

# Clough Woodland

## Grants and support



*What we hope to achieve through the clough woodland project*

This factsheet provides a summary of funding and advice currently available under Countryside Stewardship to support woodland creation. There is uncertainty around what system will replace the Common Agricultural Policy after leaving the EU. Advice is given on the current system.

The maximum grant for planting is as high as £6,800 per hectare and 80% of the Woodland Creation Grant is paid. Recipients of Woodland Creation Grants also have the option to apply for a woodland creation maintenance payment after the capital scheme has been completed. Payments of £200 per hectare per annum for a 10 year period are available. Agreement holders are able to claim their BPS for the duration of the maintenance grant.

### Who can apply for woodland creation grants?

Land managers, owners, leaseholders and tenants can apply for capital grants. Leaseholders and tenants must check that the owner of their land agrees with their proposal. The minimum area size per application is 3 hectares.

### Payment rates

The amount agreement holders will receive depends on the capital items or options selected. The funding is a contribution towards the costs of carrying out the work. For woodland creation, payments are capped at an average of £6,800 per hectare (ha) for tree planting and protection of capital items. The installation of leaky woody dams are excluded from the cap. Land under the Higher Tier may also be eligible for an additional maintenance payment of £200 per hectare per annum for a 10 year period. BPS payments may be available for up to 12 years (see 'benefits for my land' factsheet).

### Agreement length

Capital items are one-off payments. These will be paid in the claim year depending on when the work is done.

Agreements end when the final claim has been paid. Capital items must remain installed and in good working order for 5 years from the date of payment for that item – this is called the obligation period. The maintenance payment is made annually and the agreement ends once the final claim has been paid.

### When to apply

Guidance and forms for the scheme are released annually in the autumn, with the application window opening early in the new year. The window is usually open for only six weeks so see [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for more information.

### How to apply

All applicants must register themselves and their land with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) before applying for capital grants. Applicants must submit an application form and a woodland creation scoring form. The scoring process reflects the objectives of Countryside Stewardship with points available for biodiversity, water and climate change. Each application will need to reach a minimum threshold score of 12 points and achieve points against water, biodiversity or cross-cutting objectives. Elements of the scoring framework will depend on the location of the site and whether it touches a priority area for biodiversity or water. This can be checked by visiting the Land Information Search (LIS) website, <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-lis>.

### Single farm payments (sps) / basic payments scheme (bps)

Owners who are claiming BPS on their holding and who are interested in establishing new woodland will still be able to claim BPS on the land being planted under Countryside Stewardship. This is provided that the area concerned was used to activate their SPS entitlement in 2008. Maintenance payments will be available for 10 years following planting to assist with the cost of successfully establishing the trees. BPS will only be available for the duration of these maintenance payments.

## DEFINITION OF A 'TREE' FOR WOODLAND FUNDING

The plant must have at least one woody stem that is capable of achieving a total height of five metres on a given site. If a plant meets this criterion and is not listed below it will be considered a tree:

- Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)
- Rhododendron (*Rhododendron spp.*)
- Sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*)
- Laurel (such as cherry, spotted and bay laurel)

## Resilient woodland

We recognise that climate change and plant health issues mean we need to increase the resilience of our woodlands. The extent of impact is still uncertain so we support adaptive management. In order to create resilient woodland, one tree species should not make up more than two thirds of the overall woodland. We recommend using at least 3 species to ensure the woodland is resilient to pest and disease threats, and creates a woodland that can adapt to the future. In addition to species considerations, careful thought should be given to the origin of the tree species (provenance). It is an opportunity to select species provenance that can establish in current conditions and survive and thrive in future conditions. It is also an opportunity to maximise the tree's productive potential where appropriate. Given the potentially rapid shift in climate suitability during a rotation, tree species from a more southerly provenance should be favoured where native and indigenous species are being considered. Thought should also be given to non-native species that would perform well. There are other bodies of research that advocate that local provenances have the highest adaptation capacity in the face of climate change. Research is currently underway about how resilient woodland is in the face of climate change, which may provide answers to this question. Further information on climate change and adaptive woodland management is on the FC website: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infd-8m6e9e>

This is one of three factsheets about clough woodland creation, which are part of a series of factsheets produced by the Moors for the Future Partnership. For more advice and information, please contact either:

Kate Morley  
Conservation and Land Management Project Manager  
Moors for the Future Partnership  
01629 816596 or 07580 976513  
email [Kate.Morley@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.Morley@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

## Requirements for creating woodland

The requirements if trees are being planted to create new woodland:

Dimensions	Create new woodland	Create new woodland to improve water quality or reduce flood risk
Minimum size agreement	3 ha	1 ha
Minimum block size	0.5 ha	0.1 ha
Minimum width	20 m	10 m
Minimum stocking density	400 sph (stems per hectare)	1,600 sph (stems per hectare)
Maximum internal open space	20%	20%
Maximum individual glade area (after canopy closure)	0.5 ha	0.5 ha
Maximum linear open space width (after canopy closure)	20 m	20 m

### Maximum spacing – 15m

**0.5 ha = 5000m<sup>2</sup> = 20m x 250m = 30m x 167m ~ 71m x 71m**

**0.1 ha = 1000m<sup>2</sup> = 10m x 100m = 20m x 50m ~ 32 m x 32m**

## PREPARE A WOODLAND CREATION PLAN

When creating new woodland applicants must prepare a woodland creation plan (included in the application) that states:

- Planting objectives
- Species to be used
- Planting density (the number of trees per hectare)
- Percentage of open space and means of protection (fencing or individual tree guards as appropriate)
- Areas to be planted and any areas of open space within the woodland (provide a map showing this information)

## Choose options

Applicants should choose from the full list of options and capital items for Countryside Stewardship woodland capital grants including fencing, sheep netting, rabbit fencing supplement, gates and shrub control. The full specification for each item is set out in the CS Manual and is available via [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

[www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk](http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk)

Tristan Galletly  
Woodland Officer  
Forestry Commission  
07765 220394  
email [tristan.galletly@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:tristan.galletly@forestrycommission.gov.uk)

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**Moors for the Future Partnership**  
The Moorland Centre, Fieldhead, Edale, Hope Valley S33 7ZA  
t: 01629 816597 e: [moors@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:moors@peakdistrict.gov.uk)