

Free trees

for planting on private land
in rural Leicestershire

Leicestershire Tree Planting Initiative

Introduction

Since the early 1980s, Leicestershire has lost over 50% of its mature trees from rural areas of the county. The County Council is committed to replacing this loss through a sustained programme of tree planting and are looking for farmers and landowners who can provide suitable sites for new trees to be planted. In particular, new and established hedgerows, field corners and parkland areas would all be ideal sites to establish new trees in the County's landscape.

Apply for free trees

The County Council will supply up to 15 new trees, along with appropriate planting sundries, for planting on suitable sites. Successful applicants will be required to collect the trees from a pre-arranged pick-up point, plant them on site and maintain them until they are fully established. Applicants are required to complete the detachable application form included in this booklet and forward it to the address below along with a map detailing where the new trees will be planted.

Advice and approval

Please contact the County Council's Forestry Group before completing the application form. We will advise you on the suitability of your planting site and the number of trees it can accommodate. We may wish to visit your site in order to advise you.

Please send your completed application to:

Leicestershire County Council,
Corporate Resources Department,
Forestry Group, County Hall,
Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RE

If you require any further advice:

Please contact the Property Services Helpdesk on 0116 305 5000



Site selection

When selecting a site for your new trees, consider the following points:

Soil Quality - Is there sufficient depth of quality soil?

Drainage - Ensure that the site is not prone to water-logging.

Competition - Is the site clear of competing vegetation?

Space - Is there sufficient space for the tree to grow to maturity?

Livestock - Ensure that the tree is protected from browsing livestock.

Access - Will the new trees obstruct any vehicle/pedestrian access?

Services - Avoid planting close to overhead/underground services.

Hedge Maintenance - Ensure the new trees will not be damaged by hedge trimming operations.



Species selection

The scheme provides a limited number of tree species, all of which are appropriate to the rural Leicestershire landscape. The following chart will assist you in selecting the most appropriate species for your site.

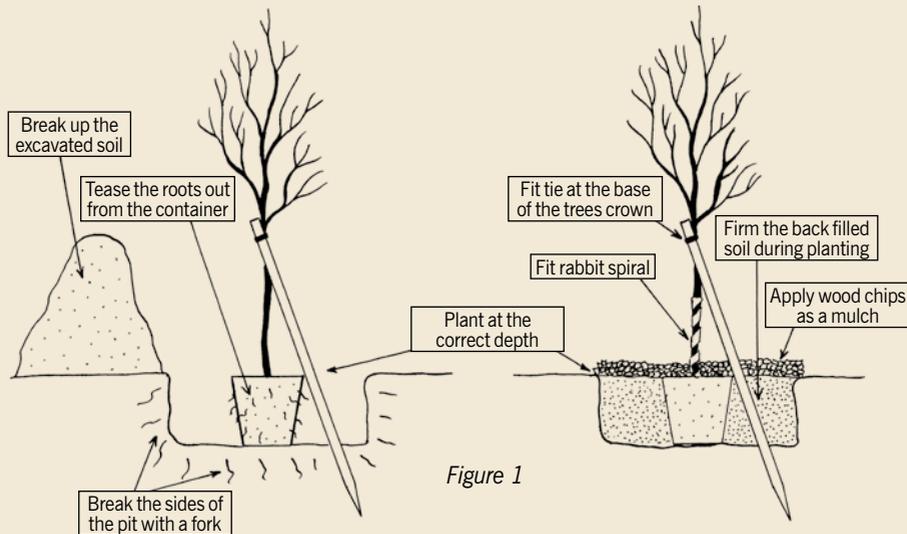
Species	Soil Type					Mature Height (m)	Mature Spread (m)
	Wet	Light	Heavy	Acid	Alkaline		
Oak			*	*		20	16
Beech		*			*	20	18
Cherry			*	*		12	10
F. Maple			*		*	10	10
Alder	*				*	16	12
Rowan		*		*		10	8
Willow	*					18	12
Lime			*		*	20	14
Walnut		*			*	16	14

Collecting, transporting and storing your trees

When your trees are available for collection, you will be contacted to arrange a convenient collection time/date. Trees cannot be collected without prior arrangement. The new trees will be up to 8 feet tall so you will need to **ensure that your vehicle/trailer is sufficiently large** to transport your trees and it provides sufficient protection. Large vans, trailers, lorries and livestock boxes may all be suitable depending on the number of trees in your order. Ideally the trees should be planted on or soon after the collection date. If you need to store the trees, please keep them upright and secure, protect them from animal browsing and ensure that they are regularly watered.

Planting

Your new trees will be container grown and should be planted in an excavated pit, at least 3 times the size of the container. The tree should be planted at an appropriate depth to ensure the top of the container is level with the surrounding ground surface. Before planting the tree, install the supporting stake which should be driven 60cm into the ground at the base of the planting pit at a slight angle.



When the tree is planted, fit the rubber tie around the tree's stem and attach it to the stake near the base of the tree's crown. Fit the rabbit guard provided and apply a mulch at the base of the tree such as woodchips.

Application form

Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text" value="Postcode"/>
	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>
Mobile	<input type="text"/>
E-mail	<input type="text"/>

Description of planting site:

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

The new trees will be visible from:

a town a village a road
another public area, please specify

Declaration

I confirm I have read and agree to conform with the terms and conditions of the Leicestershire County Council Rural Tree Initiative.

<input type="text" value="Signature"/>	<input type="text" value="Date"/>
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Available online at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/apply-for-a-free-tree



Your trees

The number and species of trees suitable for your site needs to be agreed by a member of the County Council's Forestry staff before you submit your application. The trees are all container grown and will be 1.8 - 2.4 metres (6 - 8 feet) high. Each tree will be supplied with a supporting stake, a rubber tree tie and, a rabbit guard.

Please state below the species and number of trees you require and indicate the type of planting site.

Species	Number required	Planting Site				
		Hedge	Field	Parkland	Paddock	Waterside
English Oak						
Common Beech						
Wild Cherry						
Field Maple						
Common Alder						
Rowan						
White Willow						
Small Leaved Lime						
Common Walnut						

NB. Maximum number 15

Site map

Please provide a map of your proposed planting site. Your map should identify your site location and should indicate where the new trees are to be planted.

Site visits

A member of the County Council's Forestry staff will visit the site during the summer after planting to advise on maintenance and care of the young trees.

Please indicate if you:

are happy for them to call when passing

require a pre-arranged appointment

Maintenance and aftercare

Please ensure that the following maintenance works are carried out during the three to four years after planting:

- Competing vegetation around the base of the tree should be removed by hand pulling or chemical weeding. DO NOT mechanically cut vegetation near the base of the tree.
- Periodically apply mulch around the base of the tree using fresh wood chip or other, suitable mulching material (e.g. bark mulch) DO NOT use livestock manures.
- Apply water to planting area at regular intervals during dry periods. Continue watering until normal levels of rainfall return.
- Ensure that the rabbit guard continues to offer the tree protection but doesn't restrict stem expansion.
- Periodically check the stake and rubber tie to ensure that they continue to support the tree and do not cause any restriction or abrasion damage.
- Remove the stake and tie when the tree has established and the stem has expanded sufficiently to enable the tree to stand independently. (i.e. usually after 3 - 4 years growth)
- Replace any dead trees with a new tree from a reputable nursery.





Terms and conditions

1. The scheme applies to rural land within the County of Leicestershire, excluding the National Forest area where a range of tree planting grants are available from the National Forest Company.
2. The scheme does not apply to private gardens or public land.
3. Trees will not be supplied to meet the requirements of a planning condition of any kind.
4. The trees must not be covered by any other form of grant.
5. The trees should preferably be planted on the day they are collected but in all cases, within three days of the collection date.
6. The trees must be planted and appropriately maintained by the applicant until they are fully established and subsequently allowed to grow on to maturity.
7. The trees should be planted on the applicant's own land and should be visible from a public road or footpath.
8. The number of trees supplied to each applicant will depend on the suitability and capacity of the planting site and will be at the discretion of the County Council's Forestry staff. A maximum of 15 trees may be available for each site.
9. The number of trees available is limited and applications will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis. The County Council reserve the right to close the scheme at any time during the planting season.
10. All applications should be made on the detachable application form included in this booklet and should include a site map indicating where the trees are to be planted.

