

Date March 2013

Forestry Commission News release

## Your step by step guide to applying for up to €200,000 of funding

Find out everything you need to know about the Woodfuel WIG

If there was ever anything you wanted to know about Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grants (Woodfuel WIG), now is the time to find out, through a series of insightful video interviews with Project Manager Mike Furness. The videos explain everything you need to know about Woodfuel WIG, with helpful information on the eligibility criteria, filling out an application form, getting planning permission, and, should you be successful, claiming your grant. Finally, Mike's top tips will be particularly insightful given his expertise and experience in awarding grants for worthy projects.

The Forestry Commission's Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant offers up to €200,000 to woodland owners with Forestry Commission approved Management Plans. Funds are available to support 60% of the costs of practical access projects like building roads or hard-standing for stacking and loading, and to help with the costs of getting professional help to bring neglected woods back into management.

With the deadline for approved applications looming at the end of December 2013, Mike Furness, Woodfuel WIG project manager at Ngage Solutions has developed a series of step-by-step guides to ease applicants through the process. Mike explained: "If you are not familiar with the process, applying for a Woodfuel WIG can seem to be an overly bureaucratic, protracted process, which could potentially waste time and resources. However the Woodfuel WIG is a great opportunity for owners, managers and agents to get 60% funding for access projects that can make all the difference to woodland economics, and, if you know what is needed, the application process is very straightforward. Through these videos we've tried to

de-mystify the process and show that it's really very simple. Over £6 million of enquiries have been received so far for a total pot of £7.5million, but there is everything still to play for and the videos will show you how."

To watch the videos visit the [NgageSolutions YouTube channel](#) or for more information on the Woodfuel WIG please call Mike Furness on 01494 568970 or email [mike.furness@ngagesolutions.co.uk](mailto:mike.furness@ngagesolutions.co.uk).

## 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/inf-d-6dccc3>

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>

For media information, please contact Lynsey Dunn, Ngage Solutions, Tel 07775 678020 or email [lynsey.dunn@ngagesolutions.co.uk](mailto:lynsey.dunn@ngagesolutions.co.uk)