

by HertsCMS a year ago

Home Wood, Cuffley

English Woodland Grant Scheme



Having completed the purchase of Home Wood in the early 90s, Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council approached the Countryside Management Service (CMS) for help and advice on its care and management. CMS have helped the parish write and review a management plan to care for this ancient semi-natural woodland as a parish open space by protecting and enhancing its wildlife value and promoting it as a place for quiet enjoyment.

CMS have helped the Parish Council apply for various grants to help pay for the management and improvements including the [Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grant Scheme](#) (EWGS). Under the EWGS the parish claim an annual management grant to help pay for path cutting, tree safety inspections and other general work to maintain the conservation of the woodland. EWGS Woodland Improvement Grants have helped to pay for boardwalks along the wet and muddy path ways providing year-round access for local visitors. These grants have also helped fund the removal of invasive Sycamore to favour regeneration of native broadleaves such as Oak and Hornbeam. The Parish Council are now in their third 5-year EWGS agreement.

Local action to help meet this vision of the management plan comes from the **Home Wood Wardens** who regularly meet to contribute to the practical conservation and access work.