

Funding for tourism and recreation

Investments that enable different uses for woodland (e.g. tourism and recreation) that also add to the economic value of the forest will be fundable, e.g.:

- Feasibility studies for in-forest recreational activities
- Installation of necessary infrastructure
- Associated enterprises such as cafés, bike hire, etc.



Funding for skills and training

Training can be provided through organised courses (but not qualification-based) or bespoke training. It could include anything that adds relevant knowledge to the business. Examples of eligible training activity include:

- Business and management skills
- Practical and technical skills
- ICT and new technologies
- Training for new products and processes being developed
- Environmental land management.

General themes

Some activities are fundable in their own right or may well enhance the development of an investment, and hence the funding proposal. These include:

- Combining resources to increase the value of an investment such as larger, more efficient capital investment and/or market research undertaken by a group of collaborating businesses pooling their resources
- Innovation in products, processes or services
- Enhancing environmental protection whilst continuing with the economic development of a business or forest
- Increased use of new technologies and ICT (Information and Computer Technologies)
- Social sustainability such as increasing the skills of employees.



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How to apply

- 1 **Seek advice before embarking on an application. It may save you time, expense and disappointment**
- 2 Submit an expression of interest to the Rural Enterprise Gateway (SWREG). They will check basic eligibility and give feedback
- 3 Make a full application. This will need to be accompanied by a business plan covering the proposed investment and the implications for your business
- 4 The South West RDA will then appraise full applications.

The overall application process may typically take between three and six months from submitting an expression of interest to the final decision. Much will depend on the nature of the project and how long you, the applicant, need to complete the application and respond to calls for additional information.

If successful, grants will be paid in arrears by the Rural Payments Agency on demonstration of evidence of actual spend. You will need to be registered with the Rural Payments Agency in order to receive payments.

Advice and Guidance

Woodland Renaissance can offer advice and guidance in a number of areas:

- Advice on your proposed investment. We will be employing two advisors, the first a forestry specialist and the second a forest products/ supply chain specialist
- Guidance on the application process for RDPE funding
- Writing detailed information sheets for forest and woodland owners, forest-based businesses, supply chain businesses and wood energy enterprises
- Organising workshops across the region

- Meeting individually if your proposal is eligible for RDPE funding
- We will give you as much project advice, guidance training and support as possible and draw on the business expertise from within the Business Link Service as needed but we cannot make the application for you, or guarantee you will be successful with an application for funding.

For advice and guidance the first call should be to the Silvanus Trust at info@silvanus.org.uk or 01752 846400 or SW REG on 0845 6009966.



European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas.

This information is accurate at the time of printing. Some information may change over the coming months and years. Contact details are given at the end of this sheet for the latest advice and guidance.

Valid at December 08

Investments in the forest and woodland industries funded through the Rural Development Programme for England Sustainable Woodlands South West

Prospectus



FORESTRY COMMISSION

If you are a business or group of businesses with an investment proposal that improves the economic value of forests or forest products you may well be eligible for funding.

This prospectus provides a flavour of the type of investments that may be eligible but is by no means a full list. If you have a proposal that does not seem to fit the criteria listed, please get in touch to discuss it with us.

This is an introduction to the opportunities available through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) in South West England for those involved in woodland/forestry or timber processing.

The RDPE in the South West is a £157 million scheme running from 2007 to 2013. The money comes from the EU match funded by Defra and is managed in South West England by the Regional Development Agency. It also includes EWGS and other stewardship schemes.

Sustainable Woodland South West (SWSW) is a Woodland Renaissance Partnership project managed by the Silvanus Trust to give advice and guidance to those wanting to invest in their business and who may be eligible for RDPE funding.

The forest-based industries could reap multi-million pounds worth of benefit over the coming years if the opportunities are taken up. This is a real opportunity to enhance your business and the whole sector.

Some basic rules

- The scheme is for the **economic development** of land-based industries
- You must be in Gloucestershire, West of England, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon or Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
- You must be a business, co-operative, charity or community group to apply. Some public sector organisations may be eligible for funding. In most cases your business must have fewer than 10 employees and not exceed a 2 million Euro turnover
- The grant rate is the minimum required to make the project happen, typically 40% maximum and it is unlikely you will get 100% and you will need to provide match funding for all investments.



What is available?

Funding for woodland & forest owners to improve the economic value of the forest

Forest/woodland owners including estates, farms, local authorities and charities may be eligible for funding for in-forest activities and capital investment. This may include:

- Access work, e.g. construction of loading bays, or 'forest' roads to facilitate easier management of woods and forests
- Work on some silvicultural operations that offer significant value adding to the final woodland product
- Feasibility studies
- Training
- Capital investments in forest machinery
- Infrastructure for in-forest recreational enterprises.

Note: Operations eligible under EWGS will not be eligible under this programme.

Funding for forest-based business

This includes farm and forestry based businesses such as planting, maintenance and harvesting contractors as well as forest managers and those providing in-forest services e.g.:

- The development of new products, processes and markets
- Improvements in efficiency and quality of products and services
- Improving environmental protection and occupational safety
- Co-ordination between businesses and/or forest owners for new products and forest infrastructure.



Funding for those involved in the primary processing of forest products

Direct funding for investment on sawmill and other processing plant is only eligible up to and including the primary breakdown of the log (including sawing, chipping, pulping, kilning, treating, etc). However, by working with others in the supply chain, it may be possible to fund market development of end products. Funding may be available for:

- Primary processing of forest based material
- Development of new products and services
- Development of new markets for processed material
- Developing markets for end-products.



Funding for renewable energy

Funding will be available for the harvesting and primary processing of wood-based fuels e.g.:

- Machinery and equipment for harvesting and processing of woodfuel
- Processing and marketing wood fuels
- Setting up of groups and collaborations to enhance the supply of wood fuels
- Development of new technologies and services that enhance the quality of the product and the service
- Storage of wood fuel.

Funding is not generally available for the installation of wood fuelled boilers or generators. Other sources of funding may be available for this.



Continued overleaf