

Eastfield Cottage Farm

Woodland Trust

visit feedback

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Site background

The proposed planting area is estimated at 0.5ha (as mapped below). This site is situated in the Sherwood National Character Area. Historically, this landscape was managed as woodland pasture and remains a well wooded area. The oak and birch woodland in the heartland of Sherwood Forest and more recent pine plantations, contribute strongly to the sense of place. Large estate parklands, heathland, open arable land and a strong mining heritage also characterise the area. The site had poor, acidic sandy soil. The landowner would like to plant the area to shelter from the prevailing wind, and to landscape the land for a potential future business venture such as glamping, weddings or children's activities. The woodland would also screen these activities from the family homes.

Assessment of onsite conditions and likely mitigation:

Item	Description (or state if absent)	Mitigating action required
Landscape		
Public right of way (notified by applicant)	No public footpath running through planting site	No action required
Services (notified by applicant)	None present	No action required
Protected Landscape?	No	
Residential boundaries	None affected by planting – hedgerow separating planting site with neighbour's field and neighbour is aware of planting	
Biodiversity		
Existing habitat	Improved grassland	
Water		
Watercourses (notified by applicant and checked by Adviser prior to site visit)	Not near watercourse	No action required



Historic environment		
Archaeology (checked by Adviser prior to site visit)	None present	No action required
Surrounding protected features	None present	No action required

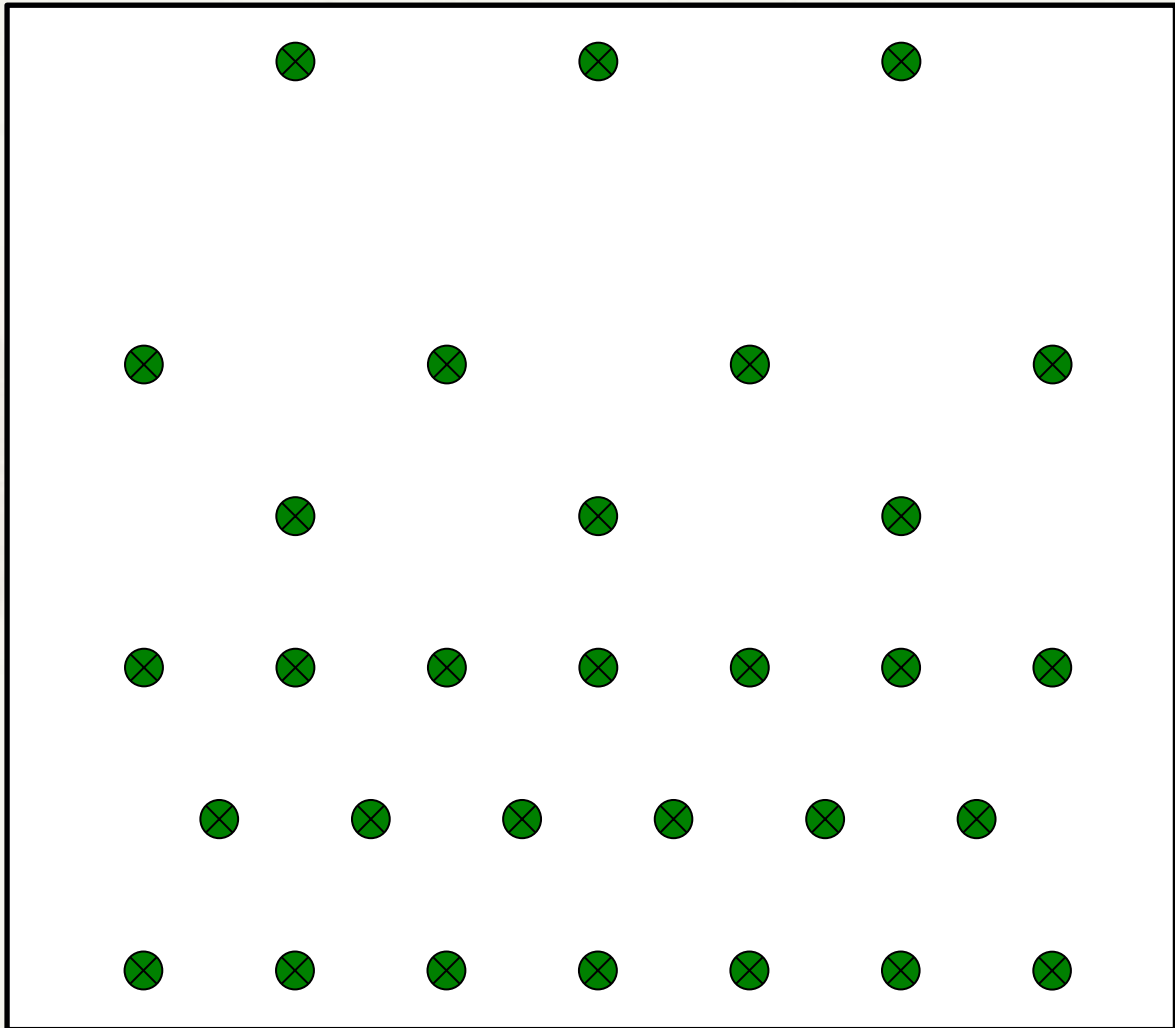
Site Plan

Below is an overview showing the location of the proposed planting. The area is to be planted with a mix of native broadleaf species to meet your objectives. All of the species recommended on the following page can be planted in these areas following the general planting advice below.



Planting design

It is advised that trees species are to be planted in groups of 5-10 at an average 2.5m spacing (1600 stems per hectare), within staggered wavy lines. Some can be closer together and some further apart. As mentioned on plan concentrating larger trees species such as oak towards rear of planting and smaller species and shrubs towards the front. Also tailor spacing to create a feathered edge.



Species mix

I suggest the following species that will grow well (with the right maintenance) and meet your objectives. The species (apart from sweet chestnut and walnut) are all native to the UK and all offer benefits to wildlife in different ways. All seed has been sourced and grown in the UK.

Tree species

50 x Field Maple	75 x Rowan	100 x Silver Birch
50 x Lime (small-leaved)	100 x Sessile Oak	50 x Wild Cherry
100 x Oak (Common)		

Shrub species

50 x Dog Rose	100 x Hawthorn	50 x Holly
25 x Dogwood	50 x Hazel	

Trees should be planted within 7 days of delivery (or 'heeled in' to a trench straight away) to ensure the best success rate for your new wood. The trees delivered will be young bare root saplings and will vary in size between 40 – 60cm.

Protection

All tree species are to be planted with 1.2m tubes and stakes with all shrub species protected by 75cm spirals and canes. This will help protect against mammal damage. Where livestock is to be grazed stock proof fencing will be required to exclude stock from the planting areas.

Site preparation

It would be advisable to cut/graze grass short to make planting and subsequent maintenance easier.

Maintenance

We recommend maintaining a weed free area around the base of each tree for 2 years after planting. This is to reduce competition from weeds/grass and help the trees establish more quickly. You could use mulch mats (or well-rotted wood-chip) around each tree or hand-weed the base of the trees approximately twice a year. Alternatively you could spray using a contact herbicide around the base of each tree once a year (usually in the spring) with a

knapsack sprayer for 2 years after planting. Please note that cutting grasses stimulates them to compete strongly and is best avoided in the early years after planting.

We also recommend you check that the tree shelters and stakes/canes are in place after strong winds and firm them up as necessary. Each spring before the ground hardens the stakes/canes should be returned to an upright position as necessary and the tubes/spirals placed in direct contact with the ground.

Remove guards as soon as they split and before they start to disintegrate (usually after 5-10 years). This is best done in the winter. The guards have now done their job and may hamper growth. Please dispose of the plastics responsibly to protect local wildlife. The tubes are made from polypropylene (PP) and the spirals are PVC. Both can be recycled where facilities exist; please check with your local authority or find a specialist company like Agri-Cycle.

Estimated costs

We are able to offer the following funding options for a project of this size:

Option 1: Self plant

On a self-plant scheme we are able to offer 75% funding, this means the cost to you would be approximately £490.00 excluding VAT. We will supply the trees and protection and it would then be up to you to plant the trees or arrange a planting contractor.

Next steps

If you are happy to proceed with the proposed plan then please let me know. We are able to deliver/plant your trees next season, between late November 2019 and late March 2020.

Once you are happy with the scheme someone will be in contact to arrange a suitable delivery date and send out an agreement for signing.

If you have any questions before you make your decision then please feel free to contact me to discuss.

As stated during the application process, you should be aware that areas planted with trees through MOREwoods will become ineligible for Basic Farm Payment. If you hold any form of Stewardship agreement (ELS; HLS; CS) with Natural England they must be informed before proceeding.



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For woodland creation and management contractors, the Woodland Trust strongly recommends you obtain at least three independent quotations, evidence of statutory accreditation and appropriate insurances, to your own satisfaction.

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