



English Woodland Grant Scheme

EWGS Woodland Creation Grant 2011: Additional Contribution and Score Form Guidance for South East Region

Additional Contributions:

This guidance explains how to apply for these two regionally focussed grants:

1. Quality of Place
2. Isle of Wight defragmentation (JIGSAW)

It supplements the generic guidance on Woodland Creation Grant (WCG), which is available from the [EWGS web site](#).

Quality of Place (QoP) Additional Contribution

Introduction QoP Areas are based on data about population numbers, deprivation indices and existing woodland access provision. A map showing these areas is included in Annex 1 of this guide but the definitive areas are available in the Land Information Search facility on the FC website.

Eligibility In order to be eligible for this grant applicants must meet the following:

- The general criteria and conditions for Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) apply – refer to the WCG guidance for further details.
- Create new woodland within QoP Areas.
- Provide public access. The wood must be designed to provide high quality access, be accessible for free, quiet enjoyment by the public (including dogs on leads) during daylight hours for 11 months of each year, and access must be permitted for 30 years from first payment of grant.

Payment Rate An additional contribution of £2000/ha will be paid for agreements meeting these criteria.

Isle of Wight Defragmentation (JIGSAW) Additional Contribution

Introduction This targeted grant has now been running since 2008 and this is the last year we are offering the JIGSAW grant on the Isle of Wight. The aim of

this targeted grant is to reverse the trend of ancient and native woodland defragmentation on the Isle of Wight, by expanding existing native and ancient woodlands and linking them up with neighbouring woodlands.

You can apply for JIGSAW planting grant that will take place over the next 3 planting seasons, that is the planting seasons beginning in autumn 2011, autumn 2012 and autumn 2013.

Eligibility In order to be eligible for this grant applicants must meet the following:

- The general criteria and conditions for Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) apply – refer to the WCG guidance for further details Work must directly support the red squirrel. The JIGSAW judging panel is at liberty to decline support for applications which do not deliver a significant ecological benefit. In such cases a normal planting grant would still be offered but this would not include the additional £2000/ha offered for successful JIGSAW applications.
- Every application must be scored off against the unique JIGSAW scoring form.
- Successful applications must pass a judging round. Every application for JIGSAW will be judged by a panel of members made up of a persons from each of the following organisations; Isle of Wight Council, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Natural England and Forestry Commission.
- Be ineligible for any other Additional Contributions.

Payment rates An additional contribution of £2000/ha will be paid for agreements meeting these criteria.

How to Apply Both EWGS 1 General Details form and EWGS 7 Woodland Creation Grant form along with the South East EWGS 7a WCG Score form must be completed and submitted with an OS Master Map ® showing the areas for which grant is sought.

For Isle of Wight JIGSAW applications, the JIGSAW score form in Annex 4 should be submitted instead of the regional score form. Guidance on completion of the JIGSAW score form is contained in Annex 5 of this guide.

Further Advice and Information Further information can be obtained from your local FC Officer by contacting the Regional office at Forestry Commission South East Region, Alice Holt, Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4LF on 01420 23337, alternatively you can email : southeast.fce@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

Other Advice The EWGS website www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs contains all the information needed to apply for grant support. If you do not have access to the internet, you can request any of the information from your local Forestry Commission office.

We recommend getting professional advice on woodland management and grants. A list of national and regional professional organisations is available at www.forestry.gov.uk/england-advice or from your local FC office.

Score Form Guidance

- Background** Every EWGS Woodland Creation Grant application must be self scored. Applications that the FC confirm score 10 points or more are accepted until the funding is fully committed. The scoring system is more fully explained in EWGS 7.
- Regional Score Forms** Section 7 of the score forms are different in each region and it is therefore important that applicants have the correct score form for the region in which the land to be planted lies. The forms show the name of the region that they apply to. For applications that cross regional boundaries, apply to the region that has the greater proportion of the area, and use the score form appropriate to that region.
- Application requirements** Applications should only include Woodland Creation Grant proposals and should not mix other grants.
- Applicants must complete the EWGS 7a score form (or more than one if necessary) and enclose it with the fully completed application, including the required Ordnance Survey MasterMap® map.
- Application Deadline** Applications must score a minimum of 10 points to be accepted. Applications will be accepted and approved on this basis until the grant budget is fully committed. There is no application deadline for 2011.
- Completing form EWGS 7a** Applicants will find further advice and information on the FC website at www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs, including the Land Information Search facility that will help determine some scores that rely on being in specific areas of the country. Local Forestry Commission staff can also provide advice if applicants are still unsure as the maps at the back of this guide are only indicative at that scale.

The FC may ask applicants to complete separate scoring forms where different blocks in a scheme are substantially different in character and would have significantly different scores.

Follow the instructions on the form about whether you can tick every score that applies or just one from a group of possible scores.

The following notes refer to the numbered section of the Form EWGS 7a and give further explanation where it may be needed.

The guidance below relates to the general Creation Grant Scoring form number EWGS 7a. For the JIGSAW scoring form please refer to the separate guidance supplied with the form at Annex 4 below.

- Rural Development**
- 1.1 Defra has used a range of indicators to identify districts of rural England that have consistently poor economic performance. These areas are called Rural Productivity 'Lagging' Areas. A map showing these areas is included in Annex 1 of this guide but the definitive areas are available in the Land Information Search facility on the FC website.
- 1.2 The 70% use of conifers, poplar or cricket bat willow is a percentage of the area actually to be planted and does not include open ground.

- 1.3/1.4 Tick the box appropriate to your proposed planting density.
- Economic Regeneration**
- 2.1 Quality of Place Priority Areas are based on data about population numbers, deprivation indices and existing woodland access provision. A map showing these areas is in Annex 2 of this guide but the definitive areas are available in the Land Information Search facility on the FC website.
- 2.2 This section includes all land previously used for industry including landfill sites and associated areas. Also included is land that is not yet restored, and land that has been restored to a non-woodland use where tree planting is acceptable. We will always require the land to be prepared to an appropriate forestry specification prior to planting if it is not to that standard already.
- 2.3/2.4 The 2001 population statistics are available on the internet. Guidance on how to find population statistics can be found in Operations Note 1, which is available at www.forestry.gov.uk/england-ewgsdocuments or your local FC office. Where population figures are not known precisely FC staff can agree an appropriate score with applicants.
- Recreation, Access & Tourism**
- 3.1 The boundaries of the 12 Community Forests and the National Forest are available in the Land Information Search facility on the FC website. If you are still unsure then FC staff can help.
- 3.2 The requirement here is to allow free public access anywhere on the site, not just on defined paths. Normally this will be during daylight hours for at least 11 months of the year and include access for dogs on leads.
- 3.3 This option is where free public access is restricted to defined paths through the area to be planted (or just parts of the area). Normally this will be during daylight hours for at least 11 months of the year and include access for dogs on leads.
- 3.4 The right of way must be immediately adjacent i.e. touching the new woodland. The new woodland must also be considered to enhance the right of way. A public right of way may include public footpaths, bridleways and roads. No right of way may be obstructed.
- Environment & Conservation**
- 4.1 The priority is the achievement of the National and local Biodiversity, Habitat and Species Action Plans (BAP, HAP and SAP) targets. More detailed information is available on the UK BAP website: www.ukbap.org.uk. FC staff or Forestry advisors can also explain how new woodland can contribute to these targets.
- Applications must specify which Action Plan applies to the work proposed. A definition of the Woodland Habitat types is included in annex 4 of this guide.
- [New native woodland species composition](#)
- The species composition of new native woodland must meet the principles set out in the [Ancient & Native Woodland Practice Guide](#). A summary is contained in EWGS 7 guidance

and in brief means a new woodland can be deemed native if:

- Advancing and honorary natives do not exceed 20% of the tree/shrub component
- Non-natives do not exceed 20%
- All species are appropriate and will not damage or threaten the land being planted, or adjacent land

4.2 Any extension to Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) with new native woodland must meet the [Ancient & Native Practice Guide](#) principles, summarised in 4.1 above. Extra care is needed to ensure the adjacent ASNW is not threatened by the choice of species in the new woodland.

4.3 Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) are a type of existing wood where it is reasonably certain the site has not been cleared for other uses (like agriculture) in the past.

The new native woodland must meet the [Ancient & Native Practice Guide](#) principles, summarised in 4.1 above.

4.4 The new native woodland must meet the [Ancient & Native Practice Guide](#) principles, summarised in 4.1 above.

Natural England has a register of known Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands and Ancient Woodland Sites over two hectares. This register, your forestry advisor or your local FC office will be able to tell you which species are considered to be native in your locality.

Size 5.1-5.4 Where there are several woodlands of different sizes, score the largest single wood only. If more than one score form is used to cover different parts of the proposed planting, score the largest single wood covered by each form. Applications that do not score here will still be considered.

Landscape Enhancement 6.1 Local Authorities or National Park Authorities will have published guidelines for woodland planting within the Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These guidelines will indicate the preferred locations, size and character for new woodlands. Proposals that are within one of these areas and clearly meet the guidelines will score 3 points. FC staff and Forestry advisors will be able to help with this.

6.2 'Designed landscapes' are primarily those areas on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. However, other unregistered historic areas can be considered on their merit. Applications should show how this criterion is being met. Proposals will not be agreed if they are considered to be detrimental to these landscapes.

6.3 An identified landscape improvement is, for example, to screen a particular site from public view, or improve the view of existing woodland by additional planting. This must be specific to the application e.g. screening specific industrial buildings and be of benefit to the public at large, not just the owner. Applications must not adversely affect other's properties and

the views from them. The FC may not approve applications that we feel will do this.

Regional Woodland Creation Priorities

7.1 Below average woodland cover - You can tick this box if the woodland you propose is in one of the following districts:

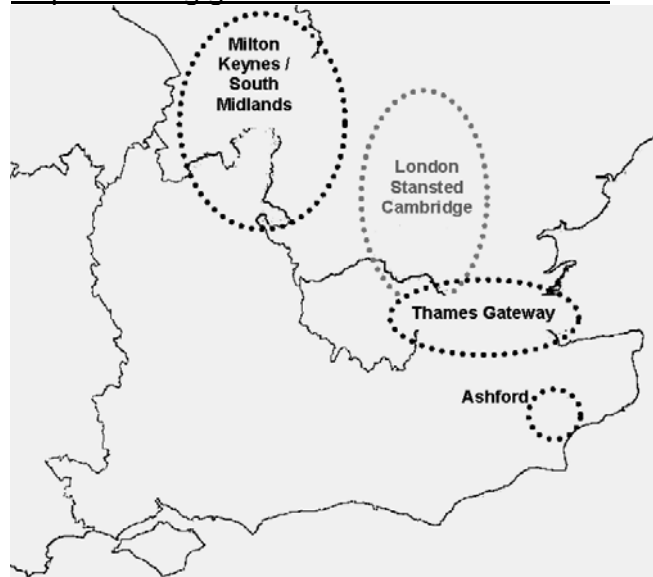
- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Cherwell | Vale of White Horse |
| Aylesbury Vale | Reading |
| Southampton | Gosport |
| Havant | Worthing |
| Brighton & Hove | East Bourne |
| Medway Towns | Swale |
| Dover | Oxford |
| West Oxon | Slough |
| Milton Keynes | Portsmouth |
| Fareham | Adur |
| Spelthorne | Dartford |
| Lewes | Shepway |
| Maidstone | |
| Thanet | |

7.2 You can tick the box for 4 points if your proposed woodland is in a Quality of Place priority area (see Annex 2) and satisfies the '**Quality of Place (QoP) Additional Contribution**' rules detailed on page 1 above.

7.3 You can tick the box for 2 points if your proposed woodland is within a 10 minute walk of a community, bus stop or railway station and where it is to be opened for informal public access.

7.4 You can tick the box for 2 points if your proposed woodland is in a growth area:

Map indicating growth areas in the South East



Versions Version 5 May 2010
Version 6 April 2011

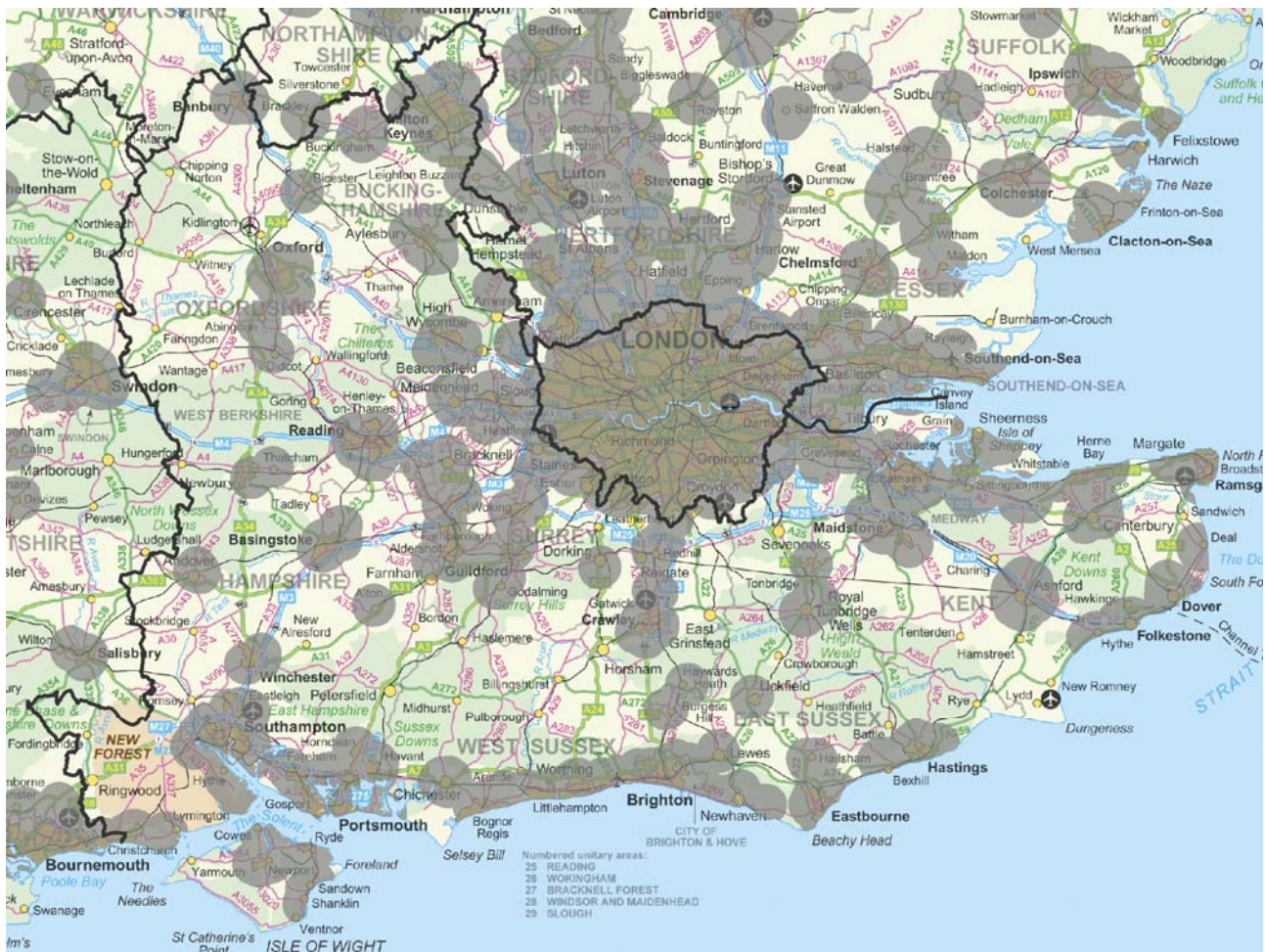
Annex 1 – Rural Productivity Lagging Areas



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Annex 2 – Quality of Place priority areas

The grey shaded areas are deemed priority areas. They are designated on the basis of population, deprivation indices and current woodland access provision.



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Annex 3 – Composition of Native Woodland Habitat Types

Woodland Habitat type	Brief description of requirements / notes
All types	> 50% of the potential canopy comprises locally native species.
Upland Oak woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woodland within the “upland region” of England generally with at least 80% oak or birch in the potential canopy. - Small areas of other communities may occur, for example along streams (W7) or towards the base of slopes that experience flushing (W9) or birch areas at the upper margins.
Upland Mixed Ashwoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woodland within the “upland region” of UK with >20% ash in the potential canopy though locally, oak, birch, small-leaved lime or hazel may be prominent. - Yew can be locally prominent within upland ashwood (for example on limestone pavements). Alder can occur in transitions to wet woodland.
Lowland Beech and Yew woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the beech zone of southern to central England and southern Wales, at least 30% beech in the potential canopy. and oakwoods. - Elsewhere, at least 50% beech in the potential canopy. - Includes yew-dominated woodland mainly restricted to southern England.
Wet Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woodland planted on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils, with >50% alder and willow in the potential canopy but may include ash, birch, oak, pine or beech on the drier riparian areas. - Ashwoods in lowland floodplains are also best described as this habitat type.



English Woodland Grant Scheme

JIGSAW

Planting Grant for Red Squirrel on the Isle of Wight
South East England Region for 2009-2012 September 2010

Notes on completion are attached to the scoring form.

1.0 Area of new wood being created (Tick one box only)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <2.0 hectares |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2.0 - 4.9 hectares |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5.0 - 10.0 hectares |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | >10.0 hectares |

2.0 New wood enlarges an existing wood (Tick one box only)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Increase the size of existing woodland from less than 3 hectares to over 3 hectares. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Increase the size of an existing. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Increase the size of existing woodland from less than 20 hectares to over 20 hectares (provided management plan is in place and being adhered to). |

3.0 New wood links existing woods (Tick one box only)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Links a woodland to other semi-natural habitat (e.g. withy bed, scrub). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Links 2 or 3 existing woods together. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Links more than 3 existing woods together. |

4.0 Establishment method (Tick one box only)

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 2 | | At least 80% native species. |
| 5 | | Native species of local provenance. |
| 10 | | Natural regeneration or trees grown on from local seed gathered from adjacent woodland. |

5.0 Extends an existing woodland, scrub or ancient hedgerow (Tick one box only)

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------------------|
| 5 | | Adjoining scrub or ancient hedgerows. |
| 10 | | Adjoining native woodland. |
| 20 | | Adjoining ancient woodland. |

6.0 Management of adjoining woodland (Tick one box only)

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 5 | | Being managed through felling licences. |
| 10 | | Commitment to 5 year EWGS or 10 year HLS agreement – application at firm or approved status. |
| 20 | | Woodland holding in an approved 20 year woodland management plan. |

7.0 Supports Habitat or Species Action Plans (Tick those that apply)

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 10 | | Supports FC target HAPs or SAPs in addition to Red Squirrel. |
|----|--|--|

8.0 Partnership or Community Involvement (Tick those that apply)

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 10 | | Supports local partnership (give details in the application). |
| 5 | | Community actively engaged in the design and maintenance. |
| 5 | | New woodland recreation provided. |

9.0 Zone where the new woodland is situated (Tick those that apply)

- | | |
|--|--------|
| | Zone 1 |
| | Zone 2 |
| | Zone 3 |

Annex 5 – Isle of Wight JIGSAW score form guidance

Completing form JIGSAW

Applicants will find further advice and information on the FC website at www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs, including the Land Information Search facility that will help determine some scores that rely on being in specific areas of the country. Local Forestry Commission staff can also provide advice if applicants are still unsure, as the maps at the back of this guide are only indicative at that scale.

The FC requires applicants to complete separate scoring forms for each block of new woodland in a scheme.

Follow the instructions on the form about whether you can tick every score that applies or just one from a group of possible scores.

The following notes refer to the numbered sections of the Form EWGS 7b JIGSAW.

1.0 Area of new wood being created

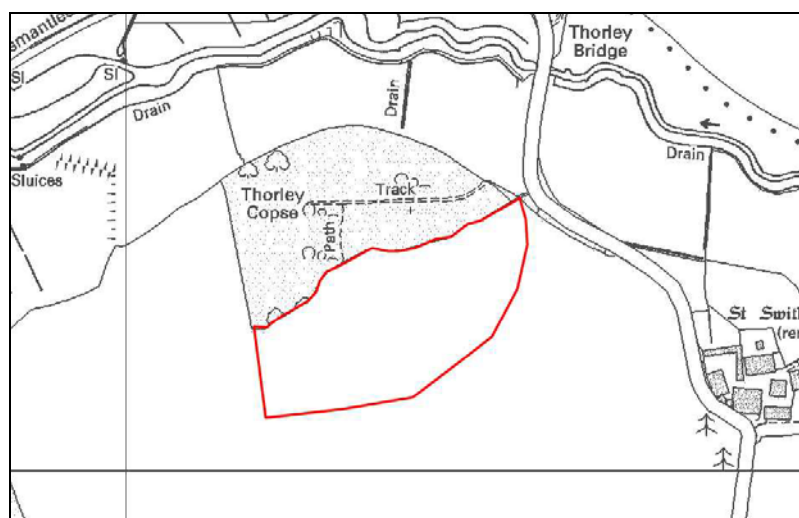
The larger the area of new woodland being created the better the habitat will develop for red squirrel. Score the woodland according to the size range that applies. Each individual new wood will require to be scored separately in applications for more than one planting area.

2.0 New wood enlarges an existing wood

Research shows that larger woodland units give greater benefit to wildlife. Moving woods from below 3 hectares to above 3 hectares increases the viability of the woodland unit and offers more variety of woodland habitats avoid the detrimental influence of other land practices. Woods of more than 20 hectares or above provide a more stable environment for the red squirrel, allowing them to survive better during difficult years.

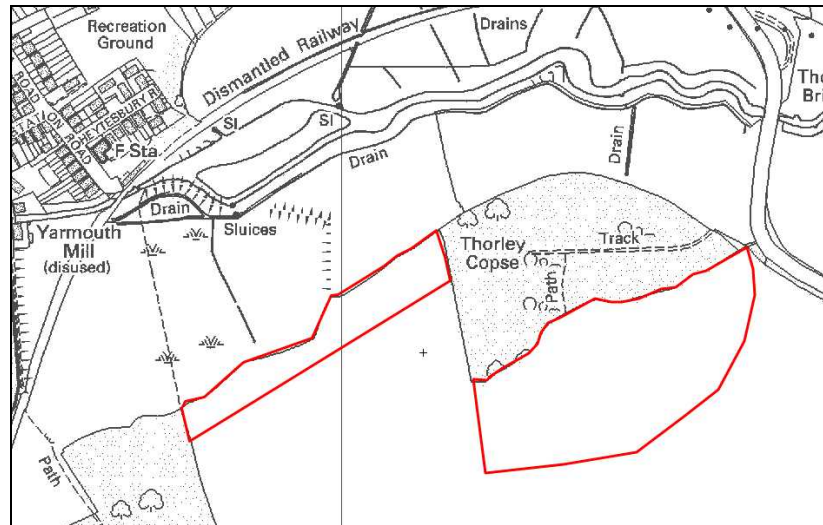
Square or round woodlands are far better for wildlife than long linear woods. This is because there is less edge effect.

Score your woodland against this option where the scheme is designed to increase the size of an existing ancient or native woodland.



Example 1 : Woodland enlargement by adding area A.

If the woodland both enlarges a wood and also joins it to another then score it off against option 2 and option 3. See example below.



Example 2 : Woodland enlarged by adding area A but also linked by adding area B

3.0 New wood links existing woods

The minimum width for a link woodland is 15 metres. Score the wood being created off against the size range that applies. Each woodland in the application must be scored separately therefore for multiple application areas more than one form is required.

4.0 Establishment method

Greatest benefit to local wildlife is provided by native woodland. Natural regeneration onto bare ground is the best method of establishing new native woodland that provides a variety of habitat types as it develops with tree species best suited to the ground they are colonising. Score the woodland being created against the method of establishment that is most relevant to the proposal. If for instance 60% of the woodland will be created by natural means with 40% planting then score the establishment method as 10 points.

5.0 Extends an existing woodland, scrub or ancient hedgerow

Planting new woodland adjacent to existing woodland, scrub or long established ancient hedgerow improves the existing feature and therefore is an appropriate target area for new woodland. Score the woodland off against the most important target habitat you are planting next to. For example if you are planting against ancient as well as native woodland score your new wood 15 points as this is the most important habitat in this section.

Certain non-woodland semi-natural habitats should not have woodland planted next to them. For example unimproved grassland, heath or mires. Planting trees near to these habitats is likely to degrade them over time due to the spread of tree species onto these more important, rarer habitats. The Forestry Commission reserves the right to reject any applications that would degrade another semi-natural habitat.

6.0 Management of adjoining woodland

Sympathetically managed woodland maintains habitat for the red squirrel in better condition than unmanaged woodland. Extra points can be achieved for your new woodland if the adjacent woodland is also being managed under one of the three categories.

Where more than one option applies chose the highest scoring option. The Forestry Commission can provide you with information on the

management status of adjacent woodland if you are not the owner.

7.0 Supports Habitat or Species Action Plans

New woodland that increases a rare woodland type such as wet woodland or which supports other important species such as dormice gives greater benefit to the area. Therefore extra points can be scored.

Give details in your application which habitat or species your new woodland will benefit. Even though you cannot score extra points for supporting more than one species or a combination of species and rare woodland types the more things your woodland will benefit the more chance your application will have in gaining support. Information on target habitats and species can be obtained from the Forestry Commission.

8.0 Partnership or Community Involvement

Extra points are awarded for schemes that involve the public. Although extra funding for woodland with access is not available through this scheme, there is an option to apply for extra funding through the Forestry Commission.

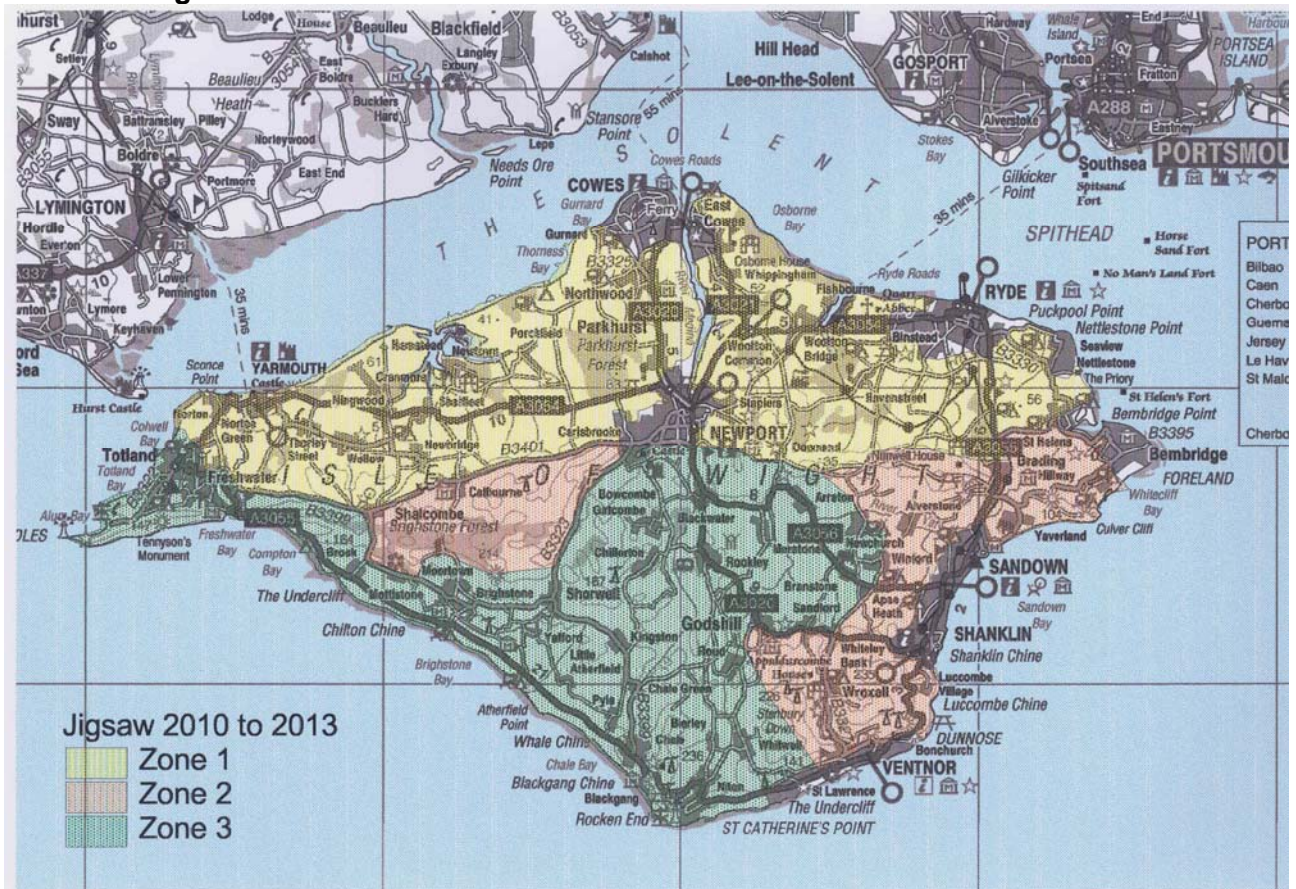
Where a new woodland is opened for unrestricted permissive access in an area where there is a perceived need for new open green space, there are further grants available. Woodland Improvement Grants for improving the infrastructure provided for the public (e.g. benches, styles, dog gates parking) and management grant for maintaining paths etc. open for at least 10 years. Further advice is provided on the FC website or from local FC office.

9.0 Zone where the new woodland is situated

Please tick the relevant boxes to show which zone on the map where your proposed new woodland will be planted. If you need to see a larger scaled map to be sure please contact Michael Pittock on 01983 532937. If your wood straddles more than one zone please indicate how much of the woodland falls within which zone.

Annex 5

JIGSAW Target Areas



This document is for information only and does not constitute an agreement of any form nor does it confer any rights. It is intended as a guide to help applicants decide whether the grant is applicable to them and whether the main requirements of any grant agreement can be met. The information is subject to change. Full and current details of the grant scheme and the requirements of any EWGS grant contract that may be made between the applicant(s) and the Forestry Commission arising from an application to the grant scheme can be found at www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs.