FACTSHEET

Clough Woodland
Grants and support

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.

What we hope to achieve through the clough woodland project

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 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.
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

Requirements for creating woodland

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

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

**Maximum spacing – 15m**

- 0.5 ha = 5000m² = 20m x 250m = 30m x 167m ~ 71m x 71m
- 0.1 ha = 1000m² = 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.

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)