

Useful Websites

Arboricultural Association - www.trees.org.uk

The Landscape Institute - www.l-i.org.uk/

Forest of Dean District Council Landscape Character Assessment

http://www.fdean.gov.uk/content.asp?nav=808&parent_directory_id=200&positioning_article_id=&language=&sortkey

Flora Locale (list of suppliers of trees and plants of local provenance) - <http://www.floralocale.org/content.asp?did=23794>

This document can be made available on audiotape, in Braille, large print, a range of languages and in other formats if required. For further information please contact us on 01594 810000.

If you have any questions please contact the Countryside Team on 01594 81000. Completed plans and specifications for approval should be sent to:

Planning Services,
Forest of Dean District Council,
High Street,
Coleford,
Gloucestershire,
GL16 8HG.

Please ensure that the application and location details are included.

March 2007



Notes on

**Tree Planting Specifications for
Planning Applications**



This leaflet forms one of a series of advice notes, which have been produced to help people consider the important issues of landscape and biodiversity when preparing a planning application. The purpose of this leaflet is to illustrate and encourage best practice in the design and implementation of tree planting, as part of a landscaping scheme. It also explains what information needs to be provided within a planning application.

The Value of Tree Planting

- Contributes to landscape and local identity
- Screening and shelter
– trees may screen unattractive views, give privacy, shelter and shade.
- Noise reduction
- Environmental value
– in reducing run-off and absorbing carbon dioxide.



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- Planting schedule
- Type of protection planned, and measurements (e.g. height of fencing, use of caging, rabbit guards, stakes etc)
- Details of weed control, including depth and area measurements if using mulch, or time of application if using chemical control.
- A management statement



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Management Statement

A long-term management plan should be considered, in order to ensure plantings remain healthy and in-keeping with the original design. Under the planning controls, applicants are responsible for ensuring that plants remain alive for at least 5 years after they are planted, and this means that any which die during this period must be replaced. Please **provide a management statement**, detailing planned management for at least 5 years after planting, and also a vision for future management after those five years.

Tick Box – Have you included all the required details in your Landscape Tree Planting Scheme?

- Map showing exact areas of proposed planting, along with existing landscape features
- Species to be planted
- Area to be covered by planting, and quantity of trees
- Density of planting, grouping of species, and spacing between trees
- Size of trees to be planted

- Improving the appearance of, and value placed on, local areas.
- Botanical interest.
- Amenity and recreation.

Planting Design

The initial stage of a planting design involves looking at the existing landscape and planting features of a site, and where appropriate, using these as a base for the design.

The design of the planting should:

- Represent the character of the local landscape, and where possible link with existing vegetation; have a look around the local area to see what species are present (see link to Forest of Dean Landscape Character Assessment, at end of document);
- Take into consideration the visual and physical impact of the proposals on the existing landscape (including views into and out of the site).



- Reflect the function and character of the site;
- Relate to the buildings, either to soften or screen them, or to act as a good background;
- Produce a safe, practical, usable landscape;
- Be appropriate for the growing conditions;
- Take into account the resources available for the long term management and maintenance of the site.
- Provide a balance of provision for open space and vegetation in relation to density of the built development and infrastructure;
- Contribute to the establishment of a well-structured framework of diverse ages, sizes and species with the potential to be managed constructively over time.



Weed control

Some form of weed control is essential if newly planted trees are to be able to establish themselves, and should be undertaken for at least the first three years after planting. If properly applied and maintained, mulches can be effective at suppressing weeds. Alternatively, mulch mats or chemical weed control may be used. For mulch to be effective, the existing ground vegetation must be destroyed prior to application. The mulch should be applied to a minimum depth of 100mm covering an area of at least 1 metre squared around the tree. In the planning application specify type of weed control, i.e. type of mulching and depth, mulch mat or chemical weed control. In the case of chemical weed control specify the month(s) weed control will be undertaken.



42 x 6m of tree planting in the centre of the planting area at 2m spacing = 126 plants

%	Tree species	Number of plants
30	Oak	38
30	Ash	38
20	Field Maple	25
0	Beech	0
20	Cherry	25
Total	126	

Protection

Where plants may be subject to damage by animals, they will require some form of protection. **Specify how planting is to be protected;** whether by fence or cage (include details of style, design, materials and height), rabbit guards (Specify height and make) and canes or tubes (specify height and make). This will depend on the quantity and size of trees to be used. Plants larger than 1.5m will need the support of a stake until the root system is established, placed at a 45 degree angle to the trunk, to avoid damaging the tree root system. Where there is prevailing wind the stake should be positioned upwind of the tree.

Cultivation

For successful planting, trees should be treated with care as newly planted trees are very susceptible to drying winds, as well as dry, waterlogged or frosted ground. Therefore where possible these should be avoided. Bare root stock needs to be planted between November and the end of March; **a planting schedule should be included** in the landscaping scheme. Preparation of the planting environment (including decompaction and drainage) should be at least to the standards set out in British Standard BS4428:1989 Code of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces). Trees should be planted to a depth appropriate to the size of the plant stock, which should be to the same depth at which they had been previously grown in the nursery. It is important that all plants are well heeled in after planting and watered in during dry weather. Including some composted material will generally improve the growing rate and improve water retention in the soil during the summer. **The type of cultivation proposed should be included** within landscaping details.

Planting Species Mix

The mix of species planted will depend a great deal on the details of the area to be planted, location, surrounding vegetation etc. Use of local native plant species will provide

food and habitat for wildlife. Natural vegetation is made up of plant communities of different species and ages, and this could be reflected in the design and management of new planting. For example when creating a new area of woodland, consider planting canopy tree species, shrub understorey and edges, and woodland ground flora. Plant similar species in groups that mimic local natural grouping and spacing.

Structure Planting and Tree Species

The purpose of structure planting could include:

- To integrate large structures into their surroundings
- To form a buffer between incompatible uses.
- To create a woodland environment
- To screen buildings
- To frame a view
- To complement and integrate building form and styles

Planting Distances and layout

Specify the density of planting and the groupings of species. For example broadleaf trees are often planted at 2m spacing and shrubs at around 1m spacing. Typically shrubs are to the edges of planting areas or in groups within the planting. Depending on the size of the planting area look to plant similar species in small groups. Plants tend to grow better when in similar groups (species) rather than in alternate mix, where one species may dominate.

Area and Quantity

Details should include the area (square metres) and the species composition of planting.

Example: Total planting area of 50m x 10m (500 sqm)

62 x 4m of shrub planting towards the edges of the planning area at 1m spacing = 248 plants.

%	Species	Number of plants
10	Holly	25
30	Hawthorn	75
20	Blackthorn	50
20	Hazel	50
10	Dog Rose	25
10	Guelder Rose	25
Total	250	

be considered when presenting the landscaping scheme. **Details in the landscaping scheme should include the number and details of each tree species and the size of plants to be used.** The selection of nursery stock, and the transplanting of root-balled trees should follow BS 3936-1:1992, Nursery Stock – Part 1: Specification for trees and shrubs, and BS 4043:1989, Transplanting root-balled trees.

Description	Height	Types of planting
1 + 1(1 yr seedling+ 1yr transplanted)	40-60cm	Hedging, larger areas of copse or woodland planting
2+1(2yr seedling + 1 yr transplanted)	60-80cm	As above good for areas where definite effects want be seen sooner.
Light Standard	1.8-2.4m	Hedgerow trees, Spaced into planting to provide structural effect.
Standard	2.4-3.0m	As above but can also stand alone as specimen, landmark or street scene trees.

The arrangement of structure planting in the landscape setting of a development, is important to ensure that the landscape character of the area is respected, protected and, where appropriate, enhanced or restored.

Tree species

In deciding which species to plant it will be necessary to examine the constraints of the site, such as soil condition, site exposure and the ultimate height of the trees. (See table 1, pages 7 & 8)

Not all the species will be appropriate to every area. Look around the site and select species that would be appropriate for the site (see link to Forest of Dean Landscape Character Assessment, at end of document). Most plantings will include a mixture of tree and shrub species. When planting native species, make sure they come from British grown stock, and are preferably of local provenance.

Size of trees to be planted

Trees are commonly described by age or height. In practice it may be a combination of tree sizes that are planted dependent on the location and species. A variety of sizes will give an instant variation to the planting which should

Table 1. Native Trees and Their Required Growing Conditions

Species	Average ultimate height			Growth rate			Soil Conditions						Tolerant of sites that are:			Valuable for:	
	0.5m to 5m	6m to 15m	16m+	fast	med	slow	wet ground	light sandy soil	heavy soil	acid	alkaline	OK in shade	polluted	coastal	exposed	birds	insects
Alder		*		*			*				*	*			*		*
Ash			*		*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		
Aspen			*	*				*	*	*			*	*	*		*
Beech			*		*			*		*		*			*		*
Birch, downy			*	*			*		*			*			*		*
Birch, silver			*	*				*	*			*			*		*
Blackthorn	*					*	*	*			*	*				*	*
Cherry, wild		*			*			*			*		*				
Crab apple		*				*		*	*	*		*				*	*
Elm, wych			*		*			*		*		*	*	*	*		*
Hawthorn	*					*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*
Hawthorn, midland	*					*		*		*		*				*	*
Hazel		*		*				*		*		*					*
Holly		*				*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	
Juniper		*						*	*	*					*		
Lime, small leaved			*		*			*		*		*					*
Maple, field		*			*			*		*		*	*				
Oak, pedunculata			*		*		*	*		*					*	*	*
Oak, sessile			*		*		*	*	*		*	*			*	*	*
Poplar, black			*	*			*	*		*							*
Rowan		*		*				*	*			*	*	*	*	*	
Whitebeam, common		*			*			*	*		*						*
Willow, crack		*		*			*			*		*	*	*	*	*	*
Willow, white		*		*			*			*		*	*	*	*	*	*
Yew		*				*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	*

* – Only species to survive on sites with anaerobic soil conditions. * – Will do well on sites that are only seasonally wet.