



31 May 2012

## Woodland Creation Grant 2012 - open for business!

### Context

Woodland Expansion is a key priority of the Forestry Commission. Grant rates have increased, allowing a maximum of £4,800 per hectare (ha), to provide greater incentive to achieve this. We are also focusing on national priorities to support additional contributions. National priorities respond to issues such as wider eco-system service delivery, public access in priority areas, biodiversity and supporting the rural economy through creating new productive woodlands. In responding to climate change and plant health issues, we are keen to promote the planting of more resilient woodlands by encouraging mixed woodlands with a wider choice of species.

### Eligibility

All applications meeting UKFS will be considered as eligible. Further details on eligibility are provided in this year's [Woodland Creation Grant \(WCG\) Guidance](#).

### Grant rates

The basic planting grant for both

broadleaves and conifers has increased by £1,000 per ha, providing a basic planting rate of £2,800 for broadleaves and £2,200 for conifers per ha. For a summary of grant rates, please refer to the [WCG web page](#).

### Additional contributions

Additional Contributions (ACs) are being provided to support delivery of our key and other priorities. For maps and criteria, please refer to the [WCG Guidance](#). New woodlands delivering Key Priorities will be eligible for an additional £2,000 per ha. New woodlands delivering other priorities will be eligible for an additional £1,000 per ha.

### Key priorities

These priorities relate to the value that trees and woodlands can play in support of: Water Framework Directive (WFD); the aims of Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs); offering permissive access in Priority Places; creating, connecting or expanding native woodlands to 5 ha or more; creating new

conifer woodlands up to 3 times greater than previously restored native habitat.

### Other priorities

These priorities support creating woodlands in Priority Places; and producing new productive woodlands of at least 10 ha.

### Other payments

Where eligible, WCG payments are supported with Farm Woodland Payments and compatible with Single Farm Payments.

### Amendments to existing agreements

We cannot allow existing approved contracts that have not yet been planted to change to the new 2012 rates. We will accept applications for new areas at 2012 rates not currently in an approved agreement.

### Further information

Please refer to the [WCG web page](#) for information about rates, eligibility and how to apply. You can also visit the Forestry Commission stand (G4) at this year's [APF show](#), 13 - 15 September.