

Forest Environments – The Woodland Environment Grant and the Sustainable Forestry Operations Grant

The Woodland Environment Grant and Sustainable Forestry Operations Grant are funded under Axis 2 of the Rural Development Programme and delivered by DARD.

The grants provide assistance towards the management of existing woodland.

- The Woodland Environment Grant aims to enhance biodiversity, improve the public amenity of woodlands and assist in achieving their expansion, maintenance, enhancement and restoration.
- The Sustainable Forestry Operations Grant aims to support forest environment actions to improve the ecosystems within private forests and woodlands and prevent damage by domestic and wild animals. This includes ongoing maintenance required to control invasive species and for the clearance of stream sides and other open ground.

Who can apply?



The Woodland Environment Grant and Sustainable Forestry Operations Grant schemes are open to woodland owners with at least one hectare of existing woodland.

What funding is available?



The Woodland Environment Grant is a one-off capital payment and is discretionary. Payments of up to 50% of approved costs for a single project, supported by an appropriate appraisal, may be made. The maximum payment for a single project is £3,000.

The Sustainable Forestry Operations Grant is an annual payment. In normal circumstances, this will be at a rate of £50 per hectare per year, for a maximum of five years. In exceptional circumstances this rate may be increased to £120 per hectare, per year.

How do I apply?



The opening and closing dates for schemes/programmes supported by the Rural Development Programme are advertised and promoted widely. The Rural Development Programme website www.rdpni.info provides a full list of what is currently open for applications together with further details of each scheme/programme and how to apply.

If you are interested in participating in this scheme but do not have access to the Internet please contact us using the details below.

Please Note: Applications for the Sustainable Forestry Operations Grant must be supported by a five-year plan describing the specific objectives and eligible activities for those areas for which the grant is being sought.

What happens next?



When your application is received we will check to make sure that it is eligible and to see that it has been correctly completed and all relevant documents included.

If your application:

- passes these initial checks, we will acknowledge it;