



Community Woodland Contribution



Introduction

This leaflet explains what we need you to do if you are applying for Community Woodland Contribution (CWC) in addition to planting grant under the Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS).

What this contribution is for?

This contribution is paid to encourage people to create new woodlands near towns and cities which can be used for informal recreation by local people.

What you need to consider

DESIGNING THE WOODLAND FOR THE PUBLIC

As well as meeting the standards we expect from every WGS, you need to take into account the advice in our 'Community Woodland Design Guidelines' and 'Forest Recreation Guidelines'.

SUITABLE LOCATIONS

To be eligible for CWC, the new woodland must be within 5 miles of the edge of a village, town or city and where there are few other woodlands which are used by the local community for recreation.

To make sure that the woodland meets the needs of the local community, we will consider where new woodlands are likely to be of most value for recreation. This will take into account where people live and where there is already woodland for recreation in the area. We will ask the local authority for their views on this. If there is a strategic plan for creating Community Woodlands in the area, we will use this to help us assess your proposals.

If the area is already well provided with woodlands where people are welcome, we may decide not to pay CWC for creating a new community woodland, or only pay the supplement for part of the area.

SIZE OF THE WOODLAND

Woodlands have to be of a reasonable size before they can provide woodland recreation. Proposals for small woods are more likely to be accepted if there are other factors which mean that they will be of particular value. A small wood, in an area where woodland recreation is particularly scarce would be welcomed, particularly if there is community involvement in setting up the woodland.

If you propose to establish a large community woodland, we will have to consider if this will meet the needs of all the people who live in the area. We will ask you to give us your assessment of this and to provide evidence of the expected support for the woodland.

MAKING PEOPLE WELCOME

We will expect you to put up signs which clearly show that people are welcome to walk in the woodland. We can give you guidance on what is required and provide some suitable signs.

You will need to tell us your plans for letting people know that the woodland is there and open to the public, for example by providing leaflets or articles in local papers.



GETTING TO THE WOODLAND

It must be easy for people to visit the woodland. There usually needs to be safe car parking close at hand. If you plan to build a car park or a new access onto the public road, you should discuss this with the local planning authority responsible for the highway.

Good public transport to the area can also increase its use. If the wood is next to houses, then good access on footpaths may be sufficient.

WALKING WITHIN THE WOODLAND

We can only pay the CWC if you allow the public free access on foot.

During the early years when the woodland is being set up, we may agree that you provide access along rides or footpaths only. We will also agree when you can close off access for a short time for woodland management.

If you wish, you may carry out other activities in the woodland so long as they do not interfere with public access.

How to apply

You must complete an application to the WGS and in addition give us details of your plans for giving people access to the woodland. The larger the woodland, the more information we will expect you to provide.

Here is a list of information we may ask you to provide:

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- consultation with local people
- evidence of community support for the scheme
- proposals for continuing community involvement, e.g. working with local clubs, youth groups, schools.

PROVIDING FOR RECREATION

Your plans for:

- leaflets and local publicity
- footpath layout, construction and maintenance programme
- signs and waymarking
- providing for disabled people
- car parking
- links with public transport
- monitoring usage and need for maintenance

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- any restrictions to access for forest operations
- public liability and fire insurance

Payment of Grant

This contribution will normally be paid as a lump sum with the first instalment of the grant for new planting. In the case of natural regeneration, we will pay it along with the Fixed Payment, when enough stocking is achieved.

However, we may hold back payment of the contribution even if planting has been done, until you have completed the work needed to provide for recreation in the woodland.

You must do the work we have agreed and maintain the woodland and the recreation facilities to our reasonable satisfaction. You may be eligible for Annual Management Grant only after the end of the first plan period, as long as the appropriate conditions are met.

If you want to know more

Contact your local Forestry Commission Conservancy office or,
Grants and Licences, Forestry Commission,
Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT

Tel: 0131 334 0303

