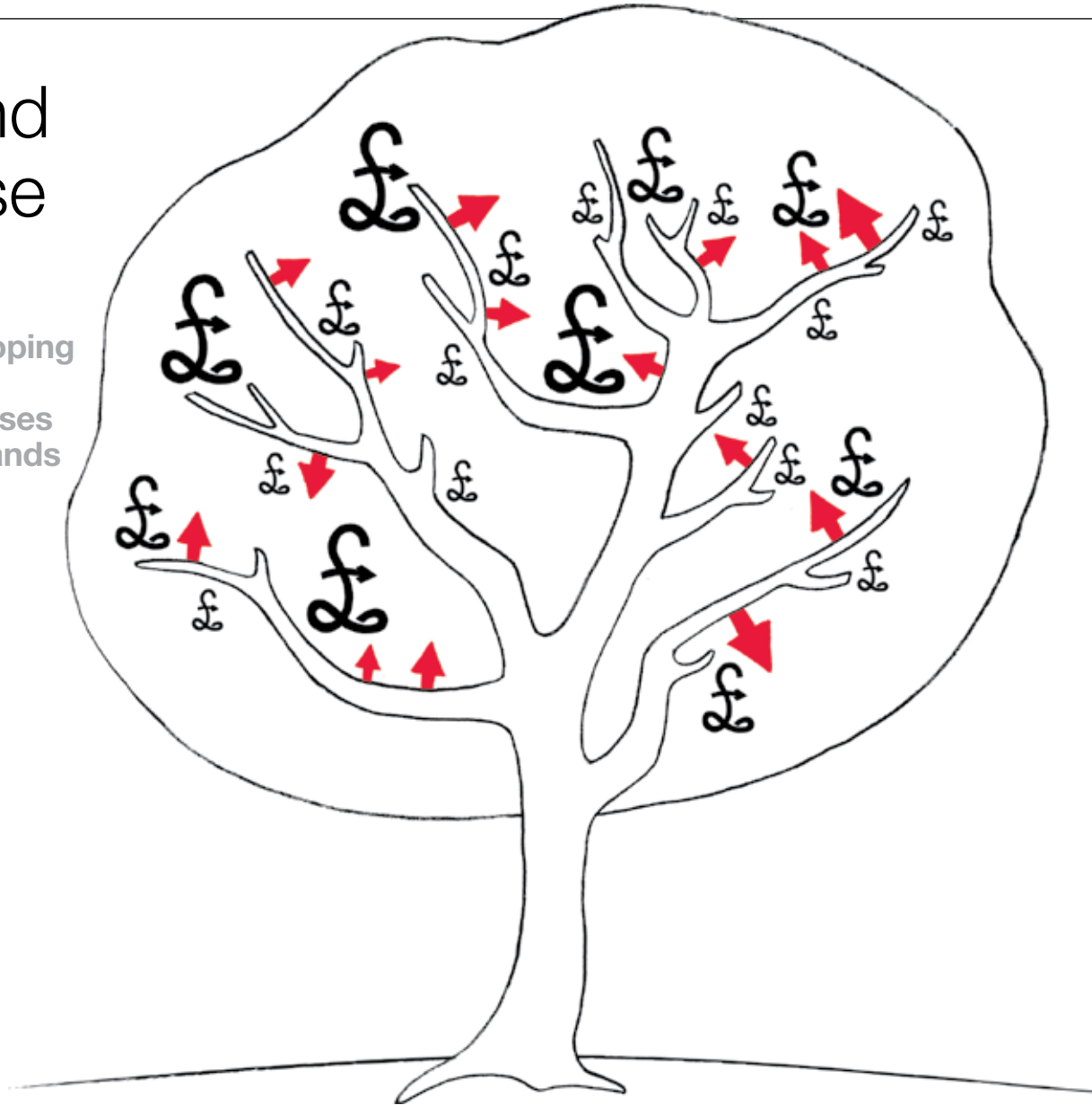


**Solutions  
for Business**

Funded by  
government

# Woodland Enterprise Grant

A guide to developing  
Woodland and  
Forestry Enterprises  
in the West Midlands



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



[www.advantagewm.co.uk](http://www.advantagewm.co.uk)

## Solutions for Business

### Our purpose

Solutions for Business is the package of business support products and services, available from the Government, to help companies and individuals start, grow and succeed in business.

The package of support specifically targets areas of market failure and helps businesses with common problems such as starting and growing a business, innovation, finance, skills and the environment.

### Our promise

Solutions for Business will help you meet the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow. By targeting public money at real business issues, it will help companies create sustainable success.

### Further information on this product

#### Rural Development Programme for England Business Support

This product offers support for businesses to access specific training and knowledge transfer, and grants for business development and expansion.

The product aims to build profitable, innovative and competitive farming, food and forestry sectors, that meet the needs of consumers and make a net positive contribution to the environment and to enhance opportunity in rural areas in a way that harnesses and builds upon environmental quality.

The Rural Development Programme for England Business Support is delivered in the West Midlands by the Regional Development Agency, Advantage West Midlands.

### Our partners



#### Defra

Managing Authority for the Rural Development Programme for England 2007 - 2013

#### Herefordshire Council

Organisation responsible for the joint management of the Woodland Enterprise Grant.

#### Heartwoods

Organisation responsible for the joint management of the Woodland Enterprise Grant.

### Accessed through



#### Business Support Gateway

Business Link is your gateway to information about Solutions for Business as well as business support available from the private and third sectors. Independent, experienced advisors will match your organisation to the best help available.

To find out more call Business Link on 0845 600 9006, or visit [www.businesslink.gov.uk/solutions](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/solutions).

# What can the Woodland Enterprise Grant (WEG) do for you?

The Woodland Enterprise Grant (WEG) is a small capital grants scheme, funded under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). The grant aims to improve the economic value and the overall performance of woodland and forestry enterprises by supporting the production and processing of primary forestry products e.g. woodfuel. The grant does not cover arboriculture.

The grant funding is managed by Herefordshire Council with technical support from Heartwoods.

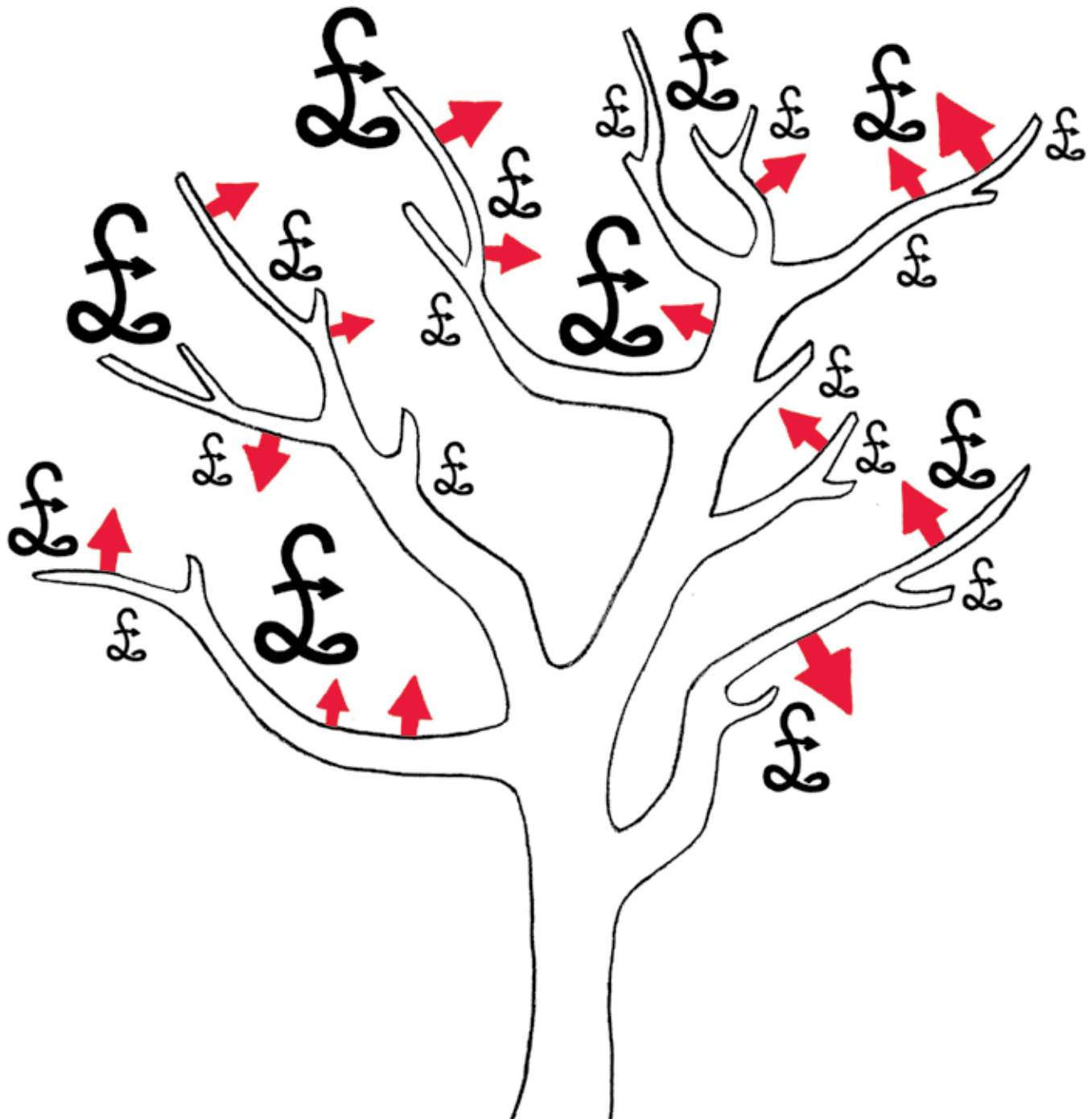
## Who can apply?

Funding is available to Woodland and Forestry Micro-businesses.

i.e. new or existing businesses based in the West Midlands region, of less than 10 full time equivalent employees whose turnover is equivalent to less than €2m (located in rural areas or whose activities will benefit rural areas).

## What will the WEG fund?

Subject to eligibility funds are available for applicants for investments in Post Harvest Processing. The capital cost of machinery and equipment necessary for in-forest processing of woodfuel and associated storage facilities. The scope of investment will be determined by the Heartwoods Development Plan. Grant awards are discretionary and will be at the minimum required to enable the project to proceed.



### Eligible Investments:

- Woodfuel chippers
- Specific forestry equipment e.g. Bespoke loaders, forwarders, trailers, Roll on Roll off chip containers
- Distribution of forestry products e.g. chip blowers
- Firewood processing and packaging e.g. firewood and kindling processors
- Post felling wood processors e.g. small forwarders
- Primary product timber drying facilities e.g. kilns
- Chainsaws/other small scale equipment as part of a larger investment package
- Low ground pressure equipment e.g. All Terrain Vehicle's (ATVs) and horse logging equipment.

### Ineligible Investments:

- Harvesting equipment
- General purpose items eg standard (agricultural) tractor units, loaders, trailers
- Revenue activities such as marketing, project development and management fees
- Statutory costs e.g. planning.

### How much can I apply for?

40% of eligible costs, from a minimum grant of £2,500 up to a maximum grant of £62,500. The rest of the funding must be from the private sector.

### How do I apply?

The WEG will be run in partnership with Heartwoods. A condition of grant is that you have received skills and advice under this project resulting in a Heartwoods Development Plan which will form part of the appraisal process for funding.

If you think you are eligible:

- First contact Heartwoods to register interest in the project. (Please see contact details).
- You will be asked to complete a Stage One application form to capture your details and understand if you are an eligible applicant under RDPE.
- If you have not already done so, Heartwoods may also put you in touch with Business Link West Midlands who will help you assess any need for training or business advice.
- Heartwoods will work with you to produce a Heartwood Development Plan for your business. The plan will identify if you have any specific skills, training or equipment needs to support your business. If you wish to apply for a grant you will need to contact the WEG team at Herefordshire Council.
- The WEG team will discuss your proposal and confirm that you and your project are eligible for RDPE funding.
- If it looks from your initial application that you are eligible a full application form will be issued and a Project Officer will arrange a visit to explain the process. You will also need to complete a State Aid declaration to let us know if you have received public funding over the last 3 years.
- If planning permission is needed you will also need to secure this and/or listed building and other relevant consents (where this is a legal requirement) before submitting your full application.

## Key Contacts

If you want to discuss your ideas informally you can contact either:-

### **Heartwoods**

#### **Nick Maskery**

Tel: 01952 435859

E-mail: [nickmaskery@smallwoods.org.uk](mailto:nickmaskery@smallwoods.org.uk)

### **Herefordshire Council (WEG Scheme administrators)**

#### **Dorothy Coleman**

Tel: 01432 383616

E-mail: [dmc@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dmc@herefordshire.gov.uk)

#### **Caroline Cattle**

Tel: 01432 260662

E-mail: [ccattle@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ccattle@herefordshire.gov.uk)

### **RDPE Project Managers**

#### **Advantage West Midlands**

Tel: 0121 380 3500

[www.advantagewm.co.uk/  
working-with-us/rural-development-  
programme-for-england.aspx](http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/working-with-us/rural-development-programme-for-england.aspx)

### **Business Link West Midlands**

Tel: 0845 113 1234

[www.businesslinkwm.co.uk](http://www.businesslinkwm.co.uk)

### **Your Local Rural Hub**

#### **Staffordshire – Frances Beatty**

Tel: 01785 255305

E-mail: [info@staffordshireruralhub.org](mailto:info@staffordshireruralhub.org)

#### **Warwickshire – Carrie Robbins**

Tel: 02476 858242

E-mail: [carrie@rase.org.uk](mailto:carrie@rase.org.uk)

#### **Herefordshire – Cathy Meredith**

Tel: 01432 870033

E-mail: [meredithc@hct.ac.uk](mailto:meredithc@hct.ac.uk)

#### **Worcestershire – Valerie Breakwell**

Tel: 01905 622272

E-mail: [valerie.breakwell@wrh.org.uk](mailto:valerie.breakwell@wrh.org.uk)

#### **Shropshire – Victoria Jones**

Tel: 01939 262106

E-mail: [shropsruralhub@wnsc.ac.uk](mailto:shropsruralhub@wnsc.ac.uk)



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For more information on the RDPE programme contact us at [rdpeenquires@advantagewm.co.uk](mailto:rdpeenquires@advantagewm.co.uk)

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