



English Woodland Grant Scheme

Woodland Improvement Grant 80

August 2009

Targeted Woodland Improvement Grant in South East England Region 2009-2012

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](#). More detailed information specific to the project can be obtained from our website at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/southeastengland>.

Introduction The south east of England has 15% woodland cover which makes it the most wooded region of England at twice the national average. The south east also has 40% of England's ancient woodland which support rare or endangered species and habitat. The south east has seen a decline of traditional woodland management over the last 40 years due to a number of reasons. Some of which are the reduction of markets for woodland products, a lack of traditionally skilled people to manage woodland, and fragmentation of woodlands into small ownership units. Regular management in the south east has declined which has led to a reduction in diversity of the region's species and habitats.

The [English Woodland Grant Scheme](#) provides grants region wide to encourage woodland owners and managers to maintain and enhance their woodland. Research shows that some of our rarest species require very specific or landscape scaled management, which the generic grants cannot easily accommodate. Therefore a suite of targeted grants based on [Woodland Improvement Grant](#) have been put together in the south east to address the more specific needs of endangered species and rare habitats.

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

- A grant is only available within target areas outlined in this document.
- Work must support the objectives outlined in the specific projects. The FC is at liberty to decline support for operations that do not deliver a significant ecological benefit.
- Applications may be made until 28th February for work planned in the following financial year provided there are funds available.
- Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis until the budget is allocated.
- Work agreed must be completed and grant claims submitted to the FC in time to allow payment between 1 April and 31st March of the agreed year in the contract.

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 1st April 2009 to 28 February 2013. 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. Amendments to claim years are at the discretion of the Forestry Commission.

Landscape area:	Priority and Activities:
Denge Woods Canterbury, Kent	Habitat enhancement for Duke of Burgundy, Pearl Bordered & Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary butterflies including works such as; coppice restoration, open ground creation and management, uneconomic thinning to enhance or increase native woodland habitat and enhancement of wildlife corridors.
Laughton Woods Lewes, East Sussex	
Rother Woods Hastings, Kent	
Tytherley Woods Romsey, Hampshire	
Bernwood Bicester, Oxfordshire	Removal of invasive species from ancient & native woods and undertake ecologically beneficial management in plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS).
Chilterns AONB	
High Weald AONB	
Kent Downs AONB	
South Downs Nat. Park	
West Weald Petworth, West Sussex	Improving the habitat within ancient & native woods including works such as; removal of invasive species, enhancing wildlife corridors, reinstating coppice cutting and open ground management for endangered woodland bats and butterflies.
South Hants Lime Woods	Map, protect, maintain and increase remnant small leaved lime copses, individual trees and old coppice including works such as; thinning around existing trees, coppice cutting, layering and deer fencing.
Isle of Wight	Woodland habitat management for red squirrels and endangered woodland butterflies including works such as coppice restoration management, open ground creation and management uneconomic thinning to enhance or increase native woodland habitat and improve wildlife corridors.
Otter Project	River side management for otters including works such as; coppice cutting, scrub management, thinning, holt construction and small amounts of planting

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 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 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:

Landscape area:	Contacts
Denge Woods	Jonathan Harding (FC) - 01580 211123 Fran Thompson (Project Officer, Butterfly Conservation) 01929 400209
Laughton Woods	John Stafford (FC) - 01580 211123
Rother Woods	John Stafford (FC) - 01580 211123 Steve Wheatley (Project Officer, Butterfly Conservation) 01929 400209
Bernwood	Colin Finlay (FC) - 01296 696543
Chilterns AONB	Richard Pearce (FC) - 01296 696543
Tytherley Woods	Jonathan Rau (FC) - 01420 23337 Dr Kate Dent (Project Officer, Butterfly Conservation) 01929 400209
High Weald AONB	John Stafford (FC) - 01580 211123 Andrew Wright (Forestry and Woodland Restoration Advisor, High Weald AONB) - 01580 879964
Kent Downs AONB	Andrew Dall'Oglio (Forestry Commission) - 01580 211123
South Downs Nat. Park	Dave Rogers (FC) - 015420 23337 Andrew Wright (Forestry and Woodland Restoration Advisor, High Weald AONB) - 01580 879964
West Weald	Dave Rogers (FC) - 01420 23337 Rich Howath (West Weald Project Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust) - 01273 492630
South Hants Lime Woods	Jonathan Rau (FC) - 01420 23337 Hugh Milner
Otter Project	Richard Edwards (FC) - 01420 23337 Chris Matcham (Surrey Otter Project Officer, Surrey Wildlife Trust) - 01483 795457
Isle of Wight	Mike Pittock (FC) - 01983 532937

Appendix 1

Target areas

Individual detailed maps and further detail can be found at South East England Region's website at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7d6fj6>

