

# ENGLISH WOODLAND GRANT SCHEME

*'higher rates, higher percentage contributions, eased eligibility criteria'*

## BACKGROUND TO EWGS

British forestry is regulated by the Forestry Commission, which is charged with promoting sustainable woodland creation and management in accordance with government policy.

The principal mechanism in England for both regulation and grant assistance is the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS), which was originally introduced in 2006.

## EWGS REVIEW

Historically, poor uptake and the release of additional European funds has led the Forestry Commission to undertake a fundamental review of the rules and funding rates. The result is a marked improvement, through revised qualification criteria and **significantly increased grant funding rates**.

Of the six main grants available, five have been improved...

## WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT GRANT (WIG)

New, regionally targeted WIG offering **80% contribution** to agreed costs, including:

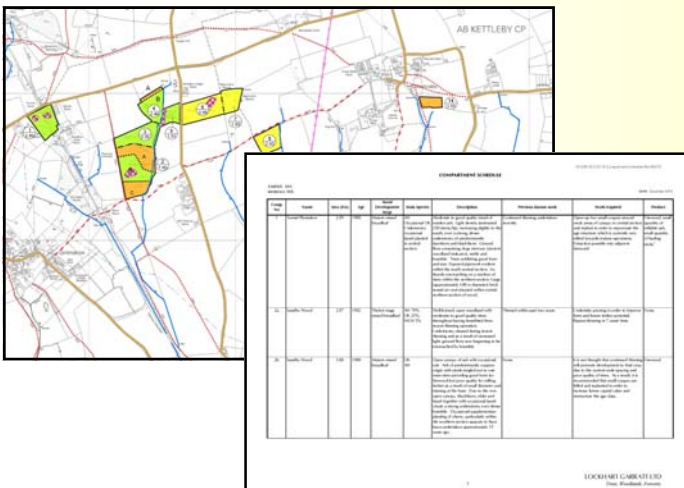
- Work that helps **SSSIs** achieve and maintain favourable status
- Work to protect **ASNW** and **SSSI's** from the rising threat of deer in priority areas
- Work that benefits **woodland birds and butterflies** in priority areas
- Work to improve **local** and **county wildlife sites** in priority areas
- Work to **remove rhododendron** in native woodlands in Cornwall
- New priority areas for **ancient woodland restoration** and **protection**
- Public **access provision** in new priority access areas



## WOODLAND PLANNING GRANT (WPG)

**New higher rates** for WPG to fund management planning paid at the following rates:

- **£20/ha** for the first 100 hectares of woodland on the property
- **£10/ha** thereafter
- **£1,000 minimum payment**
- Further funding for more detailed survey work, if required





## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT GRANT

- Certification threshold for Woodland Management Grant raised to **100ha**
- WMG paid at **£30/ha pa** for a period of 5 years

## WOODLAND CREATION GRANT

- Forestry Commission can offer new Additional Contributions of up to **£2,000/ha** depending on regional priority
- Grant rates now up to **£3,800/ha** plus income replacement through annual Farm Woodland Payments for a period of 15 years



## WOODLAND REGENERATION GRANT

Rates vary from **£350/ha** to **£1,760/ha**



## EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PRIORITIES - WOODLAND BIRDS

Additional grant payments in target areas to promote **woodland birds**:

- Woodland Creation Grant Additional Contribution in Forestry Commission and RSPB target areas of **£2,000/ha** plus the standard rate
- Woodland Improvement Grant **80% agreed costs** for silvicultural operations that improve woodland structure and species composition, ride and riparian management
- Woodland Regeneration Grant uplift to maximum rate of **£1,760/ha** for appropriate restructuring as a means for improving habitat to benefit target woodland bird species



Although these changes represent a significant improvement in funding opportunities, they are administered either on a *competitive* or *first come first served* basis.

For those interested, we strongly advise that you act **now** to maximise the possible benefits.

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