



THE NATIONAL  
FOREST



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## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

### Submission

In consultation with landowner's aspirations, a woodland agent designs & submits site design maps, bid price (which includes the budget/work plan), and application form by the deadline.



### Authorisation

The National Forest Company undertake consultation on scheme applications. NFC Board evaluate schemes with successful schemes progressing to contract production.



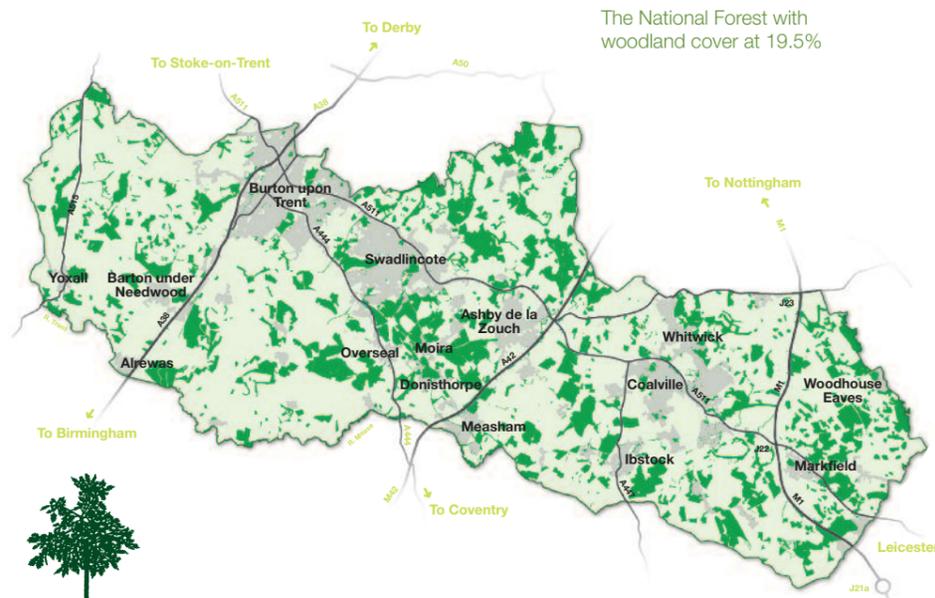
### Implementation

Scheme design is implemented as set out in the CLS contract.



### Completion

CLS payments made in Year 1 (80% of total bid price) and Year 6 (20% of total bid price). Any income foregone and single payment scheme payments are made annually. The CLS contract length is 10 years.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information and details on how to apply for this scheme please contact the National Forest Company on **01283 551211** or email [cls@nationalforest.org](mailto:cls@nationalforest.org) Forms and detailed guidance notes are available on request and may be found at [www.nationalforest.org/woodlandcreation/cls](http://www.nationalforest.org/woodlandcreation/cls)

### What if you wanted to create a small woodland?

Freewoods: the National Forest's woodland creation grant scheme that applies to areas of less than 1 hectare. Details are available on request and may be found at [www.nationalforest.org/woodlandcreation/freewoods.php](http://www.nationalforest.org/woodlandcreation/freewoods.php)

### The National Forest Company

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*Photographs courtesy of Gordon Hudson,  
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## LANDOWNER TESTIMONIAL

Being in The National Forest gives landowners more choice for farming and business decisions. One landowner, Mr Kevin Barnett, has been successful with two applications:

After talking to previous Tender Scheme winners and a professional forestry agent to assess the various options available under CLS, and weigh up the pros and cons, I realised that CLS was a good choice for me, my landholding and the future sustainability of the farm.

CLS has proved to be flexible, simple and rewarding on many fronts. Land that was previously difficult to farm has been converted to a mix of woodland and parkland with the addition of new hedgerows, wetland and fencing. This has provided the farm with a new income stream, benefitted wildlife by providing new habitats that link together, and made the farm more sustainable from a business and environmental perspective.

**MR KEVIN BARNETT**  
OWNER OF PISTERN HILLS FARM



## CHANGING LANDSCAPES SCHEME (CLS)

If you have land over 1 hectare (2.5 acres) in The National Forest where you would consider creating woodland with other nature conservation areas, CLS will interest you.

# CHANGING LANDSCAPES SCHEME

## THE BUSINESS CASE

- **The landowner retains ownership** and control of the land.
- **Free professional design** and application service.
- **100% funding** paid for implementation based on nationally agreed rates.
- **All establishment and management costs** paid for 10 years based on nationally agreed rates.
- **80% of total CLS grant paid** in Year 1 with remaining 20% paid in Year 6.
- **Single Farm Payment** can still be claimed on eligible land entered into CLS.
- **Minimal paperwork** and bureaucracy.
- **Medium and long-term** timber production and income potential.
- **No Income or Corporation Tax** on timber sales from 'commercial woodlands'.
- **Property values** can be enhanced through landscaping.
- **Potential reduction in fossil fuel** reliance to heat homes or buildings by firewood used from your woodland.
- **CLS can form part of wider**, whole farm business and diversification plans.
- **Free ongoing advice** from the National Forest Company.

## WHY CREATE WOODLANDS & NATURE CONSERVATION HABITATS?

Simply, it is a matter of finding the right tree and the right habitat for the right place. This could mean that some areas are not appropriate, but for those that are, the benefits of entering into the CLS can be wide-ranging and landowners can tackle some of their most pressing economic and environmental concerns whilst being generously funded.

Woodland and other nature conservation habitats benefit local wildlife and the environment. The CLS can include open space, feature trees, hedgerows, ponds and meadows. They also offer places for relaxation and enjoyment.

Woodlands absorb greenhouse gasses, can provide firewood to supply fuel wood to reduce domestic heating bills and fossil fuel reliance, and when used

as a shelterbelt or in a parkland setting, can protect soil and livestock from the effects of climate change. They can also improve the appearance of the landholding and wider landscape.

Areas of wetter ground, where land is less productive, can be suited to wet woodland, grassland or the creation of water features. The connection of habitats can provide 'corridors' for wildlife to move from one area to another.

Woodland can also be good for business. An attractive wooded landscape provides opportunities for recreation and enjoyment from which income can be generated.



1



2



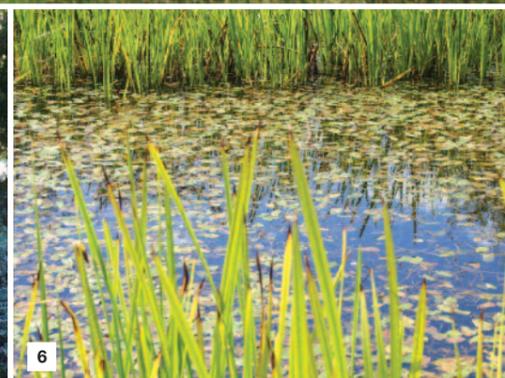
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6

## TYPES OF SCHEMES AND OWNERS

- Some schemes have taken full advantage of the flexibility of CLS to produce woodland and parkland on an equal basis.
- Other schemes have focused on small scale woodland creation and incorporated nature conservation features such as ponds, new hedgerows and wildflower meadows.
- Landowner types vary and include active and retiring farmers; working professionals; companies; and land managers looking to use their land less intensively whilst improving their surroundings.

## BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

**To be eligible, a few simple requirements must be met:**

- The land must be entirely within The National Forest.
- The application must cover a minimum of 1 hectare with no upper limit.
- Schemes must include at least 50% woodland creation and can include up to 50% other habitats.
- The land must not have been funded by the former National Forest Tender Scheme or Forestry Commission EWGS.
- The land must not be under an existing Environmental Stewardship Scheme or be land that is required to be planted to satisfy a planning condition or to fulfil a Section 106 agreement.



1: A Greater spotted woodpecker.  
2: A working landscape in Needwood.  
3: Planting a young tree sapling. 4: A wildflower meadow.  
5: Mature parkland at Calke. 6: A wetland.  
7: Newly planted oak trees in protective tubes.