



English Woodland Grant Scheme

EWGS

Email alert 9 November 2010

Funding for the English Woodland Grant Scheme

Following the Government's spending review on 20 October Defra have confirmed that the Forestry Commission will continue to deliver the current planned level of woodland grants for the remaining period of the Rural Development Plan for England through to the end of 2013.

What this means for current grant applications:

2010/11

Some funding is still available for Improvement (WIG) and creation (WCG) schemes where it is realistic still to complete work; or to reschedule existing 2011/12 commitments where work is likely to be completed early.

2011/12

We have funds available for all grant types in all regions. As announced on 5 October we are continuing to accept new WCG applications.

In each case contact your local regional office:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infid-74adb>.

Felling of larch during the winter.

Due to the impact of *Phytophthora ramorum* disease on larch in the South West of the country it has been necessary for us to review our policy on administering applications for the felling or thinning of larch during the winter months. This is because once needle drop on larch has taken place in the autumn it is impossible with current procedures to confirm that a stand is not infected. If felled this gives rise to a risk that infected material could circumvent biosecurity measures, undermining the current controls. At the moment this policy change relates to applications for **all** larch species in an area south of the M4 and west of a line running down the A36 Bristol to Southampton road. For further details refer to [Operations Note 23](#).

Planting of larch species

We have also reviewed our policy in relation to the use of larch in either new planting or replanting schemes being funded through EWGS. This policy has implications across a wider area of England. For the current situation refer to [Operations Note 23](#).

Forest Research has produced guidance on suitable alternative species that can be used in planting schemes. For further details go to the Forest Research [advice note](#).

Category B protocol

In April 2009 the Government changed the way it purchased all wood and wood products. This requires the supply of the raw material being from a proven legally and sustainably managed resource. We were tasked with providing a route that owners' of small woodlands (those of 100 hectares or less), could use to supply timber and be able to demonstrate that they can fulfil the requirements without this being a burden or cause unnecessary cost. We have developed a process based on an updated Woodland Planning Grant. An extra benefit of following this option is that any approvals for thinning or felling work will be given a ten year approval, potentially cutting down on the applications you have to make, and allowing you flexibility to plan operations, provided that these stay within the current UK forest standard. For further details go to [Operations Note 22](#)

Forestry in England: A new strategic approach

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has published a letter sent to MPs on 29 October outlining its intention to fundamentally reform the public forestry estate, with diminishing public ownership and a greater role for private and civil society partners. At the same time, the Government has reiterated its firm commitment to biodiversity and other public benefits which forests and woodland provide.

For further details see: <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/news/2010/10/29/forestry/>