

Establishing new native woodlands under the Glastir Woodland Creation (GWC) scheme

- The Glastir Woodland Creation grant scheme is now administered by Welsh Government, which took over administration of the scheme from Natural Resources Wales (formerly Forestry Commission Wales). A revised scheme was launched in June 2015.

- You will need to have a Customer Reference Number (CRN) and have your land registered with the Welsh Government (WG) before applying for these grants. You must have 'management control' of the land. To apply for GWC you will need to complete an Expression of Interest form using the Rural Payments Wales Online service, for which you will need a RPW Online Activation Code. Expressions of Interest can only be made within certain time periods specified by WG. If you do not have a CRN or RPW Online Activation Code call the WG Customer Contact Centre on 0300 062 5004.

- There are 4 types of Glastir Woodland Creation grants. Native woodlands will normally be planted using either the **Native Woodlands – Biodiversity** or **Native Woodlands – Carbon** grants. An **Agroforestry** option has also been introduced with this revised scheme, with planting at **80 trees/ha** (approximately 11m apart).

- To qualify for Glastir Woodland Creation you will need to plant at least **0.25 hectares** (0.62 acres), although within this individual woodlands can be as small as **0.1 hectares** (0.25 acres). Under this revised scheme there is no fixed minimum width for new woodlands. GWC grants can be used to plant areas ranging from shelterbelts, woodland strips and field corners to substantial areas of woodland.

- Species planted need to correspond to a native woodland type appropriate to the site. Depending on the site, oak, birch, alder and rowan will normally be the main trees, along with up to 20% of the mix as shrubs such as hawthorn and hazel. It is not currently possible to include ash due to the Chalara ash disease.

- **Native Woodland – Biodiversity** woodlands are planted at **1600 trees/hectare** with a grant of **£3000/ha**. This is equivalent to £1.87/tree. Trees are planted at an average of 2.5m apart although you can vary the spacing to give a more natural appearance to the woodland.

- **Native Woodland – Carbon** woodlands are planted at **2500 trees/hectare** with a grant of **£4500/ha**. This is equivalent to £1.80/tree. You will need to register the new woodland with the Woodland Carbon Code.

- If you leave any of the area unplanted as glades, tracks, rides etc extra trees must be planted elsewhere so that the total of trees planted is the specified rate per hectare.



- A maintenance payment of **£60/ha/year** is paid for 12 years to help cover costs for weed control, replacement of dead trees and other work. Over the 12 year period this is equivalent to 45p/tree for **Biodiversity** and 28p/tree for **Carbon**. The maintenance payment for Agroforestry is over 5 years.
- Any fencing necessary to protect the young woodland will be grant-aided at **£3.48/m** for standard stock fencing.
- A **Premium Payment** (replacing Woodland Creation Premium) provides an annual payment for 12 years to compensate you for taking land out of agricultural production. Payments are **£350/ha/year** and must be claimed on the online Single Application Form. Agroforestry is not eligible.
- On average grassland sites employing a planting contractor to supply your trees and plant and protect them with spiral guards and canes would cost around £1.20/tree. Planting stock is usually 40-60 cm in height and may be either bare-rooted or cell-grown. 60 cm high spiral guards or 'wraps' will protect from rabbits and voles and should be translucent or tinted to allow light through. Bamboo canes are usually used to support the guards. A range of other tree shelters and guards are also available.
- Use of herbicides to control grass, bracken, bramble etc before or after planting will be an additional cost. Vegetation control around the young trees for several years is essential for them to get a good start. The main choice is between using herbicides or some form of mulch or membrane to kill competing vegetation.
- You may be eligible to use land taken out of agricultural production under Glastir Woodland Creation to support claims on the Basic Payment Scheme, provided that the land was used to claim Single Payment Scheme in 2008.

These notes are intended as a guide to the main points of the scheme. Full details of the Glastir Woodland Creation scheme are available on the Welsh Government website at <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/farming/schemes/glastir/glastir-woodland/glastirwoodlandcreation/?lang=en>

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