

English Woodland Grant Scheme

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Woodland Improvement Grant 80

Reversing Decline of Undermanaged Ancient and Native Woodland 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](#).

This new grant offers 80% contribution towards the cost of woodland management capital works in undermanaged, priority woodland.

Introduction We are seeking to protect and enhance our ancient and native woodlands and increase the area of native woodland in line with the Government policy outlined in "[Keepers of Time](#)".

There are significant opportunities for improving ancient and native woodlands for both people and wildlife. Many of the region's 23,678 hectares of ancient woodlands are currently in urgent need of management if we are to prevent any further loss of the surviving wildlife and historic features. Many of these could, through careful and gradual improvement, be restored to rich semi-natural woodlands.

This grant is targeted at woodlands where work is designed to address these issues and thereby improve woodland structure and species composition, encourage natural regeneration and ground flora development. These measures, together with the retention of old growth and dead wood, will have a beneficial effect and improve the biodiversity and ecological quality of the region's key woodland assets.

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 fall within the woodlands in red and yellow on the targeting map (Appendix 1)
- Agreed need to improve woodland structure and tree species composition. Management proposals will need to be consistent with

the guidance set out in [Managing Ancient & Native Woodland England Practice Guide Consultation Draft](#).

- 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
- 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-wmg

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](#). The type of woodland operations we will mostly expect to support under this grant are detailed in appendix 2

This WIG fund is limited to payments in the financial years 1st April 2009 to 28 February 2014. 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.

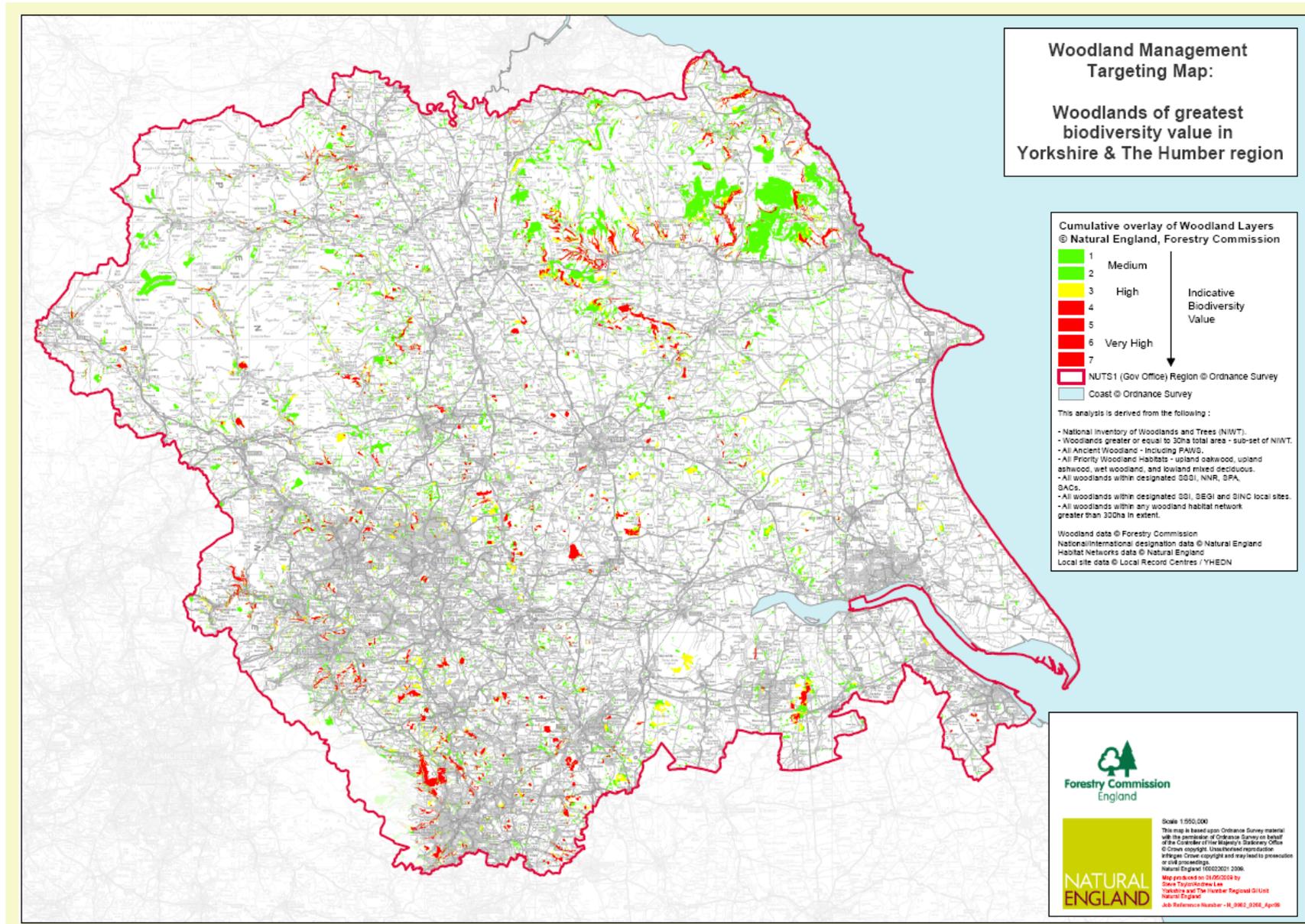
How to Apply Both EWGS 1 *General Details* form and WIG *cost calculator* (which is a Microsoft Excel file) or EWGS 5 *Woodland Improvement Grant* form must be completed and submitted with an OS Master Map ® showing the areas for which grant is sought. Where tree felling is proposed then form EWGS 4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

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



Appendix 2 - Reversing Ancient and Native Woodland Decline

Ancient woodlands and trees represent a living and cultural heritage, a natural equivalent to our great churches and castles. They are also our richest wildlife habitat and are highly valued by people as places of tranquillity and inspiration. Although these woods are immensely rich habitats, and many are highly valued by their owners and users, there are many that are declining, threatened, or simply not realising their potential due to lack of management.

Keeper's of Time identifies that a lack of positive management usually leads to a decline in the condition of our Ancient Woodlands, whether through progressive shading out of ground flora, gradual decline in structural diversity, or increasing competition from non-native tree and shrub species. This grant is targeted at woodlands where work is designed to address these issues and thereby improve woodland structure and species composition, encourage natural regeneration and ground flora development. These measures, together with the retention of old growth and dead wood, will have a beneficial effect and improve the biodiversity and ecological quality of the region's key woodland assets.

<i>PRINCIPLE THREATS</i>	<i>REASONS FOR DECLINE</i>	<i>POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS</i>	<i>WIG 80 FUNDABLE</i>
Inadequate or inappropriate management	Overcrowded stands lacking in growth and canopy development; dense shade creating poor shrub layer; neglected coppice and ride management reducing structural diversity; lack of standing and in-tree deadwood reducing niche habitats.	Selective thinning or small-scale group felling to encourage tree growth and restore shrub layers; restore neglected coppice; glade creation/enhancement; ride enhancement; increase standing/fallen deadwood.	Thinning/small-scale felling; coppicing; ride enhancement and management; increase deadwood resource.
Invasive and problem species	Shading from conifer and non-native broadleaf-dominated stands and invasive plants such as <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> modifying soils, reducing native flora and fauna.	Selective thinning or small-scale group felling to encourage tree growth and restore shrub layers; remove and control invasive plant species.	Thinning/small-scale felling; rhododendron control.
Excessive browsing and grazing by deer and livestock	Excessive browsing preventing natural regeneration and impoverishing the ground flora. Overgrazing affects woodland structure, soils and directly modifies plant and animal communities.	Establish ability to control and manage browsing and grazing.	Fencing; deer/livestock control and management