

Press Release

Date: 24th April 2013

Applications Encouraged for the Woodfuel WIG Initiative

The Forestry Commissions £10m Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) available to woodland owners and managers, is due to expire at the end of October this year and potential applicants are being urged to take advantage of the funds available before this opportunity ends.

Set up to help maintain and revitalize precious woodland areas throughout England, the grant can be used to offset activities including the costs of managing wood harvesting and investing in sustainable woodland management projects.

Commenting on the initiative, Mike Furness, the Project Manager for the Woodfuel WIG, said: "This grant will improve the infrastructure of undermanaged woodlands and reduce the overall costs of bringing timber to market. With an increase in the demand for wood as a renewable fuel this makes management operations such as thinning and coppicing a financially viable and self-financing activity."

Anyone interested should contact Mike Furness who will discuss their long term management plans for the woodlands, which will need to meet the new UK Forestry Standard. In addition, Mike will provide support and guidance with the application process.

For further information, please contact **Mike Furness**, Project Manager, **Woodfuel WIG**

Email mike.furness@ngagesolutions.co.uk

Telephone 01844 210 422 or 07795 515413

Ends

Notes to Editor

Woodfuel Woodland Improvement grant key features

This new grant supports the sustainable production of woodfuel and other timber products and runs to the end of the 2013/14 financial year.

Work will need to meet the UK Forestry Standard.

The grant offers 60% towards the cost of work, and does not take account of the timber income that results.

Before you apply for a Woodfuel WIG, you must have an approved, up to date Woodland Management Plan, and work must be completed and claimed for by 28 February 2014. If you don't have such a management plan, the existing Woodland Planning Grant is available and you should contact your local Forestry Commission Woodland Officer for further information or visit <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6dccn3>

The following main operations are supported:

- Roads, tracks and other infrastructure to assist the extraction of timber from woodland.
- Woodland inventory and costs associated with managing harvesting contracts.

The Forestry Commission is the government department responsible for protecting and expanding England's forests and woodlands and increasing their value to society and the environment. <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/England>