

English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS)

EWGS is part of a suite of environmental support measures provided by the Defra family. The forestry Commission operates the scheme under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). The purpose of the scheme is to develop the co-ordinated delivery of public benefits from England's Woodland. The grant scheme has a national framework but funding is allocated and grants are targeted at regional level.

Current Availability of Funds

Grant Type	FY 09/10 (£000)	Status	FY 10/11 (£000)
WAG	9	Open	17
WPG	35	Open	53
WIGs	275	Open	700
WMG Bio/ Red Squirrel	8	Open	77
WCG	595	Open - Will Close 30/09/2009	578
Total RDPE	922		1425
WRG	24	Open	288
WMG Access	38	Open	12
Total Non-RDPE	62		300

Objectives of EWGS

The overarching objectives for EWGS are:

- To sustain and increase the public benefits derived from existing woodlands in England.
- To invest in the creation of new woodlands in England of a size, type and location that most effectively delivers public benefits.

The component grant types of EWGS have their own objectives. For example, some grants are focused regionally to meet the priorities of the North West Forestry Framework.

Key Target Areas of EWGS

Applications for grants under EWGS will be considered if they deliver key targets in the areas of:

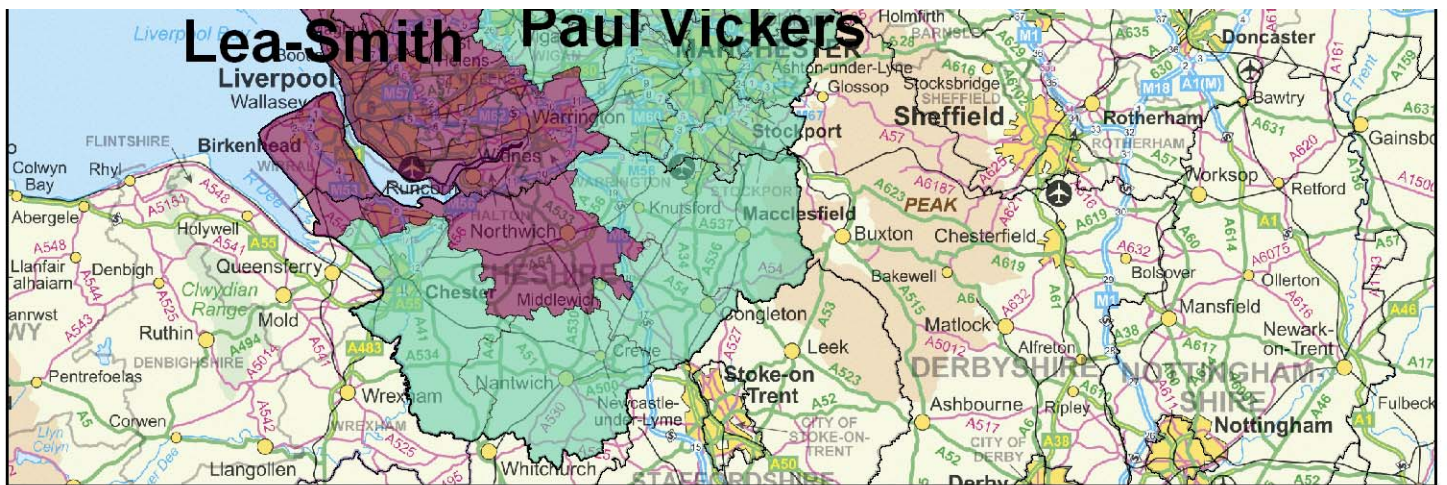
- New Woodland Creation
- Area of woodland under certified sustainable forest management & approved management schemes
- Expanding the area of woodland with public access
- Bringing woodland SSSIs into favourable condition
- Assisting delivery of Priority Habitat & Species Action Plans for woodlands
- Improving the environment of disadvantaged urban communities.

EWGS Case Study - Kidburngill Farm, Lamplugh

The English Woodland Grant Scheme now pays up to £3800/ha for the creation of new woodlands. Farm Woodland Payments can also be paid along with Single Farm Payments. Brothers Bill and John Osborn from Kidburngill Farm, Lamplugh are taking advantage of the new rates and intend to plant a further 14ha to complement the 20ha they planted last year.

The Osborn brothers wanted to give something back to the farm they have lived and worked on all their lives. An ancient forest used to grow where the new one stands, but the trees were cut down to be used as pit props in the mines a century ago.





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