

# Detailed guide: Woodland Research and Development Grant

Organisations and businesses intending to innovate and develop new processes or technologies for the forestry sector in England can apply to the Forestry Commission for this grant, which is part of the Forestry Innovation Fund, along with the [Woodland Creation Planning Grant \(WCPG\)](#).

The Research and Development Grant (RDG) is a one-off grant that funds a maximum of 6 projects up to a total cost of £50,000 each.

The RDG is now closed for new applications.

## How it works

### Stage 1

You need to submit an expression of interest containing details of your proposed project, outlining:

- what's innovative about your project – this can be at the global level, so completely unique, or it can apply developments from a different sector or country to benefit UK forestry, and may include an element of original research
- how it fits with the objectives of the scheme (to target opportunities for significant changes in productivity and substantial potential to encourage growth in any part of the forestry sector)

The first stage will ensure proposals are eligible and within scope of the fund.

You can no longer submit an expression of interest for funding in 2018. If the Forestry Commission invited you to make a full application you must have done so by 1 June 2018.

### Stage 2

When the Forestry Commission has assessed expressions of interest, it may invite you to submit a full application.

You need to outline the:

- need, challenge or opportunity behind your innovation
- approach you intend to take, including the focus of the innovation
- project team and their roles
- target market

- possible impact of the project outside the project team
- management plans
- main risks
- planned impact of an injection of public funding on the project
- costs and how the project represents value for money for the team and the taxpayer

You need to give full:

- project costs
- organisational details
- funding details for each organisation involved (if this applies)

You will have been notified of the RDG funding decision by 6 July 2018. If you were successful then you must complete the project within 9 months, and by 31 March 2019.

## **Payments and claim forms**

If you're successful, you'll be sent a claim form with your agreement. Payments can be made in 2 instalments. You can claim the first instalment for half of the funding when the project is at the halfway point. You can claim the second (final) instalment for the remaining half of the funding on completion.

You must submit the final claim before 31 March 2019 with evidence of expenditure, as set out on the claim form.

## **Contact the Forestry Commission**

Contact the Forestry Innovation Fund team for more information:  
[rdg@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rdg@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

Find out how to make a [complaint or appeal](#).

### **Forest Research**

The research agency of the Forestry Commission offers a range of services to [help with pest and disease control](#), and also offers resources such as [publications, statistics and datasets](#).

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**[News story: Royal Armouries Trustee](#)**

## Term Extension

Hemant Patel was born and educated in London before graduating from the University of Manchester having studied Physics with Astrophysics. He then moved into industry to train as a chartered management accountant. He has worked at various multi-national companies including Mars Inc and SC Johnson in financial, commercial and marketing roles before moving with his family to Yorkshire to join Asda in 2003.

At Asda, Hemant carried out various roles in finance including Commercial Finance Director and Retail Finance Director as well as running Asda's own label business and leading business reinvention as Director of Strategy. Hemant then moved on to be Director of Online at the financial service provider, Provident Financial plc, with responsibility for their online loans businesses. He is now Finance Director of the Pub Co at Greene King plc, leading the finance function for the business's 1,700 managed pubs.

Until 2017, Hemant was chairman of Interplay Theatre, a Leeds based company using the arts to work with children in special schools nationally and socially excluded children locally. He was given the Arts and Business Individual of the Year award in 2007 for his work with this charity.

Hemant is lead non-executive director and Chairman of the Royal Armouries Trading & Enterprises Ltd Board as well as the Royal Armouries Audit and Finance & Capital Development Committees. He became a trustee of the Royal Armouries in July 2010.

The role is not remunerated. This appointment has been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Hemant has declared no such political activity.

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## News story: New Trustee Appointed to Sport England

With over 20 years' professional experience in communications, policy and disability advocacy, Rashmi has worked in the UK and internationally in a range of fields including sport, healthcare, social care, and the arts.

Rashmi worked as a press and policy expert in the UK Civil Service at the Department of Education and Employment, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and

secondments to the European Commission and European Parliament. This followed with in the charity sector, supporting the UK's biggest biomedical research funder the Wellcome Trust in its stakeholder relations and as Executive Director and Strategic Communications Advisor for national disability charities. Rashmi also worked internationally, in the UAE leading communications, and government affairs for national healthcare and biotechnology developments.

Rashmi's work has focused on supporting organisations and initiatives that promote social inclusion and quality of life. A keen sports person, and passionate about the benefits of physical activity on health and wellbeing, Rashmi held a Board position with the Activity Alliance where she helped develop their charter setting out the changes required to improve disabled people's participation in sport. In 2016 Rashmi was recognised for her Outstanding Contribution to Innovation at the National Learning Disabilities and Autism Awards. Passionate about dance, Rashmi is the founder of Step Change Studios which provides inclusive dance opportunities for people with and without disabilities.

Rashmi has an MPhil in Education from the University of Cambridge and is guardian to her disabled brother. As well as dance, Rashmi enjoys a wide range of activities including cycling, swimming, and running – having completed four marathons.

The role is remunerated at £218 per day. This appointment has been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Rashmi has declared no such political activity.

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## **[Detailed guide: Assess environmental impact before felling trees](#)**

You may intend to fell trees to use land for a different purpose, for example, open habitat restoration.

The thresholds of projects for felling woodland to use the land for a different purpose are affected by the scale of the project and the sensitivity of the location in which tree felling is to take place. Use the table below to see which threshold your project falls into. You must apply for our opinion where your project requires EIA screening.

## Tree felling thresholds table

Scale of project	Sensitive area: not an AONB/NP	Sensitive area: AONB/NP only	Not within a sensitive area
1ha or more	Full EIA screening	Full EIA screening	Full EIA screening
0.5ha to 1ha	Full EIA screening	Full EIA screening	No EIA required
Less than 0.5ha	Full EIA screening	No EIA required	No EIA required

Use the [Land Information Search (LIS)](/government/admin/detailed-guides/827362)

and other online map browsers such as [MAGIC.gov.uk](http://MAGIC.gov.uk) to identify any designations or sensitivities that may be affected by the project. The sensitivities will determine the particular area threshold you must use.

## Converting woodlands to open habitats

You also need to complete the Convert woodland to Open Habitats application form, providing information on why this project is important, and where, when required, you will plant compensatory woodland. See the [Get consent to convert woodland to open habitat guide](#).

## Getting opinion and consent

See the [overview guidance on EIAs](#) for general information about EIAs, or find out more about [getting our opinion and consent](#).

[Download an EIA enquiry form: deforestation.](#)

If you're applying for a grant to enable deforestation, you mustn't start any work until you have received an EIA determination on your deforestation proposal.

Send your form to your [local admin hub](#).

## Penalties

If you carry out work that would have required our consent and have not received it, or breach the conditions of a consent we have given, the regulations allow us to issue an Enforcement Notice, which will require you to rectify the breach of the regulations.

Failure to comply with an Enforcement Notice carries a penalty on conviction of an unlimited fine.

## Further information

You can find out more about the process with the:

- [EIA screening guidance](#)  
(PDF, 942KB, 21 pages)

- [EIA scoping guidance](#)  
(PDF, 652KB, 31 pages)

if you're applying for consent

If you have any questions, you can contact your [nearest Forestry Commission area office](#).

## Appeals

You can [make a complaint or appeal against a Forestry Commission decision](#).

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# [Detailed guide: EIAs: notify the Forestry Commission, get an opinion or apply for consent](#)

You may have to notify the Forestry Commission or ask for its opinion about environmental impact, depending on the scale and location of the forestry project you're proposing. Once you've had a Forestry Commission response you may have to apply for consent. These formal processes are written into the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations – see the [overview guidance for general information on EIAs](#)).

## Notification

If your forestry project is for afforestation, small scale in nature and/or located within a low risk area you may simply be able to notify the Forestry Commission of your proposal, using the [EIA enquiry form](#), in order to get its decision. Check the [afforestation thresholds table](#) to see if you're eligible for this process, and which notification procedure would apply.

If you're eligible for basic notification, the Forestry Commission will give its decision within 28 days, unless it asks you for more information.

If you're eligible for full notification, the Forestry Commission will give its decision within 42 days, unless it asks you for more information.

If the Forestry Commission asks for more information, you'll get a request in writing and the decision period will be restarted once you've provided the requested information.

## Opinion

For all other eligible forestry projects, the Forestry Commission will give an opinion on whether or not you, the applicant, must apply for consent to carry out any work. Below is the process for getting it's opinion.

### 1. Bring your proposal together

When planning your project, you should use your own forestry experience or seek advice from a professional forestry agent, and should engage with local and statutory stakeholders who may have an interest in the land on which your project will lie, as required.

Gather information from on the site and from as many other sources as possible and use that information to design a [UK Forestry Standard](#) compliant forestry project. You should consider liaising with Natural England and the Environment Agency at this stage, and submit their comments along with your EIA enquiry application.

### 2. Complete an EIA enquiry form

Once your project proposal has been drawn together, complete the relevant EIA enquiry for your project(s).

- Download the EIA enquiry form to [create new woodland](#).
- Download the EIA enquiry form for [deforestation](#).
- Download the EIA enquiry form for [forest roads and/or quarries](#).

### 3. Send your details to the Forestry Commission

Send your completed form with the following information/documentation to [your local Forestry Commission admin office](#)

- a map identifying the area and showing the extent of the project – this should be a clear Ordnance Survey map at a scale of 1:10,000 or 1:2,500
- information on the characteristics of the project and any likely significant effects on the environment – significant effects are specified in Appendix 2 of the [EIA screening guidance](#) (PDF, 942KB, 21 pages)

document

- any other information or evidence that you have gathered and is relevant, eg species maps, plans, photographs etc, including a description of any features of the project or measures envisaged to

avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment

If the Forestry Commission reasonably requires further information in order to form an opinion, it will contact you. If, at any time, it becomes aware of proposals that require its consent, the Forestry Commission may give its opinion to the person whom it believes should have asked it.

#### **4. When to expect an opinion decision**

The Forestry Commission will only begin to form an opinion when all the relevant information has been received. If the Forestry Commission has asked you for more information, the process may take longer. It will normally form an opinion within 28 days of receiving all the relevant information, but in exceptional circumstances it may take longer than this period to form an opinion. If this is the case, the Forestry Commission will let you know in writing.

Decisions last for a period of 5 years or any shorter period specified.

#### **5. If consent is not required**

If the Forestry Commission decides that consent is not required, it will inform you in writing.

#### **6. If consent is required**

If the Forestry Commission decides that consent for the work is required, it will inform you in writing. If you wish to progress with your project you will be required to produce an Environmental Statement and application for consent in order to get a decision about whether or not the work can proceed.

### **When the Forestry Commission publicises the decision**

After notifying you of their decision, the Forestry Commission will publish the decision on a Public Register for 28 days. This will notify the public of the decision on your project.

### **Grant applications for EIA project types**

If you're applying for a Forestry Commission grant to deliver a EIA project type you may not be required to submit an EIA Enquiry Form, as the information provided in your grant application may meet the information requirements of the Enquiry Form.

Additionally you should note that grant applications take longer to assess than EIA projects, so the final EIA decision for Notification or Opinion won't be given until the final grant offer is ready to be made. This may be

significantly longer than 28 or 42 days.

## **Apply for consent**

If the Forestry Commission decides your project has a significant impact on the environment, you must get its consent for the work before you start.

Your application will need to include an Environmental Statement and you will have to scope the project. For more help, read the [EIA scoping environmental statement guidance](#).  
(PDF, 652KB, 31 pages)

The Forestry Commission is required to provide formal consent for certain 'relevant projects' under the EIA Regulations. The process for getting its consent is outlined below.

In most cases, the Forestry Commission would strongly advise applicants to proceed with the notification or application for our opinion, whichever is relevant, prior to submitting an application for consent. But if you're certain that an application for consent is required, it's possible to apply for consent without completing the previous steps.

### **1. Make preliminary enquiries**

Speak to your local Forestry Commission woodland officer about your project and the need to apply for consent. They will help you to decide which countryside organisations may need to be involved with providing information that might help the preparation of the Environmental Statement.

### **2. Hold a scoping meeting**

This meeting between you, the Forestry Commission, relevant countryside organisations, consultees and interested parties, such as neighbours, will help to identify the particular issues that the environmental statement must address.

### **3. Prepare an Environmental Statement (ES)**

The purpose of an ES is to provide the Forestry Commission and other interested parties with as full an understanding of the consequences of the proposals as possible.

### **4. Prepare the application**

You will need to include:

- a map showing the area where the project is proposed, and the extent of any planting, regeneration, constructions, works or operations – this should be a clear Ordnance Survey map at a scale of 1:10 000 or 1:2 500
- a description of the nature of the relevant project
- any other information that might be relevant e.g. species maps, plans, photographs etc

- the Environmental Statement for the work
- a copy of the publicity notice that you must place in newspapers (this should only be done once the ES has been finalised with the Forestry Commission)

Note: you may have already supplied some of this information if you've previously asked for the Forestry Commission opinion under the EIA regulations. This information can be reused to help inform your ES. You can also use other relevant and equivalent ES from other similar projects as part of your application for consent, rather than having to recreate the required evidence.)

## 5. Send the application

Send the documents to your [local admin hub](#).

The Forestry Commission may ask for multiple copies of the application documents to send to appropriate consultees.

## 6. Publicise the ES and consult

- Once the Forestry Commission is satisfied that the ES addresses all the issues of concern as agreed at the scoping meeting then you must make a public notice.
- Place the public notice (advertisement) in local newspapers and/or electronically, as directed by the Forestry Commission. You're responsible for the cost of this notice.
- Full details about the contents of the notice are given in the Environmental Impact Assessment of Forestry Projects.
- You must make copies of the application and the ES available in public places such as the local library, post office etc. The Forestry Commission will advise you about suitable locations.
- The Forestry Commission will give details of your application to the appropriate consultees and statutory bodies as well as the local authority with an interest in the application. They're required to give us their comments within 30 days.
- Proposals to carry out new planting or felling will appear on the Register of New Planting and Felling.

## 7. The Forestry Commission responds

The Forestry Commission will respond with one of 3 possible decisions. You will either be:

- granted consent subject to the standard conditions (that the work must be started within 5 years from the date of consent and finished no later than 10 years from the date of consent)
- granted consent subject to the standard conditions (above) plus other additional conditions
- refused consent

## **8. The Forestry Commission publicises the decision**

After notifying you and other interested parties about their decision, the Forestry Commission will advertise their decision in the same newspapers in which the notice of the application for consent was placed and will be responsible for the cost of this notice.

## **Appeals**

You can [make a complaint or appeal against a Forestry Commission decision.](#)