

Woodland Creation Plan Checklist

Purpose

This form is to help you ensure you have covered all the basic points of detail required by the Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG) **standard payment**. All of the points listed below should be addressed in your Woodland Creation Plan and considered alongside the requirements and guidelines of the [UK Forestry Standard](#). We expect each item to be addressed proportionately, but where an item is not considered to be important you need to show why it is not important.

You do not need to complete this checklist but may you find it useful to confirm that your woodland creation plan has addressed the key points and where a lighter touch has been taken to a topic, why this is the case in the Notes section.

Forestry, Ecology and Silviculture

<input type="checkbox"/>	All proposed tree species are rated suitable or very suitable using Ecological Site Classification (ESC) and future suitability has been considered. Please note that a soil evaluation (survey and/or test pits) is recommended to make best use of ESC.
<input type="checkbox"/>	At least 70% of the proposed tree species have a productive yield class (YC) (= > YC6 for broadleaves and = > YC12 for conifers (= > YC 10 for pines)).
<input type="checkbox"/>	The planting density ¹ for each compartment of the woodland has been selected with due regard for any influence stocking may have on future wood products and the site's ecology.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The impacts of climate change have been considered in the choice of planting stock (species and provenance/origin), and how this relates to variation in conditions across the site.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 15% of the net planted area may be planted as a trial using species for which no ESC assessment is available or the species appears as 'marginal' in ESC. Where this is the case justification has been provided.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The windiness (Detail Aspect Scoring Method (DAMs) score) for the site has been checked and its impact on tree selection considered.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The impact on any priority habitats or species has been considered with mitigation actions to avoid or reduce any adverse ecological impacts described.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whether the planting is consistent with, and has accounted for, site designations including Special Protection Area (SPAs) Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and County/Local Wildlife Sites.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The plan describes how the trees and managed open space will be maintained for at

¹ For advice on stocking density for broadleaves see: Kerr, G. and Evans, J. 1993 *Growing Broadleaves for Timber*. Forestry Commission Handbook 9 HMSO London, and materials from the [Growing broadleaves for quality hardwood timber](#) seminar.

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	least the first 10 years after planting.
Notes:	

Landscape and Visual Impact

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Survey - the plan identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> If the proposals is within or in sight of a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). <input type="checkbox"/> The National Character Area(s) (NCA) which apply. <input type="checkbox"/> The Landscape Character Assessment(s) (LCA) which apply. <input type="checkbox"/> Key viewpoints into and out of the proposal site and the nature of these views, i.e., is the proposal highly visible or screened by existing woodland or other features, distance. <input type="checkbox"/> How many people will see the site from these viewpoints.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Analysis - the plan has considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> How the proposal fits with any landscape policy. <input type="checkbox"/> How the proposal fits NCA profiles and LCA. <input type="checkbox"/> How the proposal will affect key viewpoints. <input type="checkbox"/> The landscape principles in the UKFS Forest and Landscape Guidelines.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Concept - The design shows how the impacts on landscape and visual impact have been taken into account.</p>
Notes:	

Historic Environment

<input type="checkbox"/>	The plan has identified all the known heritage assets – for example features listed in the local authority’s Historic Environment Records (HER) - and appropriate mitigation in the design and operational practice has been described.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fieldwork has been undertaken to validate the presence and extent of known features.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Design of the woodland accounts for the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) programme .
Notes:	

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Water

<input type="checkbox"/>	The plan has identified the watercourses and catchments affected by the proposed planting scheme and their sensitivity, e.g.: the status of the downstream water body , whether this is failing, and if so why.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consideration has been given to the potential for the new planting to make a positive contribution to flood risk reduction, water quality improvement, or vulnerability of water bodies to over-heating by reference to priority areas identified in the Forestry Commission's Land Information Search – see 'CS Water' and 'CS Cross cutting – Keeping Rivers Cool' data layers. Where relevant, the scheme has then been designed in line with published guidance for Woodland Design for Water and Keeping Rivers Cool .
<input type="checkbox"/>	The plan has assessed the likely impact of the planting on water availability by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Avoiding planting areas where ground water is at poor quantitative status<input type="checkbox"/> Checking with the Environment Agency, water company and local authority in relation to the likely impact of the planting on public and private water supplies and abstractions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	In areas of the country where acidification of surface water is an issue (see the Forestry Commission's Land Information Search), the recommendations of the UKFS Acidification Practice Guide have been followed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check with Natural England to determine the sensitivity of local water dependent protected sites to the proposed planting.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Poorly designed and managed woodland can have a negative impact on the water environment in relation to any of the issues covered above. The plan will need to include an assessment of how any potential detrimental effects will be mitigated and what the residual level of impact is expected to be.
Notes:	

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Stakeholder Interests (not covered above)

<input type="checkbox"/>	All relevant stakeholders have been identified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The views of key stakeholders have been gathered in a proportionate manner (see FC Operation Note 035 – for advice on possible stakeholders).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Where a public meeting has been held, a report of this meeting (see Annex 1 for a suggested template).
Notes:	

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Annex 1 Template for public meeting and report

Meeting checklist

- Ask for introductions from those present. They should give their name and whom they represent;
- Ask if those present know of anyone who should be there, but is not;
- Give apologies received from those who could not attend;
- Outline the purpose of the meeting (“*...not to solve problems or try to offer solutions, but to raise those issues that need to be considered*”);
- Give the order that the meeting will follow;
- Outline your woodland proposals;
- Ask each representative to present his or her comments about the proposals;
- Discuss and ensure clear understanding of the issues raised;
- At the end of the meeting, summarise the issues of concern.

Preferred report structure

Introduction

- Name and map of the property;
- WCPG reference number;
- Summary of arrangements made for the meeting.

Participants and Contacts

- Name, organisation/group, address, phone number and e-mail of all participants including the applicant, woodland agent and any facilitator;
- References against each participant to any correspondence included in the report or appendices.

Issues Arising

- Indicate each participant’s objectives/desired outcomes including the owner’s;
- Describe any concerns expressed;
- In an appendix, provide an annotated 1:10,000 map (or larger scale) to clearly show the areas affected by any of the issues raised;
- In an appendix, reproduce any written responses from all those invited to the public meeting (including those attending).

Assessment

- You must make an objective assessment of the likely impact of each issue. This must recognise and highlight any areas of potential conflict between the various objectives of the participants;
- State how each issue is to be handled and how you will resolve any conflict;
- Send a copy of your completed report to each participant who attended the meeting (including any that were invited but unable to attend).