

Investments in the forest and woodland industries funded through the Rural Development Programme for England

Funding for woodland & forest owners to improve the economic value of the forest

Forest/woodland owners including estates, farms, local authorities and charities

- Access work, e.g. construction of loading bays, or ‘forest’ roads to facilitate easier management of woods and forests
- Work on some silvicultural operations that offer significant value adding to the final woodland product
- Feasibility studies
- Capital investments in forest machinery
- Infrastructure for in-forest recreational enterprise

• Note: Operations eligible under EWGS will not be eligible under this programme

Funding for forest-based business

This includes farm and forestry based businesses such as planting, maintenance and harvesting contractors as well as forest managers and those providing in-forest services e.g.:

- The development of new products, processes and markets
- Improvements in efficiency and quality of products and services
- Improving environmental protection and occupational safety
- Co-ordination between businesses and/or forest owners for new products and forest infrastructure

Funding for those involved in the primary processing of forest products

Direct funding for investment on sawmill and other processing plant is only eligible up to and including the primary breakdown of the log (including sawing, chipping, pulping, kilning, treating, etc). However, by working with others in the supply chain, it may be possible to fund market development of end products. Funding may be available for:

- Primary processing of forest based material
- Development of new products and services
- Development of new markets for processed material
- Developing markets for end-products

Funding for renewable energy

Funding will be available for the harvesting and primary processing of wood-based fuels e.g.:

- Machinery and equipment for harvesting and processing of woodfuel
- Processing and marketing wood fuels
- Setting up of groups and collaborations to enhance the supply of wood fuels
- Development of new technologies and services that enhance the quality of the product and the service
- Storage of wood fuel

Funding is not generally available for the installation of wood fuelled boilers or generators. Other sources of funding may be available for this.

Funding for tourism and recreation

Investments that enable different uses for woodland (e.g. tourism and recreation) that also add to the economic value of the forest will be fundable, e.g.:

- Feasibility studies for in-forest recreational activities
- Installation of necessary infrastructure
- Associated enterprises such as cafés, bike hire, etc

Funding for skills and training

Training can be provided through organised courses (but not qualification-based) or bespoke training. It could include anything that adds relevant knowledge to the business. Examples of eligible training activity include:

- Business and management skills
- Practical and technical skills
- ICT and new technologies
- Training for new products and processes being developed
- Environmental land management

General Themes

Some activities are fundable in their own right or may well enhance the development of an investment, and hence the funding proposal. These include:

- Combining resources to increase the value of an investment such as larger, more efficient capital investment and/or market research undertaken by a group of collaborating businesses pooling their resources
- Innovation in products, processes or services
- Enhancing environmental protection whilst continuing with the economic development of a business or forest.
- Increased use of new technologies and ICT (Information and Computer Technologies)



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Further details

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European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas.