

LEGISLATION GRANT AID for DEER MANAGEMENT

ENGLAND & WALES
BEST PRACTICE GUIDES

the deer
initiative



Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to provide information on current grant aid available for deer management in England and Wales. This guide will provide information on grant aid criteria and how to approach the grant giving authorities. Grant aid packages often change so it is important to regularly check grant details, there are links at the end of this guide. The Forestry Commission (FC) administers all of the main grant aid packages for deer management in England and Wales, the criteria and scope of grants differs between the two countries. The main points of contact for grant aid are FC Woodland Officers who can be contacted through the local conservancy office. All grant aid described below is given at the discretion of the Forestry Commission. Environmental Stewardship grants administered by Natural England may also include elements for deer management.

England

General Approach

Grants to support deer management are available only for woodland areas but may include land adjacent to some “priority” woodland SSSIs. Grants are administered under the England Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS). In most cases

deer related grants are paid as part of wider woodland management work, usually for native broad leaved woodland that is threatened by deer impacts. Grant may be dependent on the creation of monitored deer management plans and involvement in landscape scale deer management groups. The work that grant is available for is listed in Table 1. The level of grant aid depends on the specific grant type and the conservation importance of the woodland site. The EWGS establishes “standard costs” for operational work and sets rates of payment. Rates and eligible operations under the EWGS are covered by Operations Note 12. Please see ‘links’ below.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

SSSI woodlands that are in ‘unfavourable’ condition (according to an assessment by Natural England) may receive grant aid above the usual levels. In certain “priority” areas FC may arrange for further funding delivered through the Deer Initiative. Here the grant is available not only for SSSI site itself but sometimes land adjacent to the SSSI.

Table 1 Grant Support for Deer Management in England

Grant Name (all grants are part of EWGS)	Location & Eligibility	Eligible Operations	Grant Support 2006/7
Woodland Planning Grant	"Supports preparation of plans that meet the UKWAS scheme". Must be within EWGS	Production of a Woodland Management Plan that includes deer issues on all woodland over 3 ha on a property	£20.00/ha up to 100ha then £10/ha; minimum payment of £300
Ecological Woodland Assessment Grant	"Supports gathering of information to improve management decisions" Must be within EWGS or Felling Licence area where deer are having an impact. Used in areas of high conservation, landscape, cultural or social value.	Production of a Woodland Assessment to include a deer management plan (based on Deer Initiative format)	£5.60/ha; minimum payment of £300
Woodland Management Grant	"Supports basic management activities that underpin woodland sustainability" Must be within EWGS and deer must be causing impact. Properties over 100ha must be UKWAS certified.	Implementation of organised deer population management at a landscape scale; participation in an effective deer management group; monitoring and responding to changes in deer populations.	£6/ha/yr
Woodland Improvement Grant - Woodland Biodiversity (Ref: BIO50)	" supports capital projects which sustain and increase public benefits in woodlands" For Native Woodlands (Ancient Semi Natural and other Semi Natural Woodlands).	Creating and managing Deer Lawns Permanent/temporary Fences Deer Gates Browsing enclosures High Seats Stalking cost Thinning (where necessary to carry out deer management)	50-80% of standard costs (see links)
Woodland Improvement Grant - SSSI's (Ref: SSSI 80)	Available throughout England for deer management on SSSI's in unfavourable condition	As above	80% of standard costs (see links)
Woodland Improvement Grants - SSSI in Priority Areas (Ref: SSSI 80)	Available for deer management on or adjacent to SSSI's in unfavourable condition within priority areas (contact Conservancies for details).	As above. The Deer Initiative will assist in the assessment and application of grant.	80% of standard costs (see links)

Wales

General approach

Grants in Wales are administered under the Better Woods for Wales (BWW) scheme. Applications must be made through the services of an approved management planner. Where deer are having an impact on woodland, a Deer Management Assessment is required for all properties entering BWW. The Deer Initiative will carry out this assessment with help from the owner and/or agent. Where required, the assessment will include an inventory of the deer population. Once in the scheme owners then need to carry out recommendations from the assessment. Where deer are part of a population using the area both inside and outside an owner's property boundary – the owner

will be required to co-operate with a local deer management group if appropriate. BWW also provides grant aid for infrastructure (such as high seat) to manage deer in line with the recommendations set out in the Deer Management Assessment (see Table 2 below). BWW will not grant aid the costs of stalking, marketing venison or any legal issues that arise. The grant is based on 50% of standard costs from the Forestry Commission Wales 'Cost Calculator' (see link below). Currently, there are no differences in grant rates between SSSI and non-SSSI woodland. All areas receive 50% of standard costs, however, if thinning or track work is taking place in a 'high priority' site - 75% of standard cost funding may be available. Speak to Forestry Commission Wales Grants and Licences department for details.

Table 2 Grant Support for Deer Management in Wales

Grant Name (all grants are part of BWW)	Location & Eligibility	Eligible Operations	Grant Support 2006/7
Deer Management Assessment	All Wales for areas entering BWW	Production of a Deer Management Assessment that addresses deer issues	Produced on behalf of the landowner by the Deer Initiative (no cost to owners)
BWW Woodland Improvement Grant	All Wales for areas entering BWW	Creating Deer Lawns Salt Licks High Seats Thinning (where necessary for deer management) Extraction tracks (where necessary for deer management) Ride Mowing Permanent Fences Temporary Fences Deer Gates Browsing exclosures	50% of standard costs based on BWW 'Cost Calculator'
In "high priority" sites	All Wales for areas entering BWW	Thinning or tracks	75% of standard costs based on BWW 'Cost Calculator'.

Links

General

- ◆ Local Conservancy contact details
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/>
- ◆ Environmental Stewardship - <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/default.aspx>

England

- ◆ England Woodland Grant Scheme <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs>
- ◆ Forestry Commission Operations Note 12 - EWGS Support for Deer Management: [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs-on012-deer-support.pdf/\\$FILE/ewgs-on012-deer-support.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs-on012-deer-support.pdf/$FILE/ewgs-on012-deer-support.pdf)
- ◆ Forestry Commission EWGS5 Woodland Improvement Grant Guide
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6dce98>

Regional Offices:

East England	01842 815544
East Midlands	01673 843461
North East England	01669 621591
North West England	01768 776616
South East England	01420 23337
South West England	01626 890666
West Midlands	01905 362730
Yorkshire & Humber	01904 448778

Wales

- ◆ Better Woods for Wales
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6j2h7x>
- ◆ Forestry Commission Wales WIG Cost Calculator <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6lcm4>
- ◆ Conservancy Office 08456 040845