

# Wood Fuel Woodland Improvement Grant

**What is it?**

**Where can I use it?**

**How can I use it?**

**When can I use it?**

**Who can use it?**

**Next steps?**

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## What is the Wood Fuel WIG?

- It's a new grant, funded by redirected Energy Crop Scheme (ECS) monies from DEFRA, to be delivered by FC England
- It's 100% EU funded
- It has a working budget of £10m, available across England
- Spend period – 2011/12 to 2013/14
  - Cash limited to specific financial years
- Axis 1 funding (competitiveness) rather than the Axis 2 funding (environment & countryside) used for EWGS
  - 'de minimis' regulations of the EU apply
  - An enterprise may receive up to €200,000 in any 3 years
  - 'de minimis' does not include EWGS Axis 2 grants or ES
- Actual costs to be used for grant calculations
- Applicants can claim up to 60% of the agreed WIG project value, based on receipted invoices

## Where can I use Wood Fuel WIG?

Eligibility criteria are still being developed, but ...

- The WIG will be available across England
- The WIG will target;
  - **undermanaged** woodlands (**Wood Fuel Timber**);
    - woods that have missed at least 2 silvicultural interventions
    - to support delivery of timber (not just wood fuel) to market
  - **inaccessible** areas of woodland (**Wood Fuel Roads**);
    - to improve access for commercial forest operations
    - to support delivery of timber (not just wood fuel) to market
- Potential timber volume will be a key criteria in awarding grant
- Woodland must be registered on the Rural Land Register

## How can I use Wood Fuel WIG - Timber?

Eligibility criteria are still being developed, but to

- support with collection of management and volume data and preparation of sales particulars. Potentially this includes
  - tree marking and timber mensuration
  - preparation of tender or sales particulars
  - agreeing sales contracts
  - supervision of forestry operations in undermanaged / inaccessible woodland
- expectation that agreed costs will be based on Standard Costs – Agents day rate
- claim for grant [probably] to be supported by receipted invoice

## How can I use Wood Fuel WIG – Roads?

Eligibility criteria are still being developed, but

- to support the creation / upgrade of access infrastructure
  - Cat 1a road access to public highways (planning permission?)
  - timber loading and transfer and timber storage areas
  - creation of forwarder / extraction routes
  - associated road infrastructure such as gates, ditches, culverts and bridges
- expected to be based on 'best value' of 3 civil engineering quotes
  - FC hopes to have a form / spreadsheet to use to maintain comparison between rival quotes
- claim for grant will be supported by receipted invoices
- the WIG is for promoting commercial timber production only. It will not fund aspects of access infrastructure that will not deliver timber production e.g. intermediate roads for wider management

## When can I use Wood Fuel WIG?

Eligibility criteria are still being developed, but ...

- WF WIG should be available from April 2011 onwards, where
- the woodland - and other land affected by the application - is registered on the Rural Land Register
- undermanaged / inaccessible status is confirmed with WO
- an approved management plan exists, containing information on
  - existing access infrastructure or future requirements
  - basic volume assessment of timber
    - potential timber volume will be a key criteria in awarding grant
- relevant planning permissions for access are in place
  - first 25m from public highway will need local authority approval
  - General Permitted Development Order (GDO) may apply for the remainder of the access route

## Who can use Wood Fuel WIG?

Applicants who ...

- have their woodland registered on the Rural Land Register
- have an approved management plan – containing basic volume data
- have an eligible undermanaged / inaccessible woodland, where investment using WF WIG can be justified by the timber volume expected to go to market once WF WIG work is complete
- have the relevant planning approvals – if required
- have the 40% + match funding required to progress the project

## Current status ... nationally

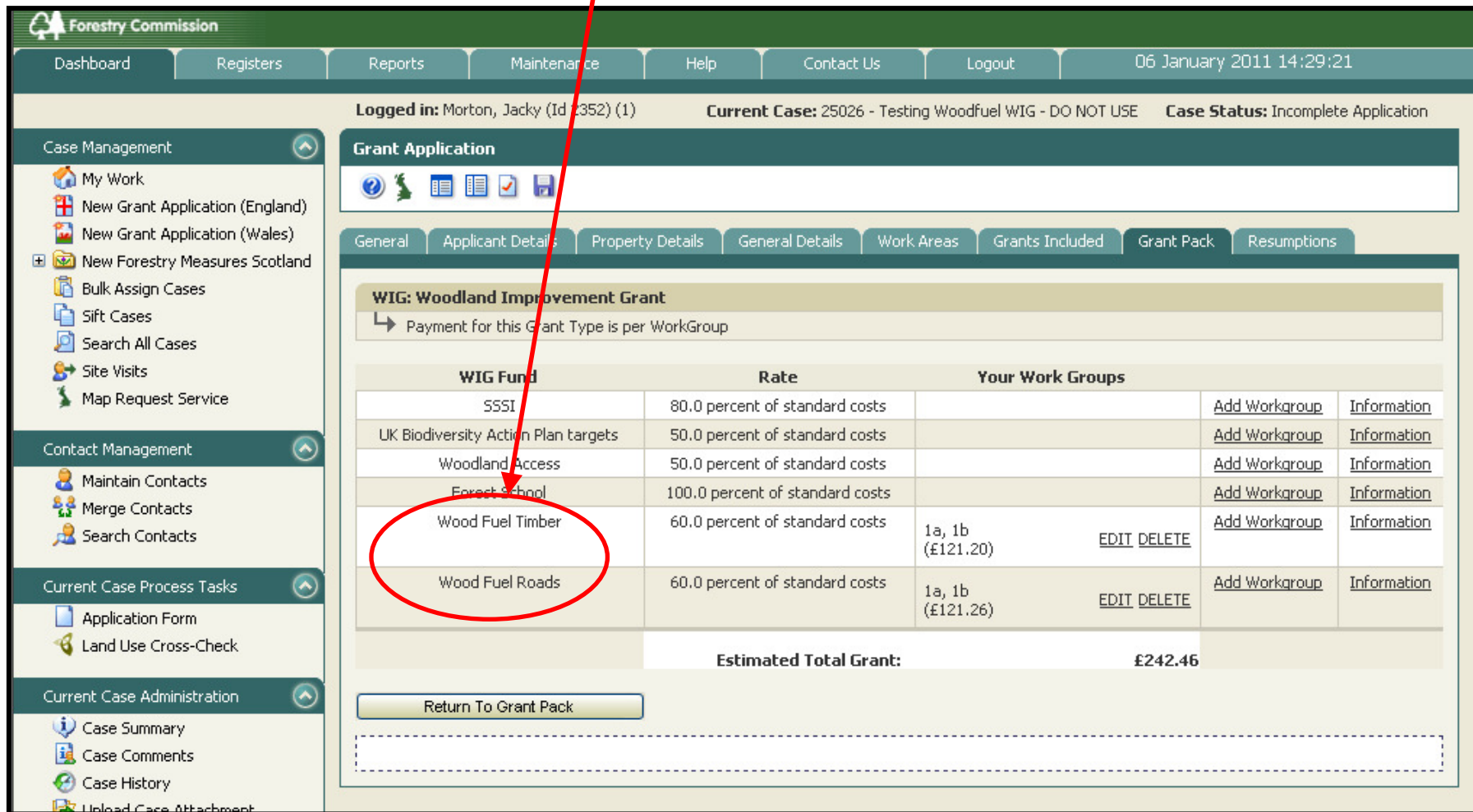
- Upgrade of GLOS processing system, by March 2011
- Conclusion of eligibility criteria, by March 2011
- Delivery of the applicant and FC staff guidance, by April 2011
- Procurement of Wood Fuel WIG delivery staff, by summer 2011. Certain parts of England have limited Woodland Officer capacity, so additional staff resource will be required to deliver WF WIG
- Public launch of Wood Fuel WIG – ongoing

## West Midlands ...

- Expect to deliver WF WIG with Woodland Officer resource
- 2011/2012 - £300k
- 2012/2013 - £525k
- 2013/2014 - £675k



## GLOS development well advanced



Forestry Commission  
 Dashboard Registers Reports Maintenance Help Contact Us Logout 06 January 2011 14:29:21  
 Logged in: Morton, Jacky (Id 2352) (1) Current Case: 25026 - Testing Woodfuel WIG - DO NOT USE Case Status: Incomplete Application

**Grant Application**  
 General Applicant Details Property Details General Details Work Areas Grants Included Grant Pack Resumptions

**WIG: Woodland Improvement Grant**  
 Payment for this Grant Type is per WorkGroup

WIG Fund	Rate	Your Work Groups		
SSSI	80.0 percent of standard costs			<a href="#">Add Workgroup</a> <a href="#">Information</a>
UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets	50.0 percent of standard costs			<a href="#">Add Workgroup</a> <a href="#">Information</a>
Woodland Access	50.0 percent of standard costs			<a href="#">Add Workgroup</a> <a href="#">Information</a>
Forest School	100.0 percent of standard costs			<a href="#">Add Workgroup</a> <a href="#">Information</a>
<b>Wood Fuel Timber</b>	60.0 percent of standard costs	1a, 1b (£121.20)	<a href="#">EDIT</a> <a href="#">DELETE</a>	<a href="#">Add Workgroup</a> <a href="#">Information</a>
Wood Fuel Roads	60.0 percent of standard costs	1a, 1b (£121.26)	<a href="#">EDIT</a> <a href="#">DELETE</a>	<a href="#">Add Workgroup</a> <a href="#">Information</a>
<b>Estimated Total Grant:</b>		<b>£242.46</b>		

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# Questions?

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