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English Woodland Grant Scheme

Woodland Improvement Grant 80

March 2010

Reversing Woodland Bird Decline

West Midlands Region

Purpose This leaflet provides guidance on how to apply for this regionally focussed grant. It supplements the generic guidance on Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG), available from the [EWGS web site](#).

Introduction Wild birds are considered a good indicator of the general state of health of our wildlife and the countryside and have been chosen as one of the Government's 15 headline indicators of progress towards sustainable development.

The 'Quality of Life' indicator shows woodland bird populations falling by 20 per cent among 33 species in the last 25 years. Some of these, such as the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Spotted Flycatcher and Willow Tit, have declined by more than 50 per cent since the late 1960s.

Working in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), 10 vulnerable species have been identified by the Forestry Commission for particular attention in the West Midlands through this grant.

Distribution maps for these species can be found on the RSPB web site: [RSPB Target Maps](#). Choose 'West Midlands' as location and then filter by one of our chosen species.

The 10 species are Lesser Redpoll, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Marsh Tit, Nightingale, Pied Flycatcher, Redstart, Spotted Flycatcher, Tree Pipit, Willow Tit and Wood Warbler.

Much of the decline in woodland bird populations can be attributed to changes in woodland management regimes, low levels of management activity or to changes in woodland composition.

This grant will be targeted at woodlands where work to encourage early successional scrub or coppice, creation of old growth and dead wood, thinning of woodland boundaries and ride sides and the creation of open water will have a beneficial effect on the identified woodland bird populations.

Within the West Midlands Region the grant is targeted at County level, where the current distribution range of an individual species is closely associated with the abundance of suitable woodland type or habitat.

Eligibility In order to be eligible for this grant, applicants must comply with the following rules:

- The general criteria and conditions for Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) Biodiversity apply.
- The application must specify which of the woodland bird species the proposed work will benefit. A minimum of 2 species must be selected, (see species guidance).
- The woodland must be located within one of the target counties for the species chosen. (see species guidance).
- The work must benefit the chosen species and be in accordance with the criteria outlined in the species guidance notes.
- The Forestry Commission will expect an agreed woodland management plan to be in place so that the Woodland Officer can assess the appropriateness of proposals submitted against it. If there is no management plan available, the woodland involved in your work proposals should have a Condition, Opportunities & Threats (COT) Assessment undertaken with a view of targeting 2 or more of the listed species and the justification / reasons why these species have been targeted. An [electronic version of the COT](#) template is available for download in the EWGS Woodland Management Grant (WVG) section of the website. www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wvg
- In order to assess the effectiveness of this grant in reversing woodland bird decline, and to compare with similar initiatives, applicants must agree to periodic monitoring of the woodland.
- Each eligible application site will be visited by a Forestry Commission Woodland Officer to assess the location and to ensure that the work proposed is suitable and will benefit the chosen species.
- This grant will be paid at 80% of specific Woodland Bird Standard Costs selected for this grant (see page16). A wider range of woodland operations and standard costs are listed in *Operations Note 9 – Standard Costs*, available from the [EWGS document library](#) and will be available as part of an application, but at WIG BIO50 rates.
- This WIG fund is limited to a maximum of 5 years with payments in the financial year's 2009/10 to 2015/16 subject to the Forestry Commission having sufficient grant headroom in the last three financial years.
- The sustainability of the project should be considered when planning your work to ensure that the habitat improved will be maintained and monitored and could be further supported with other Forestry Commission funding at a later date.
- Claims must be received before the end of the financial year in which payment of the claim is due. Funds are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

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2.0 issued 26th October 2009
3.0 issued 10th March 2010

Further Advice	Further information can be obtained from your local Woodland Officer by contacting:	
County	East Herefordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands Metropolitan, Worcestershire	Shropshire, Staffordshire excluding the National Forest & Peak Park, West Herefordshire
Office	West Midlands Region Block B Government Buildings Whittington Road Worcester WR5 2FR Tel 01905 532200 Email: westmidlands.fce@forestry.gsi.gov.uk	West Midlands Region Ludlow Area Office Whitcliffe Ludlow Shropshire SY8 2HD Tel: 01584 877544 Email: fc.wmid.ludlow@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 <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-advice> or from your local FC office.

Further general bird information links in the West Midlands

National Ornithological bodies

- RSPB <http://www.rspb.org.uk/>
- BTO <http://www.bto.org/>

West Midlands Ornithological groups

- Herefordshire Ornithology Club <http://www.herefordshirebirds.org>
- RSPB – Birmingham <http://rspbirmingham.wordpress.com/>
- Shropshire Ornithological Society <http://www.shropshirebirds.com>
- West Midland Bird Club <http://www.westmidlandbirdclub.com/>
- Nuneaton & District Birdwatchers' Club http://www.ndbwc.btik.com/p_Home.ikml
- RSPB - North Staffs Local Group <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/northstaffordshire/>

West Midlands Wildlife Trusts

- Hereford Nature Trust <http://www.herefordshirewt.org/index.htm>
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust <http://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/>
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust <http://www.staffordshirewildlife.org.uk/>
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust <http://www.warwickshire-wildlife-trust.org.uk/>
- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust <http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/>

Nest Box Information

- Download the BTO guide (pdf) by following the link at the bottom of the following page: http://www.bto.org/notices/nestbox_guide.htm

Species Guidance

Habitat requirements & Woodland structure

Although not all of the causes of declines in woodland birds are fully understood, it is clear that many species are declining because the habitat conditions they require are missing or have declined. A well-developed woodland structure that includes a ground layer, shrub layer and canopy can offer a wide range of species the opportunity to have a diverse and abundant bird community.

Also, the edges of woodlands are an important interface for various species, which need a variety of farmland and woodland conditions. The below points are considered important when planning any bird management that could also fit with other wider objectives like timber or other wildlife benefits for different groups.

1. A field layer of herbaceous plants, ferns, grasses and bryophytes
2. A shrub layer of low growing scrub species (up to 5m high)
3. An understorey of immature and low growing trees
4. The canopy layer of mature trees and old hulks
5. Deadwood in each canopy layer including lying on the ground
6. Mature trees with dead snags, hollows or other small scale features that develop with age
7. Browsing control (deer/ livestock)
8. Woodland boundaries

Woodland Activity that helps to reversing Woodland Bird Decline under this WIG grant

- **Thinning:** assumes selection to favour native broadleaf trees with beneficial features, e.g. in-tree deadwood etc.
- **Coppice:** assumes appropriate rotations and block sizes are established.
- **Woodland edge:** ideally graduating: grass margin > scrub thicket > woodland.
- **Rides and glades:** sufficiently open to enable thicket edge and open centre and managed.
- **Hydrological management:** applies not only to wet woodland. Evidence of significant drying of woodland which appears to be implicated in some species declines.
- **Dead and decaying wood:** important feature across woodland types. Ensure all types are conserved: lying, standing and snags. Enhance wherever it doesn't conflict with other objectives.
- **Nest boxes:** not necessarily a solution - may cause issues with competitor species – though evidence is mixed. Always assess need. Note maintenance requirement. Important to get other habitat right for species before nest boxes are used.
- **Woodland Roads & Tracks:** Where access in woodland is difficult and prevents management taking place, it will be at the discretion of the Woodland Officer to include appropriate road and track infrastructure costs that aid delivery of woodland improvement birds.

Other Forestry Commission EWGS grants available

- **Woodland Creation Grant:** supported where appropriate, natural colonisation is preferred, but planting of native species may be necessary. The two West Midlands Region Woodland Creation Grant target areas where you can claim an additional supplement are the Forest of Feckenham in Worcestershire and Needwood Forest and Churnet Valley Woodlands in East Staffordshire. The key species to benefit are Nightingale, Marsh Tit, Willow Tit and Spotted Flycatcher.
- **Woodland Regeneration Grant:** restocking with appropriate species is supported, though natural regeneration is preferred via the Woodland Regeneration Grant. The key species to benefit is Tree Pipit.

- **Woodland Management Grant:** This will benefit the sustainable woodland practice and can continue to deliver benefits into the future for work undertaken by this Bird Woodland Improvement Grant.

Species listed

The listed species in this guidance are priority woodland species requiring management of existing woodland, and in some cases new woodland creation (as indicated). Tree Pipit are birds of clearings or very young plantation forestry with improving status, but remain vulnerable to future change.

Key to following species summaries

The Population Status of Birds in the UK - (Birds of conservation concern: 2002–2007)

Leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations in the UK have reviewed the population status of birds that are regularly found here.

A total of 247 species have been assessed, and each has been placed onto one of three lists – red, amber or green.

Currently

- 40 species are red-listed
- 121 species are amber-listed
- 86 species are green-listed

The Criteria

Red list species

- those that are Globally Threatened according to international criteria
- those whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years
- those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery

Amber list species

- those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe
- those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years
- those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery
- rare breeding species
- those with internationally important or localised populations

Green list species

- Species that fulfil none of the criteria above

The information provided is based on best knowledge to date, however research for some species is in its infancy so current recommendations may change and new ones introduced. It is not always possible or appropriate to manipulate woodland management to suit one species as it may impact on others, including other flora and fauna.

Where appropriate, species are attributed to assemblages occupying the same woodland type. This may help to determine management options that would aid the whole assemblage (and other biodiversity associated with that type)

**Woodland Activity prescriptions
are considered highest priority for implementation under this WIG80 grant.**

Target Species

Lesser Redpoll (resident)

Status: Amber species listed

Habitat: Pioneer woodland habitat, scrub woodland, wet woodland, young conifer sites



© Phil Muiridge

Male



© Phil Muiridge

Female

Potential Issues Driving Decline

Succession of preferred open habitats into more mature woodland.

Potential Solutions

Restructure immature closed canopy woodland; ride enhancement; glade creation / improvement; create scrubby woodland edge.

Target Areas:

All Counties



Woodland Activity Fundable:	Habitat management options	80% funding of Woodland Bird WIG Cost Code
Neglected Coppice	Bring understorey coppice back into positive management with coppice coupe working	V 9-10
Ride/ glade management	Develop a 2 or 3 zone ride management plan for some rides within woods.	V 1 to V 4 H1
Scrub establishment	Bring shrub thickets back into positive management with uneven age coupe working	V1 to V4
Woodland edge management	Development of the woodland buffer edge by either boundary work to hedges and fences and thinning/ coppice/ ride management within a 20m edge	V1-4, V9-10, V20, F16, H1
Woodland Birds	Work in providing creation of ponds, deer control	B1, C6
Forestry Agent	Additional assessment, implementation and supervision of beneficial land management techniques by a professionally qualified forestry agent	L2
Woodland roads & tracks	Where access in woodland is difficult and prevents management taking place, it will be at the discretion of the Woodland Officer to include appropriate road and track infrastructure costs that aid delivery of woodland improvement for birds.	R 1-5

Target Species

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (resident)

Status: Red species listed

Habitat: Lowland deciduous woodland habitats with well-developed crowns.



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Potential Issues Driving Decline

Tree crowding leading to a lack of open crowned mature trees; lack of standing deadwood.

Potential Solutions

Restructure immature closed canopy woodland; ride enhancement; increase deadwood.

Target Areas:

All counties



Woodland Activity Fundable:	Habitat management options	80% funding of Woodland Bird WIG Cost Code
Neglected Coppice with extra standards	Bring understorey coppice back into positive management with coppice coupe working	V 9-10,
Ride/ glade management	Develop a 2 or 3 zone ride management plan for some rides within woods.	V 1 to V 4, H1
Standing deadwood creation	Creation of suitable sized deadwood will provide natural nesting habitat for particular species	L1
Woodland edge management	Development of the woodland buffer edge by either boundary work to hedges and fences and thinning/ coppice/ ride management within a 20m edge	H1, V1-4, V9-10, V20, F16, V21
Forestry Agent	Additional assessment, implementation and supervision of beneficial land management techniques by a professionally qualified forestry agent	L2
Woodland roads & tracks	Where access in woodland is difficult and prevents management taking place, it will be at the discretion of the Woodland Officer to include appropriate road and track infrastructure costs that aid delivery of woodland improvement for birds.	R 1-5

Target Species

Marsh Tit (resident)

Status: Red species listed

Habitat: Mature mixed broadleaf / riparian woodlands with a good understory

Potential Issues Driving Decline

Deer/sheep browsing leading to poor shrub layer; shade reduction; loss of scrub at woodland edge.



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Potential Solutions

Establish strong understorey; create scrubby woodland edge; retain deadwood.

Target Areas:

All counties



Woodland Activity Fundable:	Habitat management options	80% funding of Woodland Bird WIG Cost Code
Neglected Coppice	Bring understorey coppice back into positive management with coppice coupe working	V 9-10
Ride/ glade management	Develop a 2 or 3 zone ride management plan for some rides within woods.	V 1 to V 4, H1
Riparian management	Manage this habitat to further the mixture of wet and open areas with impede flow	V 1-4, V 9-10, H1
Scrub establishment	Bring shrub thickets back into positive management with uneven age coupe working	V1 to V4
Standing deadwood creation	Creation of suitable sized deadwood will provide natural nesting habitat for particular species	L1
Woodland edge management	Development of the woodland buffer edge by either boundary work to hedges and fences and thinning/ coppice/ ride management within a 20m edge	V1-4, V9-10 , V20, F16, H1
Woodland Birds	Work in providing creation of ponds, pollards, deer control	B1, C6, V21
Forestry Agent	Additional assessment, implementation and supervision of beneficial land management techniques by a professionally qualified forestry agent	L2
Woodland roads & tracks	Where access in woodland is difficult and prevents management taking place, it will be at the discretion of the Woodland Officer to include appropriate road and track infrastructure costs that aid delivery of woodland improvement for birds.	R 1-5

Target Species

Pied Flycatcher (summer migrant)

Status: Green species listed

Habitat: Closed canopy oak woodland with well-spaced trees and low herbage.



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Male



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Female

Potential Issues Driving Decline

Insufficient grazing to maintain open shrub layer; may be instances where excessive grazing is preventing regeneration; lack of nest holes may be an issue.

Potential Solutions

Establish ability to control grazing; provide nest boxes (at appropriate density) where relevant; retain deadwood.

Target Areas:

Herefordshire
Shropshire
Staffordshire



Woodland Activity Fundable:	Habitat management options	80% funding of Woodland Bird WIG Cost Code
Browsing control	Restore the ground flora within some woodlands where grazing by stock or deer is a problem.	F1, F10, C6
Natural regeneration respacing	Young and dense natural regeneration will provide food sources, nesting habitat	E8
Nest boxes	This species benefits from hole nesting sites.	B2a
Standing deadwood creation	Creation of suitable sized deadwood will provide natural nesting habitat for particular species	L1
Woodland Birds	Work in providing creation of ponds, pollards	B1, V21
Forestry Agent	Additional assessment, implementation and supervision of beneficial land management techniques by a professionally qualified forestry agent	L2
Woodland roads & tracks	Where access in woodland is difficult and prevents management taking place, it will be at the discretion of the Woodland Officer to include appropriate road and track infrastructure costs that aid delivery of woodland improvement for birds.	R 1-5

Target Species

Redstart

(summer migrant)

Status: Amber species listed

Habitat: Mature broadleaf woodland edges, oak woods and open upland woods.



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Male



© RSPB

Female

Potential Issues Driving Decline

Loss of older trees especially on glade / woodland edge; lack of grazing to maintain open ground structure; shortage of natural nest holes.

Potential Solutions

Establish ability to control grazing; retain deadwood; provide nest boxes where relevant; extend woodland in appropriate locations.

Target Areas:

Herefordshire
Shropshire
Staffordshire
Worcestershire



Woodland Activity Fundable:	Habitat management options	80% funding of Woodland Bird WIG Cost Code
Nest boxes	This species benefits from hole nesting sites.	B1a
Standing deadwood creation	Creation of suitable sized deadwood will provide natural nesting habitat for particular species	L1
Scrub management	Bring shrub thickets back into positive management with uneven age coupe working	V1 to V4
Woodland edge management	Development of the woodland buffer edge by either boundary work to hedges and fences and thinning/ coppice/ ride management within a 20m edge	V1-4, V9-10, V20, F16, H1
Woodland Birds	Work in providing creation of pollards, deer control	V21, C6
Forestry Agent	Additional assessment, implementation and supervision of beneficial land management techniques by a professionally qualified forestry agent	L2
Woodland roads & tracks	Where access in woodland is difficult and prevents management taking place, it will be at the discretion of the Woodland Officer to include appropriate road and track infrastructure costs that aid delivery of woodland improvement for birds.	R 1-5

Target Species

Spotted Flycatcher (summer migrant)

Status: Red species listed

Habitat: Mature deciduous woodland with a good open structure



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Potential Issues Driving Decline

Decrease in glades and open rides; lack of grazing; lack of natural nest sites.

Potential Solutions

Restructure immature closed canopy woodland; ride enhancement; glade creation / improvement; retain deadwood.



Target Areas:

All Counties

Woodland Activity Fundable:	Habitat management options	80% funding of Woodland Bird WIG Cost Code
Neglected Coppice	Bring understorey coppice back into positive management with coppice coupe working	V 9-10
Ride/ glade management	Develop a 2 or 3 zone ride management plan for some rides within woods.	V 1 to V 4, V9-10, H1
Standing deadwood creation	Creation of suitable sized deadwood will provide natural nesting habitat for particular species	L1
Nest boxes	This species benefits from open nesting sites but in secluded areas.	B2b
Woodland edge management	Development of the woodland buffer edge by either boundary work to hedges and fences and thinning/ coppice/ ride management within a 20m edge	V1-4, V9-10, V20, F16, H1
Woodland Birds	Work in providing creation of ponds, pollards, deer control	B1, V21, C6
Forestry Agent	Additional assessment, implementation and supervision of beneficial land management techniques by a professionally qualified forestry agent	L2
Woodland roads & tracks	Where access in woodland is difficult and prevents management taking place, it will be at the discretion of the Woodland Officer to include appropriate road and track infrastructure costs that aid delivery of woodland improvement for birds.	R 1-5

Target Species

Tree Pipit

(summer migrant)

Status: Amber species listed

Habitat: Open treed habitats, heath or wood pasture woodland.



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Potential Issues Driving Decline

Loss of open-structure woodland through ageing and canopy closure; maintaining individual trees in clear fell areas; deer / sheep browsing removing nest cover.

Potential Solutions

Restructure immature closed canopy woodland; ride enhancement; glade creation / improvement; establish ability to control grazing; create scrubby woodland edge.



Target Areas:

All Counties

Woodland Activity Fundable:	Habitat management options	80% funding of Woodland Bird WIG Cost Code
Coppice large areas	Bring understorey coppice back into positive management with <u>large</u> coppice coupe working	V 9, V10
Retain individual trees in open treed areas	Retaining scattered song posts on open clear fells of either standing deadwood or young to mature scattered trees	L1
Ride/ glade management	Develop a 2 or 3 zone ride management plan for some rides within woods.	V 1 to V 4, H1
Scrub management in Clearfells	Bring shrub thickets back into positive management with uneven age coupe working	V 1 to V 4
Forestry Agent	Additional assessment, implementation and supervision of beneficial land management techniques by a professionally qualified forestry agent	L2
Woodland roads & tracks	Where access in woodland is difficult and prevents management taking place, it will be at the discretion of the Woodland Officer to include appropriate road and track infrastructure costs that aid delivery of woodland improvement for birds.	R 1-5

Target Species

Willow Tit (resident)

Status: Red species listed

Habitat: Well structured woodland with a good developed shrub layer or mature scrub habitat.



Potential Issues Driving Decline

Excessive sheep / deer browsing; increased shade / canopy closure; loss of shrub layer; lack of nest site (can be addressed during thinning operations).

Potential Solutions

Restructure immature closed canopy woodland; ride enhancement; glade creation / improvement; create scrubby woodland edge; retain deadwood; establish ability to control grazing.



Target Areas:

All Counties

Woodland Activity Fundable:	Habitat management options	80% funding of Woodland Bird WIG Cost Code
Browsing control	Restore the ground flora within some woodlands where grazing by stock or deer is a problem.	F1, F10
Neglected Coppice	Bring understorey coppice back into positive management with coppice coupe working	V 9, V10
Ride/ glade management	Develop a 2 or 3 zone ride management plan for some rides within woods.	V 1 to V 4, H1
Scrub management	Bring shrub thickets back into positive management with uneven age coupe working	V1 to V4
Standing deadwood creation	Creation of suitable sized deadwood will provide natural nesting habitat for particular species	L1
Woodland Edge Management	Management of the first 20m buffer edge is an important zone for bird habitat with restoration of coppice and hedges in these areas.	V1-4, V9-10, V20, F16
Woodland Birds	Work in providing creation of pond, pollards, deer control	B1, V21, C6
Forestry Agent	Additional assessment, implementation and supervision of beneficial land management techniques by a professionally qualified forestry agent	L2
Woodland roads & tracks	Where access in woodland is difficult and prevents management taking place, it will be at the discretion of the Woodland Officer to include appropriate road and track infrastructure costs that aid delivery of woodland improvement for birds.	R 1-5

Target Species

Wood Warbler (summer migrant)

Status: Amber species listed

Habitat: Mature closed broadleaf high canopy with little understorey.



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Potential Issues Driving Decline

Insufficient grazing to maintain open shrub layer; may be instances where excessive grazing is causing loss of nesting habitat and preventing regeneration.

Potential Solutions

Establish ability to control grazing; retain deadwood; extend woodland in appropriate locations.

Target Areas:

Herefordshire
Shropshire
Staffordshire



Woodland Activity Fundable:	Habitat management options	80% funding of Woodland Bird WIG Cost Code
Browsing control	Woodlands where grazing is allow would benefit from livestock exclusion to improve the understorey and ground flora and fauna	F1, F10
Natural regeneration respacing	Young and dense natural regeneration will provide food sources, nesting habitat	E8
Standing deadwood creation	Creation of suitable sized deadwood will provide natural nesting habitat for particular species	L1
Woodland Birds	Work in providing creation of ponds, deer control	B1, C6
Forestry Agent	Additional assessment, implementation and supervision of beneficial land management techniques by a professionally qualified forestry agent	L2
Woodland roads & tracks	Where access in woodland is difficult and prevents management taking place, it will be at the discretion of the Woodland Officer to include appropriate road and track infrastructure costs that aid delivery of woodland improvement for birds.	R 1-5

Target Species

Nightingale (summer migrant)

Status: Amber species listed

Habitat: Young dense broadleaf woods, coppice and scrub.



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Potential Issues Driving Decline

Deer / sheep browsing leading to loss of shrub layer; drying out of wet woodland; general disturbance.

Potential Solutions

Restructure immature closed canopy woodland; ride enhancement; glade creation / improvement; establish ability to control grazing; maintain / enhance naturally high water levels.



Target Areas:

Herefordshire
Warwickshire
Worcestershire

Woodland Activity Fundable:	Habitat management options	80% funding of Woodland Bird WIG Cost Code
Dense coppice creation	Strong and vigorous coppice with an open overstorey canopy provides protection, nesting and food sources	V9, V10
Drainage management to achieve wetter ground conditions.	Several species prefer areas where impede flow creates damp and moist woodland flora conditions with good understorey	G7
Ride/ glade management	Develop a 2 or 3 zone ride management plan for some rides within woods plus a lighter overstorey canopy adjacent to the ride.	V 1 to V 4, H1
Scrub establishment	Bring shrub thickets back into positive management with uneven age coupe working	V1 o V4
Woodland Edge Management	Work undertaken in a 20m buffer edge of the wood for work on improving hedges: cutting, coppicing, layering, gapping up, thinning, coppicing, boundary protection from stock	V1-4, V9-10, V20, F16, H1
Woodland Birds	Work in providing creation of ponds, deer control	B1, C6
Forestry Agent	Additional assessment, implementation and supervision of beneficial land management techniques by a professionally qualified forestry agent	L2
Woodland roads & tracks	Where access in woodland is difficult and prevents management taking place, it will be at the discretion of the Woodland Officer to include appropriate road and track infrastructure costs that aid delivery of woodland improvement for birds.	R 1-5

**Woodland Improvement Grant 80
Reversing Woodland Bird Decline**

West Midlands Region

Woodland Birds Standard Costs at 80% Forestry Commission funding

Code	Activity	Description	Unit	Cost per unit
B1	Small Pond creation	Pond creation for woodland birds as bathing & drinking water source basic size recommended is 4m x 4m with a maximum depth of 60cm and gentle sloping edges within a glade area.	metre ²	£ 3.00
B2	Nestbox	West Midlands standard requirement is: a) Wood- concrete Schwegler 1b general purpose hole nest box with 32mm entrance only. b) Wood- concrete Schwegler 2h open fronted half nest box. <i>*Maximum limit per ownership holding will be 20 nestboxes or at FC discretion.</i>	each*	£ 25.00
C6	Deer high seat	Portable, free standing in galvanised tubular or box section steel	each	£ 350.00
E8	Respacing	Natural Regeneration (2m spacing)	hectare	£ 1000.00
F1	Stock fencing	FC Bulletin 102 "Forest Fencing - Stakes at 3m centres using C8/80/15 netting with two lines of barb. Can also be used to stock proof stone walls	metre	£ 4.50
F10	Field gate	British Standard - 12ft 5 bar treated soft wood	each	£ 365.00
F16	Fence removal	Old fence removal	metre	£ 0.50
G7	Drainage maintenance	Maintain drains	metre	£ 1.00
H1	Tree felling & conversion	Will be for work undertaken within a buffer strip of the woodland edge boundary or ride where the thinning work will be a 40% canopy reduction to a minimum depth of 20m	net hectare	£600/ha
L1	Forest Craftsman	Standing deadwood creation – target tree species only Silver Birch, Willow, Alder with a trunk of between <u>2m to 4m in height</u> and a <u>DBH of greater than 25cms</u> . The density per ha should be 6 stems well scattered.	per day	£ 150.00

Code	Activity	Description	Unit	Cost per unit
L2	Forestry Agent	Additional operational supervision costs can be included for woodlands that have been undermanaged (which we determine as woodland that has not been under a recent grant scheme or felling licence). This reflects the additional supervision costs associated with setting up capital works in neglected woodland and/or with an inexperienced woodland owner. Up to 5 hours of professional agent input can be included per application. The FC land information search tool (LIS) can help indicate whether these woods have been managed in the past.	per hour	£ 50.00
R1	Cat 1 access track	Cat 1a track: Excavate new track to 300mm depth, 3.2m wide, hard surface of hardcore or equivalent suitable for 44 tonnes G.V.W. to include culverts loading and turning bays.	metre	£60.00
R2	Road maintenance	To repair and maintain a cat 1a track to original standard	metre	£1.00
R3	Basic access track	Cut and form new track ~2.5m wide, use stone where necessary, to enable access by forwarder or 4 wheel drive vehicle	metre	£15.00
R4	Intermediate access track	To cut and form a new 2.5m wide track using imported stone, suitable for access by forwarder or 4 wheel drive vehicle.	metre	£30.00
R5	New culvert	To install a new culvert in an existing track, 300mm diameter.	metre	£34.00
V1	Open ground tree & scrub machine cutting <7cm	Tree & scrub cutting. Material majority <7cm diameter, cut with a flail mounted machine	net hectare	£ 500.00
V2	Open ground tree & Scrub manual cutting <7cm	Material majority <7cm diameter, manually cut	net hectare	£ 800.00
V3	Open ground tree & scrub machine cutting >7cm	Material majority >7cm diameter, flailed with a mulcher	net hectare	£ 1,300.00
V4	Open ground tree & scrub manual cutting >7cm	Material majority >7cm diameter, manually cut and left to decay	net hectare	£ 1,800.00

Code	Activity	Description	Unit	Cost per unit
V9	Coppicing 30+ yrs since last cut	Cut whole stool / whole area. Doesn't include fencing , gapping up or layering	hectare	£ 1,800.00
V10	Coppicing , <30 yrs since last cut	Does not include fencing, gapping up or layering	hectare	£ 1,200.00
V20	Woodland hedges	Cutting, coppicing, layering, gapping up.	linear per metre	£ 5.00
V21	Tree pollard	Broadleaf Pollard trees – existing pollards only.	each	£ 90.00

The Bird Conservation Targeting Project is supported by the following organisations:



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