



## LINCOLNSHIRE LIMWOODS NATIVE WOODLAND CHALLENGE SUPPLEMENT

### Introduction

The **Lincolnshire Limewoods Project** is a partnership of local and national organisations working to protect, enhance and promote the natural and historic landscapes and features of the Limewoods area.

Funded for five years by the Heritage Lottery Fund and project partners, the Limewoods Project has three main programmes of work:

- Access improvements
- Education and awareness
- Heritage management

As part of the heritage management programme, the **Limewoods Native Woodland Challenge Supplement** has been introduced to the area to encourage farmers and landowners to create new native woodlands with improved public access.

The Limewoods are remnants of historically more extensive woodlands and are our last surviving link to the woodland that covered England in pre-history. Their ecological value and that of other habitats and species within this landscape is decreasing and threatened partly due to their small size and isolation in an otherwise arable landscape.

Recreating native woodland will both link and extend these fragments and will ensure their continued ecological diversity for generations to come.

### How does the challenge work?

Under current English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) eligibility rules, standard Additional Contributions (AC) for public access provision are not available in the Lincolnshire Limewoods Project area. However this initiative offers applicants the opportunity to bid for an additional Limewoods Native Woodland Challenge Supplement, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, (up to a limit of £2,000 per hectare) on top of the standard EWGS woodland creation grant to create new native woodlands with improved public access

The challenge is competitive so a panel of judges will assess the applications. In deciding which bids to accept the judges will consider quality, value for money and public benefit. The funding for this project is limited and this will restrict the number of schemes that can be supported.

Applicants must complete the special Native Woodland Challenge Supplement scoring form (LNWCS 3) to indicate how well their proposal meets the criteria.

The challenge funding is available in the area shown on the map on the insert (LNWCS1). If you are unsure whether your plans are within the target area please contact the Forestry Commission Market Rasen office

## **The Lincolnshire Limewoods**

The majority of the Lincolnshire Limewoods can be traced back to the Domesday Book. The relative abundance of small-leaved lime remaining in them suggests a strong likelihood that despite centuries of human management, many of them have had continuous woodland cover since the original 'wildwood' some 5 – 8000 years ago.

The Limewoods are semi-natural woodlands that are largely composed of locally native tree and shrub species. This remarkable concentration of ancient woodlands contains a rich diversity of wildlife. However, much of the wildlife is highly fragmented and susceptible to loss and damage. Without additional management some of this wildlife could be lost.

### **General requirements for the Limewoods Native Woodland Challenge Supplement**

- The majority (>50%) of the area of your application must lie within the eligible area (see map on insert).
- Ideally, proposals should extend or link existing semi-natural woodland by establishing new native woodland adjacent to the existing wood(s).
- You must meet the standards of environmental protection and practice set out in the UK Forestry Standard.
- The area must not be located on existing semi-natural vegetation of high conservation value, e.g. unimproved species rich pasture.
- Your proposals must set out your plans for long term deer management. The Lincolnshire Deer Group (c/o Forestry Commission 01673 843461) can give further advice on this.
- Proposals must include improved provision for public access to ensure greatest public benefit, i.e.
  - For areas with no previous access, new access should be proposed e.g. permissive access, information boards etc
  - For areas with or adjacent to existing access, additional access and / or information provision should be proposed e.g. countryside furniture, information boards etc

and any such improvements to public access must be maintained for 30 years from the date of the first payment being made

- Your proposal must score at least 40 points to be eligible for judging under the Challenge. Schemes scoring less than 40 points may however be entered for standard EWGS grants.

## What are the priorities of this Challenge?

Listed below are some of the criteria to bear in mind when preparing your application and completing the scoring form:

- If natural regeneration is practicable, it will be preferred to planting.
- We will consider natural regeneration to be practical where there are sufficient trees of seed bearing age of the species required within seed dispersal range. Your plan must include initial works to encourage and secure natural regeneration followed by protection of the seedlings and newly established trees. You must specify what action will be taken if regeneration does not occur or fails to reach the agreed stocking. A timescale for this work must be agreed and will be recorded in the EWGS contract.
- For planting, the guidance on species choice, composition and design given in FC Bulletin 112: "Creating New Native Woodlands" must be followed.
- In addition, you may need to follow any local guidance on what species are most appropriate for your proposed site (see FC Practice Note 8: "Using Local Stock for Planting Native Trees and Shrubs").
- Applications will score more where the existing adjacent semi-natural woodland either already has, or is being brought into, management with a long term plan that follows Forestry Commission Guidance on the management of semi-natural woodlands.
- Creating larger woods will be encouraged. Research has shown particular benefit in woodland extensions which will result in the following thresholds being passed:
  - Increases the size of existing woods from under 3ha to over 3ha (provided open space is included)
  - Increases the size of existing woods from under 20ha to over 20ha (provided management plan exists and is being followed)
- Proposals for sites located adjacent to other semi-natural habitats will be favoured to assist in the creation of mosaics of different habitats.
- The degree of partnership involvement with other organisations and initiatives and local community support will be taken into account when we judge the application.
- Applications will score more where there is a recognised need for new and/or enhancement of existing public access provision.

## How do I apply?

Firstly, discuss your ideas with staff from the Forestry Commission before submitting your bid. In addition, Forestry Commission staff may be able to give you advice that will help you prepare your application but they cannot complete the application on your behalf.

You must submit your application to the Forestry Commission Office at Market Rasen by the Closing Date for Applications shown in the "Important Dates" box on the insert (**LNWCS 1**). Your application must comprise a completed **EWGS 1, EWGS 7**, Limewoods Native Woodland Challenge Supplement **Scoring Form (LNWCS 3)**, Limewoods Native Woodland Challenge Supplement **Bid Form (LNWCS 4)** and an accurate Ordnance Survey MasterMap® clearly annotated (scale/grid reference/work proposals etc.) at a scale of 1:10,000, 1:5,000 or 1:2,500. The Forestry Commission will supply a map free of charge for this purpose if required.

These forms and the guidance to complete them are available from the Market Rasen office and the FC East Midlands Regional web pages:  
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7bbfhp>

After you have submitted your application the Woodland Officer will assess your application to ensure it meets the aims and criteria of this Challenge and the normal English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) conditions.

### **How do I submit my bid?**

Use the Limewoods Native Woodland Challenge Supplement Bid Form (LNWCS 4) to tell us the amount of money you are seeking from the Heritage Lottery Fund **in addition to the standard FC EWGS grants**. Your bid figure should be a price per hectare for you to create a new native woodland with improved provision for public access (up to a limit of £2,000 per hectare on top of standard EWGS grants).

It would be helpful if you could also submit additional information to support your bid (e.g. photographs of your site), a summary of your proposals (including sufficient detail to show how the new woodland will be matched to the natural variation of the site) and other relevant details as required to illustrate your proposals.

### **You must advise us of any other relevant income or grant support for your project.**

Your bid form must be submitted to the Market Rasen office along with your EWGS application by the closing date for applications given in the "Important Dates" box on the insert.

### **How will my bid be judged?**

Your application and bid will be judged against all others received. A panel made up of independent judges and Forestry Commission staff will assess your application. They will be looking at value for money and public benefit judged against the priorities of this project. It will therefore be important that your application is clear and realistic.

We will inform you of the outcome within 2 weeks of judging.

### **When can I start work?**

If your bid has been successful we will prepare your EWGS contract within 4 weeks of judging. You must not start any work until we have returned your English Woodland Grant Scheme contract signed by the Forestry Commission. Once approved, work should be carried out and your claim submitted before the end of March 2009.

**How do I claim my grant?**

The funds for this project are available only in financial year April 2008 to March 2009. You must complete the agreed initial work and claim the relevant grant before the grant claim deadline shown in the "Important Dates" box on the insert. Note we will not under any circumstances be able to consider subsequent requests to change the claim year for the Challenge Supplement.

**How will my grant be paid?**

The Limewoods Native Woodland Challenge Supplement will be paid in full along with the first instalment of EWGS Grant as detailed in the Work Schedule subject to the EWGS Terms and Conditions being met. Please note that you must declare any other public funding you are receiving on the land covered by your proposals as applications will be checked against other publicly funded grant payments. As with standard EWGS Terms & Conditions, if you are receiving other public payments the Limewoods Native Woodland Challenge Supplement may be reduced to avoid incompatible payments being made to you.

**To find out more**

Please contact your Forestry Commission area office at Market Rasen

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