

Grants & Regulations news

Protecting, expanding and improving England's woodlands

This month, keep up-to-date with when Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation and Higher Tier Woodland Improvement close. Watch our webinars to get more information.

Countryside Stewardship

Woodland Creation application window closes soon Application deadline Friday 16 February

The application window for Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Grant closes next Friday 16 February. If you are interested in applying for grant support, you must submit a completed <u>application form</u>, <u>annex 2</u>, application map and any supporting documents listed in the <u>Woodland Creation Grant 2018 manual</u> by the submission deadline.

If you have any outstanding concerns regarding your application please speak with your local <u>Woodland Officer</u> as soon as possible.

Woodland Creation Maintenance

Join us for an applicant webinar to find out more

Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation agreement holders may be eligible to apply for a 10 year Higher Tier Woodland Creation Maintenance Payments (WD1) agreement. More information on this multi-annual grant can be found on <u>GOV.UK</u> and in Chapter 8 of the 2018 <u>Woodland Creation grant manual</u>.

<u>Register to join our webinar</u> at 1.30pm on Thursday 1 March 2018, to find out about the application process.

Higher Tier Woodland Improvement

Request your pack and submit your application

Are you thinking of applying for Higher Tier Woodland Improvement grant? If so then you must request your application pack by Friday 9 March. All applications must be

returned to Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Delivery Services by midnight on Friday 13 April.

Contact information for the Countryside Stewardship Delivery Services can be found in Annex 9 of the <u>Higher Tier grant manual</u>.

Countryside Productivity Forestry Grants

Open for applications until 3 April 2018

If you are planning a project that will improve productivity, help grow your forestry business, create jobs or bring more money into the rural economy, then you might be able to apply for a grant to help you fund it.

The RDPE Countryside Productivity Scheme provides funding for projects in England which improve productivity in the farming and forestry sectors and help create jobs and growth in the rural economy.

These grants are to improve forestry productivity through felling, extraction and adding value by primary processing of timber products. Grant funding can help pay for:

- increasing economic return through more efficient felling and extraction processes
- adding value to felled timber by primary processing

The grants are for a minimum of £35,000. Grants can cover up to 40% of the eligible costs of a project. If the minimum grant is £35,000, the minimum total eligible cost of a project would therefore be £87,500.

The grant funding is available to private forest holders managing at least 10 ha of forest and micro, small, or medium-sized forestry contractor businesses.

The scheme is open for applications until 3 April 2018. For more information visit GOV.UK.

The Santon Downham Administrative Hub is closing Administrative work is moving, Woodland Officers and area team remain

The East and East Midlands Area Team (including Woodland Officers) is not changing. The Services previously provided by the Admin Hub have moved to the Bucks Horn Oak Admin Hub in Surrey. If you have any queries on existing legacy grants or regulations please contact them using the details below and they will be happy to assist you.

Bucks Horn Oak Admin Hub

Farnham Surrey GU10 4LS

Tel: 0300 067 4420 Email: <u>Adminhub.buckshornoak@forestry.gsi.gov.uk</u>

Your Felling Licence may look different

We are making some changes but you do not need to do anything

We are making some changes to our internal Felling Licence processing system, this means that the Felling Licences that we send out to you will look slightly different. There nothing for you to do and the changes are purely visual. If you have any concerns please contact your <u>Woodland Officer</u>.

If you have any questions, please contact us:

Email: GRNationalTeam@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

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

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