



## English Woodland Grant Scheme

### Woodland Improvement Grant 80

Version 1  
1<sup>st</sup> April 2010

## Local Sites in Yorkshire & The Humber Region

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

**Introduction** The Local Government Bill of 2006 established a new framework for the local delivery of public services. Local Area Agreements (LAAs) plan for the delivery public of service priorities and associated funding framework. They are prepared within a Performance Framework comprising 198 national performance indicators covering the full spectrum of public service provision.

National Indicator 197 (NI 197) is "Improved local biodiversity – local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented". The term "local sites" has become synonymous with Local Wildlife Sites designated at a County scale.

Local Sites are non-statutory designations used to identify high quality wildlife habitats in a county context. Together with statutory sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), Local Sites form an important part of the wildlife resource in the wider countryside. They include valuable semi-natural habitats such as species rich grasslands, wetlands, roadside verges and hedgerows. Ancient trees and woodlands are an important component of many Local Sites.

This grant is targeted at Local Sites where work will improve or maintain woodland condition.

**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
- Applications must be designated Local Sites and fall within the woodlands in red and yellow on the targeting map (see figure 1)
- The Local Site must be predominantly woodland in nature with a minimum of 20% tree cover
- The proposed work must protect or enhance agreed woodland

aspects of a Local Site or restore a Local Site to an agreed standard

- Grant will not be paid for permanently removing woodland to create another semi-natural habitat. At the discretion of Forestry Commission Woodland Officers, grant may be payable to create non-woodland habitats as an integral part of a larger woodland habitat.
- For woodlands greater than 30 hectares in size we normally expect a management plan to assess the appropriateness and priority of proposals, as well as put them in a wider context. An electronic version of the Plan template is available for download in the WPG section of the website [www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wpg](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wpg)
- For woodlands without a management plan and less than 30 hectares in size, the woodland should have a Condition, Opportunities & Threats (COT) Assessment undertaken. An [electronic version of the COT](#) is available for download from the EWGS website [www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wmq](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wmq)

Each eligible application site will be visited by an FC officer to assess the location to ensure the work meets the eligibility criteria set out above.

**Payment rate** 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 28 February 2015. Claims must be received before the end of the financial year in which the payment is due. Funds are limited and will be awarded on a first come first served basis.

**How to Apply** Both EWGS 1 *General Details* form and WIG *cost calculator* (which is a Microsoft Excel file) or EWGS 5 *Woodland Improvement Grant* form must be completed and submitted with an OS Master Map ® showing the areas for which grant is sought. Where tree felling is proposed then form EWGS 4 – *Felling Permission and Woodland Regeneration Grant* should also be completed.

**Further Advice and Information** Further information can be obtained from your local Woodland Officer by contacting the Regional office at Wheldrake on 01904 448778.

**Other Advice** The EWGS website [www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs) contains all the information needed to apply for grant support. 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 [www.forestry.gov.uk/england-advice](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-advice) or from your local FC office.

**Versions** Version 1 issued 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010

# Appendix 1 – Yorkshire & The Humber Woodland Ancient & Native Woodland Priority Areas

