



English Woodland Grant Scheme

Email Alert 6th September 2010

UK Government change to Timber Procurement Policy

From the 1st April 2009 all Central Government Departments, their executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies were required to procure either legal and sustainable timber or Forest Law Enforcement, Governance Trade (FLEGT) - licensed timber.

The Forestry Commission has agreed a process with Defra that helps woodland owners meet recent changes to the government timber procurement policy. Woodland owners can use the Forestry Commission's Woodland Planning Grant template to produce a management plan, get felling approval and demonstrate the timber is from a sustainable source.

There are 2 main ways of demonstrating legality and sustainability:

- **Category A:** a recognised certification scheme
- **Category B:** other evidence of legality and sustainability

The Forestry Commission's Woodland Planning Grant will allow woodland owners to demonstrate this by providing Category B evidence. Please see [Operations Note 022 - Enabling Woodlands to Comply with Government Timber Procurement Policy](#) (375kb), which explains the application process.

[The Chain of Custody form](#) is available separately.

Woodland Creation Grant – get your applications in!

The deadline for this years applications is 30th September, so please submit your forms and maps to your local FC office as soon as possible.

New Regional additional contributions this year

This year there are more ways than ever to get additional contributions on top of basic planting grants, and the maximum has been increased to £2000 per hectare.

FC compatibility with Single Payment Scheme (SPS)

Remember that from this year, owners can receive grants from the FC (including annual Farm Woodland Payments) and still claim SPS.

With these two major changes, for new woodlands in priority areas on arable land, Landowners could receive up to £8300 per hectare in Forestry Commission grants, in addition to their annual SPS payments!

Visit Woods



The Forestry Commission is a partner in the VisitWoods project, which is being managed by the Woodland Trust. VisitWoods is a partnership project, funded through Natural England's Access to Nature programme, part of the Big Lottery Fund 'Changing Spaces Programme'.

The [VisitWoods website](#) will endeavour to show all woodland in England (also Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland) that provide public access. The website is due to be launched in Spring 2011.

As well as Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust owned land, the site will include woodland that receives public access grant support. The website will show basic information on these woodlands using the Forestry Commission 'Woodland Welcome' logo, with an explanation of what the public can expect. Volunteers will be available to support owners, managers and users with the provision of further information, if desired.

We would like to encourage owners and managers of 'Woodland Welcome' woodland to be included on the [VisitWoods website](#) and get involved in the project, where it is possible to:

- add extra information such as facilities provided;
- receive feedback from woodland users;
- comment from a landowner perspective about feedback received directly online.

For more information see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document on the VisitWoods website.

If you would like to know more about the VisitWoods project and how to get more involved, please visit the VisitWoods website: www.visitwoods.org.uk or contact Helen Pack at the Woodland Trust on helenpack@woodlandtrust.org.uk; tel: 08452 935859.

Changes to the EWGS Claim form

The [EWGS Claim form](#) has been updated, please use the new version that is available on the Website now.

There is an addition of a Business Name (the name linked to your SBI) field, which needs to be completed.

Also you must be clear about the work that you are claiming for. We have provided a tick box at section 4b (confirming that you have completed all the work in that claim year), to save you completing Section 6 for every claim. However, if you are at all

unsure about the work in the current claim year, you should detail the work completed in Section 6. The new warning highlights that as per the terms and conditions of the EWGS contract you may be liable to penalties if you claim for work that has not been completed.

Woodland Carbon Code of Good Practice

The Woodland Carbon Code has just been launched and is in a pilot phase until April 2011. The code sets out the standards for voluntary carbon sequestration projects in the UK that incorporate core principles of good carbon management as part of modern sustainable forest management

The [Woodland Carbon Code website](#) includes information on:

- requirements of the code
- other carbon standards
- the consultation process that took place in 2009
- frequently asked questions
- approaches to projecting future carbon uptake
- guidance on measuring woodland carbon
- the project registry

[Operations Note 20](#), which deals with how Forestry Commission England grants interact with carbon finance has been slightly updated in light of the Woodland Carbon Code.

For further information, please go to the [Woodland Carbon Code website](#). If you are interested in taking part during the pilot phase please contact the [Carbon Task Force](#)

Customer & Land Registration

We have produced a short leaflet outlining the key steps of registering (both as a customer and land) with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). Click [here](#) to view the leaflet. Operations Note 19 has also been updated to take into account these changes, this is available in the [Document Library](#) of the website.

We have also streamlined the customer registration process for new applicants. New applicants who are registering with RPA to apply for only Forestry Commission grants no longer need to provide RPA with their payee details. We will collect the payee information (as normal) during the grant application process.

Once collected, these details will be maintained independently from RPA so if you or your client needs to change them they only need to tell us (in writing). Please note that to set-up or change payment information for the Single Payment Scheme or other non-FC grant schemes such as Environmental Stewardship, you or your client will still need to notify RPA.

When registering land with the RPA, please note that you must still mark the form with 'Forestry Commission Application' to ensure the applications is processed promptly.