



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Woodland Creation Grant Schemes

A guide to Welsh Government
funding available for woodland
creation in Wales including
higher payment rates
announced 25 May 2023





For more information on Welsh Government Woodland Creation Grants please see:

www.gov.wales/forestry-grants

Email: polisicoedwigaeth.forestrypolicy@gov.wales

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Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

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Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd / This document is also available in Welsh

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg / We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh

Introduction

On 25 May 2023, the Minister for Climate Change and Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales announced substantially higher payment rates for woodland creation in Wales, to bring them in line with costs in 2023.

This booklet covers the increased rates and provides an overview of Welsh Government grant funding for woodland creation in Wales available to farmers, other landowners and land managers.

The woodland creation schemes are:

- **the Small Grants – Woodland Creation scheme** for support to plant areas of up to 2 hectares;
- **the Woodland Creation Planning scheme** which helps fund the development of a woodland creation plan by a registered woodland planner;
- **the Woodland Creation Grant** for larger schemes and those not suitable for the Small Grants scheme.

We have committed funding to these schemes between 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.

The funding will help farmers transition to the proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) as trees planted now will count towards the SFS universal action for tree cover on farms. There will be no disadvantage in terms of SFS eligibility for undertaking the planting prior to the scheme starting.

Trees and woodlands planted now will help us create a Wales that is resilient to climate change and rich in plants and wildlife, alongside supporting the sustainable production of food, green jobs and a strong rural economy.

The three schemes are summarised in this booklet and more detailed technical information is available online at www.gov.wales/forestry-grants

The Benefits of Woodland Creation

Sustainably grown and well-managed mixed woodlands can provide many economic and environmental benefits, whether planted on a large commercial or small farm scale, supporting a diverse and resilient farm business.



Income stream from timber for construction



Provide shelter for livestock in cold, wet weather and shade in our increasingly hot summers



Contribute to reducing your carbon footprint



Improve air and water quality



Reduce the risk of flooding



Deliver biodiversity benefits



Stabilise riverbanks

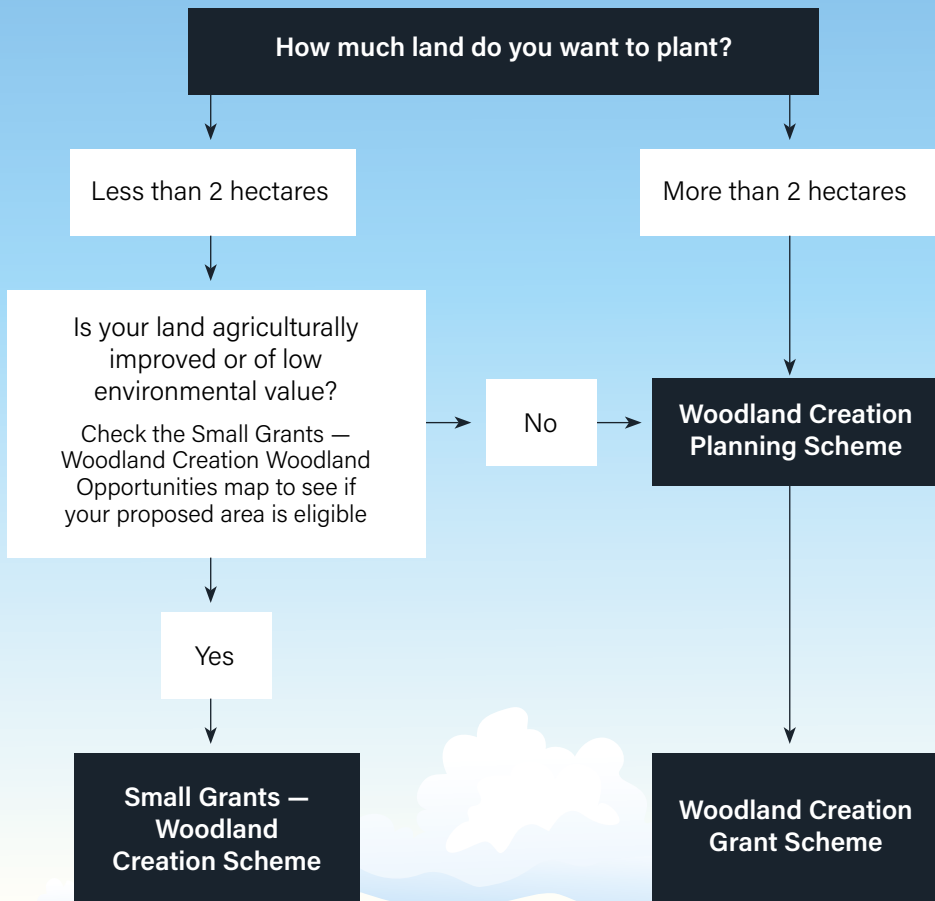


Help tackle the climate change emergency



Improve farm biosecurity

Which scheme is right for you?



Small Grants – Woodland Creation Scheme

This scheme supports farmers, other landowners and land managers to plant less than 2 hectares of trees on land which is:

- ✓ Agriculturally improved, or
- ✓ Of low environmental value

This is land shown as an area of low sensitivity on the Woodland Opportunities Map (WOM). Have a look at the Small Grants – Woodland Creation map to see if you are eligible for this scheme.

www.datamap.gov.wales/maps/small-grants-woodland-creation/

Key features include:



No loss of Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)



Straightforward online application process



Fencing increased to £8.32/m



12 years of maintenance and premium payments



A UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) compliant Woodland Creation Plan generated by Rural Payments Wales (RPW) online system



Supporting technical guidance to help understand which trees to plant and where

Funding covers:



Tree planting



Fencing and gates now including deer fencing



Establishment and maintenance costs



12 years maintenance costs front loaded to ensure trees establish



12 years premium payments to compensate for loss of agricultural income

Woodland Creation Planning Scheme

This scheme provides financial support to obtain professional advice from a Registered Woodland Planner to develop a woodland creation plan for an area of at least 0.25 hectares. If the area is less than 2 hectares in size, it may be possible to apply to the Small Grants — Woodland Creation scheme instead.

The scheme provides grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 for:

- Development of a woodland creation plan which is UKFS compliant, verified by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and valid for 5 years
- Professional advice from a Registered Woodland Planner
- 80% of costs of a survey, for example, for priority habitats or bird surveys

A Woodland Creation Plan will:

- Deliver your objectives for the area of planting
- Help you create well designed woodlands
- Provide a streamlined process if an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is needed
- Enable you to apply to grants schemes such as the Woodland Creation Grant and the Woodland Investment Grant (TWIG)

Applications can be made at any time in the year.

For more information please visit: www.gov.wales/woodland-creation-plan-scheme

NRW offer a preapplication service to talk through a woodland creation proposal ahead of submitting an application to ensure the site is right for tree planting.

Email: GwirioCynllunCoetir@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

'A Woodland Planner can help
you achieve your goals.'



Woodland Creation Grant

This grant is the right route for farmers, landowners and land managers interested in creating larger areas of woodland, or smaller areas not eligible under the Small Grants — Woodland Creation Scheme.

Key features include:



5 woodland creation categories including an option of 1,100 trees/ha for native biodiversity



No loss of Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)



Livestock fencing at increased rate of £8.32/m



12 years of maintenance and premium payments

Funding covers:



Tree planting



Establishment costs for tree planting



Livestock and deer fencing and gates



12 years maintenance costs front loaded to ensure trees establish



12 years premium payments to compensate for loss of agricultural income

Before applying for the Woodland Creation Grant you must have an approved woodland creation plan in place, via the Woodland Creation Planning Scheme, which complies with the UKFS. The application process then allows you to select areas to plant from your approved plan, with a total minimum area of 0.25 hectares which can be comprised of individual 0.1 hectare blocks. There will be windows available throughout the year.

For more information please visit: www.gov.wales/woodland-creation-grant

Woodland Creation Grant payment rates

Woodland Category	Trees/Ha	Payment/Ha
Agroforestry	80	£1,600
Native Biodiversity	1100	£3,302
Native Biodiversity	1600	£4,550
Enhanced Mixture	2500	£5,146
Native Carbon	2500	£6,170

Additional Capital Works	Payment
Stock Fencing	£8.32/m
Deer Fencing	£11.93/m
Standard Gate (Metal)	£221.00 each
Standard Gate (Softwood)	£291.75 each
Standard Gate (Hardwood)	£669.41 each
Timber Bridle Gate and Posts	£220.83 each
Timber Kissing Gate and Posts	£237.80 each

Maintenance Payments/Ha*											
Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	Yr12
£400	£300	£250	£70	£70	£70	£70	£70	£70	£70	£70	£70

* This does not apply to the agroforestry option which receives £30 per hectare per annum over a 5 year period.

12 Year Annual Premium Payment**	£350/ha
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** This does not apply to the agroforestry option as not eligible for Premium Payment.

Grant Funding Examples

Planting a 1.5 hectare wood fuel woodland

Initial Planting	£7,719
12 Years Maintenance (variable annual maintenance payment weighed towards 1st 3 years)	£2,370
12 Years Premium Payments (annual payment: £525)	£6,300
Stock Fencing (500m)	£4,160
Total Grant Payment (over 12 years)	£20,549

(funding from Small Grants — Woodland Creation scheme)

Planting a 5 hectare native carbon woodland

Woodland Creation Plan	£1,000
Initial Planting	£30,850
12 Years Maintenance (variable annual maintenance payment weighed towards 1st 3 years)	£7,900
12 Years Premium Payments (annual payment: £1,750)	£21,000
Stock Fencing (900m)	£7,488
3 Metal Gates	£663
Total Grant Payment (over 12 years)	£68,901

(funding from Woodland Creation Planning and Woodland Creation Grant schemes)

Planting a 10 hectare enhanced mixed woodland

Woodland Creation Plan (including survey)	£2,500
Initial Planting	£51,460
12 Years Maintenance (variable annual maintenance payment weighed towards 1st 3 years)	£15,800
12 Years Premium Payments (annual payment: £3,500)	£42,000
Stock Fencing (1,300m)	£10,816
4 Metal Gates	£884
Total Grant Payment (over 12 years)	£123,460

(funding from Woodland Creation Planning and Woodland Creation Grant schemes)