

# Woodland Return Durham

## Bringing Durham's woodlands back to life

### What is it?

Woodland Return Durham will restore woodlands and reconnect habitats throughout County Durham's most heavily settled landscapes. Woodlands can contribute enormously to the character and beauty of County Durham and provide many lasting benefits. Unfortunately, woodland cover in the county is low and mostly neglected and undermanaged, which has led to a decline in wildlife, amenity and timber value.

This project will secure and enhance Durham's wooded resource. It will halt its decline by working with local people to conserve and restore forest networks which strengthen resilience and quality of the landscape. It will reconnect communities and land owners with woods, providing support to manage them for wildlife, timber and enjoyment.

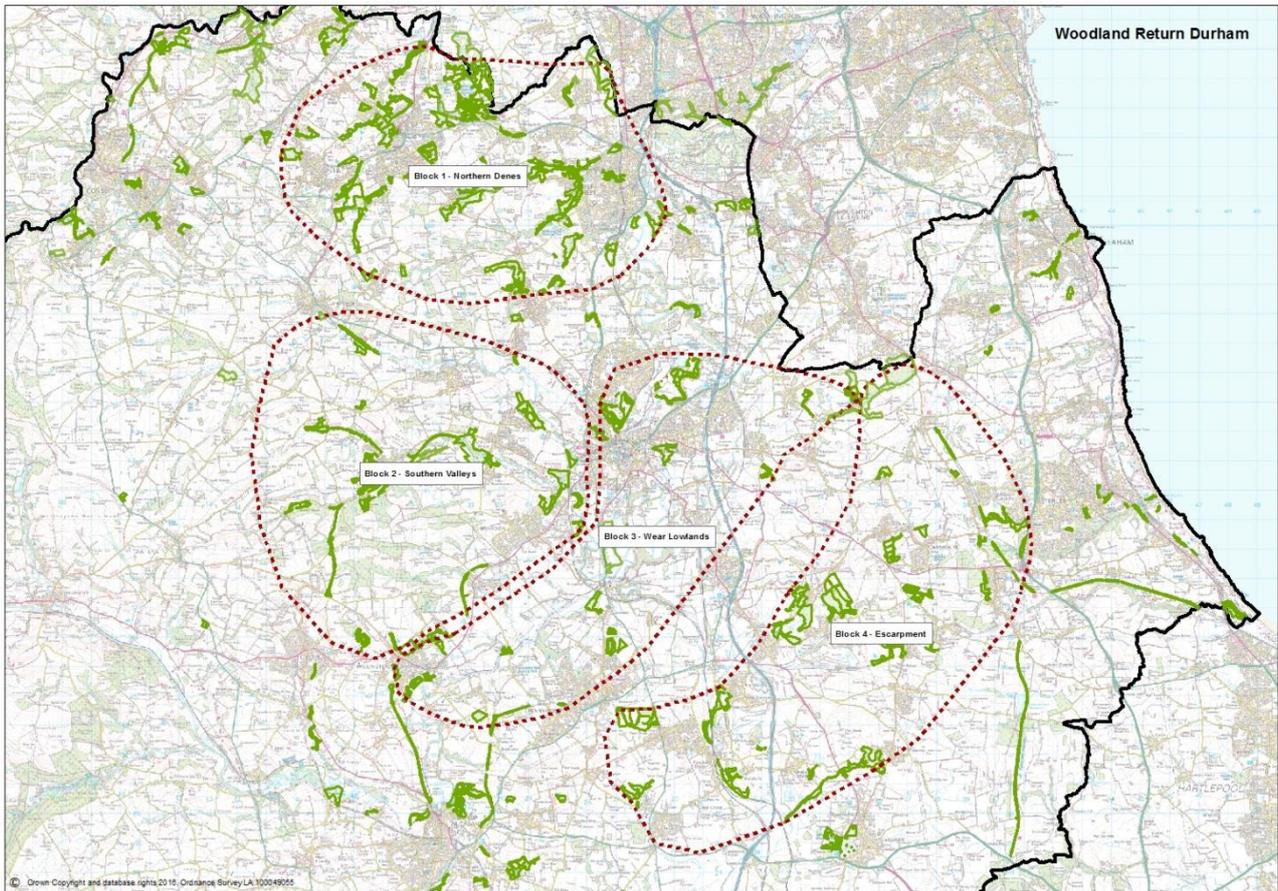
Woodland Return Durham will demonstrate how innovative approaches to woodland management and ownership and fresh collaborations with local people and private landowners can provide a valuable, rewarding and sustainable resource for years to come.

### How are we going to achieve this?

Working in partnership together, Durham County Council, The Woodland Trust, Northwoods and the Forestry Commission are applying for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The application will be submitted this year (2016) and we are hoping to secure match funding from a variety of sources to deliver a £1million project over 4 years.

### What we aim to do;

- Conserve and consolidate ancient woodland and other semi-natural woodland remnants.
- Develop woodland habitat networks through the restoration and improvement of existing woodland and targeted new planting.
- Consolidate, extend and improve other important habitats, and conserve related species.
- Work collaboratively with private woodland owners to secure woodland management, marketing and harvesting.
- Provide opportunity for local and county-based woodland enterprises to grow and build capacity through engagement with medium to long-term woodland harvesting and management contracts.
- Increase and improve access to, and understanding of our local woodlands.
- Reconnect communities with local woods and provide support to manage for wildlife, wood fuel and enjoyment.



**I would am interested in receiving training and support in the following areas:**

Mobilising support

Species identification

Woodland management

Community wood fuel project

Visitor access

Biodiversity improvements

Timber production

Forestry commission grants

Publicity & communications

Funding for equipment and/or capital works

Other

**Comments & Contact details**

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