



10 March 2014

Grants and Regulations National Email Alert

Update on Grant Availability

As we enter the end of the current Rural Development Programme and in line with the unprecedented peak in business activity in 2013, this e-alert sets out how budgetary limitations and rules of the new programme are impacting on availability and criteria applied to certain grant types.

For full and complete details on how your existing, pipeline or new England Woodland Grant Scheme agreement may be affected please read [Operations Note 29](#).

Woodland Management Grant

Now closed to new business.

Woodland Improvement Grants (WIGs)

Woodfuel WIG : Currently open for 14/15 and 15/16 claim years.

Public Access WIG's: now closed for new applications.

Other WIG's

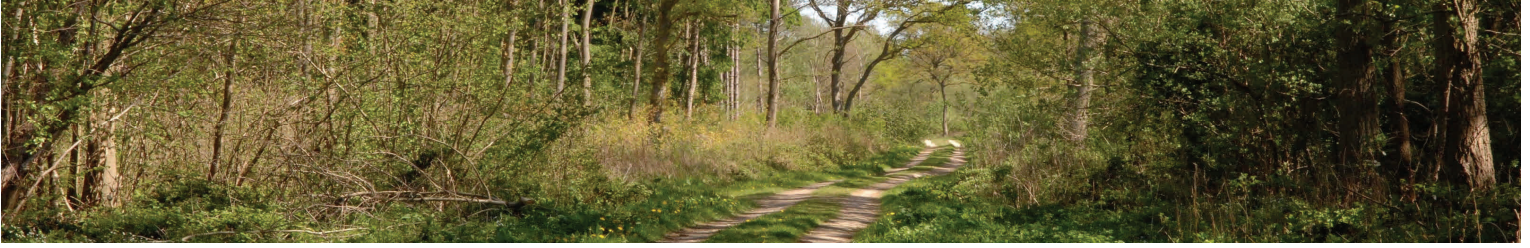
- 14/15 claim year only available for Plant Health issues;
- 15/16 claim year open but with in-year claim deadlines – new programme ineligible activities to be claimed by 30 September 2015; new programme eligible items to be claimed by 31 March 2016 (see [Operations Note 29](#) for details and lists of eligible and ineligible items);
- 16/17 claim year not available for new business;
- Applications received by 10 March 2014 will continue to be processed but we will require non plant health 14/15 unapproved applications to move to 15/16.

Woodland Regeneration Grant (WRG)

- 14/15 claim year only available for restocking in response to Plant Health issues;
- 15/16 claim year only available for restocking in response to Plant Health issues;
- 16/17 claim year not available for new business;
- Applications received by 10 March 2014 will continue to be processed but we will require non plant health 14/15 unapproved applications to move to 15/16.

Woodland Creation Grant (WCG)

- Currently closed for new 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.



10 March 2014

Farm Woodland Payments (FWP)

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.

Woodland Planning Grant (WPG)

Currently open for 14/15 and 15/16 claim years.

Management Plans

- All funding for existing woodlands under the next Rural Development Programme will be dependent on having in place a Forestry Commission (FC) approved management plan;
- FC approved management plans will be required to support first claims for WRG and WIG's after the 1 April 2015;
- FC approved management plans will be required to support any WRG/WIG claim from the 1 January 2016.

2013-14 Current Year Claims

- **It is important that current year claims are received by 31 March 2014;**
- Request to reschedule from 13/14 can only be accommodated in 14/15 if they are for WCG, WPG or plant health related;
- Those claims not received on time may not be allowed.

