



**Wednesday 4 April 2012**

## Grants and Regulations National Email Alert

### Woodland Creation Grant 2012 round

Here is advance notice of the rules and payment rates for the 2012 woodland creation round, where there are significant changes. Full guidance will be available in May, at which point we will be open for applications under the 2012 rules / rates.



### Increased payment rates – up to £4,800 per hectare

The basic planting rate will rise by a thousand pounds for broadleaves and conifers to £2,800/ha and £2,200/ha respectively

New woodland that deliver key national priorities will receive £4,800/ha for broadleaves and £4,200/ha for conifers

New broadleaved woodland delivering other priorities will receive £3,800/ha, conifers £3,200/ha

Farm Woodland Payment rates remain the same, and remember that if you are eligible for Single Payment Scheme on the land to be planted, you can continue to claim SPS as well as Farm Woodland Payments.

### One national set of eligibility and payment rate criteria

The regional rules and payment rates have been replaced with a national framework, so now there is one guidance booklet for England and no score forms to complete. FC staff will continue to promote the scheme in a way that reflects local priorities, for example specific water catchment areas, to appeal to landowners.

### Woodland Creation Priorities for 2012

Base rate woodland creation (attracting £2,800/ha broadleaf, £2,200 conifer):

- Must meet the rules of the scheme, UK Forestry Standard and good practice guidelines

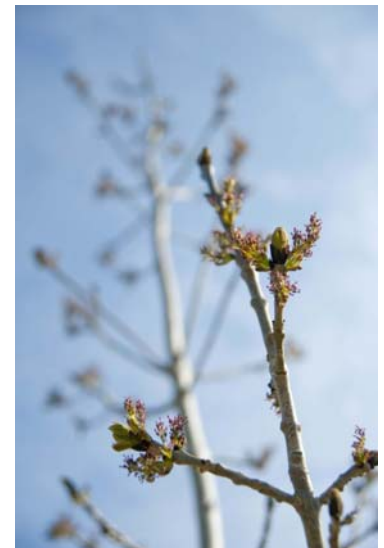
£1000 Additional Contribution (hence a total of up to £3,800/ha) for priority woodland:

- In Priority Places for England (PPE) and/or

- Creating at least 10 hectares of new woodland designed for productivity

£2000 Additional Contribution (hence a total of up to £4,800/ha) for key priority woodland:

- ⇒ delivering the Water Framework Directive, and/or
- ⇒ offering public access where there is a demand, and/or
- ⇒ for biodiversity, creating at least 5ha of native woodland habitat and/or in Nature Improvement Areas, and/or
- ⇒ complementing other habitat restoration e.g. PAWS restoration





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### Woodland design and management

The 2012 round strongly encourages the location and design of woodland to maximise resilience; this will help its ability to adapt to climate change and future pests/diseases. This may include the use of non-native species, where appropriate to the site and management objectives. In addition, thought should be given to provenance, so the tree can not only establish in future conditions, but also maximise productive potential where appropriate.



We are keen to see applications for the creation of larger blocks of woodland, because they are more resilient, offer greater productive opportunities and deliver more public benefits than some smaller woodlands.

For 2012 we will allow lower density woodland creation, where appropriate to the site and management objectives, on upland sites, ghyll/gill woodland and other marginal habitat. Additional Contributions will normally be available too.

### Farm Woodland Payments (FWP)

Due to likely changes in EU regulations from 2014, we can only offer FWP to applications for new woodlands that are planted and claimed by 31 December 2013.

Woodland planted after that will still be eligible for the planting grants and additional contributions, but we cannot offer FWP.

### Amendments to existing approved contracts

We cannot allow existing approved contracts that have not yet been

planted to change to the new 2012 rates. However, we will accept applications for new areas at 2012 rates that are not in a currently approved contract.

We hope that these changes will encourage the creation of more, larger woodlands. In addition, simplification of the application process and greater flexibility of woodland design should attract more applicants.

Full details about the 2012 Woodland Creation Grant round will be published in May.

### Further information

- [Woodland Creation Grant web page](#) (note that new rules and rates will be published in May)
- You can also get funding to manage woodland for woodfuel and timber products. Find out more on our [Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant web page](#)

