



English Woodland Grant Scheme

Woodland Improvement Grant

April 10

Ancient Woodland Sites

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, which is available from the [EWGS web site](#).

Introduction In 2003 the Northumberland Native Woodland Project set out to assess the condition of native ancient woodland in Northumberland, and North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. 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 7,500 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 all ancient woodlands where work will improve or maintain woodland condition. Ancient Woodland includes both ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS).

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 Ancient Woodland on the Provisional Inventory of Ancient Woodland. This can be checked using the Land Information Search ([LIS](#)) Or have been classified as an ASNW or ASNW site by current surveys

- woodland must have a condition assessment or a current Woodland Plan which has identified sites in poor or at risk of moving into poor condition
- The proposed work must maintain or improve ancient semi-natural woodland or restore ancient woodland habitats to good condition.

The Condition Assessment or management plan should identify the key risks affecting the woodland . 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. Standard costs are listed in Forestry Commission [Operations Note 9](#)

This fund is open for applications on a first come first served basis, for work in claim years 09/10 to 14/15.

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.

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 on the NE England [website](#) 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 or from your local FC office.

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