

Creating new woodland: Woodland Carbon Fund

Creating large scale, productive woodland that
supports carbon storage and delivers wider benefits



What is the funding?

The grant supports the planting of multi-purpose woodlands of at least 10 hectares in size (including up to 20% open space). It provides opportunities to work in partnership at a landscape scale, to improve public access to woodland and achieve wider environmental outcomes.

What support is on offer?

The Woodland Carbon Fund provides capital funding for the creation of new, productive woodland. This includes the planting of trees and associated protection items including tree guards, fencing and gates. Funding is also available for the installation of forest roads and recreational infrastructure. In addition, a one-off capital payment of £1,000 per hectare is available in year five following successful establishment.

What support is on offer?

The following funding is available, subject to caps outlined below:

- **Standard Planting Rate:** This applies to most proposals unless in “priority places” (see below) and provides 80% of the standard costs for planting and establishment capital items, capped at £6,800 per hectare;
- **Priority Places Planting Rate:** This applies to proposals in peri-urban areas that also allow permissive access to the public on foot. It provides 100% of the standard costs for planting and establishment capital items, capped at £8,500 per hectare;
- One-off capital payment in year five of £1,000 per hectare (gross including up to 20% open space) following successful establishment;
- Funding for recreational infrastructure such as footpaths at 80% of actual costs (100% in priority places), capped at 10% of the total of an individual application;
- Funding for forest roads and tracks to support improved access for establishment, maintenance and future harvesting paid at 40% of actual costs.

Applicants to the Woodland Carbon Fund may still be eligible to receive funding under the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) for the length of the WCF agreement, subject to meeting BPS eligibility criteria.

What are the benefits?

The Woodland Carbon Fund is a simplified scheme that offers bespoke support for large scale projects that aim to deliver significant economic, environmental and social benefit.

In addition, new woodlands funded by the Woodland Carbon Fund can sign up to the Woodland Carbon Code, a voluntary scheme for accredited carbon capture projects. There is a growing market for the sale of carbon units, with more and more businesses recognising the benefits of buying carbon for the future to demonstrate their environmental credentials – an additional income stream for woodland owners.

Am I eligible?

Your proposed woodland must:

- meet the minimum size threshold of 10 hectares (gross), with up to 20% open space permitted in the final design. Proposals must consist of at least one contiguous block of 10 hectares in area. At our discretion we may also provide grant support for additional blocks of woodland creation of at least five hectares;
- be at least 70% productive species and all new planting must have a minimum stocking density of 2,000 stems per hectare (net);
- be supported with a UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) Woodland Creation Plan (further explained in the application forms);

- be cleared for planting under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (forms part of application process); and
- be on privately owned land or land in the ownership of local authorities. (The land can be in multiple ownership including where the applicant has the landowner’s written permission but does not own the land).

How do I apply?

You will need to submit an application form and send to the scheme administrator. The application form is available now – see **More information**.

Applications are accepted year round. Applicants are encouraged to consider applying for the Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG) to help with scheme design in advance of applying for the Woodland Carbon Fund.

You can apply when you have consent to plant or when a WCPG-funded woodland creation plan has been completed at either Stage 1 or Stage 2.

We aim to provide you with an answer within three months (usually much sooner) of receiving your application. This will be ‘in principle’ if you have not yet received EIA consent to plant under Environmental Impact Assessment regulations.



More information

For more information and to access an application form, please visit: forestry.gov.uk/england-wcf



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after use.



Forestry Commission
woodlands have
been certified in
accordance with the
rules of the Forest
Stewardship Council.

