



## Grants & Regulations news

Protecting, expanding and improving England's woodlands

This month find out what to do if you have been affected by this summer's drought, watch our customer webinar on the Woodland Creation year round application window and read about our new Felling Licence Online service (a new way to apply for, track and print approved felling licences online), which is coming soon.

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### Summer drought 2018: Extraordinary Payments for Restocking in Exceptional Circumstances (EPREC)

Find out what to do if you have been affected

In our [eAlert on 2 August 2018](#) we drew your attention to RPA's guidance on [how to deal with any difficulties](#) with your BPS, ES, CS and legacy woodland schemes due to this summer's dry weather. At that time we were also looking at how we could support agreement holders facing significant losses of newly planted trees. Working closely with RPA and in particular Countryside Stewardship (CS) Delivery Services we are now able to offer a new grant to support the restocking (beating up) of trees planted last winter under CS and Woodland Carbon Fund (WCF) agreements.

The Extraordinary Payments for Restocking in Exceptional Circumstances (EPREC) will pay a standard cost of supplying and planting trees (£1.28 per tree) lost due to this summer's exceptionally hot and dry weather. The EPREC agreements will sit along-side the existing CS / WCF agreement and the payment is to help you ensure the outputs of the existing agreement are met.

Today we will be writing to agreement holders who may be eligible for EPREC. This letter explains more about the grant and how to make an application. If you are an Agent, please note we have written to agreement holders. Eligibility is limited to those who have:

- a CS woodland creation, CS woodland tree health restoration or WCF agreement
- submitted at least one claim for planting against that agreement since October 2017
- completed a beat-up survey which shows at least 25% of the trees planted last winter have failed

Please note: Agreement holders will need to cover losses up to 15% of the trees planted themselves.

EPREC support is only available for trees planted last winter. This is to focus help on the agreement land with the youngest trees (those most at risk to harm from this summer's drought). If you believe you are eligible according to the above conditions and do not hear from us, please email us with details of your case at [EPREC@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:EPREC@forestry.gsi.gov.uk).

Your woodland officer will need to confirm at an after care visit the losses are not due to other causes. Your woodland officer will also help you complete your application annex (the technical detail of the number and tree species you will use for restocking) for EPREC.

It is important to note that the EPREC does not require nor replace the force majeure process. If you feel you need to give notice of force majeure the advice in our [eAlert of 2 August 2018](#) stands and we recommend you undertake a beat up survey as soon as possible.

For more information about EPREC please contact: [EPREC@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:EPREC@forestry.gsi.gov.uk).

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## **Woodland Creation Grant Re-Opening – Webinar and EU Exit**

On the 2 October we ran a short webinar to run through the reopening of the Woodland Creation Grant and the change to allow applications to be made at any time of the year. Please view our webinar below.

In the webinar we also talk about EU Exit, confirming that the UK government has guaranteed any Woodland Creation Grant agreements entered into before the end of 2020 will be honoured whether or not a deal is reached with the EU – for Woodland Creation Grant this would also include any associated Woodland Creation Maintenance grant. More recently the government have communicated that Countryside Stewardship will remain at least until future the environmental land management scheme is fully up and running in 2025, with the last CS agreements offered in 2024. We will continue to use eAlerts to inform customers of any updates on the impact of EU Exit on forestry incentives offers.

You can find information on how to apply for the Woodland Creation Grant on our [GOV.UK Woodland Support page](#) and following the links to woodland creation.



- Capital Grants for creation of new woodland which contribute to local biodiversity and water objectives. Cross-cutting objectives (climate change and landscape scale partnerships) also score points.
- Payments capped at an average of £6,800 per hectare.
- This payment cap excludes the grants for FY2 – woodland infrastructure and leaky woodlands (RP32 and RP33).
- You need to follow the specifications for capital items.



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View our customer webinar on the woodland creation year round application window

## Felling Licence Online is launching soon

Keep up to date on the latest announcements via the eAlert

We will soon be launching a new Felling Licence Online service, which will allow you to apply for, track and print approved felling licences wherever you are.

This is an exciting development as it allows you online access to applications in progress, offering greater customer visibility of the process and allowing customers to access their applications wherever they choose.

Look out for detailed support guidance that will be provided on via our eAlert and [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

**If you have any questions, please contact us:**

Email: [GRNationalTeam@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:GRNationalTeam@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-grants>

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