Woodland Creation Grant and Regulations

04 March 2020

Richard Paton
Partnerships and Expertise Manager
SW England
• Statutory body for planting trees – with or without grant;
• Small team based in Exeter;
• You are likely to deal with the Woodland Officer or Woodland Creation Officer; and
• Not to be confused with Forestry England or Forest Research.
Scope

- The role of UKFS;
- Identifying suitable land to plant - EIA;
- Applying for CS grant; and
- What trees to plant.
The UK Forestry Standard

The governments’ approach to sustainable forestry

- General Forestry Practice
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Historic Environment
- Landscape
- People
- Soil
- Water
Requirements of UKFS

Legal requirements
Statutory requirements of EU and UK legislation, including legislation applicable in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, that has the most direct bearing on the management of forests and woodlands. Contravention of these requirements could lead directly to prosecution.

Good forestry practice requirements
Further requirements of sustainable forest management, in line with international agreed criteria and commitments, meet UK and local policy. They ensure the framework for the exercise of regulatory powers by the forestry authorities in the UK and for the payment of grants.

Guidelines
Guidelines provide more detailed information for forest and woodland owners, managers and practitioners on how to comply with the UKFS Requirements. Some guidelines apply to more than one situation and to more than one element of sustainable forest management. These guidelines are cross-referenced.
For example...

Forestry activities and businesses must comply with all relevant laws and regulations.

Reasonable measures should be taken to ensure no illegal or unauthorised activity takes place within the forest or woodland.

Operations must be authorised by the legal owner.

The historic environment authority must be informed if objects are found that come within the scope of the law covering archaeological finds. Metal detectors must not be used where legally restricted or on a Scheduled Monument site.
A guideline

Maintain or establish a diverse composition within the forest management unit; where only one species is suited to a site and management objectives, a maximum of 75% may be allocated to a single species (see notes below). In all cases, incorporate a minimum of:

- 10% open ground or ground managed for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as the primary objective;
- 10% of other species;
- 5% native broadleaved trees or shrubs.

Note: (i) Where more than one species is suited to a site and matches the management objectives, opportunities must be taken to further diversify the above species composition. (ii) In woodlands of less than 10 hectares and in native woods the above proportions may be relaxed as long as the adjacent land uses provide landscape and habitat diversity.

Manage a minimum of 15% of the forest management unit with conservation and the enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective.
Biodiversity in the wider landscape

Country forestry policies and strategies reflect the potential of forests to deliver WFD objectives. These include highlighting opportunities for woodland creation.

Landscape and visual sensitivities

The creation of new forests and woodlands and the felling and restocking of existing woodlands have the potential to dramatically alter landscapes. Changes occurring to familiar scenes can be unwelcome – especially when the change is sudden and unexpected. An essential part of the forest design process is therefore a consideration of the visual sensitivity of the landscape within which changes are proposed.

Where new woodlands are proposed, the sensitivity of downstream water bodies and wetlands to a reduction in water quantity should be considered; where this is an issue, advice should be sought from the water regulatory authority and conservation agency. A balance is required between these objectives.

Woodland has supported health campaigns involving walking or cycling routes to schools and workplaces.
Where to plant - EIA
Do your homework

- EIA for afforestation is the main hurdle to overcome, so:
  - Operations Note 48 is a good place to start;
  - FC Land Information Search will show low sensitivity land;
  - MAGIC contains different data sets

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Grants & Regulations
Operations Note

Operations Note 048
Date: 5 December 2018

FC Map Browser with Land Information Search – user guidance

Purpose
This Operations Note provides customers with guidance on how to use the new FC map browser and how to run a Land Information Search.

Introduction
From 5 December 2018, a new Forestry Commission (FC) map browser (for England) with upgraded functionality and accessibility with an associated Land Information Search (LIS) tool is launched; it has a different look and feel to the previous version. This guidance note will help you understand the basic functionality and take you through the process of using the tools within the new map browser.

Access to the FC map browser
The Map Browser can be accessed via GOV.UK use the Forestry Commission map browser and Land Information Search guidance page
Woodland Creation for Cornwall Council
• If you submit a grant application this will be covered by our processing.
• If you don’t apply for grant you need to submit an EIA Enquiry Application Form.
Application for an afforestation Project
EIA Opinion in England

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (England and Wales) 1999 (as amended) regulate afforestation, amongst other forestry activity. Anyone planning to undertake an afforestation project in England may apply to the Forestry Commission (FC) for an EIA Assessment or Opinion on whether their project is a relevant project, and therefore likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Relevant projects under the regulations must have the Forestry Commission’s Consent before they can be carried out.

Definition:

- By afforestation, we mean conversion of a non-woodland land use, for example agriculture, into woodland or forest by means of planting or regenerating trees to form woodland habitat. This can include projects for short rotation coppice (SRC) and other forms of energy crop and/or single stem forestry and Christmas trees.

The enquiry application form, along with a project map, is used to gather key information about an afforestation project and the project proposer and/or their agent, to enable the FC to give an informed EIA Assessment or Opinion under these Regulations. Please consider each section of the form carefully when completing it, and provide relevant evidence to support your application.
Supplementary guidance: Afforestation projects seeking an EIA opinion / assessment in England

For use in completion of the EIA Enquiry form for afforestation

Introduction

We, the Forestry Commission (FC), assess afforestation projects in England from you, the applicant, as part of our responsibilities under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (England and Wales) 1999.

Guided by principles interpreted from the EIA regulations and by UK Forestry Standard (UKFS), we ensure that afforestation projects do not have significant effects for the environment (ecology, economy and society).

The Regulations create a two-stage process for forestry projects: the Opinion/Assessment stage, and the Consent stage.

- The FC must initially form an Opinion or make an Assessment as to whether a project will likely have a significant effect on the environment. The vast majority of projects, particularly those developed in consultation with the FC, are not likely to have a significant effect.
- For those few projects that will have a significant effect, a further application to the FC will be required in order apply for our Consent.
### EIA Thresholds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Sensitivity</th>
<th>Location of Project / Type of Location</th>
<th>Proposed Planting Area in Hectares</th>
<th>Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sensitive Areas</strong></td>
<td>The project, or part of the project, is within or immediately adjacent to a designated site. SPA, SAC, LNR, NNR, RAMSAR, SM, The Broads, World Heritage Sites, SSSI. (See full list on next page)</td>
<td>All projects are assessed</td>
<td>Submit an EIA Enquiry form for Full Screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Project, or part of the Project, is in a National Park or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. No other site designations apply to the project area.</td>
<td>Less than 2 hectares</td>
<td>No screening or assessment required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 hectares or more</td>
<td>Submit an EIA Enquiry form for Full Screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low Risk Areas</strong></td>
<td>All of the Project is fully within a Low Risk Area</td>
<td>More than 5, but no more than 50 hectares</td>
<td>Submit an EIA Enquiry form or an application for grant aided woodland creation <strong>Full Notification Assessment</strong> <em>(Includes 28 day period on Public Register)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(as mapped)</td>
<td></td>
<td>More than 50 hectares</td>
<td>Submit an EIA Enquiry form for Full Screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Areas</strong></td>
<td>No part of the Project is in a Sensitive Area, but part of it can be in a Low Risk area.</td>
<td>Less than 2 hectares</td>
<td>No screening or assessment required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>More than 2, but no more than 5 hectares</td>
<td>Submit an EIA Enquiry form or an application for grant aided woodland creation <strong>Basic Notification Assessment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>More than 5 hectares</td>
<td>Submit an EIA Enquiry form for Full Screening</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hopefully most projects will be in this category!
Applying for Grant
Register with RPA

Via GOV.UK you will need to register to claim any rural grants and payments:

• Online with GOV.UK Verify; or
• Call Rural payments helpline on 03000 200 301.

You will also need a Customer Reference Number (CRN) and a Single Business Identifier (SBI).

Once you have all the above you can complete creating your account.

You can give someone else (an agent) permission to act on your behalf.
CS Offer

Once you have an agreement:

• £1.28 per tree, this includes a spiral;
• Limit of £6,800 per ha;

Can also include Capital Items for:

• Fencing;
• Wooden field gate;
• Badger gates;
• water gates;
• Leaky woody dams;
• Woodland infrastructure; and
• Supplement for individual tree shelters.
Woodland creation grant

- **Countryside Stewardship**

- **Competitive & targeted for Biodiversity and Water objectives**

- **Area must be registered on the Rural Land Register**

- **Land must be within one of the targeted areas for biodiversity or water**

- **Can apply for WD1 - maintenance payments of £200/ha for 10 yr period**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Biodiversity</strong></th>
<th><strong>Water</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area 3ha</td>
<td>Area 1ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block size 0.5ha</td>
<td>Block size 0.1ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width 20 metres</td>
<td>Width 10 metres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Biodiversity**
- Minimum 80% native broadleaf species
- Up to 20% non-native
- Minimum stocking density 1100 stems per hectare

**Water quality or flood risk**
- Conifer and/or broadleaf
- Minimum stocking density 1600 or 2250 stems per hectare

Up to 20% integral open space
CS Layers on MAGIC

Woodland Creation for Cornwall Council
## Design Principles for Woodland for Water

### Priority Locations for Woodland Creation within Target Catchments

#### WHERE?
Planting will generally be:
- next to an watercourse
- targeted to areas of risk of erosion or pesticide
- along river/marshland
- along water catchments

Where appropriate construction of large watercourses to aid priority planting

#### WIDER CATCHMENT WOODLAND

- within groundwater and surface water protection zones
- in areas at high or moderate risk of erosion or leaching chemical pollutants
- along temporary surface water collects and flows during heavy rain
- on areas receiving runoff from hard standings, infiltration basins and sustainable rural and urban drainage systems
- downslope of erosion or chemical pollutant sources

#### WHY?
Planting here can help reduce fertiliser and pesticide usage; protect sensitive soils from disturbance and erosion; increase infiltration and reduce water runoff; and intercept sediment and chemical pollutants in runoff, reducing the delivery of pollutants to watercourses.

#### HOW?
- target pollutant sources and retention zones
- run parallel to the land contour where the woodland is designed to intercept pollutants draining from up-slope areas
- have the highest planting densities along runoff pathways
- include an open space towards the uphill edge of the planting to enhance the trapping of fine sediment where overland flow is an issue

#### STOCKING DENSITY
- Minimum 1600 saplings, average 2.5m spacing
- Closed spacing across runoff pathways

#### OPEN SPACE
- Maximum 20% of the area where fully justified, but preferably less

#### SPECIES
- Productive broadleaves or conifer species will provide greatest benefits for water. Avoid larger scale planting of conifers where acidification or water resources are an issue

### Objectives and Design Principles

#### FLOODPLAIN WOODLAND

- Where possible, planting will generally occupy a significant part of the width of one or preferably both sides of the floodplain

- Planting should avoid areas:
  - where flood flows are controlled by existing restrictions such as bridges and culverts, particularly where these are vulnerable to blockage
  - alongside stretches of main river with engineered flood defence banks
  - where the back-up of floodwaters could threaten local properties
  - within ‘washland’

#### WHY?
Planting here can increase hydraulic roughness which helps to slow flood flows and encourages the deposition of sediment and the retention of pollutants on the floodplain.

#### HOW?
For maximum benefit, your planting will:
- involve random spacing but, if in rows, the rows will be offset and aligned perpendicular to the flow of water in order to slow the flow
- reduce to 1.0m spacing across the lowest lying/wettest parts of the floodplain and along the downstream edge of the planting to increase low level roughness and temporary flood storage; and
- have open space that will be concentrated on the higher/drier parts of the site

#### STOCKING DENSITY
- Minimum 2250 stems per hectare, average 2.1m spacing, though closer (down to 1.0m) on the lower lying parts of the floodplain and along downstream edge

#### OPEN SPACE
- Maximum of 20% of the area, but preferably less than this

#### SPECIES
- Predominantly native broadleaves adjacent to watercourses (see UKFS Guidelines) and on lowest lying/wettest areas. Productive broadleaves or conifers elsewhere, especially on higher/drier parts of the site

### Countryside Stewardship Planting Requirements

#### WIDER CATCHMENT WOODLAND

- Minimum 1600 saplings, average 2.5m spacing
- Closed spacing across runoff pathways

#### OPEN SPACE
- Maximum 20% of the area where fully justified, but preferably less

#### SPECIES
- Productive broadleaves or conifer species will provide greatest benefits for water. Avoid larger scale planting of conifers where acidification or water resources are an issue

#### FLOODPLAIN WOODLAND

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- Maximum of 20% of the area, but preferably less than this

- Predominantly native broadleaves adjacent to watercourses (see UKFS Guidelines) and on lowest lying/wettest areas. Productive broadleaves or conifers elsewhere, especially on higher/drier parts of the site
What Trees to Plant
Define Your Objectives

- Conservation:
  - NVC or Peterkin
  - Bulletin 112
- Productive:
  - WCPG
  - Yield Class
- WFD/NFM:
  - Talk to EA and/or LLFA early
  - Very specific requirements
The Ecological Site Classification Decision Support System (ESC-DSS) is a PC-based system to help guide forest managers and planners to select ecologically suited species to sites, instead of selecting a species and trying to modify the site to suit.

The user is required to input just two pieces of site information:

• Grid reference
• Soil type
# ESC Example

## Forest Research

Enter Grid Reference (e.g. NT090950) [ST023144] Go
Select decision support tool: Ecological Site Classification (Tree ▼)

### Site Description

The site has a warm, moderately exposed and moist climate. The soils are moist moisture status and medium nutrient status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifications</th>
<th>Accumulated Temperature (AT)?</th>
<th>Continentality (CT)?</th>
<th>Exposure (DAMS)?</th>
<th>Moisture Deficit (MD)?</th>
<th>Soil Moisture Regime (SMR)?</th>
<th>Soil Nutrient Regime (SNR)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>1774</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>4 (Moist)</td>
<td>3 (Medium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>4 (Moist)</td>
<td>3 (Medium)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Suitability Key

- Very Suitable (0.75-1.00)
- Suitable (0.50-0.74)
- Marginal (0.30-0.49)
- Unsuitable (0.00-0.29)

### Species Suitability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Species Code</th>
<th>Suitability Ecological</th>
<th>Timber</th>
<th>YC</th>
<th>Lim</th>
<th>AT</th>
<th>CT</th>
<th>DAMS</th>
<th>MD</th>
<th>SMR</th>
<th>SNR</th>
<th>Version (Rating)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corsican pine</td>
<td>[CP]</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>DAMS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.3(A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodgepole pine</td>
<td>[LP]</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>DAMS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.1(A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonian pine</td>
<td>MCP</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>DAMS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.1(C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime pine</td>
<td>MAP</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>SMR</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.1(C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey/Radiata pine</td>
<td>RAP</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>AT5</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3(C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scots pine</td>
<td>SP</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>DAMS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.3(A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weymouth pine</td>
<td>WEP</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>SMR</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3(C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway spruce</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>DAMS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.3(A)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Woodland Creation for Cornwall Council
New criteria...

Forest Research

Soil Moisture Regime (SMR):
- Fresh

Soil Nutrient Regime (SNR):
- Poor

Site Management:
- Brash management: None (new planting)
- Drainage: None
- Fertiliser: None
- Exposure: Local shelter

Site Grid Reference (e.g. ST090960) ST023144

Select decision support tool: Ecological Site Classification (Tree)

Accumulated temperature

- X: noda
t- 0.575
- 575-775
- 775-975
- 975-1200
- 1200-1600
- 1600-2000
- 2000-2500
- 2500-3500

Download results as a CSV file | Download results as a PDF file (numeric) | Download results as a PDF file (symbols)

Adjacents | Eastings(m) | Northings(m) | Site Grid Reference | Climate Scenario | Site Class | Filter | Brash | Drainage | Fertiliser
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Site defaults | 302300 | 114400 | ST023144 | Baseline climate 1961-1990 | Warm - Moderately exposed - Moist | All species | No brash present | No drainage installed | No fertiliser

Site Description
The site has a warm, moderately exposed and moist climate. The soils are fresh moisture status and poor nutrient status. The site DAMS score has been reduced due to either a) an intention to underplant species with the exposure.

Modifications | Accumulated Temperature(AT) | Continentality(CT) | Exposure(DAMS) | Moisture Deficit (MD) | Soil Moisture Regime (SMR) | Soil Nutrient Regime (SNR)
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---

Trees4future

The climate matching tool to identify global regions where forest reproductive material may be suitable for a specific location due to climate change.

Based on a 2050 scenario for this location...
Nationally, five conifer species account for 80% of softwoods in forests.

Nationally, five broadleaf species account for 72% of hardwoods.
Potential Species

- **Conifers:**
  - *Abies alba*
  - *Abies amabilis*
  - *Abies nordmanniana*
  - *Cedrus atlantica*
  - *Cedrus libani*
  - *Cryptomeria japonica*
  - *Picea omorika*
  - *Picea orientalis*
  - *Pinus peuce*
  - *Pinus pinaster*
  - *Sequoia sempervirens*
  - *Thuja plicata*

- **Broadleaves:**
  - *Acer macrophyllum*
  - *Acer saccharinum*
  - *Alnus rubra*
  - *Alnus viridens*
  - *Eucalyptus gunnii*
  - *Eucalyptus nitens*
  - *Juglans regia*
  - *Nothofagus obliqua*
  - *Nothofagus alpina (N. procera)*
  - *Nothofagus pumilio*
  - *Platanus spp.*
  - *Populus spp.*

From existing UK based knowledge of performance in trials and arboreta.
Some Considerations

• Right tree, right place;
• Plant Healthy (www.planthehealthy.co.uk);
• Provenance, largely driven by your objectives;
• Talk to nurseries as early as you can. There will be a shortage of plants and they need time to source or grow;
• Are you doing it yourself or employing an agent?;
• If so South West Woodland Directory;
• Register with Woodland Carbon Code; and
• Don’t forget protection and aftercare.
Useful Links

- UKFS – GOV.UK
- Operations Notes – GOV.UK
- LIS and MAGIC – GOV.UK
- Woodland Support (Grant) - GOV.UK
- Forest Research – ESC 4 – Google full title
- Trees4future - Google
- Plant Healthy - Google
- South West Woodland Directory - Google
Summary

Top Tips:

• Do your homework – UKFS, LIS, ESC;
• Decide on mix of woodland: urban, native, productive, WFD/NFM;
• Decide if grants will feature in your plans – if so prep early;
• Decide how engaged you will be, will you use an agent;
• Talk to nurseries/plant suppliers throughout; and
• Talk to your WO or WCO.
Woodland Creation Incentives

Forest for Cornwall
Financial Mechanisms for Woodland Creation workshop
St Austell
Weds 4th March 2020

Steve Edmonds
Woodland Creation Officer – Southern England
## Woodland Creation Funding

There are several grants and other incentives available for woodland creation, maintenance, management and tree health. Here is a brief overview so you can see at-a-glance which you would like to explore in more detail. This is a starting point and further information can be found at the links provided, or contact your local Forestry Commission (FC) area office.

### Woodland Creation Funding - Plan (FCP)
- **Summary**
  - The WCP provides funding for woodland creation and restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (APW). Your land will need to be within 25 miles of a 50% conservation area. This will provide three years of establishment payments following planting of the trees.
  - The WCP offers capital funding for the creation of new, productive woodland for carbon sequestration. This includes the planting of trees and costs of establishment projects. You can also get funding for the installation of forest roads and recreational infrastructure.

### Funding available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H32 Woodland Fund (H32WF)</td>
<td>Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UFC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland Carbon Fund (WCF)</td>
<td>Woodland Carbon Code (WCC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland Carbon Guaranty (WCG)</td>
<td>Woodland Creation Plan (WCP)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Can I apply for funding?
- Yes - open year round.

### Are there financial incentives available?
- Yes - open year round, but subject to quarterly application review panels.

### Can I apply alongside other FC grant and funding schemes?
- Yes - application review panels provide for up to £100,000 per hectare in the first year following successful establishment.

### Minimum area
- Woodland is eligible at 10 hectares or more, with at least 50% of the forested area being of native woodland.

### Minimum woodland block size
- At least one contiguous block of woodland of at least 5 hectares, with a minimum area of 0.2 hectares.

### Application and Land Registration with the RPA
- No

### Basic Payment Scheme eligibility and land must be registered with dwp
- No

### Do I include support for needy woody debris?
- Yes

### Where can I find out more?
- [www.gov.uk/guidance/woodlands-creation-planning-grant](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/woodlands-creation-planning-grant)
- [www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-carbon-fund](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-carbon-fund)
- [www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-woodland-funded](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-woodland-funded)
- [woodlandcarboncode.org.uk](http://woodlandcarboncode.org.uk)
- [FC grant information can be found at](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-woodland-funded)

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**Information Classification: CONTROLLED**
Large-scale Woodland Creation (over 10 hectares/25 acres)

Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG)
Key facts:

- For schemes over 10 hectares
- Productive woodlands (70%)
- Can be used with WCF or CS WCG
- Does majority of EIA work
- Thorough UKFS design process
- Non-RDPE, purely FC-administered
- Successful and popular
Planning woodland creation projects

All new woodland should be planned according to UKFS design principles.
Planning woodland creation projects

Key considerations:

- Objectives: productivity, environment, etc.
- Biodiversity: priority habitats, etc.
- Water: flood management, etc.
- Historic environment: heritage assets, etc.
- Landscape: viewpoints, visual force analysis, etc.
- Silviculture: species choice, productivity
- Access: public access, infrastructure
Minimum gross area & block sizes:

- Proposals that connect or expand existing woodland:

  YES

  NO
Planning via WCPG

Application
- Word application form
- Proposed boundary map
- AO performs LIS check
- WCO looks for any showstoppers

Stage 1
- Stage 1 checklist on key considerations.
- Site context map produced
- Need for extraordinary payments (for extensive surveys) identified.
- WCO identifies any need for additional analysis (e.g. viewpoints)
- Feasibility established: can the proposal proceed to Stage 2?

Stage 2
- Site Appraisal Plan
- Design Concept Plan (for final consultation with stakeholders)
- Completed Woodland Creation Design Plan template
- Woodland Creation Design Plan Map (including planting)
- Any additional materials identified at Stage 1 as being required

Payment cap: £30k
Design process:

1. Scoping  
   Site Context Map

2. Survey

3. Analysis  
   Site Appraisal Plan

4. Synthesis  
   Design Concept Plan

5. Final Woodland Creation Design Plan
Site Context: Upland fringe, simple, small scale 30-50ha.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty:

- Steeply sloping landform limited to north-west corner of the site, pattern of enclosure is a more pronounced characteristic of the site and its immediate context to the south and the east.
- Half the site is within AONB and adjoins extensive, enclosed moorland, SPA, SAC and CROW open Access Land.
- The 'AONB' are keen to soften the harsh north-south Area boundary and see woodland creation as the best approach to achieve this objective.

Busy A road bisecting the site, crossroads at top of a hill local visual landmark.

Water sensitivity issue with springs feeding into two local Burns tributaries of the River Wear.

This predominantly open landscape was previously more wooded with plantations. Some were felled in WW1 and not replanted. Alder features in two local names adjoin the site.

Date: 4 December 2017
Author: Richard Helier
Scale: A3: 1:15,000
Analysis Site Appraisal Plan

Upland, large scale productive forest on complex site

6. Extensive deep peat zone on a flat ridge running along the top of the site. The zone includes a mosaic of other wetland priority habitats and is not suitable for planting.

7. Moorland with a mosaic of acid grassland, bracken, rush pasture and wet flushes within gullies. The sloping hillside is well drained with frequent watercourses, some of significant scale. The Zone is suitable for extensive planting. Careful design attention required focusing on scale, shape and diversity to reduce the visual impact of this high area of ‘visibility’.

8. Attractive steeply sided river corridor, along the border, with a concentration of environmental features. These include a historic chapel, a sheep ‘thanks’ enclosure on river terrace, hay meadow priority habitat with important flora, mature, riverside broad leaf trees such as rowan and good views from higher ground of the valley.

1. Open, Inbye fields with good visual connectivity between farmstead and railway station creating a distinctive sense of place.

2. Wet improved floodplain, with a mosaic of habitats centred on main river tributary and suitable for mixed wet woodland.

3. Mounded landform set above the floodplain is suitable for mixed woodland and is visually linked to the drumlin features west of the river.

4. River floodplain with unimproved, wetland priority habitats overlooked from long distance recreational route on a former railway. Unsuitable for planting and provides a sense of scale for walkers and cyclists adding to forest diversity.

5. Corridor of prominent ‘drumlin’ features at the base of the hillside providing transitional landform between the floodplain and hillside. The planting design could respond to these features.

A Potential to increase area of waterbodies within floodplain to assist with forest integration and to add natural diversity.

B Newly planted broad leaf woodland on valley side could be mirrored within the site to integrate forest planting with the wider landscape.

C Large scale, regenerating, mixed, birch woodland creating a prominent and attractive feature from the application site.
Site Appraisal Plan (Analysis: Overview of large site)

1. Elevated northern point of the site, accessible from public bridleway, providing: extensive views across landscape (including the river valley), forest moorland fringe, and ‘spirit of place’.

2. Hillside of ‘improved’ grazed rush pasture suitable for productive forest development. Careful detailed design required to sensitively integrate: access routes, priority habitats (including broadleaved woodland), views, and buffers to historic and landscape features.

3. Site boundary to be unplanted, corresponding to the ancient earthworks of historic importance along the national border. Detailed landscape design required within this zone to integrate major river headwaters (open or dappled shade) and monument marking the source of the river into forest edge.

4. Small settlement with farmstead and setting of small drystone enclosed fields with short views across road to former railway station; to be left unplanted, providing ‘spirit of place’. The road dividing them is a scenic route between England and Scotland. Scope for carefully ‘naturalistic’ mixed woodland with well-developed ecotone on fringes of the road, cycle route and the natural floodplain.

5. Natural floodplain of a major river with mosaic of wetland priority habitats, wildlife and attractive meandering course. Unsuitable for commercial planting due to its wet conditions. The floodplain is an important landscape feature, being adjacent to a long distance footpath and cycleway on a former railway line.

6. Large scale sloping hillside broken into smaller compartments by a number of natural watercourses running east into major river valley. Careful design responding to these natural compartments will assist in the new forest’s integration within the landscape. ‘Improved’, free draining sheep pasture, suitable for extensive productive forest creation.

7. Cross border moorland fringe provides an opportunity to develop a ‘naturalistic ecotone edge zone’ suitable for black grouse and other important forest edge species.

8. A large area of deep peat with associated priority habitat mosaic and border wall. Area is unsuitable for planting and requires a buffer and carefully shaped forest edge. This zone, with good design, could deliver key multi-benefits for the scheme, including: access routes, habitat network, operational access, wild fire break, and a wind firm forest edge.

9. Small portion of the site is within Scotland and land falls to an attractive, natural burn with waterfalls, mature native broadleaves, an historic chapel site, circular sheepfold, and attractive views to regenerating and newly planted broadleaves. There is scope for productive woodland, but need for careful design to integrate and protect important features.

NB. Compartments 5-9 are CROW Open Access land. It is necessary to include in the forest design attractive access opportunities (including attractive routes and open space), connecting features of interest across the site.
Design Concept for discussion

Upland, large scale productive forest on complex site

1. Extensive mixed conifers on free draining slopes, broadleaf planting reducing scale along watercourses and forest edges

2. High visibility 'drumlin' mixed woodland with ecotone adjoining floodplain enhancing habitat value

3. Low diversity floodplain suitable for mixed woodland

4. Open wet floodplain with priority habitats and attractive feature along recreational route

5. Deep peat and mire priority habitats on wet plateau, unsuitable for planting

6. Long distance recreational route with attractive views across diverse floodplain and forest

7. Low density 'naturalistic' broad leaves permeable for access and black grouse habitat

8. River corridor of high diversity, historical features and natural character retained as open ground

9. Broad leaved woodland to mirror planting off site

10. Viewpoint into attractive valley retained providing visual connectivity between forest's 'open ground' network
Design process:

Final product –

**Woodland Creation Design Plan**

- Written document
- Final design plan (incorporating a planting map)
1. WCPG agreement holders are under no obligation to plant.

2. WCPG applicants do not have to own or have management control over the land; speculators may apply.

3. Minimum block sizes (at least one of 10+ ha, and others of 5+ ha) apply to contiguous woodland, as for WCF.

4. Neither WCPG nor WCF require RLR registration to apply.

5. Applicants can retain BPS payments.

6. The application forms for WCF and WCPG are simple.
Large-scale Woodland Creation (over 10 hectares/25 acres)

Woodland Carbon Fund (WCF)
• Consistent with WCPG criteria.
• 10 ha minimum gross area (up to 20% open space permitted in final design).
• Multiple ownerships eligible, including where the applicant has the landowner’s written permission to apply, but does not own the land.
• Predominantly (70%) productive woodland (minimum GYC6 broadleaves; GYC10 pine; GYC12 other conifers).
• Minimum stocking density of 2,000 stems per hectare on a net area basis.
• Production of UKFS-compliant Woodland Creation Design Plan (eligible for WCPG).
• No targeting; however, peri-urban schemes with community access will be prioritised.
WCF - Funding

- Basic payment reflects Countryside Stewardship capital items, paid at 80% intervention rate, with cap of £6,800/ha.
- In peri-urban areas, grant will be paid at 100% intervention rate (capped at £8,500/ha).
- The ‘Priority Places’ enhanced rate will require permissive access is granted for 30 years and signage is displayed.
- For all schemes, a discretionary ‘access infrastructure grant’ will be available.
  - Payment will be based on 80% of actual costs;
  - Demonstration of need in Woodland Creation Design Plan (subject to Panel evaluation);
  - Capped at 10% in individual applications or 5% of total scheme funds.
- Maintenance payment of £1,000/ha at year 5.
Urban Woodland Creation

Urban Tree Challenge Fund – Year 2
Round 2 of the Urban Tree Challenge Fund will be opening in late March 2020.

Due to the volume of applications and success of Round 1 for block bidders, we are able to offer funding to individual applicants for small trees only. This means that there is no funding available at this time for standard trees but there is good availability for small tree planting projects.

An application can contain up to three planting sites. Planting sites cannot exceed 0.5ha and must contain a minimum of 150 and a maximum of 5000 small trees per site. An applicant can submit up to a total of five applications, each of which will be scored and ranked independently from one another.
• Applications are welcomed from anyone who wants to plant trees in urban or peri-urban areas, as long as you have full management control or consent to use the land for the duration of your agreement, and your planting location is within an urban area.

• This is a challenge fund, which means that applicants are required to provide at least 50% match funding from other sources, which can be in the form of money or labour. You will find links to the new application form and updated guidance at www.gov.uk/guidance/urban-tree-challenge-fund from mid-March.

• If you have any questions, please email us at UTCF@forestrycommission.gov.uk
Woodland Carbon Code (WCC)
The Woodland Carbon Code is the only UK Government recognised voluntary standard for UK woodland creation projects where claims can be made about the CO₂ they capture.

Connecting businesses looking to offset emissions with landowners who plant trees

• Launched in 2011
• Woodland creation only
• Useful for any business & local government with CO₂ Reduction Strategy wanting to become ‘Net Zero’ contributors
  • Are mitigating and want to adapt for climate change
  • Residual CO₂ emissions offsetting
• Uses UK Forestry Standard +
• New woodland created for CO₂ capture

Eligibility
• Previous Land use
• Prove additionality

Permanent woodland
• Forestry Act, EIA regulations
• Requirement to restock if losses to wind, fire, pest & disease, development

Predict and monitor carbon sequestration
• Conservative methodology developed with Forest Research

Carbon Statements & Reporting
• Validation and verification allows CO₂ capture to be accounted for in carbon neutrality statements, business carbon budgets and future carbon compliance requirements.

Social and Environmental benefits:
• Woodland is not just about CO₂ - woodland provides multiple benefits
• Predict Carbon sequestration – up to 100 years:
  • ‘C Lookup Tables’ based on Forest Research models & ESC

• Measure carbon sequestration as trees grow:
  • ‘Carbon Assessment Protocol’ sets out monitoring methods
Validation / Verification

Validation

- At the outset
- Meets the standard (incl. UKFS)
- Validate carbon prediction
- ~£750 / project

- Carried out by UKAS-accredited bodies
- (ISO14065, ISO14064/3 & UKWAS)

Monitoring

- After year 5 and every 10 years
- Field survey (except small woods)
- Assess actual sequestration

Verification

- After year 5 and every 10 years up to 100 years/project length
- Meets the standard (incl. UKFS)
- Verify actual carbon sequestration
- ~£1,500-£2,000 / project
UK Woodland Carbon Registry

- Register of projects, carbon units and documentation
- Track issuance, ownership, transfer and use
- Pending Issuance Units (PIU)
  - ‘Promise to deliver’
  - Not guaranteed
  - Can only make CSR statements about future sequestration

→ Converted upon verification to

- Woodland Carbon Units (WCU)
  - Actual measured sequestration
  - Guaranteed (with buffer)
  - Can be used as offset/compensation
Who buys?

- UK-based corporates for CSR or to compensate for their UK-based emissions
- 60% Sold upfront as PIUs, £5-£15 / tCO₂

- **Retail**: Waitrose, M&S, Sofa.com
- **Paper/Printers**: Premier Paper
- **Transport**: Stagecoach (Bus), Taxi, Chauffeur
- **Travel**: Eurocamp
- **Fuel Distribution/Cards**: BWOC, All Star Cards
- **Financial**: Green Investment Bank, Barclays
- **Venues**: Edinburgh Int. Conference Centre
- **Building Management**: Rider Levett Bucknall

Or ........... government via the Woodland C guarantee
Costs – Summary:
• Registration: FREE
• Validation:
  • $\sim$750 / project – group savings
  • 6 pence per carbon unit - list units in registry
• Verification:
  • $\sim$1,500- £2,000 / project - with site visit
  • $\sim$750 / project no site visit – group savings
  • 3 pence per unit to convert units in registry

Potential Income
• £5 to £15 / tCO$_2$ – $\sim$400 tCO$_2$/ha native broadleaves
• £2,000-£6,000 per hectare
## Costs & potential income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Gross Carbon Income</th>
<th>Costs of WCC validation/verification/registry</th>
<th>Net Carbon Income</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Productive Conifer, 100ha, 45 year project,</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>claim 13,000 tCO2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Carbon Price</strong></td>
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<th>Net Carbon Income</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Carbon Price</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Carbon Price</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Carbon Price</strong></td>
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Woodland Carbon Guarantee (WCaG)
• Goals:
  • New woodland creation for long-term carbon capture and mitigating climate change
  • Increase value and reduce risk of investment by contracting to buy carbon for a guaranteed minimum future price
  • Develop the private-sector woodland carbon market
• £50m to boost woodland creation for climate change action
WCaG – What is it?

• Represents an additional income stream
• 35-year contracts for guaranteed payments for Woodland Carbon Units as trees grow
• Available in addition to existing grants
• All projects must be validated and verified under the Woodland Carbon Code
• Initially for the private sector
• Access is via an auction process
WCaG Eligibility

- **Eligible:**
  - Applications for any woodland creation grant in progress @ 29/10/2018
  - **New applications** after 29/10/2018 that register with the Woodland Carbon Code
  - Meet Woodland Carbon Code Additionality Criteria and are not yet implemented
- **Not eligible:**
  - Agreements signed prior to 29/10/18
  - Projects registered with the Woodland Carbon Code before 29/10/2018
  - Planting has already commenced
The Customer Journey

Registration

- Register with the Woodland Carbon Code (WCC)
- Register with the Woodland Carbon Guarantee (WCaG)

Auction and Validation

- Participate in the WCaG Auction
- WCC Validation and plant woodland

Verification and Sale

- At years 5, 10, 15 ... 35 the woodland is monitored and the number of WCUs verified
- Seller has 6 month window to exercise options: sell to HMT, sell privately or keep.
So, to recap……..

- Woodland Carbon Fund (WCF)
- HS2 Woodland Fund (HS2WF)
- Woodland Carbon Code (WCC)
- Woodland Carbon Guarantee (WCaG)
- Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCF)
- Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Grant (CS WCG)

Planning