

English Woodland Grant Scheme Regional Feedback Survey

Yorkshire and The Humber Region

Introduction

Welcome, and thank you for taking the time to provide your views on the grants and regulatory work of the Forestry Commission by completing this survey. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete and there is space at the end of the form to provide any additional comments. If you have any queries regarding the survey please feel free to contact Nigel Rylance (Grants and Regulations Manager) on 01904 448778.

Please return you completed survey form by the 30th September 2009 to the Forestry Commission Regional Office, Yorkshire and The Humber Region, Wheldrake Lane, Crockey Hill, York, YO19 4FF.

Background Context

The Forestry Commission's Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) recently discussed the opportunities and potential barriers relating to the support available through the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS). It was agreed that in order to gain a better understanding of any potential issues associated with EWGS and the FC's regulatory framework a basic survey should be carried out across applicants / agents. This survey is therefore supported by the Regional Advisory Committee and will be used to inform future discussions on developing EWGS / regulatory aspects in the region. We would therefore be very grateful if you would complete this simple survey.

Your Contact Details – (Optional)

We are required to release information to comply with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and Freedom of Information Act 2000. We will not allow any unwarranted breach of confidentiality, nor will we contravene our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998. Please note individual responses will not be made public but summary information will be included in any RAC Paper's and will therefore be publicly available.

1. Name:
Address:

Post Code:
E-mail:

2. What is the nature of your involvement with FC (owner / agent)

3. Which of the following are you involved in? (tick all that apply)

EWGS WGS Felling Licences Environmental Impact Regulations

Other, please specify

English Woodland Grant Scheme – Accessibility – Information on the scheme is provided through the FC’s printed literature, website, the regional office and contact through the Woodland Officers and our partners.

4. EWGS: How would you rate the information about the scheme?

Very Good Good Average Poor Very Poor

Comments:

English Woodland Grant Scheme – Funding Opportunities – We have recently revised the standard costs and also increased the level of support for specific regional priorities (e.g. Ancient and Native Woodland Improvement Grant, Woodland Bird priority areas). Applicants are also now eligible for continued Single Payment Scheme support along with EWGS Woodland Creation Grant.

5. EWGS: How would rate the potential level of funding?

WPG / WAG	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Poor
WIG	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Poor
WRG	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Poor
WMG	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Poor
WCG	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Poor

Comments:

English Woodland Grant Scheme – Barriers – What do you feel are barriers to accessing support?

6. EWGS: Do you feel there are any barriers to accessing support?

Yes No Don't know

7. If yes, what are those barriers?

Please select from the following options (Top 3 issues)

- RPA customer registration
- RPA land registration
- EWGS forms
- EWGS eligibility criteria
- EWGS budget availability
- Value of grant not worth the effort
- Availability of suitable contractors to do work
- Owners capital to provide matching funds
- Concern over inspections/government intrusion
- Other (please state)

Any further comments on barriers / issues?

8. EWGS - Do you feel that support available to the sector has improved through EWGS when compared to the previous scheme?

Yes No Don't know

Comments

9. RDPE – Are you aware of the wider funding available for the sector through Environmental Stewardship and Axis 1 and 3 support from the Regional Development Agency (Yorkshire Forward)?

Yes No

English Woodland Grant Scheme – Improvements – Can you suggest any improvements to the current scheme.

10. EWGS: Can you suggest any specific improvements to the scheme or the level of support provided by the Forestry Commission?

Comments:

Felling Licences - Getting Permission – The Forestry Commission is responsible for the control and regulation of tree felling as detailed in the Forest Act 1967 (as amended). The Felling Licence process involves completing a 2-page licence application covering basic details such as the area and number of trees to be felled and the production of 2 maps as per the application details. We would welcome your views on the process.

11. Felling Licences: Have you completed a Felling Licence Application?

Yes No

12. How would you rate the process?

Very Good Good Average Poor Very Poor

Comments: Please provide us details of any issues or suggestions for improvements associated with Felling Licence process.

Any Other Comments: Please add any further comments relating to the support and regulatory work undertaken by the Forestry Commission.

13. Please add any further comments relating to the support and regulatory work undertaken by the Forestry Commission.

Keeping Informed – The FC seeks to keep customers informed through our website and through the EWGS e-mail alerts.

14. Keeping Informed - Are you aware you can receive email alerts from FC on grant related matters? – see <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6myjjh>.

Yes No

15. If you already receive these alerts how do you rate them?

Very Good Good Average Poor Very Poor

16. Please note the responses will be shared with the Regional Advisory Committee and the overall summary information will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. If you wish your comments to remain confidential please highlight this here .

Thank you for completing the Survey Form.

Please complete your responses by 30 September 2009 either on line or via sending a hard copy to the following address.

Forestry Commission Regional Office, Yorkshire and The Humber Region, Wheldrake Lane, Crockey Hill, York, YO19 4FF.