

# West Midlands Region

## EWGS Update

### January 2009

If you haven't already done so, have a look at our regional web pages ([www.forestry.gov.uk/westmidlands](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westmidlands)), which contain up to date information on all aspects of the Forestry Commission's work in the West Midlands.

### Grant Availability.

As shown on our website at [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7f4dzj](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7f4dzj), we are still open for RDPE grant applications.

Grant Type	Original Budget	Funds Remaining	Closing Date	Current Status
Woodland Creation Grant	£370,000	£248,000 *	30 Sep 08	Closed
Woodland Planning & Assessment Grant	£25,000	£17,000	28 Feb 09	Open
Woodland Regeneration Grant	£245,000	fully allocated, but still open for business	28 Feb 09	Open
Woodland Management Grant	£130,000	£93,000	28 Feb 09	Open
Woodland Improvement Grant - Access	£50,000	£25,000 **	28 Feb 09	Open
Woodland Improvement Grant - Biodiversity	£80,000	£5,000 ***	28 Feb 09	Open
Woodland Improvement Grant - Forest Schools	£60,000	fully allocated	31 Oct 08	Closed
Woodland Improvement Grant - SSSI	£70,000	£17,000	28 Feb 09	Open
Woodland Improvement Grant - Wyre Project	£60,000	£15,000	28 Feb 09	Open

\* Additionally, Woodland Creation projects accepted within this financial year with a value of £243,000 have been moved to 2008 - 2009 claim year.

\*\* Additionally, Woodland Improvement - Access projects accepted within this financial year with a value of £9,000 have been moved to 2008 - 2009 claim year.

\*\*\* Additionally, Woodland Improvement - Biodiversity projects accepted within this financial year with a value of £17,000 have been moved to 2008 - 2009 claim year.

### Offers of grant are subject to:

- the proposals meeting the rules of the scheme and particular grant applied for
- the proposals meeting wider environmental standards including the UK Forestry Standard and associated guidelines
- appropriate consultation having been completed
- availability of funds

**Funds will be closed when they are fully subscribed or at the closing date, whichever is reached first. For more information please contact your local FC Office**

We are particularly interested in receiving applications for Woodland Improvement Grant and will still consider Regeneration Grant applications. We will not be closing for RDPE grants until the end of March or when funds are used up. If you have proposals, please contact your Woodland Officer and we will do our best to help.

## New Grant and Regulation Manager in post



From December last year, and following Steve Cresswell's departure to FC Wales, Ewan Calcott was successful in the ensuing competition. Ewan continues to be based in our Worcester office and we will be recruiting a replacement woodland officer for Warwickshire, the Forest of Mercia and West Midlands Metropolitan. Ewan will be familiar to many of you already and he will be meeting many more at forthcoming events in the Region.

### Reminder to claim!

As we fast approach the end of the financial year, please send in your claims for work completed for the 08/09 claim year as soon as possible. This enables us to inspect those claims pre-selected by National Office and to get all claims paid promptly.

### Not Claiming?

With the current difficulties in the timber market and the economic climate in general, some of you may have grant offers that you are unable to take up. Please let your Woodland Officer know if this is the case. Woodland Officers will be contacting those with larger value schemes, but if you already know you will not be claiming, please do not wait until then. We may be able to reschedule work if this is in line with our rescheduling policy (Operations Note 007), found at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-ewgsdocuments>.

**Your Woodland Officers are:**

Worcestershire	Wayne Barnes 01905 532200
East Herefordshire	Wayne Barnes 01905 532200
South Shropshire	Nick Smith 01584 877544
West Herefordshire	Nick Smith 01584 877544
North Shropshire	John Winterbourne 01584 877544
Staffordshire	John Winterbourne 01584 877544
Telford & Wrekin.	John Winterbourne 01584 877544
Warwickshire	Ewan Calcott (pro tem) 01905 532200
West Midlands Metropolitan	Ewan Calcott (pro tem) 01905 532200

**All of us at West Midlands Region wish you a happy New Year  
and hope that we can continue to work successfully with  
all our customers and stakeholders in 2009.**

Bob Evans  
Delivery & Outreach Manager.  
Forestry Commission West Midlands