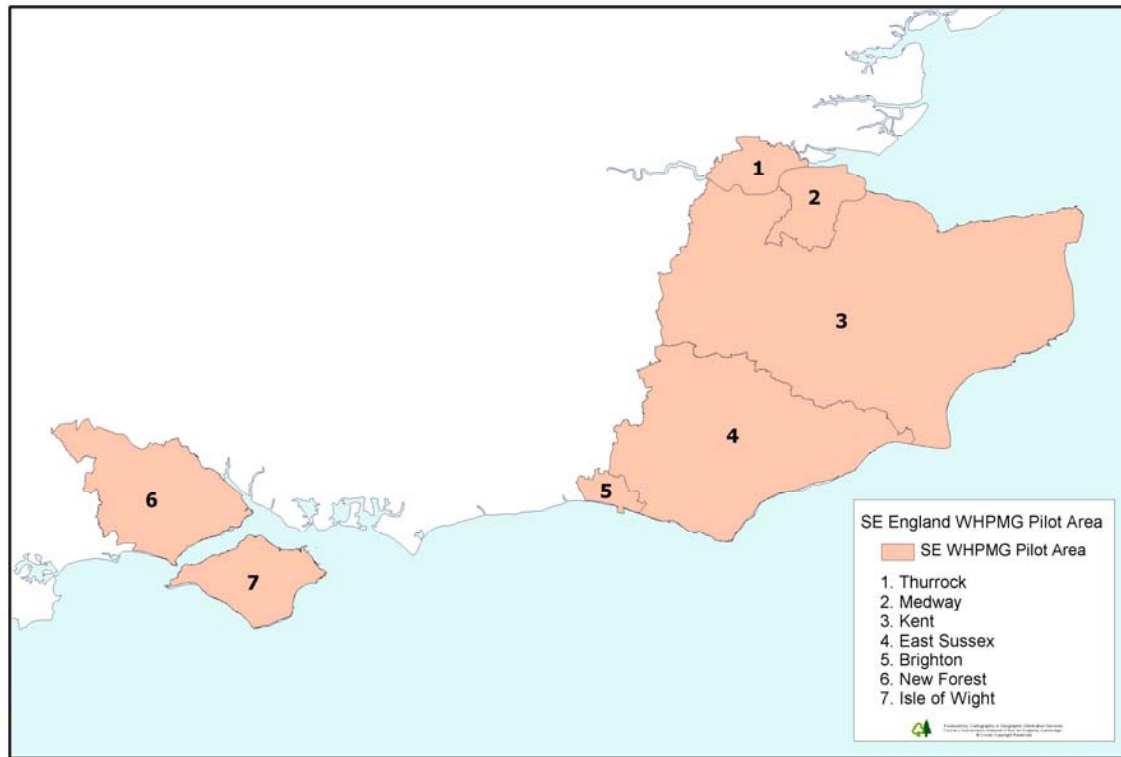


# Woodland Harvesting, Processing and Marketing Grant (WHPMG)

## A Review

- Sustaining England's Woodlands
- England Rural Development Plan
- Advisory Group



- Investment in harvesting, processing and marketing of forestry products.
- Promotion of new outlets for forestry products
- The establishment of woodland groups, associations or co-operatives.

- For investment in harvesting and primary processing equipment the grant is 30% of the total eligible cost.
- For marketing of a forest product including feasibility studies the grant is 30% of the total eligible cost.
- For the establishment of producer or marketing groups, co-operatives and woodland associations the grant is 50% of the total eligible cost.
- The minimum level of support is £2000 per application.
- Total funds available - £600k

- The first round of applications had to be submitted by 31st October 2005.
- The second round of applications had to be submitted by 30th April 2006
- All grant must be claimed by the end of October 2006.

- Weald Woodfair
- Woodlots
- South-East Woodland News
- EWGS seminars
- Individual meetings with potential applicants
  
- The first round of applications was publicised far more heavily than the second.

Area		No. by Outcome of Application (% of region)			
Pilot	Region	Approved	Rejected	Ineligible/Withdrawn	Total
North	NE	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	3 (60%)	5
	Y&H	3 (33%)	2 (22%)	4 (45%)	9
South	SE	3 (50%)	3 (50%)	0 (0%)	6

- The successful applications in the South-east included firewood processors and horse logging equipment.



- There were several reasons why schemes failed to progress.
- Lack of important information in application
- Financial instability of applicants company
- Unresolved planning issues
- Over-ambitious proposals
- Insufficient quotes for work items

- Results for round 2 have just been confirmed. The south-east area had a poor uptake of 2 applications, one of which has been approved.
- A total of 4 applications were approved in the south-east pilot area, two in Kent and two in East Sussex.

- It was widely acknowledged that the scheme concept was a good idea and could benefit the industry in the area.
- Many potential applicants were put off by the complexity of the application forms and the need to disclose financial details of the business.
- There was insufficient time to prepare applications before the deadlines, and then to purchase the equipment in time to claim grant.
- Confusion between the roles of FC and RDS.

- WHPMG pilot has been independently reviewed, using feedback from applicants and staff.
- The future of the WHPMG or a similar scheme will be decided as part of the England Rural Development Plan review next year.