



Forestry Commission
England

North West England Region

English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS)

Update 11

November 08

The English Woodland Grant Scheme Prospectus 08 opened in May this year. The prospectus is our allocation of funding across the suite of grants we operate and is for payment in the financial year 09-10. Approximately £1.2M is available annually through EWGS.

For details on the current prospectus use the following link: [Prospectus 2008](#).

The application window for Woodland Creation Grants closed at the end of September. In the North West we were over-subscribed having 51 applications totalling £579k, creating 338ha of new woodlands in the North West. All of these schemes were successful in meeting our requirements for delivery of public benefits.

With regard to the suite of grants available for the stewardship of existing woodlands which includes regeneration grants, improvement and management grants, we have seen high demand. However in meeting this demand we have been successful in winning additional Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) funds for spend in 09-10. This has been achieved by being able to bring forward some 09-10 schemes to 08-09 freeing up additional funds for 09-10. This means that at this stage in the prospectus year we still have funds available for Woodland Improvement Grants, Woodland Management Grants for Biodiversity works, Woodland Assessment and Woodland Planning Grants. Non-RDPE grants i.e. Woodland Regeneration and Woodland Management Grants for Access are now closed to new business for 09-10 spend year.

Within the North West we see strong potential to further deliver against the Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests and the Regional Forestry Framework. We encourage you to apply for the remaining funds available for spend in 09-10. Please note latest closing date for applications is 28 February 2009.

Next year in line with the opening of the new prospectus we will be holding 2 Customer Liaison Meetings (north and south within the region). At these meetings we will be wanting to discuss issues relevant to you with regard EWGS or other tree, woodland or forestry related issues. Invites and requests for items to discuss will be sent out in the New Year. I would be interested to receive any thoughts you have on the need, content and structure of these meetings.

Could I take the opportunity to thank those customers who have had to apply for SBI and to register their land in connection with their applications this year. Your patience in this process has been appreciated.

Richard Topley, who was Woodland Officer for Lancashire and North Merseyside, has now joined the Newlands team. We wish Richard well in his new role. Paul Vickers and James Bickley are in the interim, until a replacement is in post, covering Richards's previous area.

Kevin May

Grants, Regulations and Partnership Manager.

Sources of further information

1. If you require further information contact your local Woodland Officer –

Cheshire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester:

Paul Vickers (01606 889912); paul.vickers@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Lancashire: currently shared between Paul Vickers and James Bickley

Lancaster City/South Cumbria: James Bickley (017687 76616) james.anderson-bickley@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

West Cumbria: Peter Fox (017687 76616); peter.fox@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

East Cumbria: Jim O'Neill (017687 76616); jim.o'neill@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

2. For NW E specific grant details on the Web see:

www.forestry.gov.uk/northwestengland-grants

Forestry Commission – North West England.