



5 March 2013

Grants and Regulations National Email Alert

The end of the Current RDPE round and what it means to you

Grant funding offered through the English Woodland Grant Scheme comes from the EU Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). The current programme finishes on the 31 December 2013. See Operations Note 029, '[EWGS and RDPE Transition](#)' for more information.

DEFRA are currently negotiating on the details of the next programme (due to run from 2014 through to 2020).

To help ensure a smooth handover to the next RDPE programme there is a transitional period between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2015. Depending on when you make a claim (before, during, or after this period) there may be an impact on your scheme.

Some important points to bear in mind:

Current Applications

If you wish to apply for a grant in this RDPE round **it must be**

approved by 31 December 2013. Because we are near the end of the current programme and we have a finite budget, we are expecting a high volume of applications in 2013. You therefore need to get your applications in as soon as possible.

Our Citizens Charter time to process an application is 77 days but this does not allow for any issues with consultations etc.

Stop Press: Woodland Management Grant 2014 – we will be accepting applications up until December 2013 for payment in 2014.

Claim Dates and Scheme Rules
Any scheme where the first claim is received before 31 December 2013 will be subject to the current scheme rules for a further two years up to 31 December 2015.

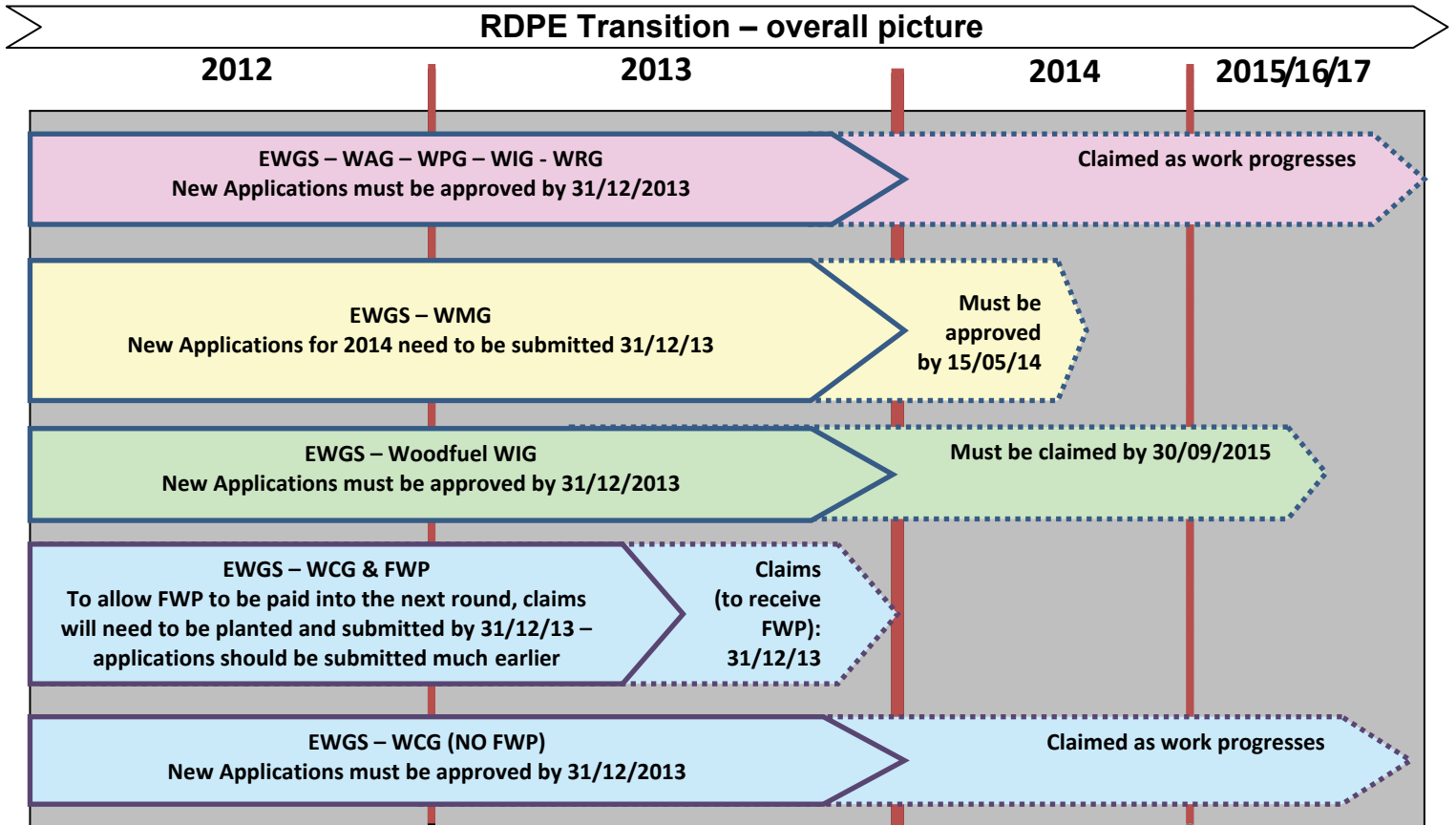
Any scheme (other than WCG) where the first claim is received from 1 January 2014 onwards will be subject to the rules of the new scheme and will, for example, require a management plan.

Any claim in 2016 or beyond will be subject to the new rules (including the need for a management plan regardless of when the first claim is made).

Please note: The situation is changeable but the dates provided above represent the current position. Discussions in Europe are continuing a pace and we expect to be able to provide a further update shortly.

The diagram on the next page provides an overview of the RDPE transition with key dates for submitting applications and claims.

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Felling

An online unlicensed tree felling [web form](#) has been launched that enables suspected unlicensed tree felling to be reported via our web site.

The introduction of this web form is in response to the recommendation made by the Forestry Regulations Task Force that appropriate mechanisms should be developed to ensure members of the public are able to monitor and comment upon potential illegal felling in their local area.

European Protected Species

Training events are currently being organised for agents and owners to raise awareness and provide information on European Protected Species.

The training will be held in late April – May, further information including dates, locations will soon be distributed via local Area teams.

For further information in the meantime contact [Sam Neck](#).