

Woodland Creation Grant 2012-13

Purpose

1. To update members of the AFG on changes to EWGS Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) for 2012-13

Background

2. WCG is the only grant subject to change in the EWGS suite of grants
3. Changes reflect overall higher payment rates; a consistent national targeting approach and removal of a scoring system.

Main points

4. Scoring is being replaced by accepting all applications that are consistent with UKFS (subject to funding).
5. The base rate for all new woodland creation is being increased by £1000 per ha
6. Applications meeting key priorities will receive an additional £2000 per ha
7. Applications meeting other priorities will receive an additional £1000 per ha
8. Summary of Grant rates

Grant	Broadleaf Rate (per hectare)	Conifer Rate (per hectare)
New woodland delivering key priorities	£4,800 (£2,800 WCG + £2,000 AC)	£4,200 (£2,200 WCG + £2,000 AC)
New woodland delivering other priorities	£3,800 (£2,800 WCG + £1,000 AC)	£3,200 (£2,200 WCG + £1,000 AC)
Other new woodlands meeting UKFS and delivering public benefits	£2,800 WCG	£2,200 WCG

Key Priorities

9. New woodlands offering permissive access – map based on Priority Places for England – or meeting usual criteria (<1ha : 500 people)

10. New Woodlands supporting the Water Framework Directive
 - be located in an identified priority location to alleviate flooding or improve water quality (map based)
 - be designed for flood alleviation and/or water quality improvement
11. New woodlands in one of the 12 Nature Improvement Areas
 - be located in one of the 12 Nature Improvement Areas (map based)
 - be designed and located in a way that complements objectives of the NIA
12. New woodlands for Biodiversity
 - Create, connect or expand native woodlands to 5 ha or greater
13. New woodlands complementing habitat restoration
 - Creating new coniferous woodland where native habitat restoration has been achieved on the same enterprise over the last 5 years
 - The restoration must have been at least one third the size of the new proposed woodland.

Other Priorities

14. New Woodlands near people (as key priority but without permissive access)
15. New Productive woodland
 - Be at least 10 hectares in size or create a contiguous productive area of at least 10 hectares (taking account of existing productive woodland)
 - Comprise productive species
 - Be designed and managed for production
 - Be located such that operational access is reasonable

Opening

16. Week Commencing 28 May 2012

Existing Agreements

17. Where signed contracts are in place, notwithstanding whether the site is yet planted, no revision to rates will be allowed.
18. Where applications have been agreed but not yet signed we will allow revision to the higher rates subject to new conditions being met.
19. To guarantee receipt of Farm Woodland Payments sites will need to have been planted and claimed by 31.12.13. (Ref. changes to RDPE Programme)