

English Woodland Grant Scheme

EWGS Woodland Creation Grant 2009: Additional Contribution and Score Form Guidance for East Midlands Region

Additional Contributions

This guidance explains how to apply for these regionally focussed grants:

1. Quality of Place access provision
2. Reversing Woodland Bird Decline

It supplements the generic guidance on Woodland Creation Grant (WCG), which is available from the [EWGS web site](#).

The maximum total additional contribution available is £2000/ha

Quality of Place (QoP) Additional Contribution

Introduction Q o P Areas are based on data about population numbers, deprivation indices and existing woodland access provision. A map showing these areas is in Annex 1 of this guide but the definitive areas are available in the Land Information Search facility on the FC website.

Eligibility In order to be eligible for this grant applicants must meet the following:

- The general criteria and conditions for Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) apply – refer to the WCG guidance for further details
- Create new woodland within Q o P Areas
- Provide public access. The wood must be designed to provide high quality access, be accessible for free, quiet enjoyment by the public (including dogs on leads) during daylight hours for 11 months of each year, and access must be permitted for 30 years from first payment of grant.

Payment Rate An additional contribution of £2000/ha will be paid for agreements meeting these criteria.

Reversing Woodland Bird Decline Additional Contribution

Introduction Wild birds are considered a good indicator of the general state of health of our wildlife and the countryside and they 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.

The Forestry Commission East Midlands Region in partnership with the RSPB is offering financial support to landowners and managers to create new woodland habitat for ten vulnerable species. Five species, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Spotted flycatcher, Willow tit, Willow warbler and Garden warbler are found throughout the regional priority areas (see appendix 1). Tree pipit is associated with the Peak District National Park; Derbyshire; Nottinghamshire; National Forest and Lincolnshire AONB. Woodcock is associated with the Peak District National Park; Derbyshire Nottinghamshire; Lincolnshire AONB; Lincolnshire Limewoods; Rockingham and National Forest. Wood warbler is associated with the Peak District National Park and Derbyshire. Lesser Redpoll is associated with the Peak District National Park, Derbyshire, Sherwood Natural Area, Rockingham, Lincolnshire AONB and Lincolnshire Limewoods. Hawfinch is associated with the Peak District National Park; Derbyshire; Nottinghamshire; Rockingham and National Forest.

Distribution maps can be found on the RSPB web site: http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/projects/targeting/targeting_maps.asp

This grant will be targeted where work to create early successional scrub habitat and/or new native woodland will have a beneficial effect on identified woodland bird populations.

Eligibility In order to be eligible for this grant applicants must meet the following:

- The general criteria and conditions for Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) apply – refer to the WCG guidance for further details
- The application must specify which of the bird species the work will benefit
- The woodland must be located in one of the target areas for the species chosen (visit RSPB web site above) and be within the East Midlands Woodland Bird Additional Contribution Priority Areas shown in appendix 1
- The woodland must be designed to benefit the chosen species and comprise at least 80% native species
- In order to assess the effectiveness of this grant and to compare with similar initiatives, applicants must agree to periodic monitoring of the woodland.

Each eligible application site will be visited by an RSPB and/or FC officer to assess the location to ensure the work is suitable and will benefit the chosen species.

The Addition Contribution (AC) grant of £2,000 per hectare will be paid in 2 instalments as per the Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) – 80% 1st instalment at time of planting and 20% five years later, subject to continued compliance with the EWGS contract.

This WCG AC fund is limited to payments in the financial years 1st April 2009 to 28 February 2012. Claims must be received before the end of the financial year in which the payment is due. Funds are limited and will be awarded on a first come first served basis.

How to Apply Both EWGS 1 General Details form and EWGS 7 Woodland Creation Grant form along with the East Midlands EWGS 7a WCG Score form must be completed and submitted with an OS Master Map ® showing the areas for which grant is sought.

Further Advice and Information Further information can be obtained from your local FC Officer by contacting the Regional office at Sherwood on 01623, alternatively you can email : eastmidlands.fce@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 www.forestry.gov.uk/england-advice or from your local FC office.

Figure 1 – East Midlands Woodland Bird Additional Contribution Priority Areas



Score Form Guidance

- Background** Every EWGS woodland Creation Grant application must be self scored in order that the applications received can be ranked. Applications are accepted in score order up to the funding available. The scoring system is more fully explained in EWGS 7.
- Regional Score Forms** Section 7 of the score forms are different in each region and it is therefore important that applicants have the correct score form for the region in which the land to be planted lies. The forms show the name of the region that they apply to. For applications that cross regional boundaries, apply to the region that has the greater proportion of the area, and use the score form appropriate to that region.
- Application requirements** Applications should only include Woodland Creation Grant proposals and should not mix other grants.
- Applicants must complete the EWGS 7a score form (or more than one if necessary) and enclose it with the fully completed application, including the required Ordnance Survey MasterMap® map. The Forestry Commission must receive the fully completed application documents and score forms before the end of the application window. Requests for free OS MasterMap® prints must therefore be made in good time as the Forestry Commission cannot accept late applications for any reason.
- Application Deadline** The 2009 window closes on the 30th September
- Completing form EWGS 7a** Applicants will find further advice and information on the FC website at www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs, including the Land Information Search facility that will help determine some scores that rely on being in specific areas of the country. Local Forestry Commission staff can also provide advice if applicants are still unsure as the maps at the back of this guide are only indicative at that scale.
- The FC may ask applicants to complete separate scoring forms where different blocks in a scheme are substantially different in character and would have significantly different scores.
- Follow the instructions on the form about whether you can tick every score that applies or just one from a group of possible scores.
- The following notes refer to the numbered section of the Form EWGS 7a and give further explanation where it may be needed.

- Rural Development**
- 1.1 Defra has used a range of indicators to identify districts of rural England that have consistently poor economic performance. These areas are called Rural Productivity 'Lagging' Areas. A map showing these areas is annex 1 of this guide but the definitive areas are available in the Land Information Search facility on the FC website.
 - 1.2 The 70% use of conifers, poplar or cricket bat willow is a percentage of the area actually to be planted and does not include open ground.
 - 1.3/1.4 Tick the box appropriate to your proposed planting density.

- Economic Regeneration**
- 2.1 Quality of Place Priority Areas are based on data about population numbers, deprivation indices and existing woodland access provision. A map showing these areas is in annex 1 of this guide but the definitive areas are available in the Land Information Search facility on the FC website.
 - 2.2 This section includes all land previously used for industry including landfill sites and associated areas. Also included is land that is not yet restored, and land that has been restored to a non-woodland use where tree planting is acceptable. We will always require the land to be prepared to an appropriate forestry specification prior to planting if it is not to that standard already.
 - 2.3/2.4 The 2001 population statistics are available on the internet. Guidance on how to find population statistics can be found in Operations Note 1, which is available at www.forestry.gov.uk/england-ewgsdocuments or your local FC office. Where population figures are not known precisely FC staff can agree an appropriate score with applicants.

- Recreation, Access & Tourism**
- 3.1 The boundaries of the 12 Community Forests and the National Forest are available in the Land Information Search facility on the FC website. If you are still unsure then FC staff can help.
 - 3.2 The requirement here is to allow free public access anywhere on the site, not just on defined paths. Normally this will be during daylight hours for at least 11 months of the year and include access for dogs on leads.
 - 3.3 This option is where free public access is restricted to defined paths through the area to be planted (or just parts of the area). Normally this will be during daylight hours for at least 11 months of the year and include access for dogs on leads.
 - 3.4 The right of way must be immediately adjacent i.e. touching the new woodland. The new woodland must also be considered to enhance the right of way. A public right of way may include

public footpaths, bridleways and roads. No right of way may be obstructed.

Environment & Conservation

4.1 The priority is the achievement of the National and local Biodiversity, Habitat and Species Action Plans (BAP, HAP and SAP) targets. More detailed information is available on the UK BAP website: www.ukbap.org.uk. FC staff or Forestry advisors can also explain how new woodland can contribute to these targets.

Applications must specify which Action Plan applies to the work proposed. A definition of the Woodland Habitat types is in annex 4 of this guide.

4.2 Any extension to Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) with new native woodland must be undertaken in accordance with Forestry Commission Bulletin 112 – Creating New Native Woodlands. This is available from HMSO bookshops (ISBN 0-11-710320-9) or via FC Publications tel: 0870 121 4180 (e-mail: forestry@twoten.press.net)

4.3 Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) are a type of existing wood where it is reasonably certain the site has not been cleared for other uses (like agriculture) in the past. 100% locally native species are required to extend a PAWS and gain these points.

4.4 Locally native species do not include naturalised species, therefore sycamore, Sweet chestnut or European larch, do not count. The woodland cannot include any non-native species.

Natural England has a register of known Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands and Ancient Woodland Sites over two hectares. This register, your forestry advisor or your local FC office will be able to tell you which species are considered to be native in your locality.

Size 5.1-5.4 Where there are several woodlands of different sizes, score the largest single wood only. If more than one score form is used to cover different parts of the proposed planting, score the largest single wood covered by each form. Applications that do not score here will still be considered

Landscape Enhancement

6.1 Local Authorities or National Park Authorities will have published guidelines for woodland planting within the Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These guidelines will indicate the preferred locations, size and character for new woodlands. Proposals that are within one of these areas and clearly meet the guidelines will score 3 points. FC staff and Forestry advisors will be able to help with this.

6.2 'Designed landscapes' are primarily those areas on English

Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. However, other unregistered historic areas can be considered on their merit. Applications should show how this criterion is being met. Proposals will not be agreed if they are considered to be detrimental to these landscapes.

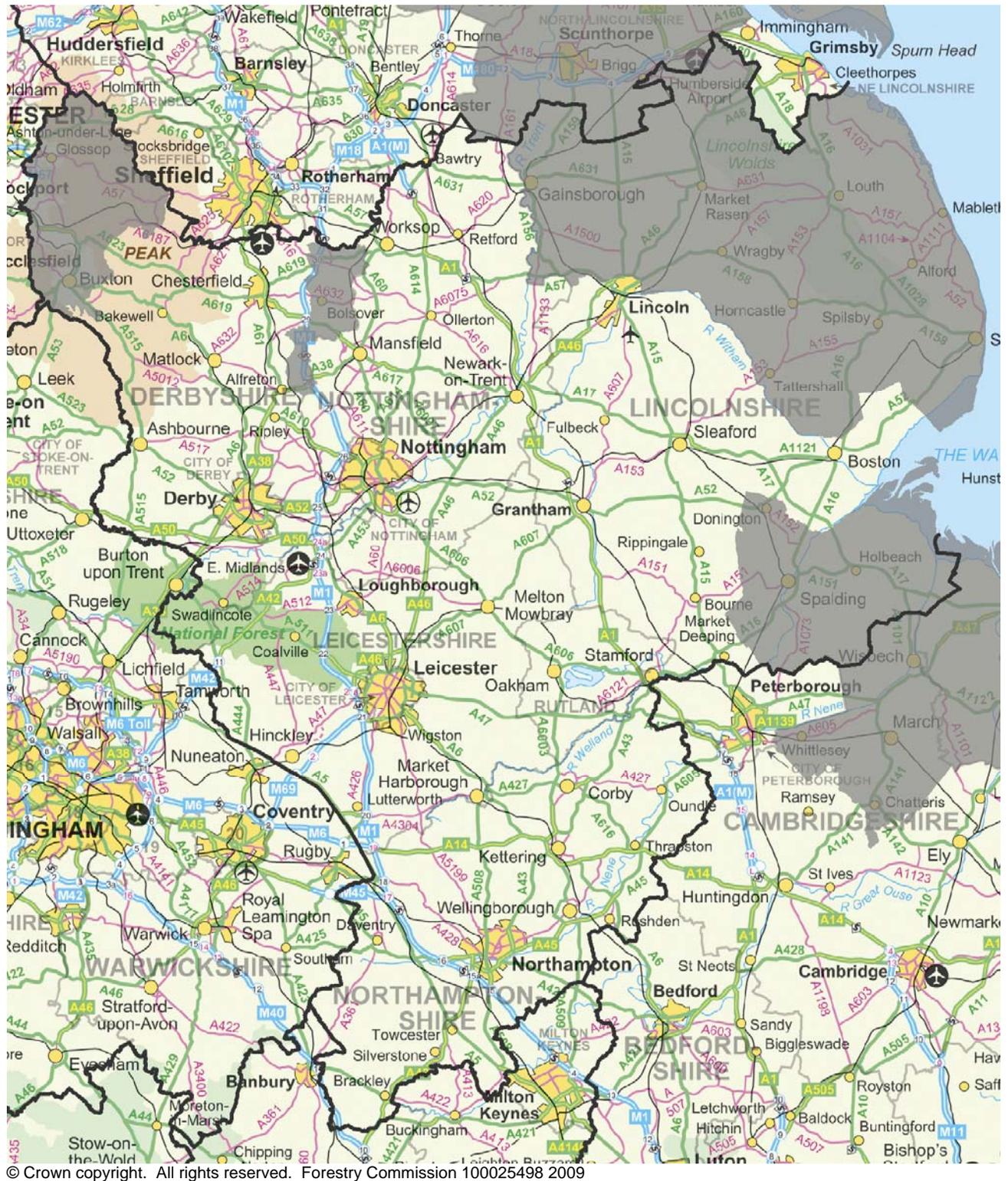
- 6.3 An identified landscape improvement is, for example, to screen for a particular site from public view, or improve the view of existing woodland by additional planting. This must be specific to the application e.g. screening specific industrial buildings and be of benefit to the public at large, not just the owner. Applications must not adversely affect other's properties and the views from them. The FC may not approve applications that we feel will do this.

**Regional Woodland
Creation Priorities**

- 7.1 Quality of Place priority areas - the application must fall within the light or dark grey areas as show on the map in Annex 2 and offer full practicable public access.
- 7.2 The proposals must create wet woodland of locally native species (NVC types 4, 6 or 7). The Regional Strategic River Corridors are the Rivers Dove, Derwent, Trent, Soar, Witham, Welland and Nene.
- 7.3 Woodland Birds - the woodland must be located within one of the target areas for the species chosen (visit RSPB web site www.rspb.org/targeting) and be within the East Midlands Woodland Bird Priority Areas as shown in figure 1. The woodland must be designed to benefit the chosen species and comprise at least 80% native species.

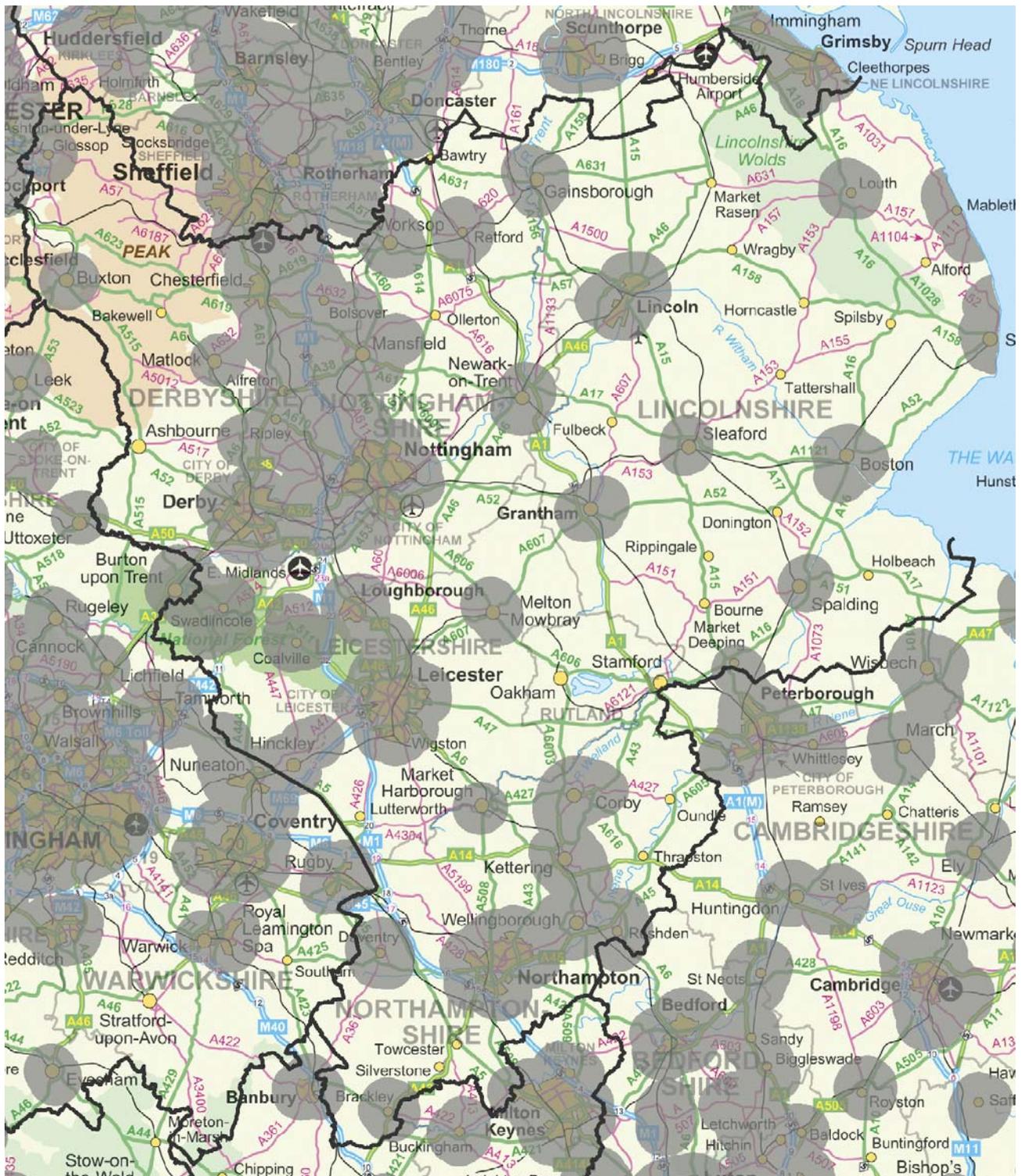
Versions Version 5 May 2009

Annex 1 – Rural Productivity Lagging Areas



Annex 2 – Quality of Place priority areas

The grey shaded areas are deemed priority areas. They are designated on the basis of population, deprivation indices and current woodland access provision



Annex 3 – Composition of Native Woodland Habitat Types

Woodland Habitat type	Brief description of requirements / notes
All types	> 50% of the potential canopy comprises locally native species
Upland Oak woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woodland within the “upland region” of England generally with at least 80% oak or birch in the potential canopy - Small areas of other communities may occur, for example along streams (W7) or towards the base of slopes that experience flushing (W9) or birch areas at the upper margins
Upland Mixed Ashwoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woodland within the “upland region” of UK with >20% ash in the potential canopy though locally, oak, birch, small-leaved lime or hazel may be prominent - Yew can be locally prominent within upland ashwood (for example on limestone pavements). Alder can occur in transitions to wet woodland
Lowland Beech and Yew woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the beech zone of southern to central England and southern Wales, at least 30% beech in the potential canopy. and oakwoods - Elsewhere, at least 50% beech in the potential canopy - Includes yew-dominated woodland mainly restricted to southern England
Wet Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woodland planted on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils, with >50% alder and willow in the potential canopy but may include ash, birch, oak, pine or beech on the drier riparian areas. - Ashwoods in lowland floodplains are also best described as this habitat type.

This document is for information only and does not constitute an agreement of any form nor does it confer any rights. It is intended as a guide to help applicants decide whether the grant is applicable to them and whether the main requirements of any grant agreement can be met. The information is subject to change. Full and current details of the grant scheme and the requirements of any EWGS grant contract that may be made between the applicant(s) and the Forestry Commission arising from an application to the grant scheme can be found at www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs