

Business Update – Summary of the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)

Information correct as at 09:00am on 11.06.2021

- Applications for the England Woodland Creation Offer are now open
- Offers funding for planting and maintaining woodland

Applications for the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) opened earlier this week. The scheme allows landowners, land managers and public bodies to apply for support to create new woodland, including through natural colonisation, on areas as small as 1 hectare.

A summary of the key features of the scheme are detailed below:

1. A maximum of £8,500/ha is available to plant woodland between 2021-2024 covering 100% of capital cost.
2. A payment of £200/ha for annual maintenance for 10 years after planting.
3. Total application minimum of 1ha but this can be split into multiple smaller parcels (No more than 10 parcels)
4. Additional contributions are available as one-off payments for:
 - Aiding species recovery - £1,100-£2,800/ha
 - Planting near waterways - £1,600/ha
 - Reducing flood risk - £500/ha
 - Allowing long-term permissive access - £2,200/ha
 - Planting close to settlements - £500/ha
 - Planting to improve water quality - £400/ha
5. It is a competitive process and grants awarded are on a first come, first served basis. Applications are judged on their positive impact in relation to the following:
 - Climate change resilience
 - Using private finance to support woodland creation
 - Nature recovery
 - Improved water quality
 - Planting riparian buffers
 - Flood risk prevention
 - Social benefits, such as providing public access
 - Ammonia capture

The timeframe for grants being approved is quoted as 12-20 weeks but are likely to be shorter where applicants have already completed an approved Woodland Creation Design Plan through the Woodland Creation Planning Grant.