

## English Woodland Grant Scheme

Operations Note 3

1<sup>st</sup> June 2008

# Definition of 'property' & treatment of country and regional boundaries

- Purpose**
- Where an EWGS grant uses the term “property “ as part of it’s criteria for eligibility or scope the following interpretation will apply.
  - Where an EWGS application extends across a national or regional boundary the resolution will be as set out below

**Property** A “property” is taken to be the largest unit of management decision making. This nearly always means a single farm or a single estate where all the land is or has been managed as one unit, whether or not it is owned by a single individual or jointly or severally by many.

Given that public funds are involved, the FC will have the final say on what constitutes a property in a given case. In making this decision the overriding criteria that the FC will consider is whether the “property” so agreed makes the administration and management of the agreement simpler or clearer and does not deliberately avoid grant requirements such as certified status.

The artificial separation of farms and estates into smaller units solely to take advantage of grant structures or to avoid certification requirements will render those applications ineligible.

**Large Properties** For very large properties the FC will consider requests to divide a single property in order to group all the woodland at a landscape scale or by water catchment.

**Dispersed Properties** For dispersed properties, such as Local Authorities and national bodies like the Woodland Trust or English Nature (but not management companies with a dispersed portfolio of clients), we can accept any logical grouping of woodlands into a “property” that the FC decides, subject to the considerations set out above.

**Scale** A property should not extend beyond regional scale.

**Land Lying on a Regional Boundary** In the case of an application that includes land that lies over a regional boundary, the two Conservancies affected will decide which region will administer the application. In making this decision, the FC will pay regard to the area of eligible land lying on either side of that boundary

and any previous administration arrangements of the property to which the land belongs. The decision will naturally determine the regional grants that may be accessed and this should also be considered when deciding which region will administer the application.

Given that public funds are involved, the FC will have the final say on how an application that lies on a boundary is to be treated. The principle to be observed is to obtain the greatest public benefit through the least number of applications.

**Land Lying on a Country Boundary** In the case of land that lies on a country boundary with Scotland or Wales, the application must stop at that boundary. Land lying outside England is ineligible for EWGS.

**Further Advice** The EWGS website [www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs) contains all the information needed to apply for grant support. If you do not have access to the internet, you can request any of the information from your local Forestry Commission office.

We recommend getting professional advice on woodland management and grants. A list of national and regional professional organisations is listed at [www.forestry.gov.uk/england-advice](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-advice). Or available from your local FC office.

**Versions** Version 1.1 issued 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008 – minor changes and new header