



09 January 2014

Grants and Regulations National Email Alert

Woodland Creation - a way ahead for grant support for the next two planting seasons

The Secretary of State, Owen Paterson, has made an important announcement today (9 January 2013) on [woodland planting](#).

This welcome announcement is set against the following context:

- 3,240ha of applications have been approved for 2013/14;
- We received around 2,900ha of applications for 2014/15;
- 2,350ha has been approved for 2014/15;
- We still have 200ha of applications in progress (not withdrawn or rejected).

In summary the announcement means:

- We will continue to process and approve the small number of outstanding woodland creation applications.
- We will take stock in April of the need to offer a further window for applications to ensure we achieve the desired target of 2,000ha of planting in 2014/15. Experience tells us that around 35% of approved schemes either do not take place or are deferred to a later year (e.g. due to bad weather during the planting season). Therefore, we will be unable to establish a final picture for 2014/15 until April. **It is important that applicants notify us promptly if they intend to abandon, or wish to amend the claim year of, approved schemes.** This will allow us to make maximum use of the

funds available.

- We will open an application window for new woodland creation applications for the 2015/16 season in early 2015, when the new programme has been approved.

Applicants are reminded that in order to receive farm woodland payments that we need to receive your claim for 1st instalment of woodland creation grant by 30 September 2015.

It is unlikely the next programme will accept re-submissions of previously approved schemes. Therefore applicants with approved schemes should ensure they complete work by the end of the 2014/15 planting season.

Thank you to applicants who co-operated with our staff in dealing with a high volume of applications in 2013.

Summary of other EWGS Grants:

WIG, WRG, WAG, WPG, WWIG:

We will continue to accept applications into 2014 whilst we still have available budget.

WMG:

Now closed to any new applications
The situation is summarised in the following diagram.

For further information please see Defra's press release: [Four million trees to be planted next year](#), and [Operations Note 29: EWGS and RDPE Transition](#)



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RDPE Transition – overall picture v7

