



## English Woodland Grant Scheme

Email Alert 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009

### Grant news

#### Customer & Land Registration

Important message - If you are registering yourself or land in order to apply for EWGS, please ensure you put in bold letters on the top of your RLE 1 form "Forestry Commission Task". This will help the RPA prioritise your application and issue you with registration numbers; RPA staff have been advised accordingly. This is particularly important over the coming months because the RPA are updating the Rural Land Register data.

The RPA have stopped sending out maps routinely as part of the day to day RLR management but are working through a backlog of requests. If you requested a map to support an FC application, RPA will issue a map as soon as possible. If the map was requested for other purposes the RPA will write to you explaining that rather than sending you a map now, which may very soon become out of date, they will send you a new map as soon as your updated map is ready.

We are developing a new web page and updated guidance to support customers during the RLR mapping update; further details will be in the next email alert.

#### EWGS 1 Form – new version

Please note that the EWGS 1 form was updated in March 2009 with some significant changes:

- Now includes a section to add what authority your agent has (if you have an agent)
- A new question about sustainable timber procurement (relating to new regulations introduced 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 see below)
- A declaration section, so the form now needs to be signed

Given these changes, please could you destroy any old versions of the form you have and use new forms from now on. We will insist that the new forms are used from the beginning of 2010

#### FC Grants Scheme – New Successor Form

A new Successor form is now available from the FC website (either from the EWGS, Farm Woodland pages or document library) which can be used to notify us of any change of ownership on any FC grant scheme in England.

Depending on the particular circumstances - e.g. grant scheme, whether work has started, grant claimed, timescale of contract etc – the form enable previous and new occupiers to transfer obligations and/or take on future grant payments.

As a reminder, the rules regarding transfer of obligations under EWGS are significantly different to earlier schemes – please refer to the EWGS 1 General Guidance, or Operations Note 14 “Change of Ownership under EWGS” or contact your local conservancy office.

## Woodland Creation Grant – 30<sup>th</sup> September deadline looms!

The deadline for woodland creation grant applications this year is the 30<sup>th</sup> September. If you are interested in applying this year, remember that you may need to order a map from us in good time to ensure your application is submitted in time; we recommend submitting your map request by the middle of September at the latest.

## Regulations news

### Sustainable and legal timber procurement for government contracts

The Forestry Commission has agreed a way to help woodland owners meet recent changes in government timber procurement policy. Woodland owners can use the Forestry Commission’s Woodland Planning Grant template to produce a management plan, get felling approval and thus demonstrate the timber is from a sustainable and legal source. For further information go to the [Government Timber Procurement webpage](#) and detailed information will be in Operations Note 20, to be published shortly.

## Other news

### Westonbirt Timber Auction – November 2009

Auctioneers ‘Newland Rennie Wilkins’ will be holding their annual timber auction at Westonbirt near Bristol at the end of November. This auction takes large or small lots, conifer or hardwood, standing or felled, and a range of grades including firewood. It is traditionally well attended by buyers and millers. Lots are sold on a commission basis. Lot forms, guidance and information are available from the auctioneer John Jenkins on 01600 712916.