



Wortley Catchment NatureBid Specification

Tree Planting/Woodland Creation

Why?

Planting trees and creating woodland provides the following NFM benefits:

- increased interception of water by tree canopies,
- increased uptake of water by the roots,
- greater evaporation of water from tree surfaces.

In addition, woodland can increase ground infiltration by increasing the roughness and permeability of the woodland floor due to tree roots.

Tree planting can also protect sensitive soils from disturbance, compaction, sediment loss and erosion.



Tree Planting © Environment Agency

Benefits for your farm:

Planting trees can reduce localised flooding on farms and make use of currently unproductive land.

Specifics for intervention:

What	Tree planting should include a variety of native tree species that have been identified as suitable for the conditions and soil type within the area. These include; Common Alder, Oak, Birch, Blackthorn, Bird Cherry, Crab Apple, Dogwood, Elder, Elm, Hawthorn and Holly.
Where – site selection	Trees can be planted on most unproductive land but are especially effective in areas of standing water or where water flows/collects in times of heavy rain. There are some areas to avoid, these are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- On peatland,- Within 10 meters of a bridge or watercourse crossing that could trap any material,- Within 10 meters of known utilities.- On any known heritage or archaeological sites The UK Forestry Standard document provides in-depth information on tree planting and woodland creation.
When	Tree planting should take place between November and March, when the weather is generally cool and wet.
How	Trees should be planted at a density of between 1,800 and 2,200 trees per hectare. This is the equivalent of around 1.5-2 metres between each tree. Trees can be planted using a variety of methods. A simple example is to 'Notch' Plant, this includes creating a 'T' shape in the soil with a spade, levering the soil apart using the 'cross' cut at the top of the T shape, and then placing the tree stem between the parted soil and treading soil flat.

	Trees should be protected using a cane and a tree guard. Tube guards should be used in more exposed areas, as they offer the best standard of protection, whereas spiral tree guards can be used in areas with more shelter.
Must knows	Please account for fencing that encloses the entire new woodland when considering your bid. For instances where walls, hedgerows or fencing currently exist and would act to protect the proposed new woodland from one side, single fencing only may be required. You do not need to make a separate bid for fencing. These fences should be maintained for a period of no less than 5 years, whilst the trees establish themselves.

Consents and Licences

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) may be required if more than 2ha of woodland planting is funded. You can check this through the screening process on the Forestry Commission website.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessments-for-woodland-overview>

Maintenance Requirements

Once your trees are in the ground, it's important to care from them until they are established. A weeding regime is recommended to make sure that new trees aren't suffocated by grass and weeds. Generally, trees can be considered as established after around 5 years. After this period you should also make sure to remove and recycle any tree guards, unless you have used bio-degradable versions.

Please note: Interventions must be completed by 31st December 2026.

If you have any questions or require any more information please contact

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