



Exciting opportunities and continued support for forestry was seen as one of the few good news stories that have come about following the Comprehensive Spending Review.



## ENGLISH WOODLAND GRANT SCHEME

The Forestry Commission will continue to deliver the English Woodland Grant Scheme under the Rural Development Programme until March 2014. There is still funding available in all 6 grant types with some very attractive rates being offered under the Woodland Improvement Grant covering up to 80% of standard costs.

The Higher Level Stewardship scheme is also set to continue until 2014, with additional funds being made available to meet what is expected to be a growing demand for agri-environmental management within the English Countryside.

For further details on what grants may be available to you and to discuss how you may be able to take advantage of these please contact [Justin Mumford](#) or [Matthew Willetts](#) on 01536 408840.



## NEW WOODFUEL WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT GRANT

The Forestry Commission are planning to launch a new 'Woodfuel' Woodland Improvement Grant' in April 2011 which will focus on providing grant support for unmanaged woods for access improvements.

This grant will be available on all woodland as long as it provides 'value for money'. In addition there will be no restrictions to target areas such as ancient semi-natural woodland as is currently the case for most of the other Forestry Commission grants.

Funding is likely to cover up to 60% of actual costs.



## RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE

The government has also committed to the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), ending two years speculation and effectively giving the green light to people considering the installation of woodfuel boilers.

Although no exact start date has yet been announced, Chancellor George Osborne said that the multi-million pound incentive will be introduced in 2011/12. Designed to encourage an alternative to fossil fuels, the RHI will comprise a payment payable to end users for every unit of renewable heat produced. The tariff payment rates will depend on the woodfuel boiler capacity, but are expected to range from 9p per kWh for small household boilers up to 45kW, to 1.6p for large boilers 500kW and above (typically used by commercial or industrial premises), and are designed to give an attractive rate on the capital investment cost of woodfuel heating equipment.

For more information on the RHI, project feasibility and woodfuel supply matters in general, please contact [Andrew Sheridan](#) on 01536 408840.

## FORESTRY COMMISSION DISPOSALS PROGRAMME

Defra has announced that the Forestry Commission is to be fundamentally reformed, which may include a reduction in public ownership of woodland and a greater role for the private sector in England.



Forestry Commission

There are some 258,000ha of woodland in England under the ownership of the Forestry Commission (18% of total woodland cover), and there have been suggestions that up to 40,000ha may be sold off in the near future following public consultation. Such sales could provide an excellent opportunity for people to purchase what is considered to be a very tax efficient and sound investment. Further news is expected later in the Autumn.

*Lockhart Garratt Ltd will be keeping abreast of all further developments and advising clients accordingly. Please also visit our website for up to date news and events [lockhart-garratt](http://lockhart-garratt)*

If you wish to explore any opportunities further or require advice on any aspect of woodland acquisition please contact [John Lockhart](#) or [Justin Mumford](#) on 01536 408840.



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