

## **English Woodland Grant Scheme**

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

## Additional Contributions

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

1. Quality of Place access provision
2. Native woodland creation

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.

## **Native Woodland Creation Additional Contribution**

**Introduction** In 2007 Defra produced “A Strategy for England’s Trees Woods and Forests” (ETWF). This strategy sets out the Governments vision for England’s woodland resource.

The creation, expansion and maintenance of woodland resilient to climate change and making a full contribution to protecting and enhancing woodland habitats, safeguarding and enhancing landscapes and maximising the full range of ecosystem services provided by trees are key objectives of the strategy.

The use of native trees and shrubs in the establishment of new woodlands help meet these objectives.

As a result of historic land patterns many upland areas in the North East now have very low levels of woodland cover and very few ancient and semi-natural woodlands remain. It is considered a priority to increase the area of woodland within these upland areas and because of it’s special qualities and importance for biodiversity and landscape this is particularly important in the Northumberland National Park.

The level of woodland cover in many urban areas of the North East are well below the national average. The benefits of planting woodland close to communities that have limited direct access to the natural environment have long been recognised and are outlined in the ETWF strategy.

**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
- *This grant will only be available within Northumberland National Park and Quality of Place priority areas.*
- *The design of new woodlands must be appropriate to the location and meet landscape guidelines for the area.*
- *The principles of Forestry Commission Bulletin 112 Creating New Native Woodlands must be followed when matching species with site.*

**Payment rates** An Additional contribution grant of £2,000 per ha will be paid within Northumberland National Park

An Additional Contribution grant of £1,000 per ha will be paid within Quality of Place area’s for new woodlands without access, or which meet Green Infrastructure Strategies where these have been developed.

The Additional Contributions will be paid in 2 instalments as per the Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) as 80% 1<sup>st</sup> instalment at the time of planting and 20% five years later, subject to continued compliance with the EWGS contract.

In order to ensure value for money the Additional Contribution levels for schemes of over 50 ha will be subject to negotiation with the Forestry Commission.

**How to Apply** Both EWGS 1 General Details form and EWGS 7 Woodland Creation Grant form along with the North East England 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 Rothbury on 01669 621591 or Hamsterley on 01388 488721 alternatively you can email: [northeast.fce@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:northeast.fce@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

**Other Advice** The EWGS website [www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs](http://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](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-advice) or from your local FC office.

# 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](http://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.
- Quality of Place**
- 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 Proposals are part of an integrated approach to land management which includes surrounding land. This means the adjacent land is in an agri-environment stewardship scheme or that are clear management plans that demonstrate how the land is being managed in a holistic way.
- 7.2 Green Infrastructure comprises networks of multi-use green space between towns and villages which supports the natural and ecological processes. New woodlands that are created in accordance with a Local Authority published strategy will be awarded 2 points.
- 7.3 Long term funding arrangements are in place to deal with the cost of future maintenance. This would normally mean there is a long term maintenance contract in place with a forest management agent or company that gives greater confidence the woodland will be established.

**Versions** Version 5 May 2009









## 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"> <li>- Woodland within the “upland region” of England generally with at least 80% oak or birch in the potential canopy</li> <li>- 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</li> </ul>
Upland Mixed Ashwoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Woodland within the “upland region” of UK with &gt;20% ash in the potential canopy though locally, oak, birch, small-leaved lime or hazel may be prominent</li> <li>- Yew can be locally prominent within upland ashwood (for example on limestone pavements). Alder can occur in transitions to wet woodland</li> </ul>
Lowland Beech and Yew woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Within the beech zone of southern to central England and southern Wales, at least 30% beech in the potential canopy. and oakwoods</li> <li>- Elsewhere, at least 50% beech in the potential canopy</li> <li>- Includes yew-dominated woodland mainly restricted to southern England</li> </ul>
Wet Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Woodland planted on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils, with &gt;50% alder and willow in the potential canopy but may include ash, birch, oak, pine or beech on the drier riparian areas.</li> <li>- Ashwoods in lowland floodplains are also best described as this habitat type.</li> </ul>

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](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs)