



New Woodland Grants

The Forestry Commission has now introducing the final parts of the new England Woodland Grant Scheme targeted to support woodland management for public benefits.

The new England Woodland Grants include:-

Woodland Planning Grant

The payment for less than 30 ha is £300. A template is provided by the Forestry Commission. This will help if you want to enter UKWAS certification to show that timber is from a sustainably managed source.

Woodland Assessment Grants

Where the Forestry Commission consider this necessary to carryout

- ecological survey
- landscape design plans
- historical and cultural heritage assessments
- Determining stakeholder interests

The minimum FC payment is now £300.

Woodland Regeneration Grant

Pays up to £1760 per hectare to restock with native trees in ancient woods.

Woodland Improvement Grant

Targeted grants with limited funds this year.

Woodland Management Grant

Payment of £30 per hectare per year to carry out selected operations (from a menu) within the wood. These operations must be appropriate and agreed with the Forestry Commission. Priority will be given this year to woods that have just completed an existing grant scheme. Woods over 30 hectares will need to be certified. Smaller woods will need to complete an opportunities and threats assessment.

The Forestry Commission website has more information see www.forestry.gov.uk and go to the England, Grants and Licences pages. A useful interactive map page is also available on this site, for those with broadband, where you can measure woodland or field areas on base maps and check for constraints. The Forestry Commission will now supply base maps for grant applications.

Some owners of small woods may be able to benefit from the new defra grants see www.defra.gov.uk Woodland can be included as part of the farm holding for the **Entry Level Stewardship scheme** with a payment of £30 per hectare per year for each hectare of eligible land included, provided sufficient points are scored to reach the threshold level. Larger woods may need to be excluded.

This scheme runs for five years and is designed to be taken up by landowners to help to

- Improve water quality and reduce soil erosion
- Improve conditions for farmland wildlife
- Maintain and enhance landscape character
- Protect the historic environment

To apply you have to record features on the farm and mark locations of options on a map provided by the Rural Development Service (RDS). For woodlands this includes maintenance of woodland boundary fences and management of woodland edges by leaving a 2 metre uncultivated buffer around the woodland.

Higher Level Stewardship can also help with management of small woods, fencing and other tree activities, this includes funding for woodland planting in up to 1 ha blocks. Higher Level Stewardship grants could include for example

- Woodland Creation at £315/ha for 10 years.
- Woodland Restoration and maintenance at £100/ha for 10 years.
- Livestock exclusion at £100/ha for 10 years.
- Maintenance of traditional orchards £250
- Ancient trees in arable fields or intensive grassland £25 per tree.
- Management of woodland edge £380 per ha.

There are also options for management of wood pasture and parkland for restoration, maintenance and creation of £180/ha for 10 years.

All grants are voluntary and may be cash limited and targeted to priorities! There are four application deadlines a year the next ones are 31 March and 30 June.

