



## **WOODLAND GRANTS OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

The English Woodland Grant Scheme is now open and the Forestry Commission are accepting applications for grant support with first payment year of 2009/2010. EWGS is funded through the RDPE and forms part of Axis 2: Improving the environment and the countryside.

### National & Regional Grant Prospectus

The Forestry Commission is still waiting for a final settlement in relation to Treasury and RDPE budgets and hence cannot provide finalised national or regional budget provisions for 2009/2010 and beyond. Until the Secretary of State confirms the final settlement in the coming months, we cannot provide final EWGS budget figures.

Following internal discussions, liaison with Defra and the national Applicants Focus Group (stakeholders), we decided to:

Plan on the basis of a conservative 2009/2010 EWGS budget estimate, similar to the 2008/2009 final amount Open EWGS for applications with effect from late May 2008 but confirm final budget (through the publication of national and regional prospectuses on the FC website) after the Secretary of State's settlement

By this strategy we are seeking to:

- retain confidence in EWGS, enable forward planning and support business continuity;
- avoid any obvious discrepancies between the management of Environmental Stewardship and EWGS;
- remain responsive to a challenging budget settlement.

As with previous years we will manage case fall-out to ensure that the available budget is utilised as fully as possible.

### Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) 2008 round

As with the 2007 round, each region has a fast track score so applications that achieve that score are offered grant on a first come first served basis. The fast track scores for 2008 are the same as last year and are detailed on the [Woodland Creation Grant homepage](#).

**The final deadline for WCG applications is the 30th September 2008.**

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