

## English Woodland Grant Scheme

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Woodland Improvement Grant 80

2009

# Ancient & Other Semi-Natural Woodland Restoration and Improvement Grant

**Purpose** This leaflet provides background information, guidance on eligibility, and general guidance on what the grant pays for and 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](#). Further more detailed information can be obtained from our website at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/southeastengland>.

**The Past** A targeted grant towards the restoration and improvement of ancient woodland was launched in 2008 within the High Weald AONB in support of an initiative launched in late 2007. The aim was to target ancient woodlands within the AONB helping their owners restore their wood to favourable condition.

The main problems within the target area were invasive and non-native plant species (e.g. rhododendron ponticum, himalayan balsam, conifer tree species) and the need for targeted landscape wide deer management.

In support of this work, the Forestry Commission (FC) introduced a targeted Woodland Improvement Grant for ancient woods within the High Weald AONB. This grant offered an 80% contribution to standard costs of work.

**The Present** The target areas have now been increased to include additional areas. It now covers the South Downs National Park, Kent Downs AONB, High Weald AONB, Bernwood in Oxfordshire and the Chilterns AONB. The South Downs, Kent Downs and High Weald have project officers who's job it is to restore ancient woodland through appropriate woodland management. This grant will support their work.

**Eligibility** In order to be eligible for this grant applicants must meet the following criteria for their woodland:

- The woodland must fall within target areas, which are the Kent Downs AONB, High Weald AONB, South Downs AONB and Chilterns AONB,
- The woodland must be ancient, either ancient semi-natural (ASNW) or a plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS), or other semi-natural woodland,
- The woods of any type where invasive non-native plant species are threatening an adjacent ancient or semi-natural woodland or other important semi-natural habitat,
- The problem that is causing the wood's decline can be rectified through woodland management.
- A management plan is agreed between the FC and the owner to tackle

the restoration and improve native habitat within the woodland – use of the Woodland Planning Grant template is recommended – grant is available. However a full-scale management plan is not necessarily a requirement where the issue can be addressed in one or two seasons. Please check with local staff.

## Qualifying Work

Activities that are eligible for the targeted woodland improvement grant might include;

- Removal of rhododendron ponticum and laurel with up to 3 years spraying of re-growth,
- Removal of Himalayan balsam and control of future seedlings,
- Infrastructure and design improvements for the management of deer. Advice will be sought by the FC from the Deer Initiative for the appropriate infrastructure prior to agreeing works.
- Where grant is being offered for deer management a deer management plan must be written and the recommendations enacted at the start of any agreement and deer managed in conjunction with neighbours or within a recognised deer management group.
- Writing a deer management plan.
- Uneconomic thinning and removal of conifer or non-native broadleaf to restore to site native species. Woodland Regeneration Grant (WRG) may be sought for restocking.
- Infrastructure improvement either within the boundary of the wood or that enables access to a wood where the need is clearly demonstrated.

Further advice on relevant activities can be obtained from your local woodland officer.

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 the latest [Standard Costs – Operation Note 009](#), available from the [EWGS document library](#)

This WIG fund is limited to payments from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 28 February 2013. Claims must be received before the end of the financial year in which the payment is due. Funds will be awarded on a first come first served basis until the fund is used up.

**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. The OS Master Map can be provided through the FC by applying to your local FC office.

**Further Advice and Information** Further information can be obtained from the Regional office on 01420 23337 or at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/southeastengland>

**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.

**Contact  
Information**

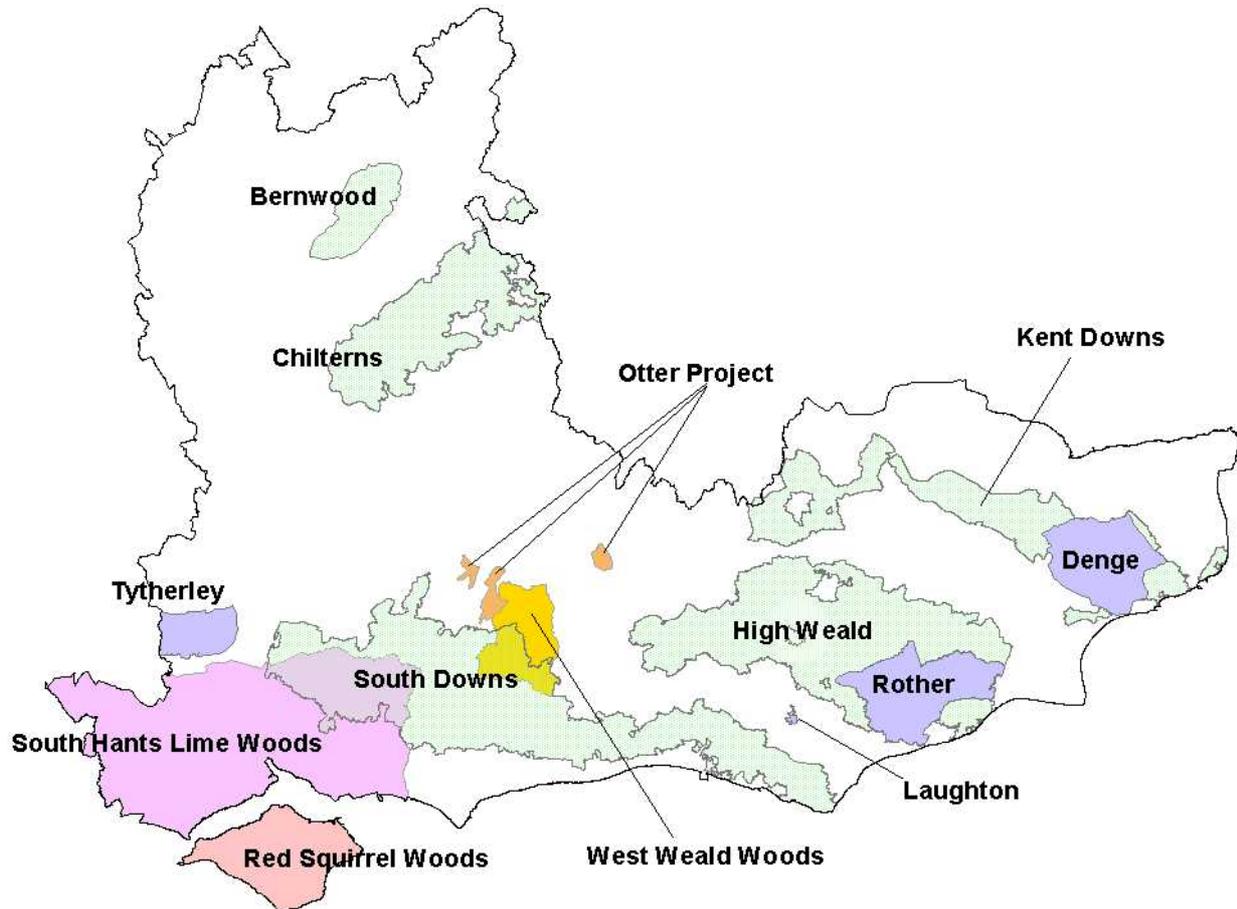
Each landscape target area has a lead contact in the Forestry Commission (FC) for the advice and information you need to enable you to access the grants being offered. Three have dedicated officers from other organisations who can also assist you with your application.

They are as follows:

| <b>Landscape area:</b>           | <b>Contacts</b>  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Bernwood</b>                  | Colin Finlay (FC) - <b>01296 696543</b>  |
| <b>Chilterns AONB</b>            | Richard Pearce (FC) - <b>01296 696543</b>  |
| <b>High Weald AONB</b>           | John Stafford (FC) - <b>01580 211123</b><br>Andrew Wright (Forestry and Woodland Restoration Advisor, High Weald AONB) - <b>01580 879964</b> |
| <b>Kent Downs AONB</b>           | Andrew Dall'Oglio (Forestry Commission) - <b>01580 211123</b><br>Steve McCarthy (Forest Enterprise) – <b>01580 211044</b>                    |
| <b>South Downs National Park</b> | Dave Rogers (FC) - <b>015420 23337</b><br>Andrew Wright (Forestry and Woodland Restoration Advisor, High Weald AONB) - <b>01580 879964</b>   |

Appendix 1:

Target Landscapes in the South East:



Woods within the light green areas qualify for the Ancient & Other Semi-Natural Woodland Restoration and Improvement Grant.