

Woodlands for Recreation



Woodland creates a dynamic environment, with attractive seasonal variation.

They can be designed from the outset to maximise on the visitor experience. This includes glades for glamping and caravanning, trails for cycling and horse riding, locations for bird watching, and quiet secluded areas for picnicking and swimming. Parkland areas and Orchards can also be designed into the scheme for variety and diversity.

Woodlands hold a greater 'carrying capacity' as the sense of privacy is created through the masking effect of trees.

Open ground and woodland edge habitats which are much appreciated in recreational woodlands are typically the most bio-diverse habitats.

In general woodlands are considerably cheaper to manage than mown grassland. Large simple areas of gang mown grass are as cheap (but no cheaper) to manage than woodland but contribute little to (urban) environmental quality. (Woodland Trust, 2011)

Native grasses and wildflowers can be seeded to increase a naturalised impact.

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Cost of Establishment

Deer fencing is generally recommended in for plantations over 1 hectare in size, but this is subject to the shape of planting, adjoining land uses, local deer species and owner objectives.

Light High Tensile Deer fencing (1.8 metres in height) would cost on average £8+VAT per linear metre, dependant on requirements for gates, strainer posts and ground conditions. Stock fencing would cost on average £5.25+VAT per linear metre, dependant on requirements for gates, strainer posts and ground conditions.

Example of a 2 hectare planting scheme at 2.4m x 2.4m centres (1600 stems per hectare) using deer fencing with 60cm spiral guards.

Design and set out using GPS with a tractor unit to mark planting rows if required	£500+VAT
Deer Fencing (600m @ £8/metre).....	£4800+VAT
2 x vehicle access gates (£450 each).....	£900+VAT
4 x pedestrian access gates (£300 each).....	£1200+VAT
Tree planting – 40-60cm bare root plant with 60cm spiral guards & supporting canes at 2.4 metre centres (£1.85+VAT per plant.).....	£5920+VAT
Bi annual herbicide application – if appropriate (£640+ VATper annum).....	£2560+VAT
<i>Annual maintenance should be budgeted for years 1-4 to secure establishment.</i>	
Beat up allowance for failed plants.....	£600+VAT
Total.....	£16480+VAT
Potential Grant Support (England).....	£14756

Grant Support – Possibly eligible for Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Grant (England) dependant on scale and the ability to meet scheme requirements. Applications must be set within given target areas, and be a minimum of 1 -3 hectares in size dependant on location. The application process is competitive, but with potential grant support of up to £6800 per hectare.