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## English Woodland Grant Scheme

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### Email Alert January 2007

#### **Rural Development Plan for England 2007 to 2013 - update**

The RDPE Transition Plan has been updated, the main change being to reflect the fact we're now into 2007. We have also produced a Q&A that answers broader questions relating to the RDPE. Both documents are available on the RDPE webpage [www.forestry.gov.uk/rdpe](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/rdpe)

#### **EWGS Grant Availability - WIG SSSI, WPG, WAG & WMG still available**

In accordance with the 2006 prospectuses that were published last Spring, the application window for Woodland Improvement Grant, Woodland Regeneration Grant and Woodland Creation Grant are now closed but applications are still invited for SSSI Woodland Improvement Grants, Woodland Planning Grant and Woodland Assessment Grant. In addition we have kept applications for Woodland Management Grant open until further notice. These funds will remain available until the 31st March 2007 or until funds are fully applied for. You should refer to the EWGS webpage "Regional Prospectuses and Grant Availability" to see what is open before applying.

Applications for 2008/2009 funding are due to open for applications in Spring 2007, but the exact timing is affected by the uncertainty of RDPE approval progress.

#### **Land Information Search (LIS) and Internet Explorer 7 - now works**

Following the email alert message last week, work has been completed and the Forestry Commission LIS Internet service will work with Internet Explorer 7 from now on. The LIS can be access via the FC LIS webpage.

Please note The LIS will work with Internet Explorer versions 5, 6 and 7 and also Netscape, but will not function with other unsupported browsers e.g. Firefox. If anyone tries to access LIS via an unsupported browser, they will be redirected to a FC webpage that sets out the minimum requirements for access.

#### **Land Information Search (LIS) : Conflict with Internet Explorer 7**

The Forestry Commission LIS Internet service will not work if accessed by a browser configured using Microsoft's latest Internet Explorer 7.0™ software. This information has been highlighted for some time on the FC England web site. However we are receiving a number of reports that a number of you have recently accepted and installed automatic Microsoft™ updates that upgrade your existing Internet Explorer 6.0™ to the latest Internet Explorer 7.0™ edition.

Where this has occurred, you need to use LIS and you do not have direct access to another computer with Internet Explorer 6.0™ there is no other option in the short term other than to uninstall Internet Explorer 7.0™ and reinstall Internet Explorer 6.0™. Before doing this you should seek professional advice on how to do it in relation to your own PC. You may also wish to visit the main Microsoft™ website for information on Internet Explorer 6.0™. The link for this page is <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/ie6/downloads/default.msp#ELC> .

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Work is currently underway to make LIS compatible with IE7. We hope this work will be complete soon and will contact you when LIS is available with Internet Explorer 7.0™

## **New Operations Notes**

Please note that 3 new Operations Notes have been published on the EWGS website ([www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs)) in the document library (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-ewgsdocuments>)

Operations Notes have been developed to supplement the main EWGS literature, by giving greater detail on EWGS related issues such as grant eligibility. Over time and where appropriate, these notes may be built into revisions of the main EWGS literature. A brief summary of the new Operations Notes is detailed below

### Operations Note 13: WMG - Public access exceptional circumstances

This note outlines the main criteria against which an application for Woodland Management Grant (WMG) on the basis of exceptional public access circumstances will be judged and how applicants should present their case for consideration by the FC.

### Operations Note 14: Change of Ownership in EWGS

This leaflet provides guidance on the implications for the purchaser and seller when land subject to an English Woodland Grant Scheme changes ownership. Please note that these arrangements differ from previous Forestry Commission grant schemes such as WGS - in summary there is no FC transfer of obligation procedure anymore.

The FC will also be advising conveyancing solicitors of these arrangements via legal circulars to ensure they know about the changes.

### Operations Note 15: Deadwood

This note explains what the Forestry Commission expects for the management of deadwood habitat through Woodland Management Grant (WMG). It supports and expands on the explanation given on page 10 of EWGS 6 "Woodland Management Grant Guide".

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