



## NEW FOREST RDPE (Leader) GRANTS

---

# Information & Guidance for Farmers, Foresters & Rural Businesses

---

### Contents

1. What is RDPE (Leader) 2008 - 2013?
2. Which area of the New Forest does the funding cover?
3. How do I apply?
4. What size grants are available?
5. Who can apply for grants?
6. Who makes the decisions about which projects to fund?
7. What is New Forest District Council's role in RDPE (Leader)?
8. What is the New Forest National Park Authority's role in RDPE (Leader)?
9. What happens at the end of RDPE (Leader) funding in 2013?
10. What do I do next?

Further information and forms are available at [www.newforestleader.org.uk](http://www.newforestleader.org.uk)

If you have any questions about RDPE (Leader) funding or the application process, please contact:

Sally Igra, New Forest RDPE (Leader) Programme Manager, New Forest District Council, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hants, SO43 7PA Tel: 02380 285368  
E-mail: [Sally.Igra@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.Igra@nfdc.gov.uk)

#### **Please Note:**

The information you provide will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 for the purpose of administering your application for RDPE (Leader) funding and will not be used for any purpose that is not compatible with the purpose for which it was collected.

The New Forest RDPE (Leader) Programme is delivered through a partnership between the New Forest Local Action Group, New Forest District Council, the New Forest National Park Authority and our funders. Any information you provide may be shared between these organisations but solely for the purposes of delivering the RDPE (Leader) Programme.

## 1. What is RDPE (Leader) 2007 - 2013?

Since 1991 the EU has distributed funding to rural areas through different programmes, called variously LEADER I, LEADER II and LEADER+ (the latter has been available in the New Forest and ended in December 2008). The new funding comes from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and is called RDPE (Leader).

In January 2008, as part of a competitive bidding process, a partnership between the New Forest Local Action Group, New Forest District Council and the New Forest National Park Authority successfully submitted a bid for £2.2 million of funding from the EU's RDPE (Leader) programme 2008 – 2013. The bid proved successful and the New Forest Local Action Group has been allocated £2.2 million of RDPE (Leader) funding.

## 2. Which part of the New Forest does the funding cover?

The map below shows the New Forest RDPE (LEADER) programme area and the parishes which are included within that area. If you live outside the area you may still be eligible for grant support providing your main business activities are within the LEADER area.

A link to a more detailed map can be found at [www.newforestleader.org.uk](http://www.newforestleader.org.uk)



In general, RDPE (Leader) funding is restricted to rural areas with a population of less than 150,000 and for this reason some of the urban areas have been excluded from the New Forest Programme area

### 3. How do I apply?

These guidance notes contain all the information you will need to undertake a basic check to see whether you, and your project idea, are eligible for support. It also has the form necessary to submit an initial Expression of Interest, **however please check your eligibility before you do so.**

If you cannot find the information you require, please contact Sally Igra, RDPE (Leader) Programme Manager at the address shown on the front of this document.

Please note: separate guidance and forms are available for groups wishing to apply for funding to support rural community facilities.

### 4. What size grants are available?

Depending on the RDPE (Leader) funding available, and the type of project requiring funding; grants of £2,000 - £50,000 are available.

However you will be required to provide your own 'match funding' money of between 30%-60% of the total cost of the project.

If your project requires more than £50,000 grant funding, support may be available through the main RDPE funding scheme administered by SEEDA. For more information contact: Helen Dallas [helendallas@seeda.co.uk](mailto:helendallas@seeda.co.uk) or Tel: 01483 484297

### 5. Who can apply for grants?

- Applicants in the project area who are involved in farming, horticulture, forestry or small rural businesses (with fewer than 10 members of staff) and which are land based (i.e. contractors) or which use or add value to local produce.
- Projects must contribute towards at least one of the New Forest Local Development Strategy objectives which are as follows:
  - i) To support and encourage the production and promotion of New Forest wood products*
  - ii) To support the development and marketing of New Forest farm products and rural micro-businesses*
  - iii) To encourage and support sustainable land, farm and forestry management*
  - iv) To provide support for rural communities to provide sustainable community facilities and essential community services*

The table below summarises the eligible applicants and activities which can be funded

<b>CAN FUND</b>	<b>CAN'T FUND</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Rural Businesses &amp; community facilities/ activities within the New Forest RDPE (Leader) programme area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Rural Businesses &amp; community facilities/ activities outside the New Forest RDPE (Leader) programme area</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Eligible projects requiring between £2,000 - £50,000 of grant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Projects requiring less than £2,000 of grant or more than £50,000</li> </ul>
<b>Farmers</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Farm diversification (by existing farmers), for example... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ farm buildings into holiday accommodation</li> <li>▪ farm shop / retail outlets</li> <li>▪ butchery facilities</li> <li>▪ land-based businesses</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Renewable energy installations on farms, estates, horticultural sites e.g. wind, solar, wood -fuel, heat pumps, anaerobic digestion(both to support the site itself and/or to sell back to the grid.)</li> <li>✓ Adding value to agricultural produce i.e. processing equipment and buildings (for expansion or the development of new opportunities, not a straight-forward replacement of existing equipment) e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ cheese-making equipment</li> <li>▪ milk processing equipment</li> <li>▪ kitchen to make pies, sausages</li> <li>▪ game storage / deer larders</li> <li>▪ commercial weaving equipment</li> <li>▪ meat cutting rooms</li> <li>▪ packing and grading facilities</li> <li>▪ product development, branding &amp; design</li> <li>▪ joint initiatives to add value to produce</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ General agricultural production equipment and buildings i.e. anything supporting production up to the point of harvest or slaughter including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ tractors</li> <li>▪ hay making equipment</li> <li>▪ barns &amp; other housing for livestock or forage</li> <li>▪ equipment relating to the growing of crops</li> </ul> </li> <li>✗ The production costs for animal products that are produced while the animal is still alive e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Milk</li> <li>▪ Eggs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Foresters / Woodland Owners</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The cost of producing management plans if leading to economic use of the woodland</li> <li>✓ In-forest activities, up to and including harvesting (can include thinning)</li> <li>✓ Costs of processing and marketing of forestry products, especially for wood-fuel e.g. sawmill, chippers</li> <li>✓ Renewable energy installations on forestry holdings / estates e.g. wind, solar, wood-fuel, heat pumps, anaerobic digestion (both to support the site itself and/or to sell back to the grid).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Industrial scale processing e.g. pressure treatment of timber</li> <li>✗ Woodland management if not linked to an enhanced economic use i.e. if purely for conservation or recreational purposes.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">Cont/..</p>

<b>CAN FUND</b>	<b>CAN'T FUND</b>
<b>Rural Businesses</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Equipment for a new or existing land-based/producer-based businesses e.g. contractors, local products etc</li> <li>✓ Training for people setting up or expanding a business in the land-based sector e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ forestry contracting</li> <li>▪ thatching</li> <li>▪ hedge-laying</li> <li>▪ charcoal production</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Equipment needed for the development of community shops / retail services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Rural-based businesses which have no link to local products or land-based industries</li> <li>✗ Contracting equipment linked to agricultural production i.e. manure spreaders, forage harvesters etc.</li> <li>✗ Tourism related activities unless undertaken by an existing farmer as part of a farm diversification activity.</li> </ul>

**Please note: All grants will be awarded on the basis of a sound business case being made for the investment; the simple replacement of buildings and machinery is not eligible for funding under this scheme.**

## **6. Who makes the decisions about which projects to fund?**

Decisions about what will be funded by RDPE (Leader) in the New Forest are made by the Local Action Group (LAG). LAG members are drawn from public, private, voluntary and community organisations and meet approximately 5-6 times a year to assess project applications.

This ensures that New Forest RDPE (Leader) funding is being used to fund projects and activities which meet local needs.

Details of the LAG members can be found in annex 1 of this document.

## **7. What is New Forest District Council's role in RDPE (Leader)?**

New Forest District Council (NFDC) will act as 'Accountable Body' for the RDPE (Leader) programme in the New Forest. This means they undertake the administrative and financial management of the programme on behalf on the Local Action Group.

The RDPE (LEADER) Programme is fully funded and the budgets take account of the cost of staff and the administrative / finance function provided by NFDC.

## **8. What is the New Forest National Park Authorities role in RDPE (Leader)?**

Staff from the New Forest National Park Authority (NPA) will be providing potential applicants with RDPE (Leader) project development support. This staff time is being provided by the NPA as 'in-kind' match funding support.

## 9. What happens at the end of RDPE (Leader) funding in 2013?

There is no guarantee that the EU will have similar funding programmes available after 2013.

## 10. What do I do next?

If, having looked through all the guidance contained in this document, you think both you and the activity for which you require funding is eligible for RDPE (Leader) support, you should complete the Expression of Interest Form (E of I) for Farming, Forestry & Rural Businesses.

### STEP 1: **Completion of the Expression of Interest Form**

The Expression of Interest Form (EoI) is the first stage in the application process and allows the grant appraisal panel, the Local Action Group (LAG), to decide if your project proposal meets the criteria for the grant before you have completed the more detailed application form.

**The EoI form is your opportunity to 'sell' your project idea to the LAG and to explain why it would be a good project for them to fund.**

Please ensure you complete the form as fully as possible; incomplete forms will not be considered.

### STEP 2: **The Local Action Group meet to assess your E of I**

The LAG meets to assess Expressions of Interest approximately every two months and the RDPE (Leader) Programme staff can advise you of the dates of these meetings.

- *Please note that Expressions of Interest are considered on a first-come-first-served basis and with regard to the time available at LAG meetings. To ensure your EoI is considered at the first available meeting, you are advised to submit the completed form well in advance of the date you are given by programme staff.*
- *In addition, the final submission dates are for completed Expressions of Interest. If any errors or omissions are found within the EoI and which require correction, you risk missing the deadline for submission. We are happy to look at a final draft of your Expression of Interest; however this must be submitted well in advance of the final submission date.*

### STEP 3: **After the LAG Meeting**

Following the LAG meeting, you will be given feedback on your E of I and advice as to whether you should proceed to the next stage of completing the full application form.

The full application will need to be supported by a business plan, architects plans, cash flow projections etc as appropriate and further guidance will be given on this.

We can provide one-to-one support and advice to help you complete the application form, please contact programme staff for more information.

Further information on the application process can be found in annex 2 to this document.

New Forest RDPE (Leader)  
**Profiles of Local Action Group Members**

All LAG members assess Expressions of Interest which are submitted as the first stage in the project application process. \*Denotes Local Action Group Members who also attend meetings of the Decision Making Group, a sub-group of the LAG whose role it is to appraise full project applications.

Sector Representation	Name	Background and Experience
Rural business, estate and forestry management	<b>Chris Gwyn-Evans*</b> (Chairman)	Chris is the Managing Director of the Longdown Management Ltd, which manages estates in and around the New Forest including forestry and farming activities. Chris is also a Director of New Forest Produce Ltd, the company which licenses use of the New Forest Marque.
Rural business and farm management	<b>Richard Cuzens*</b> (Vice Chairman)	Richard is the Chief Executive of the New Forest & Hampshire County Show based within the New Forest. His particular interests are in rural issues, farming and forestry as he farmed for over 20 years and ran a small forestry contracting business in West Dorset.
Sustainable Land Management	<b>John Durnell *</b> (Vice Chairman)	John is head of Conservation for West Hampshire for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. He lives in the New Forest and is particularly interested in land management issues.
Rural business management and skills development	<b>Barry Olorenshaw*</b>	Barry was previously responsible for Taylor Woodrow's property investment and commercial development programme in Southern England. He currently runs a commercial property consultancy and is a board member of New Forest Business Partnership
Business development	<b>Anthony Climpson</b>	Anthony is the Employment and Tourism Manager at New Forest District Council and has been Destination Manager in the New Forest for the past twenty-two years.
Link between the LAG and NFDC & NPA	<b>Cllr Maureen Holding*</b>	Maureen was appointed Portfolio Holder for Employment, Health & Wellbeing following the 2007 district elections. She represents the Brockenhurst and Forest South East District ward. Maureen sits on the Industrial Relations and Planning Development Control Committees at the District Council and is also a board member of the New Forest National Park Authority.
Farming and commoning	<b>Sam Dovey</b>	Sam is involved in both commoning and farming and has been the local Group Secretary of the National Farmers Union since 1999. He is a committee member of the Commoners Defence Association, New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society and the New Forest Livestock Society. Sam is also a trustee of the New Forest Trust and sits on the New Forest Consultative Panel.

Cont/..

Farming and commoning	<b>Kate Ingram</b>	Kate is involved in farming and commoning. She has developed new opportunities on the family farm through diversification into allied rural trades and the conversion of redundant farm buildings
Farming and commoning	<b>Pat Thorne</b>	After working in the NHS for many years Pat ran a smallholding and undertook freelance research. She represented Whiteparish on the consultative panel in the 1990s before moving into the forest. She is currently the Defra appointed Verderer and is also a practicing commoner.
Forestry and woodland management	<b>Harry Oram</b>	Harry is District Forester for the New Forest Forestry Commission. He has 40 years experience in forestry management, lives on a smallholding and is also a Parish Councillor for Brockenhurst
Forestry and woodland management	<b>Andrew Tolfts*</b>	Andrew is a professional forester with experience overseas including small business development and the use of mobile saw-mills. Since 2001 he has worked in the wood fuel sector in London and SE England promoting wood as renewable energy and developing wood fuel supply chains. He is a Director of SE Wood Fuels.
Forestry and woodland management	<b>David Dibden</b>	Dave has many years experience of working in the New Forest as a forestry and woodland contractor. In addition he manages a small area of coppice for the Forestry Commission and is a member of Hampshire Coppice Group.
Sustainable Land Management	<b>Emma Rigglesworth*</b>	Emma is Head of Sustainable Development at the New Forest National Park Authority. Emma has lived and worked in the New Forest for many years and has been involved in a number of successful initiatives to support farming and commoning in the New Forest.
Development & management of community facilities	<b>Gerald Lewis*</b>	Gerald is a Parish Councilor for Sopley and has lived and worked in the New Forest for the past 35 years. Qualified to MBA level, he has extensive professional experience of project and financial management in both the private and public sectors and is currently employed as a principal manager with the Childrens Social Care Dept of a neighbouring local authority.
Development & management of community facilities	<b>Debbie Grace*</b>	Debbie is a Community Development Worker with the local Council of Voluntary Service. Debbie's role is to support voluntary and community groups across the Forest through the provision of advice on funding and sustainability.
Development & management of community facilities and link with NPA	<b>John Sanger*</b>	John has a background in business and was an advisor for Business Link for many years. He is currently a Parish Councillor for Woodgreen and a member of the New Forest National Park Authority.
Rural business, estate and forestry management	<b>Rachel Pearson</b>	Rachel Pearson is a qualified Chartered Surveyor and has been Resident Agent on the Beaulieu Estate since 2004. Rachel is a stakeholder member of the New Forest Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy and the New Forest Access Forum

## NEW FOREST LEADER Step-by-Step Guide to the Application Process

