



Grants & Regulations news

Protecting, expanding and improving England's woodlands

This month, find out what woodland support is available through Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier. Woodland Creation is still open for applications.

Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier is open for applications

You can now request an application pack and make an application

Grants are available for Woodland Improvement and Capital Items through Countryside Stewardship's Higher Tier.

The [Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier Manual 2018](#) has now been published on GOV.UK

Through Higher Tier you can apply for Woodland Improvement grant (WD2) for annual payments of £100 per year for work in woodland to improve its' biodiversity and/or make it more resilient to climate change. You can also apply for a range of capital items, ranging from: forest roading (FY2) (40% of actual costs covered), stock and deer fencing, wildlife boxes, rhododendron and bracken control to leaky woody dams (80% of standard costs covered). A change this year means you can also now for wall top netting (BN13) on its own.

The application process has not changed but please note the important dates for 2018 below:

- **15 January - 9 March 2018** - window to request a Higher Tier application pack from Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Delivery Services (formerly Technical Services), see [Annex 9 of the Higher Tier Manual 2018](#)
- **13 April 2018** - Deadline to submit your initial application
- **Early June** – You'll know if your initial application was successful or not following our scoring of initial applications
- **31 August 2018** – We have completed any negotiations with you to create your final application
- **Mid September** – Confirmation letter and negotiation schedule issued to you
- **30 September 2018** – You confirm if you wish to proceed to formal offer and supply any outstanding evidence to Countryside Stewardship Delivery

Services

- **Early October** – We score the final applications for woodland support
- **October to November** – Agreements offered to start 1 January 2019

Request your application pack as early as possible so that you have the maximum time to prepare your application. Submitting your initial application early will also help us prepare for the scoring of initial applications.



Join our webinar on Woodland Support via CS Higher Tier

Join us on Friday 19 January 2018 at 1:00pm, to hear more about what support is available and how to apply. To hear more about what support is available and how to apply.

[Register here to join.](#)

Changes to Natural England's Technical Services Countryside Stewardship Delivery Services

Changes to Natural England's Technical Services mean that its processing of Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier applications has been brought together into three offices at Crewe, Nottingham and Reading. [Annex 9 of the Higher Tier Manual](#) contains information on where to send your applications this year.

As part of these changes Technical Services has been renamed Countryside Stewardship Delivery Services.

Any recently submitted applications for another grant type such as Woodland Creation, Woodland Tree Health or Woodland Management Plan it will be redirected to the correct office.

You can still apply for Countryside Stewardship's Woodland Creation Grant

Open for submissions until 16 February

We are receiving applications for Woodland Creation grant under CS. If you are considering an application you can apply until the 16 February. For more information and to download your application form please see the Woodland Support page on [GOV.UK](#).

Useful hints and tips for creation 2018

We have also published some useful [hints and tips](#) to help you with your Woodland Creation Grant application over the next few weeks.

Requesting application maps

To support your application you can still request a map from Natural England. This is not mandatory – you can prepare your own maps following the guidance and exemplars in the [How to guide](#) but any map requests you make must be before 31 January to guarantee you'll have the map in time for the application deadline.

To request a map for your application contact Natural England's Transaction Hub in Crewe:

Natural England, PO Box 380, Crewe, CW1 6YH

Tel: 0208 026 1805

Email: ts.crewe@naturalengland.org.uk

Forestry Innovation Fund, Research and Development Grant open today

A new part of the Forestry Innovation Fund is available from today (Monday 15 January 2018). The aim is to encourage and broaden innovation in forestry in England, from woodland planning to manufacture and use of wood products; it will support forestry related research and development projects.

Projects should target opportunities for significant improvement in productivity and in cutting-edge innovation with substantial potential for encouraging growth in the forestry sector in England.

Up to six projects will be supported to a maximum grant value of £50,000 each. For more details of the application process please see our new [webpage](#).

If you have any questions, please contact us:

Email: GRNationalTeam@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

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

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