

English Woodland Grant Scheme

EWGS Woodland Creation Grant 2011: Additional Contribution and Score Form Guidance for North West Region

Additional Contributions:

Arrangements for woodland creation claimed in 2011/2012 or later There are Regionally focussed additional contributions of up to £2000 per ha available for:

1. New woodlands in support of the North West Woodland Manifesto - located in Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside or Cheshire.
2. Within Quality of Place priority areas and offering public access.
3. New woodlands in regional priority areas:
 - National Parks
 - AONBs
 - Uplands as identified as SDA land
4. For new native woodland in target biodiversity areas:
 - Bird priority areas (see RSPB targeting website or LIS)
 - Butterfly priority areas (figure 3)
 - Ancient and Native woodland expansion

A maximum of £2000/ha additional contribution can be paid.

Introduction The North West has 6% woodland cover and an average of 14 hectares of woodland per 1000 head of population. This is significantly below the national average.

Eligibility & Payment Rates In order to be eligible for this, grant applicants must meet the following:

- The general criteria and conditions for Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) apply – refer to the WCG guidance for further details.
- The application must pass the regional scoring round.

Quality of Place (QoP) Additional Contribution

Introduction Q of P Areas are based on data about population numbers, deprivation indices and existing woodland access provision. A map showing these areas is included Annex 2 of this guide but the definitive areas are

available in the Land Information Search facility on the FC website.

Eligibility & Payment Rate In order to be eligible for this grant applicants must meet the following:

- The general criteria and conditions for Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) apply – refer to the WCG guidance for further details.
- Create new woodland within Q of P Areas.
- Provide public access. The wood must be designed to provide high quality access, be accessible for free, quiet enjoyment by the public (including dogs on leads) during daylight hours for 11 months of each year, and access must be permitted for 30 years from first payment of grant.

An additional contribution of £1000/ha will be paid for agreements meeting these criteria.

Regional Priority Areas Additional Contribution

Introduction The aim is to encourage appropriate woodlands in National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Uplands.

Priority bird areas have been identified by the Woodland Bird Conservation Targeting Project, highlighting priority species and locations throughout the country. Support is focussed on the target areas identified in the North West.

Priority areas have been identified by Butterfly Conservation Project to help populations of high brown fritillary in the Morecambe Bay/South Cumbria low fells.

Eligibility & Payment Rates In order to be eligible for this grant applicants must meet the following:

- The general criteria and conditions for Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) apply – refer to the WCG guidance for further details
- In support of natural resource protection, out with the catchment maps, a clear rationale must be provided as to how the new woodland contributes to this aim.
- Appropriate new woodland must fall within one of the priority areas highlighted above. Maps indicating the priority area locations are in figures 1 to 4.

An additional contribution of £1000/ha will be paid for agreements meeting these criteria.

Priority New Native Woodland Additional Contribution

Introduction With woodland cover ranging from as little as 4 - 9% across the region, the NW is one of the least wooded areas in England. The Ancient Woodland component is a small fraction of this and often fragmented.

Eligibility In order to be eligible for this grant applicants must meet the following:

- The general criteria and conditions for Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) apply – refer to the WCG guidance for further details.
- You are proposing a new native woodland within 30 metres of an

existing ancient woodland (within 100m in exceptional circumstance i.e. separated by another semi-natural habitat).

Payment Rate An additional contribution of £1000/ha will be paid for agreements meeting these criteria.

North West RFF Woodland Manifesto

Introduction The Regional Forestry Framework has produced a woodland creation manifesto in support of a new woodland creation agenda in the North West in response to low woodland cover and high population levels.

Eligibility & Payment Rate In order to be eligible for this grant applicants must meet the following:
Have at least 50% of the new woodland area within the areas of:

- Lancashire
- Greater Manchester
- Merseyside
- Cheshire

An additional contribution of £1000/ha will be paid for this target.

How to Apply Both EWGS 1 General Details form and EWGS 7 Woodland Creation Grant form along with the North West EWGS 7a WCG Score form must be completed and submitted with an OS Master Map © showing the areas for which grant is sought.

Further Advice and Information Further information can be obtained from your local FC Officer by contacting the Regional office at Peil Wyke on 01524 565800, alternatively you can email northwest.fce@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Other Advice The EWGS website www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs contains all the information needed to apply for grant support. If you do not have access to the internet, you can request any of the information from your local Forestry Commission office.

We recommend getting professional advice on woodland management and grants. A list of national and regional professional organisations is available at www.forestry.gov.uk/england-advice or from your local FC office.

Score Form Guidance

Background Every EWGS Woodland Creation Grant application must be self scored. Applications that the FC confirm score 10 points or more are accepted until the funding is fully committed. The scoring system is more fully explained in EWGS 7.

Regional Score Forms Section 7 of the score forms are different in each region and it is therefore important that applicants have the correct score form for the region in which the land to be planted lies. The forms show the name of the region that they apply to. For applications that cross regional boundaries, apply to the region that has the greater proportion of the area, and use the score form appropriate to that region.

Application requirements Applications should only include Woodland Creation Grant proposals and should not mix other grants.

Applicants must complete the EWGS 7a score form (or more than one if necessary) and enclose it with the fully completed application, including the required Ordnance Survey MasterMap® map.

Application Deadline Applications must score a minimum of 10 points to be accepted. Applications will be accepted and approved on this basis until the grant budget is fully committed. There is no application deadline for 2011.

Completing form EWGS 7a Applicants will find further advice and information on the FC website at www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs, including the Land Information Search facility that will help determine some scores that rely on being in specific areas of the country. Local Forestry Commission staff can also provide advice if applicants are still unsure, as the maps at the back of this guide are only indicative at that scale.

The FC may ask applicants to complete separate scoring forms where different blocks in a scheme are substantially different in character and would have significantly different scores.

Follow the instructions on the form about whether you can tick every score that applies or just one from a group of possible scores.

The following notes refer to the numbered section of the Form EWGS 7a and give further explanation where it may be needed.

- Rural Development**
- 1.1 Defra has used a range of indicators to identify districts of rural England that have consistently poor economic performance. These areas are called Rural Productivity 'Lagging' Areas. A map showing these areas is included in annex 1 of this guide but the definitive areas are available in the Land Information Search facility on the FC website.
 - 1.2 The 70% use of conifers, poplar or cricket bat willow is a percentage of the area actually to be planted and does not include open ground.
 - 1.3/1.4 Tick the box appropriate to your proposed planting density.

**Economic
Regeneration**

- 2.1 Quality of Place Priority Areas are based on data about population numbers, deprivation indices and existing woodland access provision. A map showing these areas is included in annex 1 of this guide but the definitive areas are available in the Land Information Search facility on the FC website.
- 2.2 This section includes all land previously used for industry including landfill sites and associated areas. Also included is land that is not yet restored, and land that has been restored to a non-woodland use where tree planting is acceptable. We will always require the land to be prepared to an appropriate forestry specification prior to planting if it is not to that standard already.
- 2.3/2.4 The 2001 population statistics are available on the internet. Guidance on how to find population statistics can be found in Operations Note 1, which is available at www.forestry.gov.uk/england-ewgsdocuments or your local FC office. Where population figures are not known precisely FC staff can agree an appropriate score with applicants.

**Recreation, Access
& Tourism**

- 3.1 The boundaries of the 12 Community Forests and the National Forest are available in the Land Information Search facility on the FC website. If you are still unsure then FC staff can help.
- 3.2 The requirement here is to allow free public access anywhere on the site, not just on defined paths. Normally this will be during daylight hours for at least 11 months of the year and include access for dogs on leads.
- 3.3 This option is where free public access is restricted to defined paths through the area to be planted (or just parts of the area). Normally this will be during daylight hours for at least 11 months of the year and include access for dogs on leads.
- 3.4 The right of way must be immediately adjacent i.e. touching the new woodland. The new woodland must also be considered to enhance the right of way. A public right of way may include public footpaths, bridleways and roads. No right of way may be obstructed.

**Environment &
Conservation**

- 4.1 The priority is the achievement of the National and local Biodiversity, Habitat and Species Action Plans (BAP, HAP and SAP) targets. More detailed information is available on the UK BAP website: www.ukbap.org.uk. FC staff or Forestry advisors can also explain how new woodland can contribute to these targets.

Applications must specify which Action Plan applies to the work proposed. A definition of the Woodland Habitat types is in annex 4 of this guide.

New native woodland species composition

The species composition of native woodland must meet the principles set out in the [Ancient & Native Woodland Practice Guide](#). A summary is contained in EWGS 7 guidance and in

brief means a new woodland can be deemed native if:

- Advancing and honorary natives do not exceed 20% of the tree/shrub component.
- Non-natives do not exceed 20%.
- All species are appropriate and will not damage or threaten the land being planted, or adjacent land.

4.2 Any extension to Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) with new native woodland must meet the [Ancient & Native Practice Guide](#) principles, summarised in 4.1 above. Extra care is needed to ensure the adjacent ASNW is not threatened by the choice of species in the new woodland.

4.3 Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) are a type of existing wood where it is reasonably certain the site has not been cleared for other uses (like agriculture) in the past.

The new native woodland must meet the [Ancient & Native Practice Guide](#) principles, summarised in 4.1 above.

4.4 The new native woodland must meet the [Ancient & Native Practice Guide](#) principles, summarised in 4.1 above.

Natural England has a register of known Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands and Ancient Woodland Sites over two hectares. This register, your forestry advisor or your local FC office will be able to tell you which species are considered to be native in your locality.

Size	5.1-5.4	Where there are several woodlands of different sizes, score the largest single wood only. If more than one score form is used to cover different parts of the proposed planting, score the largest single wood covered by each form. Applications that do not score here will still be considered.
Landscape Enhancement	6.1	Local Authorities or National Park Authorities will have published guidelines for woodland planting within the Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These guidelines will indicate the preferred locations, size and character for new woodlands. Proposals that are within one of these areas and clearly meet the guidelines will score 3 points. FC staff and Forestry advisors will be able to help with this.
	6.2	'Designed landscapes' are primarily those areas on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. However, other unregistered historic areas can be considered on their merit. Applications should show how this criterion is being met. Proposals will not be agreed if they are considered to be detrimental to these landscapes.
	6.3	An identified landscape improvement is, for example, to screen a particular site from public view, or improve the view of existing woodland by additional planting. This must be specific to the application e.g. screening specific industrial buildings and be of benefit to the public at large, not just the owner. Applications must not adversely affect other's properties and

the views from them. The FC may not approve applications that we feel will do this.

**Regional Woodland
Creation Priorities** 7.1

You can tick the relevant boxes at a point each where more than 50% of the application area falls within the following regional woodland creation target areas:

- AONB or National Park.
- Quality of Place (see annex 2).
- Upland (severely disadvantaged areas).
- Butterfly and/or Bird priority areas (Targeting maps).
- Ancient woodland defragmentation (as per the defragmentation Additional Contribution criteria).

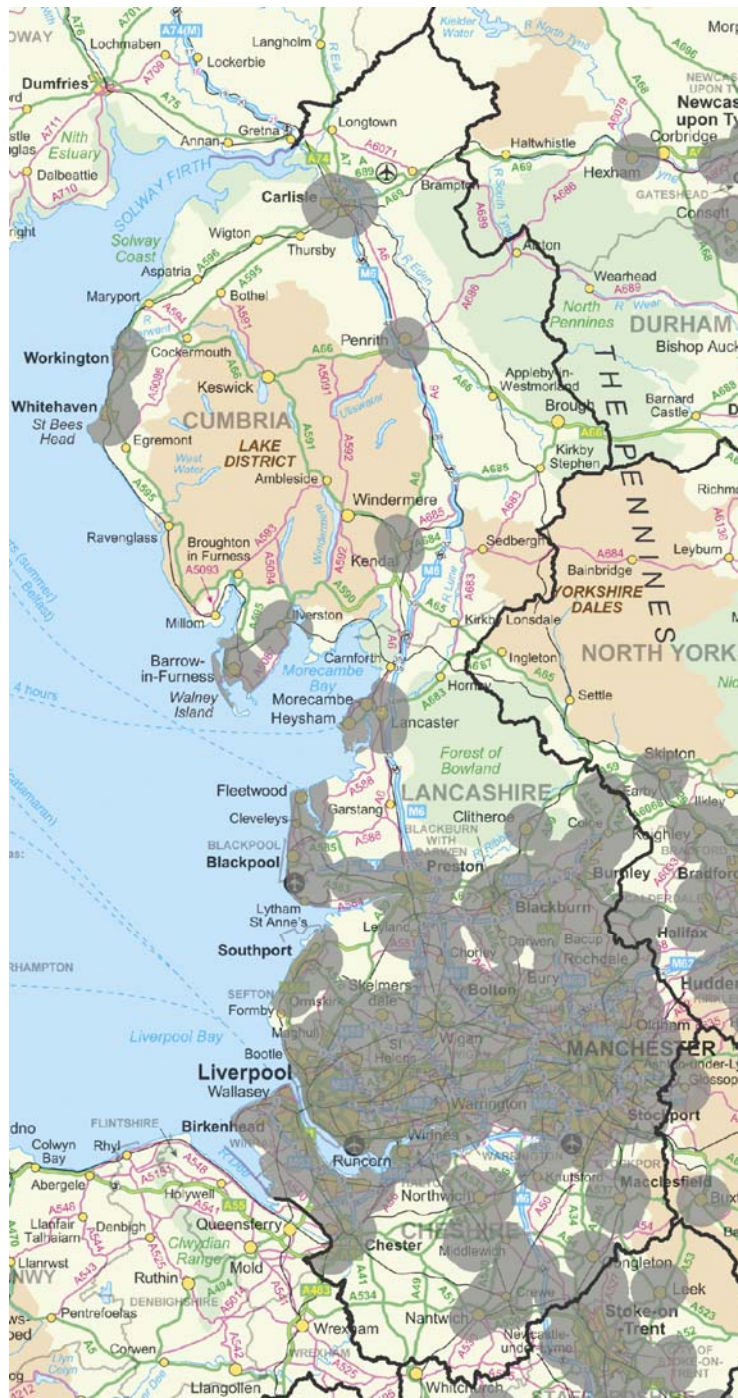
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Annex 1 – Rural Productivity Lagging Areas



Annex 2 – Quality of Place priority areas

The grey shaded areas are deemed priority areas. They are designated on the basis of population, deprivation indices and current woodland access provision



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Annex 3 – Composition of Native Woodland Habitat Types

Woodland Habitat type	Brief description of requirements / notes
All types	> 50% of the potential canopy comprises locally native species.
Upland Oak woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woodland within the “upland region” of England generally with at least 80% oak or birch in the potential canopy. - Small areas of other communities may occur, for example along streams (W7) or towards the base of slopes that experience flushing (W9) or birch areas at the upper margins.
Upland Mixed Ashwoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woodland within the “upland region” of UK with >20% ash in the potential canopy though locally, oak, birch, small-leaved lime or hazel may be prominent. - Yew can be locally prominent within upland ashwood (for example on limestone pavements). Alder can occur in transitions to wet woodland.
Lowland Beech and Yew woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the beech zone of southern to central England and southern Wales, at least 30% beech in the potential canopy and oakwoods - Elsewhere, at least 50% beech in the potential canopy. - Includes yew-dominated woodland mainly restricted to southern England.
Wet Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woodland planted on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils, with >50% alder and willow in the potential canopy but may include ash, birch, oak, pine or beech on the drier riparian areas. - Ashwoods in lowland floodplains are also best described as this habitat type.

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This document is for information only and does not constitute an agreement of any form nor does it confer any rights. It is intended as a guide to help applicants decide whether the grant is applicable to them and whether the main requirements of any grant agreement can be met. The information is subject to change. Full and current details of the grant scheme and the requirements of any EWGS grant contract that may be made between the applicant(s) and the Forestry Commission arising from an application to the grant scheme can be found at www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs.