

# West Midlands Region EWGS Update

May 2009

1. For further details contact your Woodland Officer.  
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2. You might also like to view our pages on the Web at: [www.forestry.gov.uk/westmidlands](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westmidlands)

You will find a link here to our Woodland Officer area map.

## European Protected Species.

We have received a small number of reports where forestry activity has been alleged to have caused disturbance to the habitat of protected species. Please make sure that your staff or contractors understand your plans and that you record any instructions given. For advice, ask your Woodland Officer at the site visit and be aware of good practice guidance on our website. <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-protectedspecies>

## Woodland Creation Grant.

We will be open for applications for **both** 09/10 and 10/11 Claim Years from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Maps for the new Additional Contribution areas in Feckenham and Needwood are now in the West Midlands Region Score Form Guidance at [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs7a-wm-guide.pdf/\\$FILE/ewgs7a-wm-guide.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs7a-wm-guide.pdf/$FILE/ewgs7a-wm-guide.pdf) (PDF 1.81mb) The new West Midlands Score form can now be found at: [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs7a-wm-scoreform.pdf/\\$FILE/ewgs7a-wm-scoreform.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs7a-wm-scoreform.pdf/$FILE/ewgs7a-wm-scoreform.pdf) (PDF 104kb)

The **fast track score** will be 14 and applications reaching or exceeding this will be processed through to contract without waiting for the judging round.

The Farm Woodland Payment rate will be changed as a result of new Single Payment Scheme rates and this will affect the rates we will pay for FWP in Woodland Creation Grant agreements.

While we are waiting for EU approval of the SPS rates (which affect Farm Woodland Payment rates) contracts may be delayed until sometime in the summer. See later in this update under Customer and Land Registration where the link to the information can be found.

E-applicants should not delay their applications but submit them **without the FWP rate**. The electronic score section should be altered next week so that they mirror the paper versions.

### **Woodland Improvement Grant. (WIG)**

We have funds for the final year of the Wyre Woodland Improvement Grant for 10/11. Available in the Grow with Wyre Project Area this fund delivers grant aid at 80% for eligible projects. Please contact your Woodland Officer to find out if your project is within the area covered

WIG Bio 50 still has a significant amount of funding for biodiversity improvements to woodlands throughout the Region. If your woodland is outwith the 80% funding eligibility then we can still help via this fund. Remember that many of the standard costs have been increased. A new version of the WIG Calculator is available and should be used for all applications. It enables more 80% funding streams to be accessed. It can be found at:

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs5\\_calculator.xls/\\$FILE/ewgs5\\_calculator.xls](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs5_calculator.xls/$FILE/ewgs5_calculator.xls)

### **Woodland Improvement Grant for Woodland Birds.**

We are open for business from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May for this 80% grant. Guidance on the business rules and eligibility criteria will be available at [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/eng-wm-bird-wig-guidance.pdf/\\$FILE/eng-wm-bird-wig-guidance.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/eng-wm-bird-wig-guidance.pdf/$FILE/eng-wm-bird-wig-guidance.pdf) (PDF 512k)

### **Customer & Land Registration.**

Changes to the relationship between Single Payment Scheme and Farm Woodland Payment are now set out in Operations note 19 at [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs-on019-Customer-and-Land-Registration.pdf/\\$FILE/ewgs-on019-Customer-and-Land-Registration.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs-on019-Customer-and-Land-Registration.pdf/$FILE/ewgs-on019-Customer-and-Land-Registration.pdf) (PDF 103kb)

These arrangements still have to gain European approval but we expect this to follow in due course.

Please ensure your land is registered and you have a Single Business Identification number before applying. If you have problems with either, please let us know and we will try to help.

### **Open Habitats Consultation.**

We are consulting on the Open Habitats policy, which the Government has asked us to develop. We would urge any stakeholder to submit their views on the proposals, which, along with the response material may be found at

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7fch5d> Deadline is the 5<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Grant Availability.**

The current position in West Midlands is:

<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>
<b>Woodland Assessment</b>	Open since 1st March	Open since 1st March
<b>Woodland Planning</b>	Closed	Open since 1st March
<b>Woodland Improvement (all types)</b>	Open since 1st March	Open since 1st March
<b>Woodland Management</b>	Closed	Open since 1st March
<b>Woodland Regeneration</b>	Closed	Open from 1st May
<b>Woodland Creation</b>	Open from 1st May	Open from 1st May

If you wish to unsubscribe to these updates please contact Gaynor Abel at [gaynor.abel@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gaynor.abel@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

For any questions or concerns about anything in this update, please contact Bob Evans on 01905 533802 or [bob.evans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bob.evans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)