

Stewardship News

MID-TIER CS

AB1 Nectar flower mix (AB1) – if you haven't done so already you have until 30th March to cut your nectar flower plots;

Basic overwintered stubbles (AB2) can be returned to the farm rotation from 15th February;

Nesting plots for lapwing and stone curlew (AB5) - rough cultivated area must be created by 20th March;

Whole crop cereals (AB7) – must retain stubble until 15th Feb. New crop to be established between Feb and April;

Unharvested cereal headlands (AB10) – last year's crop can be destroyed from Feb 15th and new plots established between Feb and April;

Cultivated areas for arable plants (AB11) – cultivate between Feb and April (or Sept – Nov).

Supplementary Feeding (EF23/HF24 & AB12) – continues through February.

Key Dates for CS applications: [RPA Key dates for BPS, CS and ES 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

ELMS UPDATE:

[Sustainable Farming Incentive: how the scheme will work in 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Local Nature Recovery: more information on how the scheme will work - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Landscape Recovery: more information on how the scheme will work - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Managing Floristic Margins – whether in an agreement or not the cutting of floristic plots and margins can be done in February. If you weren't able to cut and remove the cuttings in the autumn, Feb and March are good months to flail as the stems of the plants are woody and shatter rather than forming a green mulch. Ensure soil conditions allow you to travel without cutting up the ground (heavy frost or a week of dry weather) and use a flail rather than rotary mower.

Game crops in February – bearing in mind February is one of the toughest months for farmland birds please don't flail off all of your game crops as even a narrow strip will provide some foraging area. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR MISCANTHUS. You must leave the miscanthus 'canes' to completely senesce as the energy from the stems is transferred down to the rhizome. We suggest waiting until mid-March before flailing miscanthus and then spray off any weeds with glyphosate at the beginning of April. Also do not try and work the ground until it has dried out considerably or you will destroy the soil structure.

Big Farmland Bird Count – a reminder that the BFBC is 4th-20th Feb <https://www.bfbc.org.uk/>



Another New Starter - Dan Small joins our Woodland Team.

Dan joins us from the National Forest Company, where he became a Chartered Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters. Dan also sits on the East and East Midlands Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committee, which supports the Forestry Commission in implementing Forestry and Woodland Policy.

We welcome you to the team

Woodland & Trees

CC Prosecuted Over Tree Incident

Staffordshire County Council has been prosecuted and fined £300,000 and ordered to pay costs of £13,164.90 for failing to inspect and maintain trees on a public footpath, following the death of a member of the public. Find the HSE report [Here](#).

Reducing Deer Impact

Wild deer numbers and distribution continue to expand rapidly across the UK. They are one of the largest threats we face to new woodland creations and so measures need to be adopted from the outset to mitigate their unwanted impacts. This new [guidance from the FC](#) provides useful guidance.

Welsh Woodland Planting Opportunity Map

The Welsh Government has updated its Woodland Opportunity Map, which provides a general guide to land managers, and aims to identify areas most suited to new woodland creation using spatial data from geographical information systems (GIS). The map includes data showing sensitive habitat areas and signposts further guidance on consultation with the appropriate authority. Hopefully the English Government will develop something like this soon. Find Welsh interactive map [Here](#).

Ancient Woodland, Trees and Proposed Developments Advice Reviewed

Natural England and the FC have recently conducted a review of their joint standing advice for managing ancient woodland in England where ancient and veteran trees are located near proposed development sites. This helps how to assess a planning application when there is ancient woodland, ancient trees or veteran trees on or near a proposed development site. Find new guidance [Here](#)

2022 Magazine and Product Guide – we will be sending out our 2022 magazine later this month. If you have changed your mailing address or would like a copy for someone else, please let us know