



Woodland Improvement Grant – Project 3: Woodland Biodiversity



What the Woodland Improvement Grant is for

This leaflet explains what the Woodland Improvement Grant is for and how to apply for it.

The Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) is a single payment to encourage a range of work in existing woodlands. It may be paid to bring certain types of woodland back into management or where there are opportunities to undertake work which will enhance the value of woodland for conservation or landscape or recreation.

WIG is available for special projects in different areas of the country, depending on forestry policy priorities. For each of the overall WIG projects there will be a leaflet like this describing the work which qualifies for payment.

WIG for Woodland Biodiversity

This WIG project will provide payments for work to assist woodland owners to manage their woods in ways which will implement the forestry aspects of “Biodiversity, The UK Action Plan.”

Applicants will need to demonstrate that their application accords with the Action Plan and will deliver clear benefits. In particular, the work should promote the conservation of habitats and species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plans, as these are developed. Further information on this can be obtained from Conservancy Offices.

Where this WIG project is operating

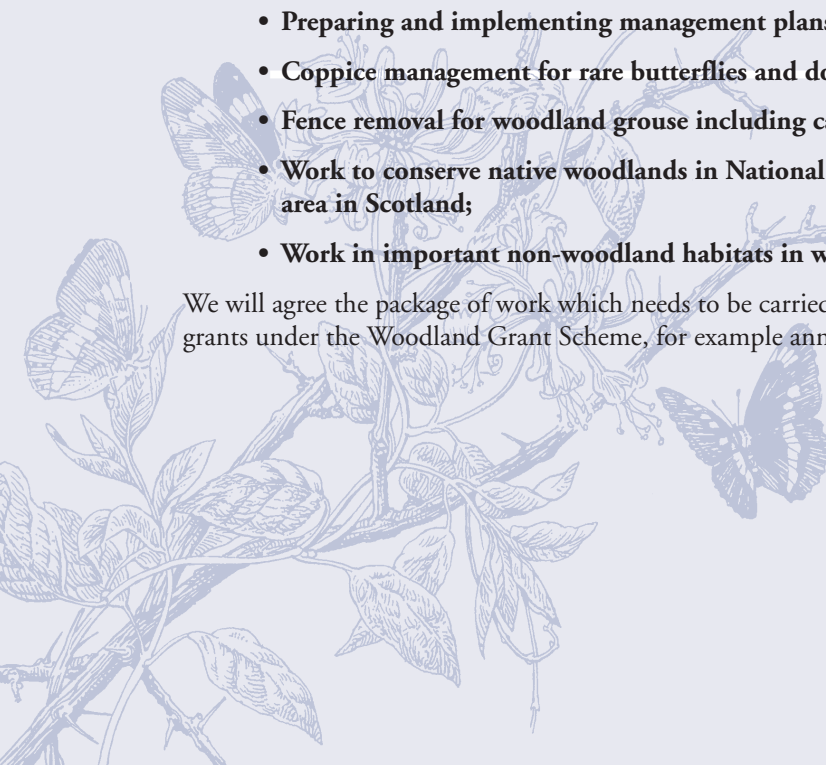
Grant for this project is available throughout Great Britain. In addition, challenge funds may be available to meet particular local priorities within this overall WIG. You can get details of these from Forestry Commission Conservancy offices.

The type of work which will be eligible

We will give grant for work which will contribute to the requirements of the action plans. This could include:

- **Preparing and implementing management plans for semi-natural woods;**
- **Coppice management for rare butterflies and dormice;**
- **Fence removal for woodland grouse including capercaillie;**
- **Work to conserve native woodlands in National Parks and priority area in Scotland;**
- **Work in important non-woodland habitats in woodlands.**

We will agree the package of work which needs to be carried out. This may include other grants under the Woodland Grant Scheme, for example annual management grant.



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How much grant is available

Grant will be paid to cover half the net cost of suitable work, up to a limit of £100,000 (£10,000 in Scotland and Wales). Grants will be awarded on a first come first served basis up to the overall limit available for WIG within WGS.

If a challenge fund is operating in your area, and the work which you propose meets the requirements, you will be asked to bid for the sum of money needed from the challenge fund.

How to apply

In addition to the basic information about you and your woodland which is required for WGS, (forms WGS-FWPS 1 and 2), you will need to give us details of your WIG application. We have set out the key questions to be answered in form WGS 6. If your application only covers WIG, this will replace the descriptive details on the WGS-FWPS 2 form.

If you are applying for money from a challenge fund, we will need to know your bid. Use form WGS 6a for this.

You may be able to amend an existing WGS for your property to include WIG. Please speak to your Conservancy about the extra information we will need from you.

Once we have agreed your proposals, we will send you a contract. Do not start work until we have returned your approved contract.

Challenge funding

If you wish to bid for grant from a challenge fund, you will get more information from the Conservancy about what is required. You will have to submit your bid by a certain date.

Bids will be considered by the Forestry Commission, with advice from independent assessors. We will consider the cost and quality of each proposal, the amount of public benefit secured and value for money. There is a limited amount of money available in each year and this will restrict the number of projects that we can fund. You will be told the outcome of your bid and successful applicants will be sent a WGS contract.

When the work is to be done

Tell us when you intend to carry out the work and claim grant on the WGS 6 form. You may ask for the work to be spread over the next 3 years. We will agree to pay you in a particular financial year (1 April to 31 March) and you must claim by a certain date.

Funding from other sources

If you intend to get funds from other organisations or partners for the work you intend to carry out, then you must tell us about this in your application. Give details about their role in the project and the funding or other help they will provide. If you are applying for such funding you will need to explain which elements of the project they propose to fund.

If you want to know more

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

Tel: 0131 334 0303

