



English Woodland Grant Scheme

Woodland Improvement Grant

August 2008

Ancient Woodland Management

North East England

Purpose This leaflet provides guidance on how to apply for this regionally focussed grant. It supplements the generic guidance on Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG), which is available from the [EWGS web site](#).

Introduction In 2003 the Northumberland Native Woodland Project set out to assess the condition of Ancient Woodland in Northumberland and the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (i.e. native woodland with a continuous cover of tree species since at least c.1600 AD) has the highest cultural and environmental importance; it is scarce and irreplaceable.

The project identified that 61% of Ancient Woodland surveyed is in an unfavourable declining or partially destroyed condition.

The North East of England has approximately 6,000 ha of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and 4,000 ha of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS), the majority of which lack formal management regimes.

Woodland that is managed tends to have higher biodiversity interest than woodland that is not managed. Research has demonstrated that higher levels of biodiversity benefits are realised when management is targeted at larger woodlands or where there is a higher density of woodland.

This grant is targeted at those ASNW in unfavourable condition to bring them into favourable condition. At present this grant is not available for PAWS sites; further work is being developed with the Woodland Trust for these sites.

Eligibility In order to be eligible for this grant applicants must meet the following:

- The general criteria and conditions for Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) apply – refer to the WIG guidance for further details
- The woodland must be listed as ASNW on the provisional Inventory of Ancient Woodland. This can be checked using the [Land Information Search](#). (Or have been classified as ASNW by the Northumberland Native Woodland Project)
- The woodland must have had a condition assessment undertaken as part of the Native Woodland Project and must have been classified as

- being in unfavourable or partially destroyed condition
- The proposed work must protect or enhance the woodland and the environmental and cultural benefits it provides by improving its condition.

Woodlands that have had a condition assessment carried out will also have had suggested management recommendations. Normally these should form the basis of a work schedule. Detailed prescriptions should be discussed with the Forestry Commission Woodland Officer to ensure that the work proposed is appropriate.

Grant will be paid at 80% of Standard Costs for the agreed items in the proposed work schedule. The operations and standard costs are listed in *Operations Note 9 – Standard Costs*, available from the [EWGS document library](#)

This WIG fund is limited to payments in the financial years 1st April 2009 to 31 March 2012. Claims must be received by 28 February in the financial year in which payment is due.

Funds are limited and will be awarded on a first come first served basis. The maximum contribution for each application is £1500.

How to Apply Both EWGS 1 General Details form and EWGS 5 Woodland Improvement Grant form must be completed and submitted with an OS Master Map ® showing the areas for which grant is sought. Applications must be submitted by the 28 February in the financial year before the first payment is due.

Further Advice and Information Further information can be obtained from your local Woodland Officer by contacting the Regional office at Rothbury on 01669 621591 or the Southern Area office at Hamsterley on 01388 488721.

Other Advice The EWGS website www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs contains all the information needed to apply for grant support. Details relating to grants specific to NE England are available at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/northeastengland> If you do not have access to the internet, you can request any of the information from your local Forestry Commission office.

We recommend getting professional advice on woodland management and grants. A list of national and regional professional organisations is available at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infd-74adbu> or from your local office at: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6VMDZD>.

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