

English Woodland Grant Scheme

EWGS Summary

Version 4/April 2010
For updates and the latest version go to: www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs

Purpose

This note provides a summary of the English Woodland Grant Scheme and is aimed at forest managers, agents and woodland owners. It is not designed to replace the scheme guidance – this can be found on the Forestry Commission’s EWGS website or in EWGS grant packs, which are available from regional offices.

Introduction

EWGS offers six grants for the creation and stewardship of woodlands and is operated by the Forestry Commission. If you enter into an EWGS agreement you must comply with forestry regulations, the UK Forestry Standard and associated FC Guidance.

The main aims of EWGS are the creation and sustainable management of woodlands to deliver:

- Environmental improvements such as biodiversity and climate change mitigation.
- Social benefits such as public access and recreation.

Grants will be offered where they meet national and regional objectives and there is money available. Forestry Commission regional websites give an indication whether funds are still available, and you are recommended to check this before applying.

Consultation and the Public Register

The Forestry Commission will consult with other bodies in certain circumstances. For example, applications affecting Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) will be sent to Natural England. All felling and woodland creation proposals are entered on the Forestry Commission’s Public Register for 28 days for anyone to view and also comment upon.



Woodland Planning Grant (WPG)

'To support the preparation of woodland management plans'

Designed primarily to aid the production of management plans – the foundation of sustainable management. The management plan template meets UKWAS planning requirements, thus assisting entry into certification. The template and some example plans are available on the EWGS website www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wpg.

Key eligibility

- Properties with over 3ha of woodland are eligible.
- All woodland within a property should be included.

Payment rates

£20/ha for the first 100 hectares, £10/ha thereafter, with a minimum payment of £1000.

Woodland Assessment Grant (WAG)

'To support information gathering that improves management decisions'

Designed to obtain further information, where there is an identified need. The information required should inform management decisions and reflect the sensitivity of the site and proposed work.

Payment rates

Assessment type	Grant rate	Minimum payment
Ecological Assessment	£5.60 per hectare	£300
Landscape Design Plan	£2.80 per hectare	£300
Historical & Cultural Heritage	£5.60 per hectare	£300
Determining Stakeholder Interests	£300 per assessment	£300

Woodland Regeneration Grant (WRG)

'To support desirable changes in woodland at the time of greatest opportunity'

Designed to support the re-establishment of trees when woodland felling has taken place. Broadleaves must be established at a density of at least 1100 trees per hectare; conifers 2250 trees per hectare. Conifer nurses and exotic shrubs will only be allowed in certain circumstances.

Woodland Regeneration Grant – Payment Rates

Felling		Restocking with:			
		Native Broadleaves	Broadleaves	Conifer	Wide Spaced Broadleaves
Ancient Woodland Sites	Semi Natural	1100	950	NP	NP
	Broadleaf Plantation	1760	950*	NP	NP
	Conifer Plantation	1760	950*	NIL*	NP
Non-Ancient Woodland	Semi Natural	1100	950	NP	NP
	Broadleaf Plantation	1100	950*	NP	350
	Conifer Plantation	1100	950*	360*	NP

Key

- NP Restocking not permitted
 NIL Restocking permitted but no grant will be offered
 * Conifer nurse is permitted

Woodland Management Grant (WVG)

'To support the basic management activities that underpin woodland sustainability'
Designed to support operations that maintain or enhance the environmental and social value e.g. ride management, pest management, coppicing and uneconomic thinning.

Eligibility

1. Sustainable management: Properties over 100ha must be certified to UKWAS. Properties between 30ha and 100ha do not need to be certified but must have a management plan. Properties under 30ha do not need to be certified but must have either a management plan or a Condition, Opportunity and Threat (COT) Assessment.
2. SSSI woodlands, native woodlands, ancient woodlands, public access woodland (where there is a demand) or woodland within Red squirrel reserves are eligible for payment.
3. There must be sufficient work taking place to justify the grant.

Payment rate

£30/ha per year on the eligible area.

Woodland Creation Grant (WVG)

'To support the creation of properly designed and well located new woodlands'

Land now continues to be eligible for Single Payment Scheme (SPS) following establishment of woodland under EWGS. There are three possible grant payments:

- Woodland Creation Grant contributes to the cost of woodland creation. Payment rates are £1800/ha Broadleaf, £1200/ha Conifer and £700/ha Special Broadleaves
- An Additional Contribution of up to £2000 will be paid for all applications that meet national or regional priorities.
- Farm Woodland Payments (FWP) can be paid on top of WVG to compensate for the loss of agricultural income as a result of creating woodland on agricultural land. They are payable for up to 15 years and farmers can continue to claim Single Farm Payments as well.

Each region has a scoring form to rank applications for woodland creation. The highest scoring applications within the regional budget will be offered grant.



Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG)

'To support capital projects in woodlands'

Designed to support work such as access tracks, uneconomic thinning, coppicing, rhododendron clearance and public access facilities.

There are four national funds available:

- **SSSI WIG** – 80% contribution towards work that will help a SSSI woodland achieve or maintain favourable condition.
- **BAP WIG** – 50% or 80% contribution to deliver the UK Biodiversity Action Plan for priority woodland habitats and species, e.g. restoring Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).
- **Red squirrel WIG** – 80% contribution for conservation work in Red squirrel reserves and buffer zones.
- **Public Access WIG** – 50 or 80% contributions for the provision and improvement of public access facilities where there is a need. Higher contributions are available in regional priority areas, e.g. Social Regeneration Priority Areas.

In addition to these national priorities, there are a range of regional funds, for example supporting work to help Forest Schools, Woodland Birds, Ancient and Native Woodlands.

Other EWGS grants

There are special grants operating in specific target areas to reflect regional priorities. For further information on these special grants contact your regional FC Office.

Claiming grants

Work must be done and claimed in the claim year agreed in the contract, otherwise the grant offer is lost, unless an amendment is agreed by the end of the claim year.

Sources of further information

All of the information about the English Woodland Grant Scheme is available on the Forestry Commission website: www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs. Other funding may also be available under Defra schemes: www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes.

For further information regarding the English Woodland Grant Scheme, Felling Licence Regulations or Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, please contact your regional Forestry Commission Office:

North West England **01524 565800**
North East England **01669 621591**
Yorkshire & the Humber **01904 448778**
East Midlands **01623 821474**

West Midlands **01905 532200**
East England **01842 815544**
South West England **01626 890666**
South East England **01420 23337**

