



# English Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)

The EWCO was launched on the 9th June 2021 and has been designed to significantly accelerate woodland creation in England, to help meet the Government's 2050 net zero target. It has been designed to be more generous, easier to apply for and it is funded centrally by the Forestry Commission (FC), cutting out the RPA bureaucracy connected to the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Grant (CSWCG).



## Headline Points of The Brand New EWGO:

- The grant covers 100% of all capital costs of planting, up to £8,500/ha (increased from £6,800), including trees, stakes, guards, fencing, biodegradable mulch mats and high seats for deer control.
- Natural regeneration encouragement is funded.
- Forest infrastructure such as roads and access tracks are part funded (40% of costs)
- Maintenance payments of £200/ha/yr for 10 years.
- **“Additional contribution”** payments are offered if your woodland is within certain priority areas. **These are additional stacked payments** for providing the following other benefits:
  - Nature Recovery** (£1,100 - £2,800/ha) available where woodland creation will expand areas of existing native woodland, create new native woodlands, or expand habitat for red squirrel populations.
  - Water Quality** (£400/ha) – available where woodland creation will help reduce pollutants.



**Flood Risk** (£500/ha) - available where woodland creation can help reduce the risk of flooding.

**Riparian buffers** (£1,600/ha) - available where woodland creation with native broadleaved species will provide the dappled shade that will improve aquatic ecology, and benefit wildlife dispersal (e.g. otter) along the corridors of habitat this creates.

**Close to settlements** (£500/ha) – available where woodland creation will provide social benefits by being close to people BUT does not require you to provide public access to your woodland.

**Access** (£2,200/ha) – available where woodland creation will provide permissive access for recreation on land that does not currently have access to it, for at least 30 years.

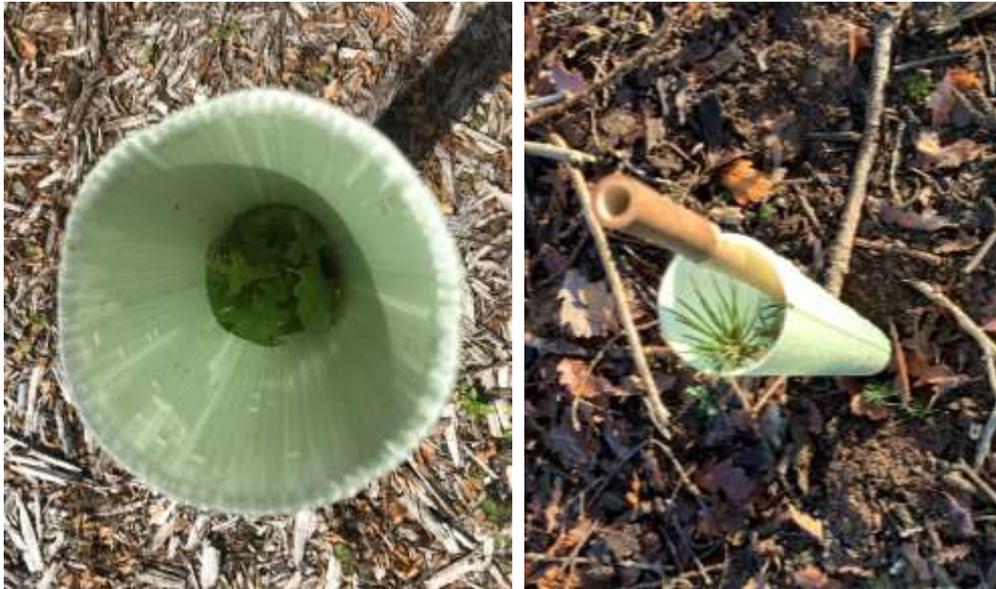


- Application window is year-round but limited to £15.9M in first year (only c.1800ha of woodland max).
- BPS can still be claimed on the planted area.
- Applications are scored, due to current limited fund pot and it is currently set low at 10 points. It is expected that this offer will be incredibly well subscribed and this score will rise before too long. The grant is offered on a first-come-first-served basis.

## Examples of client payment uplifts from CSWCG application to EWCO

1. We have been working on a Suffolk client's 10.8ha CS woodland creation grant over the past couple of months. The original application would have delivered a CS grant totalling £47k plus the 10-year maintenance payment of £200/ha/yr.

The new EWCO grant application will pay £90k for capital planting works and 2 x deer seat purchase, a further £32k for additional contributions to Biodiversity and Trees Close to People, totalling £122k plus the 10-year maintenance payment of £200/ha/yr grant.



2. Our client in Northamptonshire wanted to plant 8ha of mixed broadleaf and conifer woodland with a 315m hard access track through the centre of the woodland. Fallow deer are prevalent in the area and therefore we decided to deer fence the entire woodland. The main objectives for the planting project were:
  - Create a sporting woodland.
  - Improve the aesthetics of the landscape.
  - Plant trees and species for timber production.
  - Carbon sequestration

Under the CS WCG the entire project was forecast to cost the client £24,000 once the grant was deducted from the costs of installation and maintenance for 10 years. With the new EWCO the entire project will now generate **£3,000 in excess** of our forecasted costs.



This REALLY is an exceptional grant for landowners in England who have been wanting to plant woodland on their land.

For further details please contact us NOW to discuss how we can facilitate this generous woodland creation grant to suit your needs. We anticipate that this year's pot will be spent quickly!

Contact the Oakbank Woodland Division Manager:

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