



# **North Yorkshire Sustainable Woodland Project**

**Certification Local Pilot Scheme**

**Report to Forestry Commission February 2006**

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The North Yorkshire Woodland Certification Local Pilot Scheme (LPS) part of the North Yorkshire Sustainable Woodland Project (NYSWP) was run by *YORWOODS* from October 2002 to September 2005. The objectives of the project were:

- To identify and evaluate appropriate incentive and support mechanisms for small woodlands seeking certification.
- To increase the uptake of certification for small woodlands thereby bringing them into a demonstrably sustainable management regime.
- To evaluate what certification delivers in terms of the economic, social and environmental outputs of small woodlands.
- To evaluate how any benefits, which are achieved, can be maintained.

1.2. The proposed methods of achieving these objectives and the monitoring of progress towards them were reported upon in the Initial Action Plan, the Year 1 and Year 2 reports. This is a revised report prepared for the Forestry Commission addressing issues which were regarded as absent from the Year 3 and Final Report.

1.3. This report describes the activities and progress made in the third and final year of the project, presents the final figures of the three years of the project and assesses the impact of the project over its duration, highlighting the issues which may affect certification at the national scale.

## **2. Key points from Year Three**

2.1. It was recognised that the project required a new focus in its third year as a saturation point had been reached in terms of the number of woodland owners and managers who had been, or could be, reached through various promotional media. It was assessed that all those who required information about woodland management and certification had been contacted, visited and advised.

2.2. The primary focus of Year Three became local authorities (LAs) in the greater Yorkshire region, where it was assessed that a significant area of publicly-owned land could benefit from the processes of certification. This was delivered through a certification seminar attended by the representatives of 19 LAs in February 2005.

2.3. A secondary focus was to promote certification within the context of woodfuel opportunities and the soon-to-be introduced English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS). To this end presentations and information regarding these topics were delivered at two *YORWOODS* events in March 2005.

2.4. The closure of the Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) in June 2004, the delayed introduction of the EWGS, and the cessation of Woodland Management Planning Grant (WMPG) and Certification Pilot Grant (CPG) under the LPS from 31st March 2005 all affected the efficacy of the LPS. The uncertainty created by this transitional period did not help create an easy environment within which to promote certification.

2.5 After March 2005 questionnaires regarding actions, intended actions or attitudes with reference to certification were sent to two groups; the first being all woodland owners, managers and landowners who had been advised throughout the course of the pilot project, the second being all those who attended the LA seminar. These two surveys produced response figures of 37% and 47% respectively. Full analysis is given within the report.

### 3. Summary of advisory visits

3.1 The number of advisory visits within the table relates only to 1st January 2005 to 31st March 2005. It does not include presentations. Figures are categorised according to the FC grant bands for certification grant.

Size category	Number of clients advised	Number certified	Area certified ha	Number working towards certification	Area (ha) working towards certification
Under 10 ha	2	0	0	0	0
10 to 29 ha	0	0	0	0	0
30 to 100 ha	1	0	0	1	84
Over 100 ha	1	1	612	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>84</b>

### 4. Performance against targets

4.1 Targets taken from Section 5.0 of the Initial Action Plan. The reporting period is only 1st January to 31st March.

Primary Targets	Year 3 Target	Actual total	Comments
Facilitate the certification of woodlands <10 ha	40ha	0ha	The level of grant for certifying woodlands both for this size classification and for any size up to 30 ha was simply insufficient to be an incentive. The low level of grant could be considered commensurate with the limited amount of public benefit from certifying very small woodlands. However, excluding FC owned or leased woodland, the average size of woodland ownership outside FC ownership in England is 14ha and, of a total resource of over 987 000 ha of woodland in England, greater than 72 000 ha falls into the 0.1 - <2.0 ha size bracket.
Facilitate the certification of woodlands 10-50 ha	250ha	0ha	Essentially the likelihood of certification ever being of sufficient use or interest to apply to all English woodland is slim. A realistic target of certifiable area should be established.
Facilitate the certification of woodlands 50-100 ha	350ha	0ha	For woodlands over 30ha the Woodland Management Grant (WMG) element of the EWGS is likely to act as a driver for certification. However this will not become apparent until extant Woodland Grant Schemes (WGS) expire.

<b>Primary Targets</b>	<b>Year 3 Target</b>	<b>Actual total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Advise/train woodland owners/managers	60	26	This includes all those advised and those who attended the certification seminar.

<b>Secondary Targets</b>	<b>Year 3 Target</b>	<b>Actual Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Influence the certification of woodlands 100+ha	1000 ha	1	Bolton Abbey Estate certified.
Assess training needs of woodland owners	40	-	This target appears to stem from the assumption that woodland owners would try to fulfil some of the requirements of certification themselves through use of templates provided by YORWOODS. The Year One Report found this did not help facilitate certification, however during advisory visits providing this type of information was usual.
Attend local and national events to promote certification and the NYSWP	8	4	Excluding the YORWOODS certification seminar this includes two events where certification was formally promoted and two where it was informally promoted.
Facilitate the certification of prominent woodland owners	Private estates	1	The Bolton Abbey Estate was certified during this reporting period. For most estates the WMG will be a major driver for achieving certification once existing WGS expire. The Woodland Planning Grant (WPG) will also be driver as monies are available to help achieve the management objectives required for certification. The YDNPA was also certified during this period but failed to claim CPG. Despite advice relating to the achievement of individual certification it appears that Yorkshire Water have opted for a group scheme

## **5. Local Authority Certification Seminar**

5.1 This seminar was highlighted as an objective of the final year of the project in August 2004. It was recognised that the number of woodland owners or managers within North Yorkshire was finite and that who wished to learn of the project's intentions and outcomes were already likely to have been advised and/or visited.

5.2 It was also recognised that, after discounting a clutch of South Yorkshire LAs who had already achieved certification, a significant number of greater Yorkshire local authorities were not only uncertified but unclear of how they should progress towards certified status. It was believed that there must be a sizeable area of uncertified

woodland either owned or managed by these local authorities. Following the approach to those responsible for council woodlands in the Yorkshire and Humber area it became apparent that collectively under their management was 2,800 ha of uncertified woodland.

- 5.3 It was decided to use a company which had been involved in aiding councils to achieve certified status to facilitate the seminar and which had also run a similar seminar for the Red Rose/Mersey Forest certification pilot project. This company was Interface Natural Resource Management.
- 5.4 The seminar took place on 2nd February 2005, held near Kexby, York and at the FC-managed Allerthorpe Common. Representatives from 27 local authorities were invited and 21 representatives from 19 authorities attended. The cost per person to attend was set at £25.00, covering the cost of room hire, lunch and refreshments but not the cost of employing Interface NRM.
- 5.5 The seminar covered an introduction to certification, funding, the management planning template, case studies, a field exercise held at Allerthorpe Common and a final debrief. Speakers and facilitators included the Project Manager and the FC Operations Manager as well as representatives from Interface.
- 5.6 The questionnaire relating to the content of, and progress since, the seminar was not sent out until three months after the event. This was deliberate because it was felt that a genuine reflection of the usefulness of the vent could only be gauged after the local authorities' representatives had had the opportunity to proceed with certification. A copy of the questionnaire is at Appendix 1.
- 5.7 The results collated from the questionnaires are at Appendix 2. Analysis of the results show that the seminar was a success in terms of learning about certification with all respondents reporting they had increased their knowledge of the reasons behind certification and the processes involved. 78% reported that following the seminar their organisations were either actively pursuing or considering certification but as of August 2005 none of the councils represented had actually acquired certification. From written comments invited upon the questionnaire form it would appear that the greatest barrier to local authorities becoming certified is a lack of staff time and resources to achieve this goal.
- 5.8 It was made clear at the seminar that YORWOODS would offer its available resources in relation to certification; such as project officer time, advisory visits or information to any local authority which wished to pursue this aim. However this did not result in a single authority utilising these resources at their disposal despite a verbal reminder to all attending authorities some weeks after the seminar.
- 5.9 It had been envisaged that one of the 'selling points' of certification to local authorities would be using the accreditation to prove the sustainable and environmental credentials of the newly certified authority. However this has not appeared to work as an incentive. Again the lack of resources may have prevented LAs working towards certification despite the perception of its value as a 'green' tool.

## 6. Overall Project Targets

6.1 The Year 1 and 2 project targets and actual results are as below. The tables below are extracted from the original annual reports and reflect the experiences and opinions of the project officer at the time of writing. Copies of the full reports are available through the *YORWOODS* office. The details of those who accessed monies over the period of the LPS are at Appendix 3.

Primary Targets	Year 1 Target	Actual total	Comments
Facilitate the certification of woodlands <10 ha	20ha	1.5 ha	It has been suggested that woodlands in this size category do not offer sufficient value (in terms of benefit delivery) to justify significant attention – hence the reduced grant payment. In the second year these woodlands should not be directly targeted, but assisted only if requested.  There is potential to access additional funding from the National Parks' Sustainable Development Fund (both YD & NYM) to supplement the FC grant payments. This may present the opportunity to gauge the level of financial support required for certification and any ultimate delivery of benefits.
Facilitate the certification of woodlands 10-50 ha	150ha	126 ha	Given the significant delay in launching the certification grant, with details not received until 06/06/03, this is a successful achievement against target. Existing systems for encouraging owners in this size class should be used in the second year.
Facilitate the certification of woodlands 50-100 ha	250 ha	180 ha	As for 10-50 ha
Advise/train woodland owners/managers	60	58	A lot of ground work has been done in the first year to spread the word on the project. An early return of 58 visits is relatively successful. It is anticipated that ore owners will come forward for advice and assistance in Year 2 if promotional works are continued.

Secondary Targets	Year 1 Target	Actual Total	Comments
Influence the certification of woodlands 100+ha	2000 ha	1328 ha	Much work has been done in this area. Given the short timeframe, the increase in certified area (directly from the pilot scheme) is positive. With a large area of woodland working towards certification, it is important that these owners are assisted further in Year 2.
Assess training needs of woodland owners	40	58	Training needs are discussed at each advisory visit, 15 woodland owners have gone on to attend training courses as part of the <i>YORWOODS</i> training project, or organised by the project manager.

<b>Secondary Targets</b>	<b>Year 1 Target</b>	<b>Actual Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Attend local and national events to promote certification and the NYSWP	8	17	In Year 1 the local shows and events have been most effective for generating contacts. It is also important for the project manager to remain up to date with industry developments and discussion – national events and specific training can be useful for this.
Facilitate the certification of prominent woodland owners	YDNPA NYMNPA	-	<p>There is a steady progression towards achieving this target. All of the prominent owners have had advisory visits. The YDNPA had an initial assessment in January 2003 and have subsequently had another two advisory visits. The NYMNPA are keen to work towards certification and have had three advisory visits (only counted as one in the targets). Yorkshire Water are also well underway with individual certification, they have received two advisory visits and template documentation.</p> <p>In the second year further visits may be necessary to ensure these owners can achieve certification.</p> <p>Other influential bodies to target include: Scarborough Borough Council, Nidderdale AONB, Howardian Hills AONB and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.</p>

<b>Primary Targets</b>	<b>Year 2 Target</b>	<b>Actual total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Facilitate the certification of woodlands <10 ha	30ha	0ha	The level of grant for certifying woodlands of this size is simply insufficient to be an incentive. The low level of grant could be considered commensurate with the limited amount of public benefit from certifying very small woodlands. However as the average size of woodland outside FC ownership in England is 14ha and many will be fragments of ancient woodland, which is increasingly being identified as important to the preservation of biodiversity the implementation of sustainable forest practice should be seen as a high priority.
Facilitate the certification of woodlands 10-50 ha	200ha	15.5ha	The comments made above apply equally to this size bracket. However for those woodlands over 30ha the WMG is likely to act as a driver for certification.
Facilitate the certification of woodlands 50-100 ha	300ha	52ha	This target may have been achieved if the project had not suffered the absence of a Project Manager. The incentive of WPG and CPG plus WMG in the future is enough to interest owners and managers.

Primary Targets	Year 2 Target	Actual total	Comments
Advise/train woodland owners /managers	60	69	This figure includes those either attending a YDRWOODS event or receiving an advisory visit pertinent to certification. It does not include advice given via telephone, letter or e-mail.

Secondary Targets	Year 2 Target	Actual Total	Comments
Influence the certification of woodlands 100+ha	1500ha	261ha	Although the area actually certified in the reporting period falls well short of the target there is good reason to be optimistic about certification of larger estates in the future. Most envisage that application to the EWGS will run concurrently with certification, much depends on when current WGS expire. As can be seen at Table 3.1. a number of estates are actively looking at certification and others will follow.
Assess the training needs of woodland owners	40	-	This target appears to stem from the assumption that woodland owners would try to fulfil some of the requirements of certification themselves through use of templates provided by YDRWOODS. The Year 1 Report found this did not help facilitate certification, however during advisory visits providing this type of information was usual.
Attend local and national events to promote certification and the NYSWP	8	20	Most events attended were useful for raising the profile of certification and generating contacts. Various articles for print media have been written or contributed to.
Facilitate the certification of prominent woodland owners	YW	-	Neither of Year One's targets (YDNPA or NYMNPA) have yet claimed the CPG though it is known YDNPA are certified and NYMNPA are still working towards this aim. Yorkshire Water, the Year Two target, are working towards certification, using the IndFor Group Scheme. Considering the effort focused upon bringing such major players into certification it is disappointing take-up has been so slow, however progress is being made.

## 7. Local Pilot Scheme Questionnaire

7.1 The LPS questionnaire was sent out to all those who had been advised during the course of the project. This figure was determined to be 81 persons and/or organisations; this being set as those people who had received one or more advisory visits, been sent promotional literature, or been engaged in significant discussion either at promotional events or over the telephone. In reality most of those advised were subject to at least three of these four criteria. Advice proffered over introductory

telephone conversations where the owner/manager expressed no interest in the support available or extreme cynicism of the processes of certification were not canvassed. However it should be recognised that over the last year in which project monies were available this attitude was adopted by a reasonable number of people (perhaps 15 to 20) when contacted). Most of these were critical of FC policy or management generally and were often angry or irritated that yet another level of bureaucracy was being created by the introduction of certification.

- 7.2 The intention was to help determine how knowledge about the project had been disseminated, the reasons behind the use, or otherwise, of the Woodland Management Planning Grant (WMPG) under the project; how the management planning process may have helped owners and managers and how this had helped progress towards certified status. A copy of the questionnaire is at Appendix 4.
- 7.3 Results from the questionnaire are collated at Appendix 5. Because responses to the questionnaire are more likely to have come from persons who took advantage of significant project help or accessed the available grant monies (WMPG and CPG) the results must be skewed towards those who are more likely to be managing woodland through FC methods and grant schemes. It is noticeable for instance that 53% of respondents claimed WMPG. However when comparing the total number of advised persons to the number of actual WMPG claims this figure falls to 26%. Similarly 31% of respondents stated they had achieved certified status through the project but when comparing the number of those claiming CPG in comparison with total number of advised persons this figure falls to 12%.
- 7.4 However the survey does highlight some interesting points in terms of project promotion generally and the future promotion of certification specifically. 32% of respondents claim to have heard about the LPS by word of mouth, as many as from the project launch and Forestry Commission combined. It would suggest that whenever project monies become available a significant number of people hear about it through associates, suppliers or friends within the industry. Promotional literature was equally as important and this highlights the fact that for any project sufficient budget to produce suitable promotional materials are required throughout the project's life.
- 7.5 The level of knowledge amongst woodland owners and managers of certification is bound to increase as awareness of the provisions of the EWGS rises. In order to explain the rationale behind certification being promoted within the framework of the EWGS the adaptation of the Red Rose and Mersey Forest certification mini-guide for a national audience will be an important information source.
- 7.6 The questionnaire revealed a range a differing reasons as to why respondents had had taken up WMPG. As mentioned at 6.3 a total of 47% did not take up the grant at all. Of that total 4% had already sourced FC monies through the Forest Design Plan and were thus ineligible but the others simply did not see enough merit in a planning grant at this time. There is little doubt that for those woodland owners/managers with an extant WGS and currently claiming Annual Management Grant (AMG) there is little incentive to take up a planning grant (whether that grant be WMPG under the Pilot Project or WPG under the EWGS) or certification until the WGS runs its term. With 52% of respondees currently having an extant WGS it is perhaps to be expected that 47% did not take up WMPG.

- 7.7 However, 21% of respondents took up the WMPG because no management plan existed to maintain their woodlands. Combined with another 21% who wished to address the requirements of certification, and 7% who wished to amend an existing plan, through use of the FC template this means that nearly half of all respondents utilised the WMPG to improve woodland management. There is little doubt that once implemented the WPG will encourage woodland owners to manage their holdings through a properly structured management plan than the *de facto* approach of a 5-year WGS being used as a plan.
- 7.8 Of those who did use the template and claim WMPG 57% reported it being applied to help form realistic aims and achievable objectives. A further 31% stated that it helped inform management decisions through research into management history, character type and the range of designations. 6% used the Special Assessment Grant (to be Woodland Assessment Grant under the EWGS) and a further 6% used it to help improve knowledge of the woodland resource.
- 7.9 78% of respondents stated that they would be taking up EWGS either now or in the future. Only 11% stated that they would not consider this as an option, some of these basing this decision upon remaining in dedication schemes. Assuming that most applications to the EWGS would have to incorporate the woodland management planning process this would appear to bode well for the future management of English woodlands as properly constituted plans would be applied.
- 7.10 In response to the question '*Has the requirement under EWGS to be certified to claim WMG on estates of over 30ha influenced your decision to take up WMPG and forest certification?*' an interesting range of comments were received. The assumption behind the question was that since certification would be a prerequisite for WMG payments on estates greater than 30ha then owners/managers would have been positively influenced to take up the grants offered under the LPS to achieve certification. Since a number of respondents answered affirmatively to this question and then later reported they had been certified under the LPS this was indeed the case. Overall 68% responded affirmatively and 32% negatively. However a number of the respondents had answered that the mandatory requirement for certification to claim WMG under EWGS had influenced their decision not to take up EWGS or certification. In regard to the original intent of the question this therefore means that only 58% of respondents have been positively influenced to take up certification because of EWGS.
- 7.11 Overall 31% of respondents achieved certified status through the project and a further 31% reported they were not considering becoming certified. 24% reported that they were considering certification and 14% reported that certification was being actively pursued.
- 7.12 The questionnaire also asked what further help owners/managers required in achieving certified status, should that be their goal. Most comments related to the lack of demand for certified product, the poor timber market, the cost of certification and the perception of the unnecessary bureaucracy involved. Only one response highlighted an issue where the Project Officer's help and advice could have been of some benefit.

## **8. Conclusions**

In relation to the stated objectives of the project the conclusions below are drawn:

*To identify and evaluate appropriate incentive and support mechanisms for small woodlands seeking certification.*

8.1 At the commencement of the LPS the levels of grant support to be offered by Forestry Commission in the pilot project areas had yet to be agreed. The mechanism that was agreed created two types of grant, the WMPG and the CPG. The former was designed to help the implementation of the latter through use of management planning to attain certification. In its first year, and through the two grants, the LPS was able to provide the extra incentive required to push those who were considering certification towards that target. Following the initial surge of interest it was notable that, despite promotion and grant incentives, certification has not been a pressing issue for the majority of woodland owners/managers. Because of the issues outlined in paragraph 8.3 then should the certification of a greater number of woodlands smaller than 30ha be considered an objective then the only appropriate mechanism to facilitate this would appear to be to increase any financial incentive.

8.2 During the latter part of the project it was envisaged that a financial incentive would be provided by the soon-to-be-introduced EWGS. It appeared that Woodland Management Grant (WMG) component of this grant scheme, which was originally to be payable at a rate of £30.00 per ha/per year for meeting a series of criteria for works largely relating to environmental compliance, would help push larger woodland owners towards certification, as for those with greater than 30ha of woodland estate would have to be certified in order to claim the monies. There is no doubt that those with woodlands of such size were attracted to this grant and were keen to access it as part of an EWGS application. This would have continued a momentum towards owners obtaining certified status. However, now introduced the WMG, though retaining the obligation for estates of over 30ha to be certified to be eligible, is far smaller in scope and is selective. In most instances it cannot therefore be used as a financial incentive for certification.

*To increase the uptake of certification for small woodlands thereby bringing them into a demonstrably sustainable management regime.*

8.3 From the table shown at Appendix 3 it is evident that as woodland holding size decreases the relevance of certification diminishes. The figures show that of the nine approved CPG claims only one was for an area of less than 30ha. This can partly be seen as a consequence of the comparatively low levels of grant income through CPG, which in many cases would barely have paid for the original certificate, let alone the subsequent costs of annual monitoring. However the major reason is that smaller woodland holdings do not produce enough saleable timber to be worthy of certification for economic reasons. This is evidently partially a problem of depressed timber prices but, even allowing for an upturn in the timber market, for producers of small volumes of timber certification is of marginal value compared to the financial outlay it entails.

*To evaluate what certification delivers in terms of the economic, social and environmental outputs of small woodlands.*

8.4 In the 'Certification Standard for the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme' (UKWAS Steering Group, 2000) Introduction, paragraph 6.2 small woodland is defined as '*usually a privately-owned woodland managed by the owner or a manager, typically less than 100 ha in size*'. Applied to North Yorkshire this definition covers most privately-owned woodland as 72% of the total hectareage is under 100ha in size (NYSWP Executive Summary, 2002). In the Year 1 LPS Report it was highlighted that 'small woodlands' under 10ha were particularly unsuited to the demands of certification and woodlands of such size would not be concentrated upon during the rest of the project's life. Furthermore promotional literature was altered to address '*woodland certification*' rather than '*small woodland certification*' in order that woodlands of over 100ha were not being seen to be neglected.

8.5 In the analysis drawn from the LPS Questionnaire it appears that the WMPG part of the mechanism to encourage certification was relatively well-used but that this did not necessarily translate into a take-up of certification. Where certification was achieved this demonstrates that the three facets of certification; economic, environmental and social have been addressed but most of these were estates of reasonable size which, in all probability, had forest management plans of reasonable standard already in place. However certification must have addressed potential gaps or flaws in these plans and ensured that they do meet the criteria for producing legal and sustainable timber. The output which is certain is that any future timber production on these estates is eligible to be traded as certified, thus increasing the chance of more domestic timber contributing to the total certified market.

*To evaluate how any benefits, which are achieved, can be maintained.*

8.6 Although the take up of certification has been slow and financial incentives are unlikely to be forthcoming there is no evidence to show that woodland owners and managers are likely to abandon certified status once it is achieved. Therefore the benefits of certification look likely to be maintained even if increases in certified area are slow. In the course of compiling this revised report it has become apparent that establishing the amount and owners of certified woodland in North Yorkshire is not overly transparent and depends largely on the certification bodies or providers being willing to share this information. At Appendix 6 is a table showing the best estimate of certified land in North Yorkshire as of February 2006 but it is not comprehensive.

Other conclusions drawn from the project are:

8.7 The LPS would have benefited from a larger promotional budget. A dedicated professionally printed leaflet (perhaps generic to all three pilot schemes) could have had more impact than the variety of in-house leaflets produced. It is also understood that there was insufficient monies to pay for a dedicated project launch, with this instead being incorporated into another event. A project of 3 years duration should have sufficient budget not only to carry out the project launch but also to promote another significant event mid-project to maintain impetus. Such an event became a late feature of the third year of the project (through the certification seminar) but this was unbudgeted and was therefore difficult to finance.

- 8.8 It is evident that the policy of encouraging better woodland management, through the WMPG was of interest to owners/managers. Those who were not inclined to take this up through the course of the LPS expressed a willingness to proceed under the similar WPG scheme under EWGS. Because of the delayed introduction of the EWGS extension of the project monies until September 2005 may also have provided more continuity and incentive for woodland owners to take up at least the WMPG element of the LPS.
- 8.9 It is evident that certification will never be applied to 100% of the woodland resource in Yorkshire and the Humber. It is recommended that the Forestry Commission recognise a figure at which 'full' certification in the region is seen to have been achieved. This should contribute towards a national figure for 'full' certification in England.
- 8.10 The slow uptake of certification by LAs following the certification seminar was disappointing. Participants identified the lack of staff time and resources necessary to achieve this goal as contributing to this lack of success. Further to this it is possible that there has been insufficient political will, either through ignorance or lack of resources, at the strategic level of LAs to drive this forward as council policy. If the CEOs of LAs can be persuaded this is a target their councils should be achieving the success rate may improve.
- 8.11 Local timber merchants and sawmillers largely expressed little interest in certification at the commencement of the project in 2002. The Project Officer contacted a range of such businesses and though some were evidently experienced in dealing with some quantities of certified timber others had no need and only scanty knowledge of it. In the past six months one local sawmiller has contacted *YORWOODS* with regards to obtaining information about chain of custody.
- 8.12 It may be that the lack of drive towards certification is partially due to the poor level of awareness amongst consumers. Until consumers start to demand certified timber businesses will not see the need to incur extra costs or time in achieving certified status. Although promotion and awareness raising were highlighted in the Initial Action Plan for the project the level of this activity was not targeted beyond those working in the forestry sector. Raising awareness of the benefits of certification to a wider audience may have helped push businesses and LAs towards certified status.
- 8.13 The Regional Forestry Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber Region (2005) identifies the requirement to increase the amount of woodland within UKWAS certification. To achieve this target it is recommended firstly that the certification schemes (FSC and PEFC) are encouraged to make their reporting systems for either individual or group certificates operated by themselves or certification providers fully transparent and accessible, without this it is difficult to ascertain what areas have achieved forest certification. Secondly it is recommended that local authorities continue to be targeted as the best opportunity for increasing the amount of certified woodland in the region. These organisations have the most to gain in terms of financial benefits, better woodland management provision and proving their legal and sustainable management to the public.

**YORWOODS Certification Seminar – February 2005**

**Participant Feedback Questionnaire**

Please circle the appropriate number to indicate your response

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**1. Did you have any knowledge of the requirements of certification prior to the event?**

1. Comprehensive knowledge
  2. A fair understanding
  3. Had heard about it
  4. Very sketchy details
  5. No knowledge
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**2. Did the seminar improve your knowledge of the reasons behind certification and the processes involved?**

- 8.3 Yes, to a significant level of understanding
  - 8.3 Yes, but more information is required
  - 8.3 To some extent but more information and further training is required
  - 8.3 No.
  - 8.3 No, the seminar told me little or nothing I didn't already know.
- 

**3. How useful did you find the seminar presentations?**

1. Very useful
  2. Useful
  3. Average
  4. Of some use
  5. Of little use
- 

**4. How useful did you find the seminar outdoor case study (Allerthorpe)?**

1. Very useful
  2. Useful
  3. Average
  4. Of some use
  5. Of little use
- 

**5. Does the organisation you represent own/manage more than 30ha of woodland?**

1. Yes
  2. No
-

**6. Irrespective of size, is the woodland holding your organisation manages grant-aided under a Woodland Grant Scheme?**

- Yes
- No, but WGS have been applied in the past and have now expired
- No, never

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**7. The organisation you represent**

- Has achieved certified status since the seminar
- Is actively pursuing certified status
- Is considering becoming certified
- Is not considering certified status
- Was certified prior to the event

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**8. Should you being considering certified status what type of help and advice do you require to progress towards this goal?**

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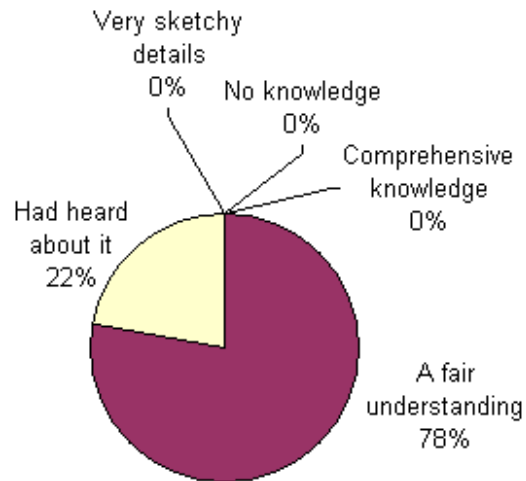
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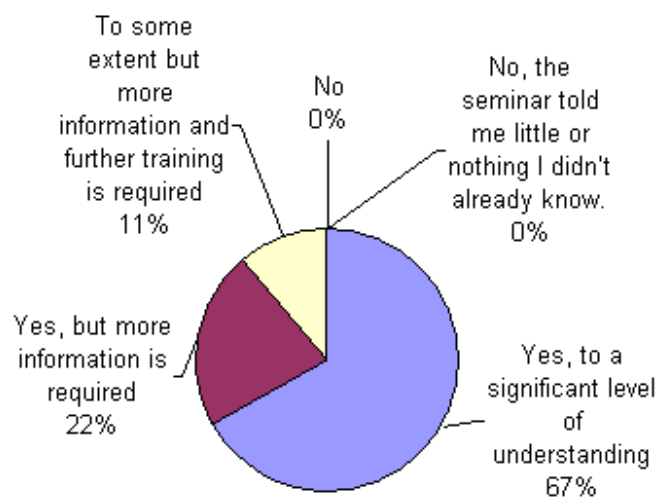
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*Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.  
Please return to YORWOODS, in the pre-paid envelope provided.*

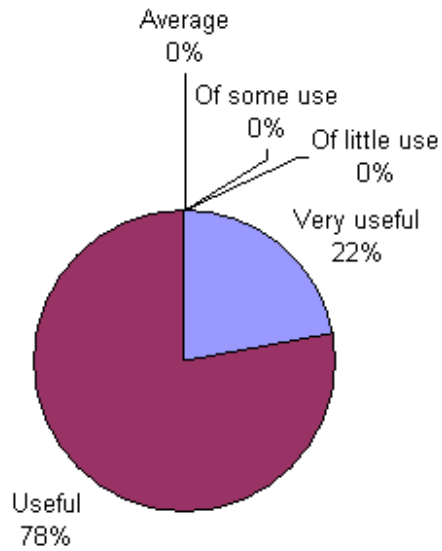
**Did you have any knowledge of the requirements of certification prior to the event?**



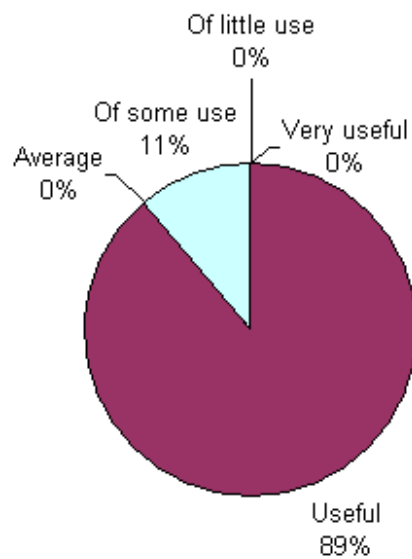
**Did the seminar improve your knowledge of the reasons behind certification and the processes involved?**



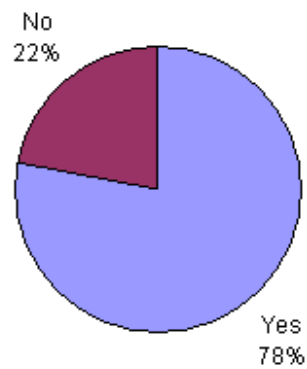
**How useful did you find the seminar presentations?**



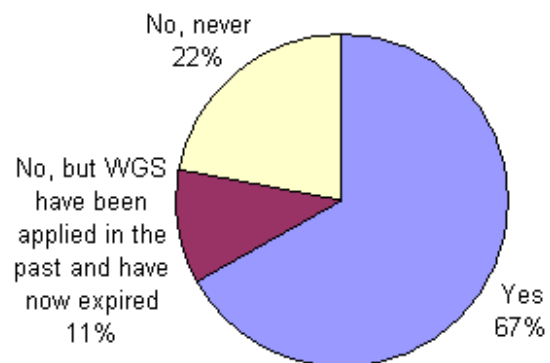
**How useful did you find the seminar outdoor case study (Allerthorpe)?**



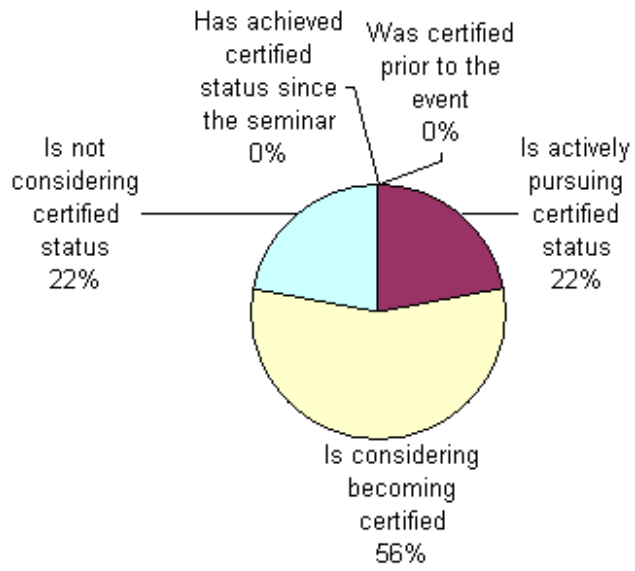
**Does the organisation you represent own/manage more than 30ha of woodland?**



**Irrespective of size, is the woodland holding your organisation manages grant-aided under a Woodland Grant Scheme?**



**The organisation you represent:**



### Appendix 3

WMPG Ref No.	Property name	WMPG area (ha)	SAG Area	Total grant (£)	Date approved	WMPG Paid	Claim Year
WMPG 012/001	Zetland Estate	252.00		1760	08/09/03	26/09/03	2003
WMPG 012/002	Cappleside	31.94		319.4	08/09/03		2005
WMPG 012/003	Hambleton Woods	166.90		1334.5	18/11/03		2005
WMPG 012/004	Swinton Estate	700.95		4000	02/12/03		2005
WMPG 012/005	Birdsall Estate Woods		1.18	316.08		30/01/04	2003
WMPG 012/006	Hawkhills, Black Wood	55.60		556	10/08/04		2005
WMPG 012/007	Brafferton Spring Wood	95.00		950	Rejected		2004
WMPG 012/008	Sessay Wood	70.00		700	18/10/04		2005
WMPG 012/009	Ampleforth Abbey Estate	61.70		617			2005
WMPG 012/010	Cleatop Wood & Freeholders Wood	29.57		300	28/07/04		2004
WMPG 012/011	Whin Covert	12.10		300	21/09/04		2005
WMPG 012/012	Haxby Plantation	54.00		540			2004
WMPG 012/013	Botton Hall	52.20		522			2005
WMPG 012/014	Ingleborough Estate	88.90		889	05/05/2005		2005
WMPG 012/015	Rosedale Intake	3.50		300			2005
WMPG 012/016	Hunter Howe, Cloughton Woods	53.39		533.9	14/12/04	12/04/2005	2005
WMPG 012/017	Bolton Abbey Estate	126.16		1130.8	14/12/04		2004
WMPG 012/018	Hutton Wandesley Estate	75.2		752			2005
WMPG 012/019	Wad Dale	5.5		300			2005
WMPG 012/020	Jubilee Cottage Wood	0.562		300			2004
WMPG 012/021	Howsham Mill	1.0		300	19/04/05		2005
				<b>£ 16,720.68</b>			

<b>CPG Ref No.</b>	<b>Property name</b>	<b>Plan area (ha)</b>	<b>Total grant (£)</b>	<b>Date CPG approved</b>	<b>Claim Year</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>
CPG 012/001	Cappleside	31.93	450	04/08/03	2003	Craven
CPG 012/002	Swinton Estate	764.01	600	04/08/03	2003	Harrogate
CPG 012/003	Scackleton Woods	66.95	450	14/11/03	2003	Ryedale
CPG 012/004	Scackleton Moor	35.00	450	14/11/03	2003	Ryedale
CPG 012/005	Swinithwaite Estate	45.00	450	25/11/03	2003	Richmond
CPG 012/006	Botton Hall Estate	52.20	450	15/01/04	2003	Scarborough
CPG 012/007	Zetland Estate	261.26	600	06/01/04	2003	Richmond
CPG 012/008	Wilson's Wood & Cass Wood	15.50	300	13/05/04	2004	Hambleton
CPG 012/009	Bolton Abbey Estate	612.00	600	22/02/05	2005	Craven
CPG 012/010	Whin Covert	12.10	300		2005	Scarborough
		<b>1895.95</b>	<b>£4,650.00</b>			

**YORWOODS North Yorkshire Sustainable Woodlands Project**

**Local Pilot Scheme**

**Management Planning/Certification Feedback Questionnaire**

Please circle the appropriate number(s) to indicate your response

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**1. How did you learn about the Pilot Project?**

- a. From the project launch (Scotch Corner, Spring '03)
  - b. From promotional literature
  - c. From the Forestry Commission
  - d. By word of mouth
  - e. Other (please state)
- 

**2. Having learnt about the project what was your primary reason for taking up the Woodland Management Planning Grant (WMPG)?**

- a. To revise an existing plan to conform with the plan template without significantly altering its original objectives and aims
  - b. To create an amended management plan to replace an existing management plan
  - c. To create a new management plan where no management plan existed
  - d. To use the template to address the requirements of certification
  - e. Did not qualify for WMPG already having a Forest Design Plan
- 

**3. Prior to taking up WMPG was your woodland holding managed with the help of grant-aid under a Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS)?**

- a. Yes, it has a current scheme
  - b. No, but WGS had been applied in the past and had expired
  - c. No
- 

**4. Whatever your response to Q.3, do you intend to take up the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) now or in the future?**

- a. Yes
  - b. No
-

**5. How has use of the WMPG helped to improve the management of your woodlands?**

- a. Informed management decisions through research into management history, character type and local or national designations
- b. Informed management decisions through use of Special Assessment Grant (SAG)
- c. Has formulated realistic aims and achievable objectives
- d. Has improved knowledge of the woodland resource for future management (e.g. harvesting)
- e. Other (please state)

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**6. Do you own/manage more than 30ha of woodland?**

- a. Yes
- b. No

---

**If you answered Yes to Q.6 has the requirement under EWGS to be certified to claim Woodland Management Grant (WMPG) on estates of over 30ha influenced your decision to take up WMPG and forest certification?**

- a. Yes
- b. No

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**8. In relation to the woodlands I own/manage**

- a. Certified status under the pilot project has been achieved
- b. Certified status is being actively pursued
- c. Certified status is being considered
- d. Certification is not being considered
- e. Certified status was achieved prior to the project commencement and grant monies claimed retrospectively

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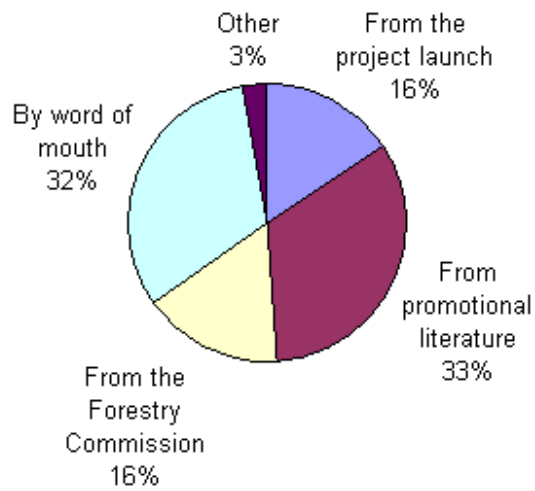
**9. Should you be considering certified status what type of help and advice do you require to progress towards this goal?**

.....  
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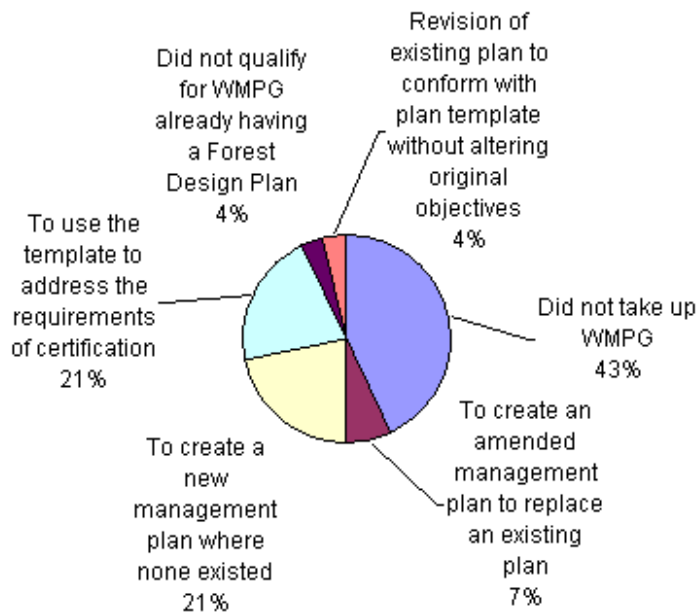
*Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please return to YORWOODS, in the pre-paid envelope provided.*

Appendix 5

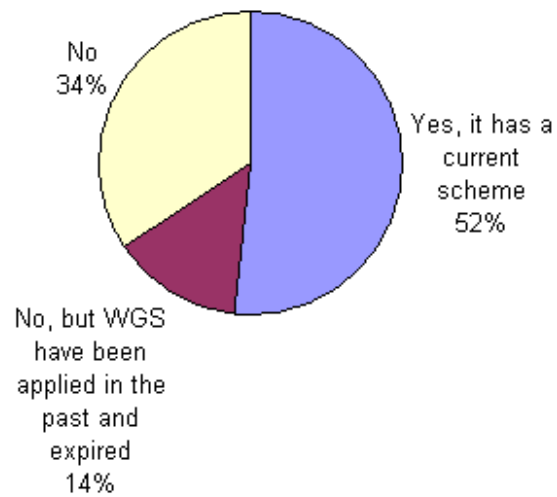
**How did you learn about the Pilot Project?**



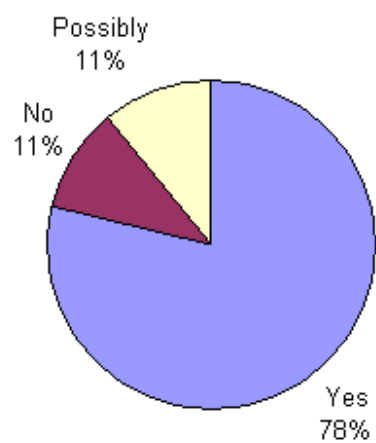
**Having learnt about the project what was your primary reason for taking up WMPG?**



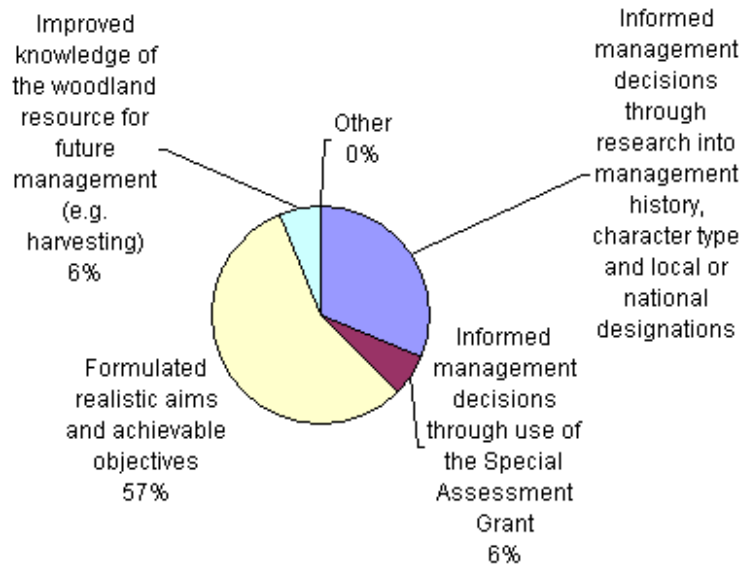
**Whether WMPG was applied for or not is your woodland holding managed with help of grant-aid from a WGS?**



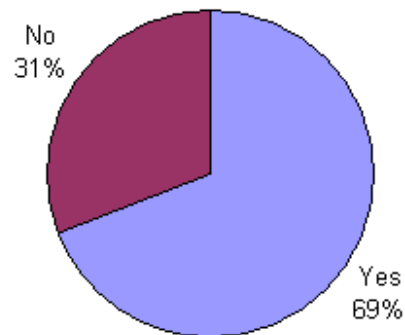
**Do you intend to take up EWGS now or in the future?**



**How has the use of WMPG helped to improve the management of your woodlands?**

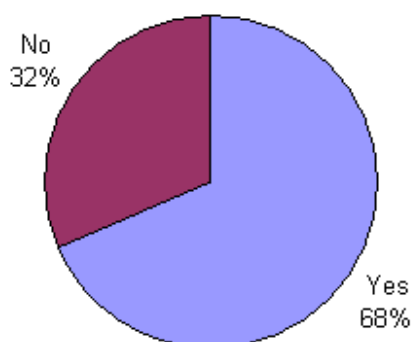


**Do you own/manage more than 30ha of woodland?**

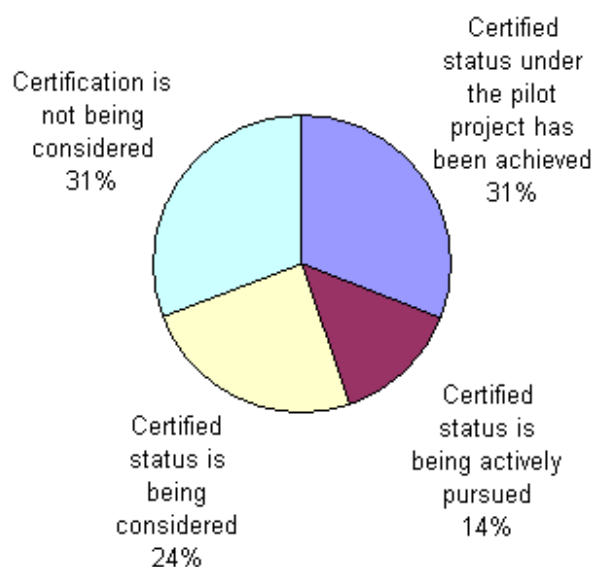


**Has the requirement under EWGS to be certified to claim WMG on estates of over 30ha influenced your decision to take up WMPG and forest certification?**

(Responses only from those with >30ha of woodland holding)



**In relation to the woodlands I own/manage:**



## Appendix 6

### **Known certified woodland in North Yorkshire outside Forestry Commission ownership/leasehold as at February 2006**

<b>Property Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Certification Provider</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>
Birdsall Estate	North Yorkshire	Tilhill	310.70
Bolton Abbey Estate	Craven	Indfor	612.00
Botton Hall Estate	Scarborough		52.20
Browside	Settle	Scottish Woodlands	66.26
Cappleside	Craven		31.93
Glaisdale	North Yorkshire	Tilhill	141.00
Hambleton	North Yorkshire	Tilhill	174.8
Helmsley Estate	Ryedale	Tilhill	666.00
Hollins and Bents Forest	North Yorkshire	Tilhill	23.00
Hovingham Estate	Ryedale	Tilhill	360.00
Raydale	North Yorkshire	Tilhill	165.90
Scackleton Moor	Ryedale		35.00
Scackleton Woods	Ryedale		66.95
Skirden Hall	North Yorkshire	Tilhill	116.50
Sproxton Woodlands	North Yorkshire	Tilhill	52.30
Swinithwaite Estate	Richmond		45.00
Swinton Estate	Harrogate	Indfor	764.01
Widdale Foot Forest	North Yorkshire	Tilhill	85.00
Wilsons Wood & Cass Wood	Hambleton		15.50
Woodland Trust sites	North Yorkshire	Soil Association	362.32
Yorkshire Dales NPA	Settle and Aysgarth	Tilhill	29.50
Zetland Estate	Richmond	Indfor	261.26
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4437.13</b>