



## Grants & Regulations news

Protecting, expanding and improving England's woodlands

This month, read about the opening date for Countryside Stewardship 2020 (Higher Tier), check to see if you have capital works to complete and claim for, and look at our new public registers.

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### Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier opening

#### Get ready to apply for CS 2020

We are pleased to let you know that from 18 February 2019 Countryside Stewardship (CS) Higher Tier will be open for applications, see our [Woodland Support page on GOV.UK](#) to see the Higher Tier manual and find details of how to request your pack. You have until 31 March to request your pack. You must submit your completed application pack by 3 May 2019 when the Higher Tier window closes.

- request your CS HT packs from 18 February 2019
- request your pack by 31 March 2019
- return your completed application by 3 May 2019

Grants for woodland creation, woodland tree health and woodland management plans remain open for applications all year.

#### What's new for this year?

This year RPA have changed the requirement on applicants to provide evidence to support their application. This year applicants will be asked to retain the existing level of evidence, but not to send it to RPA unless specifically requested. This evidence will need to be available for any admin checks or queries, or to be checked during any inspection. The revised requirements will be set out in the Grant finder tool and the customer manuals.

RPA has also looked to remove duplication and considered opportunities to reduce the amount of times evidence may be requested for different schemes - only requesting if it is not already held.

For any queries on the CS application process or about existing agreements or payments please contact:

## Defra Rural Services Helpline

Tel: 03000 200 301

Email: [ruralpayments@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ruralpayments@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

All CS agreements will be funded for their full lifetime so are a viable income stream for land managers also producing private goods for the market, such as food or timber, whether there's a deal with the EU or not.

### [CS timetable 2020](#)

The RPA published a [blog](#) containing all of the scheme dates for Countryside Stewardship (CS), Environmental Stewardship (ES) and Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), please read and [subscribe to their blog](#) to find out more.

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## Do you have a Countryside Stewardship capital grant agreement?

### Reminder – is it time to submit your claim?

If you have a CS capital grant agreement you have two years to complete the work from the date your agreement was approved. You then have a further three months to make your claim. Please check your agreements to see if you have any work outstanding and make sure you claim in time.

Each claim must be for a minimum of £500 unless it is the final claim and the remaining value is less than £500. For information on how to claim please see:

- for [CS Capital Grant grants agreements issued by the Forestry Commission](#)
- for [CS Capital Grant grants administered by RPA's CS Delivery Services](#) read how to claim your grant online or request a claim form

Please remember that if you are claiming for your Woodland Management Plan (CS option PA3) to only claim once your plan has been approved by the Forestry Commission.

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## Our public registers have been updated

From the 6 February 2019 you can access our two new public registers via the GOV.UK guide [Consultation and the public registers](#):

- Consultation Register for Grant Schemes, Felling and EIA applications
- Decision Register for Grant Schemes, Felling and EIA decisions

For a short period (whilst existing cases are being consulted on) the old Public Registers will still be available. This is all set out in our guide.

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

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