

Broadland Landowner Tree Planting Grant - Guidance Notes

Project outline

Landowner tree planting Grants aim to support local businesses, farmers and individuals, in partnership with their parish/town councils and/or tree wardens to plant trees in their local areas to improve the local environment for people and nature.

There is a recognition of the limited publicly owned space available for tree planting in some parts of the district. Therefore, this grant encourages planting on private land in such a way that there are benefits to the public and local community in a broadly defined way.

Please note that applications for projects which have the involvement of parish councils and/or tree wardens will be prioritised.

Landowner grants will provide 100% of funding required for trees and guards in approved applications, however labour costs are not covered by grants.

Grants of up to approximately £1000 per applicant are available for local hedge and tree planting projects. This equates to up to 120m of hedgerow or 600 trees which is the maximum. For projects over this size applications could be made to other available schemes including Woodland Trust MOREwoods or MOREhedge schemes [Trees for Landowners and Farmers - Woodland Trust](#).

The minimum size for a project is 25m or 125 trees. For projects below this size applications can be made for subsidised tree packs from Norfolk County Council: [Subsidised tree pack scheme - Norfolk County Council](#)

Objectives

Plant trees and hedges in our local communities, the right trees in the right place, including where there is limited public space for planting. This will help to:

- Improve biodiversity and habitat creation and help sustain wildlife
- Improve the local environment for the benefit of the wider public
- Capture carbon as the trees grow
- Improve air and soil quality
- Engage with the local community on environmental issues affecting their local area.

1. Applicant details:

If appropriate, please include contact details of an agent or representatives, acting on the applicant's behalf.

2. Eligible applicants and projects:

Grant funding will be available to individual landowners, farmers and local businesses.

Trees must be planted within the Broadland District Council area.

The project can be a stand-alone project or a self-contained aspect of an ongoing project.

This grant scheme is for projects that will take place in this tree planting season Nov 2023 to March 2024.

If the planting is not taking place on land owned by the applicant then you will need the landowner's permission. This must be in place before an application is submitted.

The applicant must agree to a possible site visit, by prior arrangement, to monitor success rates for up to 3 years.

The applicant must agree to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to commit to the landowner's undertakings within this grant award. (Available as an appendix to this guidance).

3. About your planting project

A. What and where you plan to plant:

- Planting whips (saplings)
 - A new or restored hedgerow
- Where hedgerows are being planted, we encourage applicants to consider allowing the development of trees growing in these hedgerows to support wider biodiversity benefits: [Best Hedges for Wildlife | Planting Hedges - The RSPB](#)

We would like planting projects to include focus as far as possible on native species and to be sourced sustainably from within the UK.

Please provide a description of your project including:

- The locations where trees/hedge will be planted (field borders, roadsides etc)
- The type of planting/species mix in each location.
- If requesting an unspecified planting mix, the applicant is responsible for specifying if the land to be planted on is or will be used for livestock and/or horses or any other use which entails restrictions on species planted.
- If a specific planting mix is requested, the applicant is responsible for ensuring this mix is suitable for the land use.

We particularly encourage applications for planting in spaces which are either:

- accessible to the public
- close to publicly accessible spaces
- easily visible from public spaces.

Please provide details of this in your project description.

Planting plan:

- As part of the project we would like to see a tree planting plan to show planting locations and the species mix in each location.
- The Tree Officers at the council will assess applications to ensure that the planting plan is suitable.
- Applications will also be screened against Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service mapping to check applications do not impact on SSSIs, County Wildlife Sites and Roadside Nature Reserves. (nbis.org.uk)

If you would like to apply for a grant but have queries about making a tree planting plan then please contact us and we'll see how we can help.

Tree guards:

We require tree guards and canes to be used to provide protection for whips planted. Any trees planted will require appropriate guards and stakes.

These guards should be included in the grant application.

There are 2 options for the supply of tree guards:

- biodegradable tree guards are used, or
- a commitment for collecting and reusing or recycling plastic guards

Please indicate your choice on the application form.

B. How to plant:

Please note that labour costs are not covered by this grant.

We encourage applicants to engage with their local communities for support with planting. This can be done through your parish council, tree warden and/or any local community groups.

Broadland District Council may be able to signpost to community and volunteer groups who might be able to assist with planting.

Please note this is an offer of advice from BDC only and there is no guarantee of securing support for planting.

Please note that there may be associated labour costs for some groups.

C. Tree and hedge aftercare:

Please tell us about aftercare plans to ensure that a higher proportion of the trees survive and remain healthy for the long-term.

We will not be able to fund projects that do not state how you will maintain the trees in the future, including plans for watering and monitoring plants.

Please note that following a particularly dry year, we will require mulching at planting to be included in all planting and aftercare plans. Broadland District Council will be able to provide guidance on mulching and aftercare if required.

D. Reasons for planting – strategic outcomes:

The application form requires further details about the strategic objectives the projects will meet:

- Planting for biodiversity and habitat creation
- Planting for community/public benefits
- Planting for carbon capture/sequestration

For the first two of these we ask for further details about the expected benefits of the project. Guidance notes for this are below:

Planting for biodiversity and habitat creation, please give details of:

- Any particular species which are likely to benefit (flora and/or flora)
- Any new habitats to be created and/or restoration of existing habitats
- Any new or restored ecological links or green corridors between existing woodland or other areas of rich biodiversity.

Planting for community/public benefits, please give details of:

- Any community engagement in development of plans for the project
- Any on-going or future plans for community involvement/engagement
- Benefits to local environment:
 - Improvements to visual landscape for local community
 - Positive impact on noise or light pollution
 - Traffic calming effects or mitigation to other impacts of transport corridors
 - Improvements to air quality
 - Providing mitigation to impact of weather (wind, flooding)
- Benefits to economic activity or growth in local area.

4. Costs of your project

Please ensure that a quotation for trees and guards is submitted with your application.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries about the information required in this section.

Application/Delivery Process:

- 1) Submit application form, planting plan and quotes
- 2) Application assessed by Broadland DC
- 3) Notification of outcome
- 4) If successful, grant agreement Memorandum of Understanding will be sent out to be signed
- 5) When document returned Broadland DC will:
 - Pay the awarded grant into the nominated bank account once the landowner has bought the trees and guards and submitted receipts for these.
- 6) Publicity/community engagement as appropriate
- 7) When all the trees are planted submit the evaluation form
- 8) Council officer may visit to confirm trees planted and maintained according to the plan

Funding Availability

Funding will be awarded on a first come first served basis. Applications will be assessed in the order that they are received, and at the time that they are received or in batches at regular intervals depending on the number of applications received.

When all of the funding has been awarded all interested parties will be notified.