

Grants and Regulations National Email Alert

20 May 2014

Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant—Deadline approaches

The Forestry Commission is encouraging agents and owners to apply for the Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant (WWIG) before it closes for new applications in September. This innovative grant was launched by Forestry Commission England three years ago and is aimed primarily at getting under-managed woodlands into sustainable timber production with either grants for improving access or for measuring and marking timber (or both).

The grant is being allocated on a first-come, first-served basis so anyone interested in the scheme is encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

The access element (Roads scheme) can be used for anything from stoning forwarder access points up to constructing brand new lorry haulage routes. The marking and measuring element (Timber scheme) can be used to mark, measure and market timber from woodlands that have been significantly undermanaged to date i.e. have missed at least the last two conventional thinnings. It can also include management and supervision of harvesting and processing operations.

Despite the title you don't have to produce woodfuel. The grant is based on producing timber but this can be of any product type - from veneer quality logs to wood chip.

For full details refer to the [Woodfuel WIG guidance](#).

Update on Woodland Creation Grant

Because of the success of the last two years of Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) funding we now have enough schemes approved for the 2014/15 planting season, and will not be looking for any new schemes. Our target is to plant 2,000 hectares per year and we are currently on track to achieve this for the 14/15 season.

We appreciate this is a disappointment for many potential applicants but we will be open for an interim WCG in early 2015 for planting in the 15/16 season. This interim WCG will have to reflect the rules of the new Rural Development Programme and so will have some differences from our current WCG.

The interim WCG is currently under preparation and we aim to take the opportunity to address some of the issues associated with the current scheme whilst also meeting the wider objectives of public funding. Further guidance will be issued as and when it becomes available.



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RDPE Transition – overall picture v11

