National Forest Wood Pasture/Parkland
Guidelines for Applicants

What are wood pasture and parkland?
Wood pasture consists of large open–grown trees usually growing in grassland. It often combines livestock grazing with woodland management. Tree species are generally broadleaved such as oak, lime, sycamore and horse chestnut.

Parklands are designed landscapes which are often associated with a country house, but can also form elements of pony paddocks and town parks in urban areas. Tree species are often a mix of broadleaves and conifers.

Why create new wood pasture/parkland?
Wood pasture and parkland have significant ecological and landscape benefits and contribute strongly to the wooded character and ‘sense of place’ of a large scale Forest area such as The National Forest. Wood pasture is a priority habitat in the UK and National Forest Biodiversity Action Plans and parklands are important historic and visual elements in the landscape across The National Forest area.

New wood pasture and parkland has value in a number of settings, including:

- Well-wooded landscapes – linking areas of high forest with more open landscapes.
- Landscapes where large woodlands are less appropriate – such as sensitive historic and ecological areas.
- Agricultural landscapes – linked to grazing regimes, including horse paddocks.
- Providing wooded settings for country houses or farm buildings.
- Urban areas – enhancing open amenity greenspace, including school grounds.
- River valley landscapes – where dense woodland is less appropriate.

National Forest Grant Scheme or Higher Level Scheme?

- The National Forest Grant Scheme is aimed at the creation of new areas of wood pasture/parkland.
- Natural England’s Higher Level Scheme (HLS) includes grants for wood pasture/parkland. However, to avoid overlap or duplication of effort, HLS should be primarily used for replacement tree planting in existing wood pasture/parkland landscapes within The National Forest.
- Should HLS funding not be available, the National Forest Company may consider schemes in existing wood pasture/parkland landscapes if a clear benefit can be demonstrated.
**Eligibility criteria**

- The land must be entirely within The National Forest.
- The applicant must own the land or have the written agreement of the owner.
- The land must be a minimum of 0.25ha. Whilst there is no upper limit it is expected that most schemes will be between 0.25 and 5ha.
- The land must not be under an existing Environmental Stewardship Scheme or be a condition of planning permission.
- The land must not be part of an existing National Forest grant scheme (e.g. Tender Scheme, Changing Landscapes Scheme, Freewoods Scheme).
- The tree planting must be completed by 20 March each year.

**Conditions of the Scheme**

- **Design** – schemes will be designed to produce the effect of ‘scattered trees’. Small groups and avenues of trees can only be included as part of an overall scattered tree design.

  Multiple planting areas can be included in one application but each planting area must be at least 0.25ha.

  Schemes should be sited and designed to achieve public benefits that fulfil the objectives of the National Forest Strategy 2004-14. These include:

  - **visual landscape benefit** – for the general public, not just the site owner.
  - **landscape/ecological connectivity** – for example, siting schemes to link woodland or other habitats, or individual trees (eg: hedgerow or parkland trees) in the surrounding landscape.
  - **accessibility** – whilst public access is not a requirement, schemes should be visible from public rights of way, other accessible land or the highway network.

  The Scheme does not include contributions towards other features (e.g. ponds, hedgerows, etc).

- **Consultation** – at the scheme planning stage the applicant will undertake consultation with County Council archaeologists and ecologists, the Environment Agency and other statutory consultees (eg: Natural England) as appropriate, to ensure that schemes will have no adverse environmental impacts.

- **Tree densities** – must range from six to 25 trees per hectare, with a minimum of three trees on the smallest schemes (0.25 - 0.5ha).

- **Tree species** – primarily native broadleaves such as English or sessile oak and small-leaved lime. In parkland schemes, ‘naturalised’ species such as sycamore
and horse/sweet chestnut will also be considered, plus in exceptional circumstances, more exotic species such as red oak, Cedar of Lebanon and Giant Redwood (in agreement with the NFC).

- **Establishment and maintenance** – the landowner or appointed Contractor/Agent will be responsible for planting and erecting protection around the trees using tree crates with tree guards to the specification detailed in Appendix A. Timber for the tree crates should be British and FSC certified and sourced locally where possible.

Any tree losses will be replaced by the landowner in the next available planting season and at his/her cost.

By year five each tree should be well established. The landowner will then continue to ensure that tree protection is maintained from browsing animals.

- **Change in ownership** – If the land is sold in the future, the seller and purchaser will agree in writing that the trees will be maintained in their original setting to meet the long-term aim of adding value to the landscape.

**Rejection of schemes**

- The National Forest Company reserves the right to decline schemes based upon the eligibility criteria, conditions of the grant scheme and the overall value for money that they provide.

**Specification**

- Protective tree crates will meet the minimum specification attached (*Note: diagram/ measurements and photograph in appendix A*). If landowners choose to use an alternative, higher specification tree crate this must be agreed with the NFC before procurement of materials. Minimum specifications for the staking and guarding of each tree are also set out in Appendix A.

- A parkland tree ‘unit’ will comprise:
  - a feathered tree (1.0-1.5m bare root transplant)
  - tree guard, stake and tie
  - plant tree and fit tree guard
  - woodchip mulch (to minimise maintenance)
  - protective tree crate (supplied and fitted)
Application process

- **Pre-application discussion** – the applicant discusses the proposed scheme with NFC which may include a site visit. NFC reviews it against environmental alert maps.

- **Consultation** – where necessary, applicant consults with County ecologists and archaeologists, the Environment Agency (if applicable) or any other statutory consultees to check that schemes will not have detrimental environmental impacts.

- **Submission** – applicant appoints an agent/contractor from the NFC’s approved list who submits an application form, design map and tree planting specification to the NFC to consider. Application maps must detail applicant name, location, grid reference, accurate tree locations and numbers, boundary of scheme area and a key. Forestry Commission base maps are preferred and these can be requested at: [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/MapRequestForm.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/MapRequestForm.pdf)

- **Authorisation** – NFC approves or rejects the scheme or makes recommendations for improvements.

- **Implementation** – agent/contractor implements the scheme to the specification detailed in the application form and design map.

- **Completion** – NFC inspects the completed scheme and makes payment to the agent/contractor at the agreed standard rate, based upon successful implementation.

- **Monitoring and maintenance** – NFC will make periodic monitoring inspections of schemes. If trees fail to be effectively established by year five, the landowner will be required to repay the total cost of the grant received.
Parkland tree planting specification

1) Tree crate and planting components

To be read in conjunction with the diagram overleaf.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Machine round posts</td>
<td>2.4m*100mm</td>
<td>Pressure-treated softwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Motorway rails</td>
<td>3.6m<em>85mm</em>35mm</td>
<td>Pressure-treated softwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Nails</td>
<td>4&quot;</td>
<td>Galvanised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Coach bolts</td>
<td>3&quot;</td>
<td>Galvanised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Parkland tree*</td>
<td>1m</td>
<td>Tree whip, pit-planted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tree tube</td>
<td>1.2m</td>
<td>Guard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stake for tree guard</td>
<td>1.5m</td>
<td>Pressure-treated softwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Tree mulch</td>
<td>2-3&quot; deep * 1m diameter</td>
<td>Woodchip/bark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Herbicide</td>
<td>1m diameter</td>
<td>Residual applied before mulch</td>
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</tbody>
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2) Suitable tree species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oak</th>
<th>Q. robur/petraea</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lime</td>
<td>T. cordata/platyphyllos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hornbeam</td>
<td>C. betulus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet chestnut</td>
<td>C. sativa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sycamore</td>
<td>A. pseudoplatanus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway maple</td>
<td>A. platanoides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other tree species to be agreed between NFC and landowner before planting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3) Example Crate (for illustration purposes only)
4) **Tree crate dimensions**
Appendix B

Examples of Parkland/Wood pasture tree planting at various densities

Image 1: 6 trees per hectare

Image 2: Widely spaced planting

Image 3: 10 trees per hectare

Image 4: Medium spaced planting
Image 5: 25 trees per hectare

Image 6: Mature wood pasture