

## The Woodland Grant Scheme

**The Woodland Grant Scheme Grant is funded under Axis 2 of the Rural Development Programme and delivered by DARD.**

Woodlands and forests are major components of the landscape and provide essential habitats for much of our wildlife. They make a substantial contribution to meeting our growing demand for wood, and can be an effective means of locking up carbon from the atmosphere. They provide major opportunities for recreation and public access to the countryside, especially near towns and cities, and play an important role in the rural economy, providing jobs and support to rural communities. New forests and woodlands also offer an attractive long-term use of land as an alternative to agriculture.

The Woodland Grant Scheme aims to expand the amount of tree cover in Northern Ireland by encouraging the creation of new woodland in order to:

- Increase the production of wood;
- Improve the landscape;
- Improve woodland biodiversity and offer opportunities for recreation and sport; and
- Encourage the sustainable management of forests and woodlands.

### What funding is available?



The rate of payment depends on the species being planted. Establishment Grant rates are as follows:

Species	Total area (hectares)	£per hectare
<b>Conifers</b>	0.2 and over	1250
<b>Broadleaves</b>	0.2 and over	1850

### 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](http://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.

### Who can apply?



The Woodland Grant Scheme is open to anyone who wishes to plant on an area of at least 0.2 hectares.

### 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 that all relevant documents are included.