%	1.84	2941

Over 15% must be mapped & excluded from grant claim

## Stocking density of 1600 stems per hectare

% open space	spacing mxm	stems/ha in net area
0%	2.50	1600
5%	2.44	1684
10%	2.37	1778
15%	2.30	1882

Over 15% must be mapped & excluded from grant claim

### **Existing scrub**

Existing woody scrub can have a high environmental value and should not be cleared for new trees but should be incorporated into the planting design. This counts as unplantable land and should be treated in the same way as open ground when mapping and planning tree density.

### **EIA Thresholds**

Planting proposals above EIA thresholds will be assessed by FCW staff in accordance with EIA regulations. If planting is above the thresholds the FC have to decide whether the impact is significant (taking into account % conifer and % broadleaves). FCW can request a species layout map under EIA opinion to make a decision.

**Table 3 EIA Thresholds**

Operation	Threshold where any part of the land is in a sensitive area	Threshold where no part of the land is in a sensitive area
Afforestation	2+ hectares where the land is in a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or National Scenic Area (NSA).  All projects in other sensitive areas	5 hectares

## ***Species Choice***

Species must also reflect FCW guidelines relating to managing mixed woodland. This can be found on the Glastir Woodland Creation page - “A guide for increasing tree species diversity in Wales”

## ***Rules for Planting Mixtures***

To be eligible for the grant, all mixtures must be designed to ensure that:

- \* The minimum proportion of broadleaves survives
- \* A component of each species planted will remain. For simple mixtures the removal of a conifer nurse species during the rotation would be acceptable.

For these reasons, mixtures must be planted in a way that limits the risk of suppression of weaker species.

## ***Obligation/maintenance***

The planting area must be maintained, as per the contract, for a period of 10 years from the date of the 1<sup>st</sup> instalment

## ***Claims & amendments***

Up to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 the only claim years that will be available for the planting element are 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13. No amendments to agreements will be permitted except for changes of owner details.

Establishment and fencing grants are claimed by the agreement holder directly from FCW in the year specified in the agreement. One claim will be permitted to include all work in any claim year and this must be submitted by **28<sup>th</sup> February** of that year.

Only one application per landowner per financial year will be accepted.

Woodland Creation Premium is to be claimed annually from WG on the Single Application Form (SAF) the same way as ILP is claimed now.