



5 November 2013

## Grants and Regulations National Email Alert

### Delivery Team Workloads

We have received an unprecedented number of England Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) and felling licence applications in recent months – more than double business as usual. Whilst staff are doing their utmost to process them, there will be some delay in moving applications forward. In order to manage this we have provided guidance to staff about prioritisation.

Priorities will be:

- Processing grants in relation to plant health issues and new woodland creation
- Claims processing
- Inspecting illegal felling
- Approving management plans especially in relation to the Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant (WWIG).

We anticipate that this increased workload will continue for the next 2-3 months and apologise for any problems this may create. Please discuss any significant problems with your local field or admin teams.

### Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)

#### Consultation

A forestry sector workshop covering the details of the proposed forestry components of the new environmental land management and the farming and forestry productivity schemes is being held in central Birmingham on 14 November.

### Transition

For the latest update on RDPE transition please see [Operations Note 29](#).

Whilst we are working on the assumption of being open for a number of grant types in 2014 and are continuing to accept applications – applicants need to bear in mind that, until we have final DEFRA confirmation, there are currently no guarantees that we will be able to formally approve contracts in 2014.

### Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant (WWIG)

We continue to encourage all woodland owners and agents to take a look at the [WWIG](#) to support putting forest roads into woodlands.

### Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) now closed to new applications

With effect from the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013 we stopped accepting applications for Woodland Creation Grants. Under RDPE regulations we have to approve any applications by the 31 December 2013, and would therefore be unable to process new applications by this time.





5 November 2013

### Felling Licences

Please note that the transitional arrangements for RDPE have no bearing on Felling Licences which will continue to be processed as usual into the future.

### Good for your wood

The Forestry Commission have put together a document to celebrate what has been achieved from RDPE investment during the last seven years, and to highlight the benefits of it into woodlands. A copy of this document can be found [here](#).

### Management Plans

In response to the Forestry Regulation Task Force the Forestry Commission has worked with the wider sector to develop new management plan templates. We are currently completing a pilot exercise with the new templates with a range of customers across England. We aim to launch the new templates at a number of events across England through January and February 2014.

### EU Timber Regulations

In advance of the new management plan templates launching in 2014 the [current template](#) has been revised to support introduction of the EU Timber Regulations.

If you are currently working on a Woodland Management Plan we advise you to use this current version of the template to ensure your felling permission meets the new regulations.

Information on the EU timber regulations is available [online](#).

### Operational Site Assessment Checklist

During the recent European Protected Species (EPS) events a number of requests were made for the Forestry Commission to produce a checklist when planning harvesting sites. In response to this we have produced a short checklist and guide available on the [EPS web page](#) under related documents.

The checklist doesn't just cover EPS but a host of other factors you may wish to take into consideration also. Note that the aim of the list is to help you manage your operations within the law but it is not a legal requirement and the Forestry Commission do not wish to see it when completed. The guide explains it's concept and use in more detail.