



English Woodland Grant Scheme

Operations Note 9

19th August 2011

Standard Costs

Purpose This note sets out the most current set of standard costs used in FC England to operate the EWGS.

Development FC England uses Standard Costs in EWGS to satisfy EU Rural Development Plan requirements. The costs have been developed and validated using a working group comprising representatives of the forestry industry. This includes contractors, advisors and Forestry Commission staff. The aim is to review and update existing Standard Costs and validate any proposed new Standard Costs at approximately annually.

FC England set up the working group to agree Standard Costs, who meet at least once a year. The group discusses the Standard Costs based on comments raised by FC staff and grant scheme stakeholders, plus their own experience of current operational costs. The group then recommends whether new Standard Costs should be introduced or existing Standard Costs revised. The FC comes to a final decision on the range of Standard Costs for EWGS based on the working group recommendations.

On occasions, specific, new Standard Costs will be required to support the delivery of highly targeted funds such as Challenge fund initiatives. Where there is no experience of this work within the reference group, FC England will seek to use other references to set those standard costs.

Updates From time to time, Standard Costs will be updated to reflect working group reviews. This may involve for instance, a change to a specification, or an increase or reduction in the Standard Cost. These changes will apply to applications received after the change is published on the FC website.

Existing applications or approved contracts will not have their rates automatically amended and we will not accept amendments to alter the rates on existing contracts or applications.

The annexes in this Operations Note will be maintained as the most current list of standard costs available for applications to EWGS.

Principles Some guiding principles were agreed with the working group from the outset of EWGS:

- a) *'Typical' costs* - It is not possible to draw up a list to meet every conceivable local situation. Therefore Standard Costs reflect an average figure for the country, with the acceptance that there will be some 'winners and losers' across the country. The costs should reflect a typical situation for the majority of circumstances (~ 75% or more). Where costs had a wide range due to clear variables e.g. clearing small vs. big Rhododendron, then a separate cost is agreed.
- b) *Outcome focus* – Funding through EWGS is to provide desired outcomes. Operations and any associated standard costs will be supported on this basis and in line with good practice to achieve those outcomes. For example, support for forest roads is on the basis of what kind vehicles will use it.
- c) *Specification* – Set against the outcome focus, for the purposes of good contract management/control we have to set out clearly what we are buying for each cost.
- d) *Fit for purpose* - The specifications meet good practice guidelines and are designed to meet the desired outcome.
- e) *Best Value* – The standard costs are realistic costs based on the above principles. If an applicant wishes to deliver a specification in excess of the good practice guidelines, the FC will still only pay on the basis of a 'fit for purpose' specification.
- f) *Supervision* – Supervision/management costs can be applied where significant additional time or skill is required to ensure the operation is completed correctly. This will be applied using Agent hourly rates (operation code L2), normally up to a maximum of 10% of the operational cost. Occasionally we may accept up to 20% supervision for highly sensitive operations e.g. for a potentially damaging operation on a sensitive site such as a SSSI woodland.

Use Standard costs are, by their nature, an average cost for the specified work and they do not purport to reflect the costs that may be incurred in every situation. Standard Costs are multiplied by the rate of contribution (percentage contribution) to derive a fixed grant.

e.g. 80% SSSI WIG support for restoration coppicing (V9) with a standard cost of £1800/Ha means the FC will offer $80\% \times £1800/\text{Ha} = £1440/\text{Ha}$.

This rate of grant for specified work is not negotiable on a case by case basis.

The list of costs in Annex 1 indicates which grant the operation is most likely to be used for. The most common usage of individual Standard Costs are for Woodland Improvement Grant applications. For Woodland Management Grant they have been used to model typical situations but applicants may wish to use them to confirm they are proposing sufficient work to justify the grant.

In the cases of Woodland Creation Grant and Woodland Regeneration Grant, they have been used by the FC for cost modelling to develop the per hectare rate for typical tree establishment circumstances. These models form an essential part of the EU approval process that ensures we receive European funding to supplement Treasury funding. The standard costs are built into Woodland Creation and Regeneration Grant so applicants should not use these operations in WIG operations.

On occasion, the list of costs may be used to form the basis of other grant support, by explaining how these operations may be used in special circumstances. For example, Operations Note 12 explains how various operations from this Note can be used to support deer management under EWGS.

Any income received as part of an operation that we are funding must be accounted for. For example, harvesting operations must be based on the operational cost, minus the timber income from the operation. In order to account for this in grant applications, the code "X100" should be used to deduct the income.

Specification Standard costs cannot to be used to fund work that is significantly different to the published specification. The published specification will be the **minimum specification** for the rate of grant.

Further 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.

Versions	Version 1.0	issued Dec 2005
	Version 2.0 & 2.1	issued May 2006 – new and revised operations / costs introduced following working group review
	Version 2.2.	issued Aug 2006 – minor clarification
	Version 2.3	issued Oct 2007 – more detail on the standard cost principles; new and revised operations / costs introduced following working group review
	Version 2.4	issued 1 st June 2008 – updated with new header; no standard cost changes
	Version 3.0 & 3.1	issued 1 st March 2009 – significant standard cost changes and a few new operations added; minor correction re litter picking, which is funded via L1
	Version 3.2 & 3.3	issued May 2009 – amendments allowed for contracts approved after 15 th Oct 07; inclusion of bird boxes, hedges, pollarding, ponds
	Version 4.0	issued May 2010 – accounting for income; updated costs, notably some recreation furniture. Changes are in blue in the annex
	Version 4.1	issued July – minor changes to adjust gendered language
	Version 4.2	issued August 2011 – Removal of Roading codes.

Annex 1: List of current standard costs for applicants to use in applications

Public Access			Current Unit / rate		EWGS grant most likely to be used				
	Activity	Specification	Units	Cost	WIG SSSI	WIG bio	WIG access	WIG Red sq	WMG
A1	All ability footpath construction – dry sites	Dry site, cut and fill 1.2 m wide, 125mm depth including shallow drain. Materials and labour	metre	£ 30.00			Y		
A2	All ability footpath construction – wet sites	heavy use or wet or steep site, dig foundation 2.0m wide metalled to all abilities, standard walls drainage	metre	£ 35.00			Y		
A3	Access gap	Create ungated access gap with posts at sides and a level threshold surface	each	£ 45.00			Y		
A4	Kissing gate – all ability	All ability use. Constructed and installed to conform with relevant British Standards	each	£ 380.00			Y		
A5	Kissing gate – pedestrian	Pedestrian use. Constructed and installed to conform with relevant British Standard	each	£ 300.00			Y		
A6	Stile	Timber stile conforming to the relevant British Standard	each	£ 125.00			Y		
A7	Dog gate	Access through fence for dogs	each	£ 55.00			Y		
A8	Post & disk waymarker	Treated softwood post and paint/disk marking	each	£ 30.00			Y		
A9	Routed waymarker	3" x 3" square sawn hardwood + routed	each	£ 60.00			Y		
A10	Interpretation boards	A1 – detailed on coloured plastic in hardwood/treated softwood frame. Weather proof. Durability 10years	each	£ 1,200.00			Y		
A11	Notice boards - without interpretative signs	600 x 1200 x 45mm. Weather proof. Durability 10years	each	£ 350.00			Y		
A12	A4 Leaflets	A4 – single colour, including design and printing	per 500	£ 500.00			Y		
A13	A3 Leaflets	A3 – single colour, including design and printing	per 500	£ 700.00			Y		

Public Access continued			Current Unit / rate		EWGS grant most likely to be used				
	Activity	Specification	Unit	Cost	WIG SSSI	WIG bio	WIG access	WIG Red sq	WMG
A14	Picnic bench with table	Treated softwood - materials & installation (table 1750mm x 740mm, height 770mm, bench 440mm high, 1750mm long) durability 10years.	each	£ 530.00			Y		
A15	Bench with backrest	Treated softwood, bolted construction. 440mm high 1750mm long. All materials & installation	each	£ 410.00			Y		
A16	Bench	Simple design, treated softwood - materials & installation (440mm high, 1750mm long)	each	£ 165.00			Y		
A17	Footbridge	Timber frame with steel beams - non slip surface. Span >3.5m; requires hand rails	metre	£ 750.00			Y		
A18	Safety inspection	Inspection includes assessment of facilities e.g. condition of paths and gates, tree safety inspection	visit	Agent's hourly rate			Y		Y
A19 & A20	Litter Picking	Amount of time required to keep site litter free to be agreed on case by case basis		Use labour rate L1			Y		Y
A21	Brashing	Manual brashing for access areas	hectare	£ 300.00			Y		Y
A22	Small car park	Small car park (up to about 10 cars) A22 Excavate to 300mm depth and fill to 150mm with clean hardcore. Surface with minimum 150mm of new hardcore (Type 1) with topping of fines to bind surface. Each parking bay requires 5m x 3m, plus turning space (1.5 x car length). Can also be used to create stacking areas where a similar specification is required.	Square metre	£ 20.00			Y		
A23	Disabled parking bays	Tarmac, delineated bays and additional signage, in addition to small car park (A22)	per bay	£ 220.00			Y		
A24	Amenity Post & rail fence		metre	£ 18.00			Y		
A25	Bridleway Gate	Gate with handle allowing easy opening for riders	each	£ 350.00			Y		
A26	Horse Gate	Field Gate where central section is lowered, allowing horses to step over it for access; light duty spec	each	£ 400.00			Y		

Public Access continued			Current Unit / rate		EWGS grant most likely to be used				
	Activity	Specification	Unit	Cost	WIG SSSI	WIG bio	WIG access	WIG Red sq	WMG
A27	Motorbike restriction barriers	Barriers that enable access on foot but prevents access by motorbike	each	£ 350.00			Y		
A28	Footpath steps	Timber with max riser height 165mm, tread width max 300mm, normal max overall rise of 2000mm	Per step	£ 50.00			Y		Y

Biodiversity			Current Unit / rate		EWGS grant most likely to be used				
	Activity	Specification	Units	Cost	WIG SSSI	WIG bio	WIG access	WIG Red sq	WMG
B1	Small pond creation	Normally with a maximum depth of 60cm and less than 25 square metres	square metre	£3.00	Y	Y			Y
B2	Bird Box	Supply and install Wood/concrete construction boxes; general purpose with 32mm hole or open fronted	each	£25.00	Y	Y			Y

Mammal Management			Current Unit / rate		EWGS grant most likely to be used				
	Activity	Specification	Units	Cost	WIG SSSI	WIG bio	WIG access	WIG Red sq	WMG
C1	Squirrel hoppers	FC Practice Note "Controlling grey squirrel damage to woodland". Support will be given in accordance with the FC England squirrel policy	each	£ 40.00	Y	Y		Y	
C2	Hopper Maintenance	To inc min fortnightly visits, bait, wheat and warfarin. Record sheets should be made available if required. Support will be given in accordance with the FC England squirrel policy	season/hopper	£ 80.00					Y
C3	Squirrel cage trap	FC Practice Note "Controlling grey squirrel damage to woodland". Support will be given in accordance with the FC England squirrel policy	each	£ 35.00	Y	Y		Y	
C4	Cage trap maintenance	Minimum of one daily visit to each cage to despatch and reset. Cost is per trap per season	each	£ 130.00				Y	Y
C5	Squirrel blood tests	Single use squirrel pox testing kits	10	£ 12.00				Y	
C6	Deer high seat	Portable, free standing in galvanised tubular or box section steel	each	£ 350.00	Y	Y			
C7	Deer control at landscape scale	Population control / management at landscape / national scale	Hectare	£ 6.00					Y

Tree Establishment			Current Unit / rate		EWGS grant most likely to be used				
	Activity	Specification	Unit	Cost	WIG SSSI	WIG bio	WIG access	WIG Red sq	WMG
E4	Supply and plant tree and shelter	Tree + 1.2m tube + treated softwood stake & labour	Per tree	3.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	
E8	Respacing	Natural Regeneration (2m spacing)	Hectare	£ 1000.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Fencing			Current unit / rate		EWGS grant most likely to be used				
	Activity	Specification	Unit	Cost	WIG SSSI	WIG bio	WIG access	WIG Red sq	WMG
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	Y	Y			
F1a	Stock fencing in SDAs	as per F1 but for sites within Severely Disadvantaged Areas and where site access is poor	metre	£ 6.00	Y	Y			
F2	Stock & rabbit fencing	FC Bulletin 102 "Forest Fencing" - As above plus standard 18 gauge netting. Rabbit proof for min 10 years	metre	£ 7.20	Y	Y			
F3	Rabbit fencing	FC Bulletin 102 "Forest Fencing" - Standard 18 gauge netting, posts at 5m centres two line wires. Rabbit proof for min 10years	metre	£ 5.90	Y	Y			
F4	Deer fencing	FC Bulletin 102 "Forest Fencing" - Must be of a specification suitable for the species being excluded and deer proof for at least 10 years	metre	£ 7.80	Y	Y			
F4a	Deer fencing in SDAs	as per F4 but for sites within Severely Disadvantaged Areas and site access is poor	metre	£ 10.00	Y	Y			
F5	Temporary deer fencing	FC Practice Note 9 - temporary fencing. Costs takes account of reuse	metre	£ 5.20	Y	Y			
F6	Deer & rabbit fencing	FC Bulletin 102 "Forest Fencing" - as above.	metre	£ 10.00	Y	Y			
F7	Deer gate	Vehicle access gate - swing type - 3m x 1.8m	each	£ 430.00	Y	Y			
F8	Hanging Watergate >5m	FC Bulletin 102 "Forest Fencing" >5m span	each	£ 350.00	Y	Y			
F9	Hanging Watergate <5m	FC Bulletin 102 "Forest Fencing" <5m span	each	£ 200.00	Y	Y			

	Activity	Specification	Unit	Cost	WIG SSSI	WIG bio	WIG access	WIG Red sq	WMG
F10	Field gate	British Standard - 12ft 5 bar treated soft wood	each	£ 365.00	Y	Y			
F11	Badger gate	FC Bulletin 102 "Forest Fencing"	each	£ 50.00	Y	Y			
F12	Pole barrier (wood)	Supply and fit the barrier including poles. Includes labour & materials (treated timber)	each	£ 190.00			Y		
F13	Pole barrier (metal)	Supply and fit the barrier including poles. Includes labour & materials (metal pole and posts)	each	£ 600.00			Y		
F14	Deer exclosure plot	4m x 4m exclosure plot, using stock fence and rabbit fence if necessary	each	£ 130.00	Y	Y			Y
F15	Stock proof stone wall boundaries	Two lines of top wire to make a breach stone wall stockproof	metre	£2.60	Y	Y			
F16	Fence removal	Removing old fences	metre	£0.50	Y	Y	Y		Y

Harvesting			Current unit / rate		EWGS grant most likely to be used				
	Activity	Specification	Unit	Cost	WIG SSSI	WIG bio	WIG access	WIG Red sq	WMG
H1	Tree felling & conversion	Thinning of small woodlands where the wood is small or non-marketable. Fell, sned & cross cut (doesn't account for income)	Hectare	£ 600.00	Y	Y			
H2	Timber extraction	(doesn't account for income)	Hectare	£ 350.00	Y	Y			
H3	Skyline extraction	Extraction where other methods are impossible and removal of timber is required (doesn't account for income)	Cubic Metre	£ 30.00	Y	Y			
N/A	Timber stacking areas	Use the small car park (A22) operation and cost for similar specification work	Square metre	£ 20.00					

Labour and machinery			Current Unit / rate		EWGS grant most likely to be used				
	Activity	Specification	Units	Cost	WIG SSSI	WIG bio	WIG access	WIG Red sq	WMG
L1	Forest Craftsperson		per day	£ 150.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	
L2	Forestry Agent	Professionally qualified	per hour	£ 50.00	Y	Y			
L3	Tree surgery team & chipper	2 man team	per day	£ 500.00	Y	Y	Y		
L4	Tractor & chipper/flail	Machine + operator	per day	£ 350.00	Y	Y	Y		
L5	JCB hire & mini excavator	Machine + operator	hour	£ 30.00	Y	Y			
L6	360 excavator	Machine + operator	hour	£ 40.00	Y	Y			
L7	Low loader	To deliver whatever heavy machinery is required	To drop off and collect once	£ 350.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Vegetation Management			Current Unit / rate		EWGS grant most likely to be used				
	Activity	Specification	Units	Cost	WIG SSSI	WIG Bio	WIG access	WIG Red sq	WMG
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	Y	Y			Y
V2	Open ground tree & scrub manual cutting <7cm	Material majority <7cm diameter, manually cut	net hectare	£ 800.00	Y	Y			Y
V3	Open ground tree & scrub machine cutting >7cm	Material majority >7cm diameter, flailed with a mulcher	net hectare	£ 1,300.00	Y	Y			
V4	Open ground tree & scrub manual cutting >7cm	Material majority >7cm diameter, manually cut and left to decay	net hectare	£ 1,800.00	Y	Y			
V7	Asulox application	Asulox within woodland context	Hectare	£ 250.00	Y	Y			
V8	Stump treatment	Chemical stump treatment	Hectare	£ 300.00	Y	Y			
V9	Coppicing 30+ yrs since last cut	Cut whole stool / whole area. Doesn't include fencing , gapping up or layering	Hectare	£ 1,800.00	Y	Y			
V10	Coppicing <30 yrs since last cut	Does not include fencing, gapping up or layering	Hectare	£ 1,200.00	Y	Y			
V10a	Coppicing small scale	No timber income; cut material needs to be cleared from site	Hectare	£ 2,400.00	Y	Y			
V11	Ride management 2 zone	2 zone cutting - Cut central zone annually, and alternate outer zones biannually. Ave ride width 5m	per km/yr	£ 250.00	Y	Y			Y
V12	Ride management 3 zone	3 zone cutting - as above with third zone cut on 5yr cycle. Ave ride width 8-10m	per km/yr	£ 400.00	Y	Y			Y
V13	Grass cutting recreation areas	Repeated mowing of open areas to maintain grass generally below 10cm	Hectare / season	£ 550.00			Y		
V14	Path strimming	Path strimming (3m wide) each pass	metre	£ 0.23			Y		

Vegetation Management (continued)			Current Unit / rate		EWGS grant most likely to be used				
	Activity	Specification	Units	Cost	WIG SSSI	WIG Bio	WIG access	WIG Red sq	WMG
V15	Rhododendron control <7cm machine cut	Rhododendron control (see Practice Guide). Most material less than 7cm diameter, cut with flail	Hectare	£ 500.00	Y	Y			
V16	Rhododendron control >7cm machine cut	Rhododendron control (see Practice Guide). Most material greater than 7cm diameter, cut with flail	Hectare	£ 2,200.00	Y	Y			
V17	Rhododendron control - spray regrowth	Follow up respray of rhododendron regrowth	Hectare	£ 400.00	Y	Y			
V18	Rhododendron control difficult sites	Rhodo on very difficult sites - steep & inaccessible & dense/large rhodo	Hectare	£ 3,800.00	Y	Y			
V18a	Rhododendron control - very difficult sites	Rhododendron cutting in extremely difficult sites - very steep and inaccessible with large / dense rhododendron. NW, SW & SE regions only	Hectare	£ 5,000.00	Y	Y			
V19	Ride management - Removal of arisings	Removing arisings from ride management for conservation purposes	linear metre	£ 0.60	Y	Y			
V20	Woodland hedge management	Cutting, coppicing, layering, gapping up.	Linear metre	£5.00					
V21	Tree pollarding	Pollarding of mature trees	Per tree	£90.00					

Special Funds			Current Unit / rate		EWGS grant most likely to be used				
	Activity	Specification	Units	Cost	WIG SSSI	WIG bio	WIG access	WIG Red sq	WMG
Z1	Special Fund - £1000 cost	These costs can only be used for special funds where the grant literature specifically says it can be used	Per £1000	£ 1000.00					
Z2	Special Fund - £100 cost		Per £100	£ 100.00					
X100	Special Fund - £100 cost	To account for operational income e.g. timber	Per £100 income	- £ 100.00					

Annex 2: Standard Costs used by the FC to support tariff based grants

(Woodland creation & regeneration)

Tree Establishment			Current unit / rate	
	Activity	Specification	Units	Cost
E1	Supply of plants	Conifers	per 1000	£ 200.00
E2	Supply of plants	Broadleaves & shrubs	per 1000	£ 400.00
E3	Planting costs	Planting labour costs only	per 1000	£ 240.00
E4	Supply and planting costs	tree + 1.2m tube + treated softwood stake & labour	per tree	3.00
E5	Supply and planting costs	tree + 0.75m tree shelter + treated softwood stake & labour	per tree	£ 2.50
E6	Supply and planting costs	tree + 0.6m tube + stake & labour	per tree	£ 2.10
E7	Supply and planting costs	tree + 0.6m spiral guard + cane & labour	per tree	£ 1.40
E8	Respacing	Natural Regeneration (2m spacing)	Hectare	£ 1000.00
E9	Weevil spray	Flood spray each plant, up to 2250 per Ha	Hectare	£ 160.00
G1	Chemical screening	Spot spray 1600 - 2250 trees per hectare. 1m ² spot	spot	£ 0.08
G2	Scarifying - new planting	Doneran type excavator	Hectare	£ 100.00
G3	Ripping	2m wide passes	Hectare	£ 125.00
G4	Mounding	Continuous	Hectare	£ 125.00
G5	Drainage	Creating new drains - new planting, or clearing existing drains	metre	£ 2.00
G6	Drainage	Creating new drains - restocking	metre	£ 2.00
G7	Drainage maintenance	Maintain drains	metre	£ 1.00
V5	Chemical weed control	Spot spray 1600 - 2250 trees per hectare. 1square metre spot	spot	£ 0.08
V6	Chemical weed control	Spot spray 1100 trees per hectare	spot	£ 0.10
C8	Vole guards	Includes guards and labour for attachment	100	£ 40.00