

GRANTS FOR TR££S

About this publication

The first ever *Grants for Tr££s booklet* was compiled by Roy Lorraine-Smith back in 1989 and published by Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council. That ran to three editions. Subsequently, editions four to eight were compiled by the Royal Forestry Society.

This present edition, available as a PDF, via the RFS website, is a slimmed down version. Nowadays, much of the information is available on the web, through search engines, so the old hard copy compendium has been phased out.

All efforts have been made to ensure that all sources of grants and aid listed in this are current, but if they are not, please contact us on rfshq@rfs.org.uk.

Each scheme is different. Some have wide geographical coverage – others are localised. Some are long running – others are once off.

Grants and support available change frequently. For up-to-date information and full details about terms and conditions, please contact the organisations listed.

INTRODUCTION

Why the Compendium?

The focus of this compendium is trees: how to get financial or other help for planting and looking after them throughout the UK.

The trees can be singles, lines or groups, or in woods or forests. The help may be grants, loans, sponsorship, volunteer labour or advice, from government sources, trust funds and charities or businesses. The purpose of tree planting can be anything from commerce to conservation, from landscaping to economic regeneration and rural development. The place of planting can be city centre, countryside or urban fringe. The people who may want help with planting could be just about anyone... because trees can benefit just about everyone.

Who Needs Trees?

Trees are planted for a multitude of reasons.

Farmers may want to use some of their land for wood production or to shelter crops and stock, provide shelter and shade, or create hedges. Trees can improve the conditions wherever we live, work, shop, relax or travel. They soften the hard lines of streets and buildings, reduce glare and gusts, damp down noise, help to create and protect the habitats of rare plants and animals – in town or country – and they clean the air and fix carbon dioxide (CO₂). Some bleak industrial eyesores are greening themselves with trees. Some schools are planting trees for an education. Some community groups are finding an identity with trees. And trees help recreation. Woods and forests are fun to visit, can also provide an arena for certain sports and pastimes, and a backdrop to improve tourism. Trees and woodlands are vital for human health too.

What About the Money?

For all those reasons, many funds have been set up to encourage and assist people who want to plant and care for trees.

The point of this compendium is to show what kind of help may be available and to show where to go for further information for the schemes which seem relevant. But two words of warning: the entries are all highly condensed and, in any case, such information gets out of date astonishingly quickly. Intending applicants should always contact the organisation concerned and ask for the latest details in full. Those are shown as live links here.

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SECTION 1 – GOVERNMENT FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURAL GRANTS

1.1 The Rural Development Programme for England 2007–2013 (RDPE)

The Rural Development Programme is jointly funded by the European Union and the UK Government. With a total budget of £3.3 billion, this will be allocated to agri-environment and other land management schemes.

For details, visit www.defra.gov.uk/rural/rdpe/index.htm The RDPE encompasses several of the English schemes below.

1.2 Forestry Commission Grants

The Forestry Commission or FC offers grants to help towards the cost of planting and managing woodlands. Following devolution, separate grant schemes are available for each country. Use the links below to get to detailed information:-

- England – **England Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS)**
- Scotland – **Rural Development Contracts (RDC)**
- Wales – **Better Woodlands for Wales (BWW)**

It is a general rule of government funding that applicants may not receive public money from two sources for the same work (dual funding).

The FC is the major provider of grants for planting and maintaining woodlands in England, Wales and Scotland. The Forest Service has a similar role in Northern Ireland. The Woodland Grant Scheme or WGS is the main one for trees. It is administered by the FC in Great Britain and by the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service in Northern Ireland, to encourage planting and management of woodland for timber, landscape, conservation, sports and recreations by providing money to help towards the cost of the work. Job creation and rural prosperity are objectives too as is providing an alternative use for land taken out of agricultural production.

On receipt of an application, the FC may consult with other authorities in respect of land use, amenity or nature conservation aspects of the proposal and the work must not start before approval is given. If an application includes proposals for creating new woodlands or for felling trees, information about it appear on the Public Register. Copies of the Register are widely consulted and this allows all stakeholders to find out about the proposals and to comment on them before they are approved.

For more information, click on www.forestry.gov.uk/grants and www.forestserviceni.gov.uk.

1.3 Farm Woodland Premium Scheme (FWPS)

The FWPS offers long-term annual payments for income forgone when new woodlands are planted. Those may be in addition to the full range of establishment grants available under the Woodland Grant Scheme. There are minimum and maximum areas under the FWPS.

For more information, click on www.forestry.gov.uk/grants or www.forestserviceni.gov.uk.

1.4 Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Scheme

The ESA Scheme was introduced in 1987 with the purpose of protecting the landscape, wildlife and historic interest of specific areas which were of national environmental significance and where changes in farming methods posed a threat to the environment and where conservation depended on adopting, maintaining or extending particular farming or land-use methods.

For detailed information click on www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/esas/default.htm.

1.5 Tir Gofal

Tir Gofal "*Land Care*" is part of the Welsh Assembly Governments agri-environment programme and is available on farmed land throughout Wales. It rewards farmers for caring for the environment, historical and cultural features on their land. The scheme is delivered in partnership with a number of other organisations including the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission and National Park Authorities.

For detailed information click on www.wales.gov.uk/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/farming/agrienvschemes/tirgofal.htm

1.6 Agri-environment schemes Northern Ireland

Two schemes are available under the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-13. Details are at www.ruralni.gov.uk/environment/countryside/schemes.

1.7 Energy Crop Schemes

As a substitute for fossil fuels, energy crops have the potential to make a significant contribution to reductions in one of the greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide) which can drive climate change and help to achieve renewable energy targets. Particularly relevant to trees are establishment grants for Short-Rotation Coppice (SRC). Grants may be available towards the cost of planting SRC (poplar or willow).

Further information: www.forestry.gov.uk/src.

Grants may also be available through the Forest Service in Northern Ireland. See www.forestserviceni.gov.uk.

SECTION 2 – OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR TR££S

Besides the main forestry grants in Section 1, there are several other ways in which government funding may be channelled into tree planting or management. Some are small or localised such as National Parks grants. In others, trees may only be a small part of the

overall scheme. In some, trees may not be specified at all but the aims of the grants can perhaps be furthered by planting trees.

2.1 Natural England

Natural England is the old English Nature. They may provide grants for land management, particularly if connected to wildlife conservation. For more, try www.naturalengland.org.uk.

2.2 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

SNH may provide grant aid towards activities which improve conservation, promote public enjoyment or increase awareness and understanding.

Further information: www.snh.org.uk.

2.3 Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)

The CCW may offer discretionary grants that conserve and enhance the quality of the landscape of Wales and the richness of its wildlife. The CCW also administers the Tir Gofal Scheme. (See 1.4)

Further information: www.ccw.gov.uk.

2.4 Department of Environment (Northern Ireland)

Further information: www.doeni.gov.uk.

2.5 Management Agreements

These may be offered for Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) by Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage or the Countryside Commission for Wales. For further information see the entries for the relevant organisations above.

2.6 Sports Councils

These may provide grants for supporting sport and recreation, not the planting or care of trees. However, woods and forests are particularly suitable for some sport and recreation such as orienteering, cyclo-cross, mountain biking and rambling so are worth a try on:-

English Sports Council – www.sportengland.com

Scottish Sports Council – www.sportscotland.org.uk

Sports Council for Wales – www.sports-council-wales.org.uk

Sport Northern Ireland – www.sportni.net

2.7 National Parks

Some National Park Authorities have their own grant scheme or may direct landowners to sources of funding. They can often provide free advice too.

Further information: www.nationalparks.gov.uk.

2.8 UK National Lottery

Good causes supported from Lottery funding have included woodlands and local conservation groups. Schemes must be for public good rather than private gain. They often involve some partnership funding, in kind or in cash, although that is not always the case.

Further information: www.hlf.org.uk.

2.9 Local Authorities

With small and local projects, it may be worth approaching the Parish, District, Borough or County Councils.

SECTION 3 – REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Much funding and advice is administered through regional initiatives such as the National Forest and the Community Forests. These are mainly run as partnerships, which include government agencies and local authorities. Some have access to Forestry Commission grants and others to EU grants, Local Authority funding or business finance.

3.1 The National Forest

This initiative dates from the 1990s and links the ancient forests of Needwood and Charnwood and spans 200 square miles across three counties in the English Midlands – Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire.

Further information: www.nationalforest.org.

3.2 Community Forests

The 12 Community Forests in England are all located in and around densely built-up areas. The initiative started in 1991 and has resulted in thousands of hectares of woodland being planted.

Further information: www.communityforest.org.uk.

3.3 Other areas with additional Forestry Commission grants

Some regions enjoy special grants, often with EU monies on either a short or long term basis. At present those include:-

South West (England) Forest – www.southwestforest.org.uk

Sherwood Forest – www.sherwoodforest.org.uk

Chiltern Woodlands Project – www.chilternsaonb.org
Cumbria Woodlands – www.cumbriawoodlands.co.uk
Northwoods in North East England – www.northwoods.org.uk
Oxfordshire Woodland Project – www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
Central Scotland Forest – www.csft.org.uk
Coed Cymru is an all Wales initiative to promote the management of broadleaf woodlands and use of locally grown hardwood timber – www.coedcymru.org.uk
The Silvanus Trust works through partnerships to regenerate the woodlands in South West England for economic, social and environmental benefits – www.silvanus.org.uk
YORWOODS is a partnership of various organisations promoting woodland management and planting in rural north and east Yorkshire – www.yorwoods.co.uk

3.4 Other Regional Woodland Projects

There are many local woodland initiatives with diverse functions and variable statuses and sometimes a limited life.

For further details, contact your local Forestry Commission (www.forestry.gov.uk) or check the Small Woods Associations Woodland Initiative Register at www.smallwoods.org.uk.

SECTION 4 – OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING: TRUSTS AND CHARITIES

The first three trusts in this section are obviously concerned with trees. But there are others that may fund trees and woodlands where these produce the benefits the trust or charity does support.

4.1 The Tree Council

The Royal Forestry Society is a founder member of the Tree Council. They run two grants programmes – “*Trees for Schools*” and “*Community Trees*”. These are available for schools and community groups within the UK who are able to show that children under the age of 16 will be actively engaged in the planting project.

See www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=grants.

4.2 Woodland Trust

As the UK’s leading woodland conservation charity, the WT may offer help and advice.

Contact www.woodland-trust.org.uk.

4.3 Scottish Forestry Trust

This was created to promote research, education and training in forestry in a broad sense. The trust has a GB-wide remit so does not confine its activities to Scotland. Grants are made to organisations or individuals both within and outside forestry, as well as jointly with other funding bodies.

Further information: www.scottishforestrytrust.org.uk.

4.4 Information sources on Trusts and Charities

There are a number of websites listing trusts and charities in the UK. Those can be accessed by search engines.

4.5 Volunteer labour

One possible means of reducing costs of planting trees and managing woodlands is using volunteer labour. For example, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers specialises in mobilising volunteers (for standard charges) across the UK.

Contact www.btcv.org.

The Tree Council's Tree Warden Scheme maybe able to offer local support too – www.treecouncil.org.uk.

SECTION 5 – OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING: BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP & PARTNERSHIPS

Some schemes are financed by industry, and others by partnerships between industries, charities and governments. They are often flexible to encourage fresh thinking and innovative ideas. Some are ongoing: other adopt a particular theme for a year or two. With many of the projects funded by such schemes, tree planting forms part of a much wider programme of activities.

A trawl of search engines may turn up useful contacts. Others include:

- The Conservation Foundation – www.conservationfoundation.co.uk
- Groundwork – a federation of 50 local Trusts in England, Wales & Northern Ireland working with partners to improve the quality of the local environment, the lives of local people and the success of local businesses – www.groundwork.org.uk.

5.1 Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme enables landfill site operators to donate part of their tax liability to environmental bodies to undertake a wide range of environmental projects – www.ltcs.org.uk,
www.entrust.org.uk
www.sitatrust.org.uk

5.2 Local Sponsorship

Local firms or local branches of national companies may be willing to give help for specific projects that might include trees. Some first do not want recognition for their donation or help; others need their company name and logo added to the project group's publicity material.

A useful starting point is the Directory of Social Change website at www.dsc.org.uk/Publications/Fundraisingsources.

5.3 Help for wood-based developments

There are a number of government agencies that may offer financial help and advice for people wanting to start or improve wood-based developments.

Government Development Agencies include:

Rural Development Programmes – there are separate ones for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland offering a range of EU supported grants, including some for business and marketing. www.defra.gov.uk/rdpe/index.htm.

5.4 Vocational & Training Schemes

Various training schemes are on offer to help improve the occupational skills and competence of farmers and foresters. Start with www.defra.gov.uk and www.lantra.org.uk.

SECTION 6 – TAXATION OF FORESTRY

The UK tax system offers various incentives to encourage ownership and management of woodlands and forests. Those are:

- after two years ownership, commercially managed woods qualify for 100% relief from Inheritance Tax
- timber sales are free of all Income Tax and do not attract Capital Gains Tax
- in certain circumstances, Capital Gains can be rolled-over into the proportion of the purchase price attributable to the value of the land
- there are normally no property taxes (business rates) etc on woodland

This is only a snapshot and professional advice should be sought from an accountant or legal advisor.

More detailed information is on some commercial forestry management companies websites such as UPM Tilhill (www.upm-tilhill.com) or FIM (www.fimltd.co.uk)

SECTION 7 – WIDER ADVICE ABOUT TREES AND SUPPORTIVE ORGANISATIONS

People who plant and care for trees and woods may need more than just financial help. This section lists potential sources of technical advice, from the free to the fully commercial, plus some other sources of help not covered in previous sections.

7.1 Advice through Grant Schemes

All the statutory grant-giving agencies listed in sections 1 and 2 may give advice in connection with their grants. They often produce helpful publications too, many of them free

online. Advice and guidance may also be given under the regional initiatives listed in section 3. Advice and guidance leaflets and background reading may be supplied by organisations such as BTCV (Section 4.5), Groundwork Trust (5), Tree Council and Tree Wardens (4.1) and the Woodland Trust (4.2). That advice is not necessarily given by qualified foresters or arboriculturalists however.

7.2 Professional Consultants & Contractors

Many professionals make a living by providing advice about forestry, woods or trees. They may be general practitioners or specialists; they may be independent or employed by a larger company; and they may be advisory only or provide management and contracting services too.

Registered consultants (qualified and with professional indemnity insurance) include:

Institute of Chartered Foresters – www.charteredforesters.org
Arboricultural Association – www.trees.org.uk

Lists of other consultants and contractors may be available from:

Forestry Commission District offices – www.forestry.gov.uk
Forestry Contracting Association – www.fcauk.com
Local Authorities Woodlands or Tree Officers may have contact lists too.

7.3 Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

FWAG is the UK's only dedicated supplier of independent environmental and conservation advice in a farm business context. It offers practical solutions that fit in with farming systems and covers all aspects of conservation, agri-environment schemes, resources and access land management.

Contact www.fwag.org.uk.

7.4 Learning through Landscapes

A useful source of information, funding advice and education materials is Learning through Landscapes, a charity which aims to improve the quality and educational use of school grounds.

7.5 Royal Forestry Societies

Guidance about where advice can be obtained is available from the Royal Forestry Society (of England, Wales & Northern Ireland) at www.rfs.org.uk or the Royal Scottish Forestry Society at www.rsfs.org.

7.6 Wildlife Trusts

County Wildlife Trusts and Urban Wildlife Groups can also be a source of advice, particularly in conservation aspects of trees and woods.

Visit www.wildlifetrusts.org.

7.7 Tree Advice Trust

This is a professional tree helpline on 09065 161147, charging by the minute. The Tree Advice Trust is an independent charity whose aims are to research and disseminate practical information and guidance on the cultivation, maintenance and care of trees grown for amenity. The Trust is responsible for the work of the Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service (AAIS). Located at the Forest Research Station near Farnham, Surrey, the AAIS has been giving independent and impartial advice to the public and the arboricultural profession for over 20 years.

See www.treehelp.info.

7.8 Other useful organisations

There are a number of other organisations not listed elsewhere in this *Grants for Tr££s* which may be a source of useful information although sometimes only for their members.

British Christmas Tree Growers Association – www.christmastree.org.uk

Game Conservancy Trust – www.gct.org.uk

Small Woods Association – www.smallwoods.org.uk

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors – www.rics.org.uk

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