

West Cumbria Water Supplies Planting Fund

Scheme Details

Introduction

The tree, hedge and woodland planting fund supports the establishment of individual trees, new woodlands and hedgerows around, near, close to, and in communities adjacent to the West Cumbria Water Supplies Project. The fund has been established to off-set the loss of trees and woodlands as a result of the West Cumbria Water Supplies project construction. To qualify for this grant the application and subsequent activities must meet the standards of environmental protection and practice set out in the UK Forestry Standard and its supporting guidelines (we can help you with this).

The aim of this fund is to encourage schemes which are:

- Local – to replace the losses in specific landscapes of woods, trees and hedgerows from the West Cumbria Water Supplies pipeline route - a number of times over
- Landscape fit – design of scheme that fits the existing pattern and landform, reinforcing local landscape character and replacing landscape features damaged by the pipeline project.
- Wildlife benefit – enhancing the local area for wildlife by connecting and increasing suitable woodland and tree habitat.
- Community involvement – supporting action by local communities to improve and enhance their local landscapes

Support to help you

Cumbria Woodlands are able to offer potential applicants support to develop their ideas and help to submit applications to the fund. If you are interest then please give us a call to discuss your ideas and arrange a visit. To discuss support please contact Neville Elstone on 07966 758594 or email neville@cumbriawoodlands.co.uk.

Payment rates

The scheme is based on fixed price applications from applicants, which are then scored by a panel which decides which schemes will go on to receive support. More detail on scoring (and the time table) is set out later in this document.





West Cumbria Water Supplies Planting Fund

80% of the total payment for work is made when all work is complete and a claim for this is made. The remaining 20% is paid 12 months later upon successful inspection of the scheme. This is to ensure that appropriate maintenance and success rates are achieved.

N.B. WHEN DECIDING ON HOW MUCH TO BID FOR WITH WOODLAND SCHEMES IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IF YOU ARE SUPPORTED BY THIS FUND YOU WILL NO LONGER BE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE PAYMENTS, SUCH AS BASIC FARM PAYMENT, COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP MAINTENANCE OR CAPITAL PAYMENTS OR CARBON SCHEMES.

Applications

Application forms are available from Cumbria Woodlands either by calling 01539 822140, emailing info@cumbriawoodlands.co.uk or www.cumbriawoodlands.co.uk.

Eligibility

The fund is intended to support tree and hedge planting which is in the broad proximity of the pipeline. A map showing the pipeline route is included on the last page of this document. The closer any scheme is to the route the more likely it is to succeed in its application. Successful schemes are likely to be in the same valley or sub-catchment as the pipeline route. The fund can support landowners, tenants, community groups, schools and charities to create woodland and plant trees and hedgerows.

Situations not eligible for support are:

- Land planted without any required consent under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.
- Woodland intended for the production of Christmas trees or primarily biomass as a fuel or other use (coppice comprising native species is eligible where it delivers environmental benefits). Biomass in this instance is based on the EU definition of short-rotation which is defined by a rotation length of less than 15 years
- Land that must be planted to comply with a Felling License condition or Restocking Notice following conviction for an offence under the Felling Regulations of the Forestry Act 1967.
- Failed planting areas approved and supported by either the Forestry Commission or Natural England grant schemes.



West Cumbria Water Supplies Planting Fund

Woodland design standards and woodland categories

Cumbria Woodlands are able to offer advice and guidance to applicants prior to application, the general principles regarding minimum level of woodland design and work standards are:

- It meets the UK Forestry Standard and associated guidelines – critically that it does not damage or threaten the existing environmental value of the land being planted, or of adjacent habitat.
- New woodland should be largely native species in composition but can include a proportion of non-native or advancing/honorary species: up to 20% of the species mix can be non-native.
- It meets good forestry practice for robust woodland establishment e.g. species suited to the site, location, future climate and management objectives, and is established using recognised techniques.
- To create resilient woodland, one tree species should not make up more than two thirds of the overall composition, and we recommend using at least 3 species to ensure the woodland is resilient to pest and disease threats, and creates a woodland that can adapt to the future.
- Careful thought should be given to seed provenance and where the parent trees are from. Planting is an opportunity to select species provenance that can not only establish in current conditions, but survive and thrive in future conditions.

Plants and planting stock

Planting and plants supported under the West Cumbria Water Supplies Planting Fund should be from seed that is UK sourced and UK grown. Where possible they should be from nurseries that are members of the Woodland Trust UK sourced and grown scheme.

Scoring

Applications will be scored against the following eligibility criteria and priorities:

- Biodiversity: Schemes supported by the fund will score more highly if they contribute to the biodiversity of the area.
- Landscape: All trees and woodlands supported under this scheme will be expected to enhance the landscape, the greater submissions do this the more points will be awarded. Broad alignment with Natural England's Landscape Character Areas is expected, further



West Cumbria Water Supplies Planting Fund

details of this can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/landscape-and-seascape-character-assessments

- Connectivity with existing woodlands: Larger woodlands as a general rule provide a range of greater benefits, therefore proposals which either extend existing woodlands or join them up will score better.
- Proximity to the pipeline route: The closer the tree planting is to the route of the pipeline the greater the score. It is expected that all planting will be in the same valley or catchment as the pipeline.
- Community involvement and engagement: We are keen that communities are involved in tree and woodland planting, this could be at a practical level of planting and maintaining trees, hedgerows and woodlands or simply through engagement to ensure they are aware of and supportive of applications.
- Value for money: applications will be appraised for their ability to deliver our desired outcomes against the cost of providing them.

The panel will consider applications on a quarterly basis, with offers of support being made shortly after each one.

LANDLORDS OR TENANTS WHO APPLY

In the case of an agricultural or farm business tenancy, the tenant is eligible to apply, but the landlord's written consent (preferably as a party to the application) is required prior to any grant agreement being made. Tenants are recommended to take legal advice before applying for the scheme. Landlords are also eligible to apply.

