



Grow With Wyre

Information for landowners and land managers –

**Restoring traditional orchards, hay meadows and
hedgerows**

*Please return your form by post or e-mail **before 30th November 2007** to:
Alison Coggon, Forestry Commission, Whitcliffe, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 2HD.
alison.coggon@forestry.gsi.gov.uk*

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About the *Grow With Wyre* Scheme

The Grow with the Wyre is a Landscape Partnership Scheme, which means there will be lots of projects, twenty-two in total. There will be a range of events, activities and work programmes, due to start in Autumn 2008, to restore the special landscape and celebrate its rich working history. The partnership brings together the Forestry Commission, Natural England, the local councils and wildlife and community representatives.

For more information about the Grow with the Wyre projects please contact the project team or see the website www.forestry.gov.uk/growwithwyre

How you can become involved

Part of the delight of the Wyre is its many different landscape features – as well as the ancient woodland of the oak forest, there are numerous clearings where orchards were planted and areas of pasture. The areas around the main forest are noted for rich hedgerows and veteran trees.

If your land is in the project area (check on the map at www.forestry.gov.uk/growwithwyre) and you have either the remaining few trees of a traditional orchard or a meadow that is rich in wild flowers or hedgerows and veteran trees, then we may be able to help you with your land management.

We are looking for 15 traditional orchards to restore over the next 3 years or so that will then be able to produce fruit for a community co-operative and serve as examples to other landowners in the area who might then wish to restore their orchards. We would like at least 3 of these orchards to be available for schools to visit and study and situated near to settlements in the project area.

What help can you expect?

If your land is selected then you will receive help and advice from members of the partnership and other agencies to help you to manage your land. This may involve grants towards the costs of preparing a plan so that you could receive support over the next 10 years through the Higher Level Stewardship scheme. Or it might simply be some help towards the costs of putting up stock proof fencing and gates and introducing you to a local farmer who will graze the land for you.

Each case will be different and the advice and help will be tailored to your needs. You will be given choice as to the extent of your own involvement and length of commitment you will be asked to make.

Registering your interest

At this stage we are simply asking you, if you are interested in the project, to complete the attached form to tell us more about you, your land and what you are hoping to achieve. Please submit your registration before the 30th November 2007.

There will be people available from the **Grow With Wyre** scheme to discuss your ideas with you at the Seed Gathering Festival and to help you with any questions you have. Don't worry if you are unable to make it along to the event, please just pick up the phone 01584 813 822.

What happens next?

A panel of people from the partnership will look at each expression of interest. Early in the New Year the panel will select those orchards and meadows which meet the criteria for the project. The criteria they will use will include the spread of orchards, meadows and hedgerows across the project area, the scale of support needed and the landowners aspirations and commitment.

We may wish to visit your land with you in order to be clear about what you are trying to achieve and its fit with the project aims. We will keep in touch with you to let you know how your project is progressing and whether you have been successful.

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Place name	
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About You – the landowner/manager

Name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
Mobile:	
Email:	

About your land holding

Map reference	
Total area (ha or acres)	
Land type	Traditional orchard yes/no area= Other orchard yes/no area= Grassland yes/no area = Woodland yes/no area= Hedges yes/no length = Other features (ponds, streams, wetlands, veteran trees)
Do you have a holding no?	Yes/no – what is it?
Are you already in an agreement with Natural England	Countryside Stewardship/Wildlife Enhancement Scheme/Entry Level Stewardship/Higher Level Stewardship (<i>please delete as applicable</i>)

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What do you want to achieve ?	
What help do you need? (please continue over)	
What help can you offer?	
Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about your landholding, such as its history?	

Signed.....**Date**.....

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