

Appendix 7: Change Log

Purpose

This document is an Appendix to the [England Woodland Creation Offer \(EWCO\) Grant Manual](#). It outlines the revisions to the grant manual prior to the current version.

Change log

Version	Publication Date	Key Changes
4.1	27 March 2025	Section 1.1 - Updates to grant information Section 4.3.4 - Fencing guidelines added for riparian buffers Appendix 1: Standard cost for post and wire fencing updated (can be partially replaced with post and rail) Appendix 2: Fencing guidelines added for Riparian Buffers
4.0	6 November 2024	Section 2.4 - Ips typographus is not funded
3.9	8 October 2024	Section 3.5: Business viability guidance updated to 1 month bank/saving statement required Section 4.2.1: Information added regarding spruce and Ips typographus
3.8	18 July 2024	Section 3.2.8 Updated to replace Basic Payment Scheme with - delinked payments Section 3.5 Business viability guidance updated Section 7.7 Force majeure updated to allow 40 working days to invoke
3.7	18 March 2024	Section 2.2 Addition of the Low Sensitivity Land Payment Section 4.3 Updated Additional Contribution rates, added the Premium Rate for the Nature Recovery Additional Contribution and added the Low Sensitivity Land Payment Section 4.3.6 Clarification on private finance and Additional Contribution payments Section 4.2.1 Addition of an example of perimeter open space allowance Section 7.2 Clarification on work undertaken prior to Grant Offer amendments accepted 7.3.1 Claim payment timeframes: Clarification added on outstanding claims and amendments Appendix 2: Woodland design to reduce flood risk –the maximum percentage woody shrubs and small trees increased to 30%, to align with other EWCO guidance
3.6	29 February 2024	Section 3.3. Guidance updated on how to adjust RPA land parcel boundaries

		<p>Section 4.1. Public Register consultation timeframe adjusted from 28 to 21 days</p> <p>Section 4.9.1. New guidance on Woodland Creation Fast Track added</p> <p>Section 7.3. Clarifications on submitting multiple claims for capital work and how Additional Contributions and annual Maintenance are paid</p>
3.5	12 December 2023	Section 3.3.2. Applications on land currently in Countryside Stewardship (CS): land can now move to EWCO without repayments where conditions are met
3.4	01 November 2023	<p>Whole document: Capital Funding Period extended from 2 years to 3 years and Annual Maintenance Payments extended from 10 to 15 years</p> <p>7.3.1 Claim payment timeframes: Clarification added on outstanding claims and amendments</p> <p>Appendix 2: Woodland design to reduce flood risk –the maximum percentage woody shrubs and small trees increased to 30%, to align with other EWCO guidance</p>
3.3	12 July 2023	<p>Whole document: updated terminology for the Application Form</p> <p>2.1 Terminology changed for biosecure procurement requirement exceptions and updated link to new form</p> <p>3.2.2 Updated to include Supporting Tenant to Landlord Successions Pilot</p> <p>4.3.4 Updated to expand support for red squirrel in Nature Recovery and Scots pine in Riparian Buffer Additional Contributions</p> <p>4.4 Clarifications around natural colonisation</p> <p>7.1.2 Addition of Agreement amendments process</p> <p>7.1.3 Addition of Changes of ownership (succession) and management control process</p> <p>Appendix 1: New standard cost items added; expansion to eligibility for drinking water for livestock items</p> <p>Appendix 2: Additional design guidance for flood risk mitigation and riparian buffers</p> <p>Appendix 5: Addition of background paragraph and minor edits to style</p> <p>Appendix 6: New appendix on guidance to support amendments and changes in management control and ownership</p> <p>Appendix 7: Change Log moved from Appendix 6 to 7</p> <p>All appendices: aligned version number with the main document</p>
3.2	30 May 2023	<p>1.1 Provision added for HS2-funded EWCO agreements within Phase 1 buffer zone</p> <p>2.1 Clarification of Grant Recipient responsibilities with regards to Biosecure Procurement Pilot</p> <p>3.5 Business viability and due diligence: clarification of FC position</p>

		<p>4.3.3 Payments towards actual costs of infrastructure: Minimum access standards replaced with Outdoors Accessibility Guidance</p> <p>7.1.1 Agreement duration: update on transfer into future environmental schemes</p> <p>7.2 Making claims: clarification of the Biosecure Procurement information requirement</p>
3.1	31 January 2023	<p>Whole document: Footnotes removed and added to main body of text</p> <p>2.2.1 Capital element of the EWCO agreement: updated the standard cost voluntary flexible cap</p> <p>2.2.1 Capital element of the EWCO agreement: updated the standard costs cap</p> <p>3.2.1 Tenants: Link added to Tenancy Reform Industry Group (TRIG) guidance on Tree Planting and Woodland Creation on Agricultural Tenancies</p> <p>3.5 Business Viability test: table of evidence requirements added</p> <p>4.1 Preparing a woodland creation plan: table of survey periods added</p> <p>4.2.2 Lesser-known species: new section added with information regarding the use of lesser-known species</p> <p>4.3.2 Annual Maintenance Payments: clarification on deadline for final capital claims and updated the maintenance rate</p> <p>4.3.3 Payments towards actual costs of infrastructure: guidance added on VAT</p> <p>4.3.4 Additional Contributions: clarification on inclusion of non-native species for Nature Recovery; clarification on requirements for Recreational Access; Flood Risk renamed 'Flood Risk Management'; clarification on field drains for Riparian Buffers</p> <p>7.2 Making claims: clarification on the minimum claim value</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Standard Cost Items: payment rates updated. New Standard Cost Item 'deer high seat supplement (free-standing)' added. Guidance added on the use of biodegradable tree shelters</p>
3.0	22 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2.1 Tree supply and biosecurity: Additional guidance added in line with the Biosecure Procurement Requirement Pilot. - 4.2.1 Planting area, stocking and species: Additional guidance added on open space and water bodies - 4.2.2 UKFS compliance and biosecurity - 4.3.4 Additional Contributions: updates to eligibility requirements and clarification that assessed at compartment level

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4.3.5 – Link to further information on combining EWCO with Private Finance for ecosystem services - 6.3 Minimum mapping standards: Additional requirement to display different planting prescriptions - Appendix 1: Standard cost items: Additional items for Provision of drinking water for stock added - Appendix 2: Design Guide: Additional guidance on Riparian Buffers - Appendix 6: Change Log: Moved from main Grant Manual to appendix for all previous versions
2.4	26 May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes to the evidence requirements to support claims for standard costs capital items - Clarification claimants will be notified as soon as possible once a claim is selected for inspection - Correction of minor typos
2.3	28 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3.5 Business viability test: additional guidance for accounting letters in the case of multiple applications - 5.1 Register with the Rural Payments Service: additional guidance added at 5.1.1 on being fully verified - 6.3 Minimum mapping standards: additional requirements added - 7.2 Making Claims: further guidance on evidence requirements - 7.2.1 Claim payment timeframes: new section providing information
2.2	12 January 2022	<p>Updates to:</p> <p>Annual Maintenance Payments rate increased from £200 to £300 per hectare.</p>
2.1	14 December 2021	<p>Updates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extend the Grant Funding Period for Capital Payments to two years, with the addition of a three-month final claim window. - Set minimum claim value of £5,000 unless final claim. - Clarify the position on the use of Paulownia species. - Add details to the requirements for Additional Contributions - Rename the spatial layers used to target the EWCO Flood Risk Additional Contribution. - Clarify requirement that maps must include a six-figure grid reference. <p>Clarify eligibility for landlords to apply after a dispute.</p>
2.0	22 September 2021	<p>Updates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirm land in Environmental Stewardship can move to EWCO without repayments where conditions are met. - For applications over £50k letters from accountants must be from within three months of the application, and that we may also ask for to see accounts for one or more applications that have a value over £500k. - EWCO layer names in the Land Information Search.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation the grant will not pay for planting trees on land which is considered an existing woodland. - Redefining 'untrials species; to 'species whose performance, potential for invasiveness and susceptibility to known plant health issues when grown in England is currently not proven.' <p>Requirements for integral woodland open space.</p>
1.3	21 July 2021	<p>Updates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarify the inclusion of untrials species. <p>Confirm that wet signatures and Qualified Electronic Signatures (QES) will be accepted for the Agreement offer.</p>
1.2	7 July 2021	<p>Updates to confirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planting cricket bat willow is not eligible. - Land that is currently managed as Short Rotation Coppice or Short Rotation Forestry is not eligible. <p>The proportion of woody shrubs we will accept in an application.</p>
1.1	16 June 2021	<p>Updates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirm the Grant Funding Period for current applications (work must be completed and claimed by 31 March 2023) and define the Grant Funding Period. - Clarify the spatial layers for the Nature Recovery Additional Contributions and the stocking density for the Riparian Buffer Additional Contribution. <p>Set minimum claim value of £1,000 unless final claim.</p>
1.0	9 June 2021	First version at launch of EWCO