

English Woodland Grant Scheme

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

Additional Contributions:

This guidance explains how to apply for these three regionally focused grants:

1. Ancient Woodland Priority Area habitat networks;
2. Restoring Nature;
3. Quality of Place.

It supplements the generic guidance on Woodland Creation Grant (WCG), which is available from the [EWGS web site](#).

An upper limit of £3,800 per hectare including Woodland Creation Grant and Additional Contributions applies.

Ancient Woodland Priority Areas (AWPA) Additional Contribution

Introduction Our ancient woodlands are quintessential features of the region's much loved landscape, providing irreplaceable habitats for a range of woodland species as well as opportunities for producing timber and a place for quiet recreation. We have identified the strongest clusters of ancient woodlands and are prioritising their protection and enhancement.

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.
- Be located within the Cotswolds, Dartmoor, Exmoor or Cranborne AWPAs (see Figure 1).
- Be located within or contiguous with a mapped habitat network (as shown on the Forestry Commission's Land Information Search).
- Meet the principles of the Ancient & Native Woodland Practice Guide, outlined in section 4.1 of the score form guidance.

Payment rates An additional contribution of £2,000/ha will be paid for agreements meeting these criteria. Applications in excess of 10 hectares will be by agreement with your Woodland Officer.

Restoring Nature Additional Contribution

Introduction The resource of productive conifer plantations in the Region has reduced as a result of ancient woodland restoration and open habitat creation.

This Additional Contribution encourages landowners to achieve environmental benefits without the loss of productive conifer woodland area.

Eligibility To be eligible for this grant applicants must:

- Meet the general criteria and conditions for Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) apply – refer to the WCG guidance for further details.
- Restore an area of ancient woodland or open habitat from conifer plantation at least one third the size of the proposed new conifer plantation up to five years prior to this application.
- An upper limit of 30 hectares is placed on this AC.
- Restoration and creation take place on the same enterprise¹.

Payment rates An additional £1,200 per hectare will be paid.

Quality of Place (QoP) Additional Contribution

Introduction QoP Areas are based on data about population numbers, deprivation indices and existing woodland access provision. A map showing these areas is in Annex 2 of this guide but the definitive areas are available in the Land Information Search facility on the FC website.

Eligibility To be eligible for this grant applicants must:

- Meet the general criteria and conditions for Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) apply – refer to the WCG guidance for further details.
- Create new woodland within QoP Areas.
- Provide public access to qualify for the higher rate of AC. 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.

Payment Rates An additional contribution of £2000/ha will be paid where public access is provided, or £1,000/ha where access is not provided.

How to Apply Both EWGS 1 General Details form and EWGS 7 Woodland Creation Grant form along with the South West Region EWGS 7a WCG Score form must be completed and submitted with an OS Master Map ®

¹ **Definition of Enterprise:** Land within the SW Region and lying **either** within the same SBI; **or** within the same Property where woodland and farmland are managed through a common decision-making structure and where the property-owned farmland generally lies contiguous to, or is inter-mixed with, the property-owned woodland.

Further Advice and Information

showing the areas for which grant is sought. Further information can be obtained from your local FC Officer by contacting the Regional office at Mamhead on 01626 890666 (Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset) or Coleford on 01594 810983 (Gloucestershire and Wiltshire), alternatively you can email: southwest.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.

Figure 1 – South West England Ancient Woodland Priority Areas



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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, 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.
- Livelihoods**
- 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.

Quality of Life – proximity to people

- 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.

Quality of life – public access

- 3.1 The boundaries of the two Community Forests in the region 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.

Natural Resources and Environment

- 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 a 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 An indicative map of the Catchment Sensitive Areas is included at Annex 4. For confirmation of these areas contact your Woodland Officer.

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

4.5 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.

Across all themes 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.

Natural resources and Environment 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

The following principles apply to section 7 of the score form:

- The proposed woodland must be appropriate in the landscape and designed to benefit the adjacent wider habitats.
- Each application will be assessed on its merits and applicants should say what they expect the benefits to be for that site.
- Examples of Semi-natural habitats include ancient woodlands, significant water features, unimproved grasslands and scrubland Applicants do not have to own the adjacent woodlands or Semi-natural habitats.

You can only tick one of the boxes in this section.

- 7.1 You can tick this box for 6 points if you are creating new native woodland as per Bulletin 112, within 30 metres of existing ancient or semi-natural woodland or other habitats.
- 7.2 If you haven't ticked 7.1, you can tick this box for 4 points if you are creating woodlands within 30 metres of ancient or semi-natural woodland.
- 7.3 If you haven't ticked 7.1 or 7.2., you can tick this box for 2 points if you are creating new woodlands within 30 metres of existing woodland or other semi-natural habitat.

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Annex 1 – Rural Productivity Lagging Areas



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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.

