



## North West England Region

### EWGS Update 10 – June 2008

This North West England Grants update follows the opening of Prospectus 08 and informs on the following issues:

- [Prospectus 2008](#)
- [New Guidance on Customer land Registration](#)
- Consultation Workshop on Managing Native and Ancient Woodland Practice Guide

### Prospectus 2008

The Forestry Commission is waiting for Defra and RDPE budget confirmation for financial year 2009/2010 and beyond, so the national and regional EWGS budget allocations have not been finalised. Despite this, we opened for EWGS applications in May 2008 to maintain industry confidence and business continuity.

With the [English Woodland Grant Scheme](#) now being open for business we would like to communicate how we are going to target some of the agendas that we feel are particularly important within North West England - where the creation of new woodlands and the stewardship of existing woodlands can make a significant contribution.

Within the flexibility of our national scheme rules we can look to support what we, as a sector, consider as particularly important areas of the Strategy for England's Tree's, Woods and Forests (ETWF) to the North West Of England.

Within Prospectus 2008 we will be allocating an additional 6 Regional Points to Woodland Creation Grant applications which support one of 3 regionally important issues across the main themes within ETWF. In addition we will be allocating a percentage of our Woodland Regeneration Grant specifically for achieving transition of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites to native species. With regard to Woodland Improvement Grants linked to access, we are particularly keen to encourage schemes which have strong links to health outcomes, i.e. have links to PCT's or GP referral schemes.

In more detail:

### Woodland Creation Grant

#### Communities and Places

- New woodlands which will provide Access for Health and/or Education

NW England has significant health and education deprivation. We have actions within our Regional Forestry Framework aimed at helping to address these issues utilising a woodland setting. Our WCG can create new accessible woodlands as part of both health and education initiatives in the places most in need. The additional 6 points will support such schemes. The target area maps have been based on IMD 2007, using both urban and rural deprivation analyses.

### **Land and Natural Environment**

- New Native Woodlands in Sensitive Water Catchments

Bassenthwaite Lake lies in the Lake District National Park and is of high conservation importance being designated as an NNR, SSSI and SAC. Of all the lakes in the Lake District Bassenthwaite has been identified as being at greatest threat. Part of this threat comes from sedimentation as caused by high levels of soil erosion within the catchment. The Forestry Commission recognises that woodland can have an important part to play in solving the sediment problem and is currently working with other agencies to maximise this beneficial role of woodlands within the catchment. GIS maps have been created which identify those areas of the catchment considered to be at moderate or high risk of erosion in the future or had already suffered high rates of erosion. These maps will be used to target support for new native woodland creation within the catchment where these are consistent with other objectives such as landscape, etc.

- New Native Woodland Creation addressing Ancient Woodland Fragmentation

With woodland cover ranging from as little as 4% to 9% across the region, the N W is one of the least wooded areas in England. The Ancient Woodland component is a small fraction of this and in places greatly fragmented. New native woodland proposals within 30m of this existing Ancient Woodland resource will score an additional 6 points. We are particularly keen to see this focussed in areas across the region where clusters of individual Ancient woodlands occur.

*The 6 regional points will be allocated where all or more than 50% of the application area falls within the target areas explained above as identified on our target maps. Target Maps will be available on the [Land Information Search \(LIS\)](#) or on request from [FC North West England](#).*

### **Woodland Regeneration Grant (WRG)**

We will be looking to ensure that WRG funds will be managed to ensure that no less than 30% of our allocation will be used specifically to support the transition of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites to native species.

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The above targeting proposals are complimentary to our usual delivery through EWGS and allow a national grant framework to support regional priorities as well as those of national importance. We will review our targeting proposals annually to

ensure it is effectively delivering regional priorities alongside national issues. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any points to raise regarding this approach.

Any application enquiry can be made through our team of [woodland officers](#).

## **Customer and Land Registration**

Last autumn we alerted the sector to this forthcoming new requirement and published full details on our website of how to apply and certain transitional arrangements. From now on EWGS applicants must be registered with a Single Business Identifier (SBI) and their land registered on the Rural Land Register (RLR) before applying. Any applications where the customer or land has not been registered or the SBI/RLR details provided will be returned. For further details on customer and land registration, please refer to EWGS 1 – General Guide to EWGS, or [Operations Note 19](#).

## **Consultation on the Management of Ancient and Native Woodland practice Guide.**

**North West Regional Workshop**  
**Park Wood, Isel**  
**18th June 10.00am – 3.00pm**

The new National Policy on Ancient Woodland was launched in 2005 under the title “Keepers of Time.” Since then practical guides for managing Ancient Woodlands have been brought together and the finalised Practice Guide will be published later this year, following wide consultation. As part of this [Consultation Exercise](#) we are holding a practical workshop at Park wood, Isel near Cockermouth. There will be a consultation draft published on the Forestry Commission website prior to the event for you to view. The workshop is aimed at experienced practitioners of woodland management and to give you the opportunity to discuss the draft guidance and submit your own views into this important Consultation Exercise. There will be a number of stops to focus on the different aspects and elements within the guidance. Practical discussions from all participants will form an invaluable part of the event. For further details and joining instructions please contact: [debbie.rushton@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.rushton@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Sources of further information**

1. If you require other information contact your local Woodland Officer –

**Cheshire, Merseyside south of the River Mersey and Greater Manchester:** Paul Vickers (01606 889912); [paul.vickers@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:paul.vickers@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

**Merseyside north of the River Mersey and Lancashire:** Richard Topley (01606 889912); [richard.topley@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:richard.topley@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

**Lancaster City/South Cumbria:** James Bickley (017687 76616) [james.anderson-bickley@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:james.anderson-bickley@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

**West Cumbria:** Peter Fox (017687 76616); [peter.fox@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:peter.fox@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

**East Cumbria:** Jim O'Neill (017687 76616); [jim.o'neill@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jim.o'neill@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

2. For NW E specific grant details on the Web see:  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/northwestengland-grants](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/northwestengland-grants)
3. Consultation on the Management of Ancient and Native Woodland practice Guide. [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7f3ben](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7f3ben)

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