

Management Plan Review Service Standard – national rollout

80% of first draft management plans reviewed and either approved or returned with comments within 7 weeks

- the 7 weeks is from receiving plan to Approved in Principle (not including Felling Licence)
- Internal training and testing across country from November until April 2018
- Launch externally April 2018
- In peak Countryside Stewardship workload times we will be less likely to meet the 7 weeks. 80% within 7 weeks is average over the year
- This isn't about lighter touch reviews – must meet UKFS
- Feedback will include reasons for failure
- Customers need to play their part



Aim for max 2 iterations

- To meet aim of maximum 2 iterations of plan before approval we will supply feedback on key reasons for failure
- Expect to see these points addressed in next version



- Incorrect plan template used
- Poor quality of mapping or required suite of maps not supplied
- Failure to complete Inventory - Plan of Operations correctly (or template modified and corrupted)
- Failure to link aims and objectives to management activity
- Failure to adequately survey and describe the woodland and take account of features
- Failure to improve resilience of woodland structure and species composition
- Failure to consider tree health now and in the future
- Failure to consider and act on other threats to the woodland
- Failure to consult with all relevant stakeholders, show or consider their responses
- Monitoring programme inadequate or missing

- A pre-visit offered to try and ensure a better quality of plan is being submitted as a first draft.
- Will be managed locally depending on team capacity and experience of agents



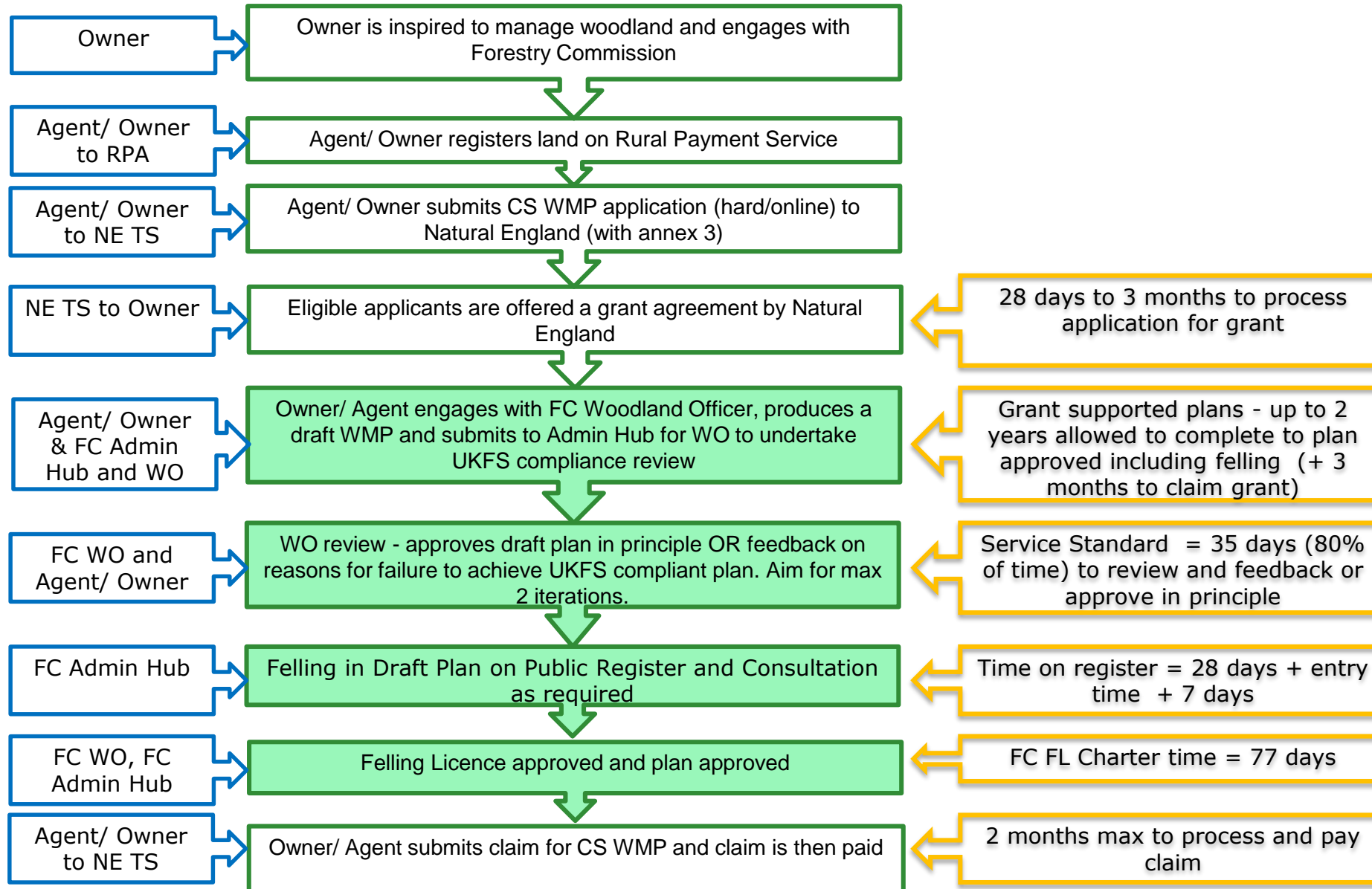
- Tested parallel felling licence approval in SE
- Requires the Woodland Officer to make a considered judgement based on the plan documentation alone to put it through the public register process and consult using the draft plan
- The licence is produced at the same time as the approved plan
- This cannot be used in all cases but will be taken forward with Woodland Officer discretion

- Area training sessions with teams looking at a selection of plans and agreeing on standards and review processes
- Peer review of plans between teams to improve consistency
- Use of a tracker to monitor progress within teams and reported nationally
- Piloting over next few months before launch in April

- UKFS ICF workshops November
- E-alert to cover standard and requirements
- Webinar for agents
- Area agent events focusing on increasing plan quality
- Launch April 2018



Management Plan process



Continue to work on end to end process improvements – including;

- with Natural England Technical Services on improving processing woodland management planning grant applications
- With Rural Payments Agency on resolution of issues and signposting guidance for land registration
- New and improved systems – Felling Licences and Plan of Operations – more on this next