

# 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 manual before the current version.

## Change log

| Version | Publication Date | Key Changes   |
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| 3.9     | 8 October 2024   | Section 3.5: Business viability guidance updated to 1 month bank/saving statement required<br>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<br>Section 3.5 Business viability guidance updated<br>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<br>Section 4.3 Updated Additional Contribution rates, added the Premium Rate for the Nature Recovery Additional Contribution and added the Low Sensitivity Land Payment<br>Section 4.3.6 Clarification on private finance and Additional Contribution payments<br>Section 4.2.1 Addition of an example of perimeter open space allowance<br>Section 7.2 Clarification on work undertaken prior to Grant Offer amendments accepted<br>7.3.1 Claim payment timeframes: Clarification added on outstanding claims and amendments<br>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<br>Section 4.1. Public Register consultation timeframe adjusted from 28 to 21 days<br>Section 4.9.1. New guidance on Woodland Creation Fast Track added<br>Section 7.3. Clarifications on submitting multiple claims for capital work and how Additional Contributions and annual Maintenance are paid  |

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| 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 | Whole document: Capital Funding Period extended from 2 years to 3 years and Annual Maintenance Payments extended from 10 to 15 years<br>7.3.1 Claim payment timeframes: Clarification added on outstanding claims and amendments<br>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   |
| 3.3 | 12 July 2023     | Whole document: updated terminology for the Application Form<br>2.1 Terminology changed for biosecure procurement requirement exceptions and updated link to new form<br>3.2.2 Updated to include Supporting Tenant to Landlord Successions Pilot<br>4.3.4 Updated to expand support for red squirrel in Nature Recovery and Scots pine in Riparian Buffer Additional Contributions<br>4.4 Clarifications around natural colonisation<br>7.1.2 Addition of Agreement amendments process<br>7.1.3 Addition of Changes of ownership (succession) and management control process<br>Appendix 1: New standard cost items added; expansion to eligibility for drinking water for livestock items<br>Appendix 2: Additional design guidance for flood risk mitigation and riparian buffers<br>Appendix 5: Addition of background paragraph and minor edits to style<br>Appendix 6: New appendix on guidance to support amendments and changes in management control and ownership<br>Appendix 7: Change Log moved from Appendix 6 to 7<br>All appendices: aligned version number with the main document |
| 3.2 | 30 May 2023      | 1.1 Provision added for HS2-funded EWCO agreements within Phase 1 buffer zone<br>2.1 Clarification of Grant Recipient responsibilities with regards to Biosecure Procurement Pilot<br>3.5 Business viability and due diligence: clarification of FC position<br>4.3.3 Payments towards actual costs of infrastructure: Minimum access standards replaced with Outdoors Accessibility Guidance<br>7.1.1 Agreement duration: update on transfer into future environmental schemes<br>7.2 Making claims: clarification of the Biosecure Procurement information requirement  |

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| 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"> <li>- 2.1 Tree supply and biosecurity: Additional guidance added in line with the Biosecure Procurement Requirement Pilot.</li> <li>- 4.2.1 Planting area, stocking and species: Additional guidance added on open space and water bodies</li> <li>- 4.2.2 UKFS compliance and biosecurity</li> <li>- 4.3.4 Additional Contributions: updates to eligibility requirements and clarification that assessed at compartment level</li> <li>- 4.3.5 – Link to further information on combining EWCO with Private Finance for ecosystem services</li> <li>- 6.3 Minimum mapping standards: Additional requirement to display different planting prescriptions</li> <li>- Appendix 1: Standard cost items: Additional items for Provision of drinking water for stock added</li> <li>- Appendix 2: Design Guide: Additional guidance on Riparian Buffers</li> </ul>  |

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|     |                   | - 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"> <li>- Changes to the evidence requirements to support claims for standard costs capital items</li> <li>- Clarification claimants will be notified as soon as possible once a claim is selected for inspection</li> <li>- Correction of minor typos</li> </ul>  |
| 2.3 | 28 March 2022     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3.5 Business viability test: additional guidance for accounting letters in the case of multiple applications</li> <li>- 5.1 Register with the Rural Payments Service: additional guidance added at 5.1.1 on being fully verified</li> <li>- 6.3 Minimum mapping standards: additional requirements added</li> <li>- 7.2 Making Claims: further guidance on evidence requirements</li> <li>- 7.2.1 Claim payment timeframes: new section providing information</li> </ul>   |
| 2.2 | 12 January 2022   | Updates to:<br>Annual Maintenance Payments rate increased from £200 to £300 per hectare.  |
| 2.1 | 14 December 2021  | Updates to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extend the Grant Funding Period for Capital Payments to two years, with the addition of a three-month final claim window.</li> <li>- Set minimum claim value of £5,000 unless final claim.</li> <li>- Clarify the position on the use of Paulownia species.</li> <li>- Add details to the requirements for Additional Contributions</li> <li>Rename the spatial layers used to target the EWCO Flood Risk Additional Contribution.</li> <li>- Clarify requirement that maps must include a six-figure grid reference.</li> </ul> Clarify eligibility for landlords to apply after a dispute.   |
| 2.0 | 22 September 2021 | Updates to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Confirm land in Environmental Stewardship can move to EWCO without repayments where conditions are met.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- EWCO layer names in the Land Information Search.</li> <li>- Confirmation the grant will not pay for planting trees on land which is considered an existing woodland.</li> <li>- 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.'</li> </ul> Requirements for integral woodland open space. |
| 1.3 | 21 July 2021      | Updates to:   |

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|     |              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarify the inclusion of untrials species.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>- Planting cricket bat willow is not eligible.</li> <li>- Land that is currently managed as Short Rotation Coppice or Short Rotation Forestry is not eligible.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>- Confirm the Grant Funding Period for current applications (work must be completed and claimed by 31 March 2023) and define the Grant Funding Period.</li> <li>- Clarify the spatial layers for the Nature Recovery Additional Contributions and the stocking density for the Riparian Buffer Additional Contribution.</li> </ul> <p>Set minimum claim value of £1,000 unless final claim.</p> |
| 1.0 | 9 June 2021  | First version at launch of EWCO   |