

English Woodland Grant Scheme

Version 1.0
24th Aug 2009

Woodland Improvement Grant 80

Ancient Woodland in the South West Region

Introduction This leaflet provides guidance on an increase in the level of support given through this Biodiversity Woodland Improvement Grant (Bio WIG). It supplements the generic guidance on Woodland Improvement Grant, which is available from the [EWGS website](#).

Background The Forestry Commission will, from the 24th August 2009, offer an 80% contribution to costs for biodiversity work in **all** ancient woodlands in the South West Region. This reflects the biodiversity and cultural heritage value that ancient woodlands offer, as set out in *“Keepers of Time: A statement of policy for England’s’ ancient and native woodlands”*

- Rules**
1. The rules set out in the EWGS 5 Woodland Improvement Grant guidance remain the same, except that eligibility is now extended to all ancient woodland in the South West region. We will support work that helps maintain or enhance the condition of ancient woodlands
 2. Any 50% Biodiversity WIG applications in progress will automatically be upgraded to 80%. Approved 50% Biodiversity WIG agreements where work has not been started will be changed to 80% upon request from the agreement holder. This should be done by submitting a new WIG Calculator. Agreements approved before October 2007 cannot be amended.
 3. This eligibility will remain until the funds on offer in Prospectus 2009 are fully taken up. Claim years up to 2014/15 can be committed within the limit of the budget on offer for those years.
 4. These eligibility rules will be reviewed in the spring of 2010 prior to launching Prospectus 2010.

Payment Payment will be made upon satisfactory completion of the work. Work must be completed and claimed within the agreed claim year.

How to apply Funds will be allocated on a first come first served basis until fully committed.

When applying for this grant you should email a completed copy of the “WIG Calculator” which is available for download from www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wig, or complete the paper form EWGS 5. Instructions on how to complete the WIG calculator are included in the download file

This fund is administered through and subject to the normal criteria of the English Woodland Grant Scheme. Guidance, application forms and the WIG cost calculator are available from www.forestry.gov.uk

Further information If you want to find out more or are considering an application you can contact us:

Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and former county of Avon: 01594 810983
Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset: 01626 890666

General details on the English Woodland Grant Scheme are available in a pack that can be obtained from your local FC office, or downloadable from the FC website www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs

Supplementary information on EWGS is also available in the EWGS document library on the FC website www.forestry.gov.uk/england-documents. For general advice on EWGS you can contact either your local FC office or the EWGS helpline (01223 346004)