



# Grants & Regulations Bulletin: Issue 34

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## The Big Countdown! 11 weeks to get land registered and digital maps submitted

What is the deadline for stages leading to the approval of a BWW contract?

All BWW contracts must be approved by 31st December 2011. To enable the workload to be managed, the deadlines for various stages are set out below. All cases that do not meet these deadlines for each of these stages will be rejected and will not be eligible for resubmission.

Stage	Land registration and CRN	MP Maps submitted for digitisation	MP (FCW) Maps ready for spatial linking	PRL1 Management Plan (required standard) submitted to FCW	DCT Management Plan approved by FCW	APR Management Plan signed by owner & with FCW
Date	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2011	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2011	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2011	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2011	10 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2011

### Land Registration

**All land must be registered with WAG by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011.** This will enable WAG to update the data that FCW receives and ensure that the cross-checks can be made prior to assessing the proposals.

### Claiming Woodland Creation Premium

From this year, anyone wishing to claim an income foregone payment, now known as a Woodland Creation Premium (WCP) under the Glastir Woodland Creation scheme, has to submit a Single Application Form (SAF) in order to claim their Income Foregone Payment.

If an owner doesn't already receive a SAF, they need to request one from their nearest Rural Payment Division office.

## BWW Amendment window for 11/12 claim years and beyond

Please note that the final window for amendments for change of claim years in BWW is 1st April 2011 to 30th September 2011. During this period amendments can be submitted to re-schedule work from 11/12 and any future years that their BWW contract covers.

These amendments can be submitted during this period, although processing may not be carried out until after 30th September 2011 to enable staff to process the remaining BWW management plan submissions. This will be the last opportunity for rescheduling all future claim years.

## Why plant trees on your farm? Mailshot to all farmers

At the beginning of April we arranged for our new booklet '**Why Plant Trees on my farm?**' to be included in the SAF pack which is mailed out to all farmers in Wales. We have received an increased number of enquiries which we hope will generate more business for planners. Copies of the booklet are available to download on [www.forestry.gov.uk/glastirwoodland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/glastirwoodland)

## Are your payee details correct?

Please can you check the BWW cases for which you are agent and make sure that the payee details are correct. I am aware that we have cases where the agent has changed but we are not being notified of any changes to payee details. This means that payment is being sent to the previous payee.

It is the contract holder, claimants and agents responsibility to check that payee details are correct. FCW staff can only make the payment to the payee shown in GLOS as agreed at time of contract approval so you need to let us know if this has changed.

## BWW Felling of Adjacent Coupes

With the closure of BWW and concerns regarding the future of restocking grant, we are receiving a large number of BWW applications that include felling and restocking over the five-year period where the time between felling of adjacent coupes is only a few years.

BWW uses UKFS as the guiding principle on determining whether felling and restocking proposals are acceptable. Before commencing felling, adjacent coupes **must** have attained an average height of at least 2m. This generally means a minimum interval between felling of adjacent areas of 8–15 years in the uplands and 7–15 years in the lowlands (UKFS Standard Note 4).

Even with the use of improved planting stocking it is highly unlikely that an average 2m will be achieved within the plan period. Therefore inclusion of felling of adjacent coupes within BWW will not generally be accepted, and inclusion may cause delays in approving your BWW cases.

## Squirrel Control

Please remember when submitting a claim for squirrel control, you must include the report as specified in the BWW Business Rules. Claims for grant for squirrel control will not be paid without the report. If you leave your claim until the end of the year, you may not have the information to complete the report and risk losing the grant, therefore consider the report and construction in advance. Of particular note is point 3 below, where the report must show that damaging is decreasing.

As a reminded, below is a copy of business rules relating to Squirrel Control.

- **Annual** fixed point monitoring report is required as part of the funding. A number of marked trees to be examined for damage between September and October each year. A report on the number of trees with fresh damage, by plot, must be submitted **annually** to FCW. It would be helpful if the report could be in MS Word format or PDF with photos. All items should be uploaded to the case.
- Where trapping is specified, the numbers of trapped squirrels must be recorded and uploaded to the case either by the applicant/agent or by FCW on behalf of the applicant.
- By the end of year 2 it must be demonstrated that squirrel damage is decreasing or funding may be withdrawn.
- Monitoring is used to assess the success of control programs and influences whether a management plan is to be renewed at the five-year stage. Absence of monitoring data may lead to suspension of grant aid.

## Staff changes

Martyn Potton Technical Services Manager has taken early retirement after 39 years with the Forestry Commission in England, Scotland and Wales.

Woodland Support Officer Liz Watt has been promoted to Woodland Manager in the Coed y Cymoedd Forest District. We wish Martyn and Liz all the best for the future.

Rob Marsh will be joining our Woodland Officer team on a part-time basis to cover Andy Wills' patch. You will all be aware of Rob's expertise in the GLOS system and as a BWW trainer, so we are pleased to welcome him and are confident that he will be able to pick up the reins very quickly.