



## Grants & Regulations news

Protecting, expanding and improving England's woodlands

The Woodland Management Plan documents have now been updated. In this month's eAlert, find out where you can get the latest documents and how to apply the EIA forestry regulations. Plus, if you'd like to make a Woodland Carbon Fund application you can find out how to get started below. Last but not least, we have some great events in tree health and woodland creation coming up soon - why not secure your place today?

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### Woodland Management Plan documents updated

#### What have we changed and why have we done it?

**[Full woodland management plan template:](#)** The Forestry Commissions full woodland management plan template has been updated to take account of the introduction (later in 2018) of the Service Standard for review of woodland management plans. The changes made apply to the front cover and UKFS criteria against which a plan is assessed, and the FCs review pages at the rear. Some minor internal template content has been changed to reflect the 2017 UKFS update.

**[Non-FC woodland plan template cover sheet:](#)** Additionally, a cover sheet has been published to support unfunded woodland management plans that are produced on non-FC templates. This cover sheet states the UKFS criteria against which a plan is assessed and should be completed and submitted with a non-FC template when a woodland management plan is submitted for review.

**[Inventory and Plan of Operations:](#)** An updated Inventory and Plan of Operations worksheet has been developed to help eliminate input errors which are known to cause delays to the review and approval of woodland management plans. The new worksheet contains a number of formulas that highlight missing or incorrect information, so that corrections can be made before submitting a draft plan to the FC. Some other minor changes have also been made to the structure of the Inventory and Plan of Operations in readiness for the introduction of Felling licence Online, as demonstrated during the ICF/FC UK Forestry Standard – Woodland Management plan events in November 2017. However, adding formulas to the worksheet does cause the plan author some restrictions compared to completing the previous version of the Inventory worksheet, so to accommodate those regular plan authors, a [non-formula version](#) is also available from the FC webpage.

As an alternative to these documents, the [myForest](#) woodland management plan template is being updated to match the FC template, and can be used for any size of woodland and is suitable for submission under the Countryside Stewardship capital item PA3 Woodland management plan.

## **Applying the Environmental Impact Assessment forestry regulations**

**Would you like to learn more about how to apply the EIA forestry regulations? Watch our webinar to guide you through**

We hosted two webinars on preparing a forestry project for determination under the updated (2017) EIA forestry Regulations on 1 February. A recording of the 'Applying the EIA forestry Regulations' webinar can be found [here](#), along with a copy of the slides and notes.

## **Woodland Creation Planning Grant and Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation applications**

**If you have submitted a Countryside Stewardship application and you have a [Woodland Creation Planning Grant \(WCPG\)](#) stage 2 offer, you must have this approved by the 31 May in order to be able to claim your stage 2 payment for WCPG.**

Any new WCPG applications received now will not be compatible with Countryside Stewardship 2018. Please see the [Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation 2018 manual](#) for further information.

## **First Woodland Carbon Fund application approved**

**We are pleased to have approved our First Woodland Carbon Fund application at Doddington North Moor.**

This scheme will see the planting of 315,000 trees due to begin next month. Funding is still available and applications are open, please see our [website](#) for more information and application forms.

## **Creation application window closes tomorrow**

**If you have an application that you were going to submit please be aware that this needs to be submitted tomorrow.**

If you are interested in applying for grant support, you must submit a completed [application form](#), [annex 2](#), application map and any supporting documents listed in the [Woodland Creation Grant 2018 manual](#) by the submission deadline.

Send completed applications to:  
Natural England Technical Services, PO Box 380, Crewe, CW1 6YH  
Tel: 0208 026 1805

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## Upcoming events for your diary

We'll post information here on events we're running around the country, along with details of how to sign up.

- [Tree Health Update Event](#), 19 February - Nantwich, Cheshire
- [Woodland Creation: Growing For The Market](#), 28 February - Hexham

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## 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 [GOV.UK](#) and in Chapter 8 of the 2018 [Woodland Creation grant manual](#).

[Register to join our webinar](#) 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 [Higher Tier grant manual](#).

**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->

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