

# *Charlotte Peacock Associates*



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

## *Agriculture and Woodland Schemes*

### *Woodland Creation Grant*

The Woodland Trust can offer grants to plant new woodland. The exact amount depends on various factors such as the location and whether the public have access but this can be up to £1800/ha for broadleaved woodland. Additional grants may be available for income foregone as a result of changing farm land to woodland. These grants need to be applied for before any planting commences. The scheme is usually over 10-15 years. CPA can provide input into these options to maximise the chances of acceptance onto the scheme.

### *Grants for Existing Woodlands*

There are a number of grants available for existing woodlands from the Woodland Trust. These grants are available for activities such as assessing woodlands to inform management decisions and to benefit the public. These schemes also last 10-15 years and payment levels vary. CPA can carry out the assessments for these schemes as well as on going monitoring.

### *Entry Level Stewardship*

The Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) scheme is administered by Natural England and is based on a points system where payments are made depending upon the number of points obtained. It is available to all landowners in England which meet the minimum required points. The options available to score points are deliberately diverse to encourage uptake of the scheme and range from providing arable margins and winter stubble to hedgerow management and ditch clearance. Many of these practises are already carried out by landowners and can involve very little additional time. Typical funding is approximately £30/ha/yr. The Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) scheme is very similar to the ELS with typical funding of £60/ha/yr.

The Upland Entry Level Stewardship (UELS) scheme is available to landowners within Severely Disadvantaged Areas as defined by Natural England reaching the minimum points requirement. As with ELS, there are a number of management options available ranging from stonewall and building maintenance to winter livestock removal and haymaking. Payments can be up to £62/ha/yr.

CPA can assess the current status of the land and advise on which points can be best achieved for each farm while contributing to local and national objectives.

### *Higher Level Stewardship*

The Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme also administered by Natural England is only available to those who have already signed up to the ELS within certain areas of England. This is a competitive scheme and only those providing the greatest gains will receive funding, therefore not all applications will be successful. The Agreements last 10 years and it is not possible to provide a typical payment as these vary from £7/ha to £700/ha depending upon the options available to the landowner. There is no separate scheme for organic farmers with the HLS. CPA can provide input into which options may be most appropriate.