



Trees for the Downs Guidance

About the fund

The fund provides trees and suitable protection for them such as canes and guards. It can support a limited number of hedge projects. There is no cash grant and the orders are arranged by the South Downs National Park Authority rather than between the applicant and supplier. If you receive trees, you will be responsible for the planting and their future maintenance.

Tree sizes will vary depending on what's advised for your project, but most commonly those supplied are approximately 1 meter in height. These smaller trees are effective in their establishment, laying down a strong root network.

Trees will be ordered Summer/Autumn 2024 for planting in Winter 2024 (usually with delivery from November). It's advisable for you to have carried out any ground preparation or clearance you need beforehand by early November.

The application process

The Expression of Interest is to help us understand the scale of interest and carry out constraints checks on sites. For example, checking impact on Cultural Heritage Assets.

Please note that we cannot offer arboricultural advice at this stage but have included links to further information and funding if you would like to conduct research to help you select species. It is not a requirement for you to have undertaken detailed research.

We will be in contact with individual landowners once closed to entries and the expressions of interest have been prioritised. This may take several months and we appreciate your patience while we work through them all.

Criteria

- The site which you intend to plant the trees **must lie within the South Downs National Park boundary**. Please see <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-applications/residents/> to check.
- The applicant should be the landowner, their representative or somebody with the land owner's permission to plant trees.
- We will not accept applications for trees that are required for the fulfilment or discharge of a planning conditions
- We are unlikely to provide trees for private gardens. Applications with community benefit will be prioritised.



- **Previous tree recipients** can still apply, but may not be prioritised over others if heavily subscribed.
- The fund can support a limited number of **hedge projects** and occasionally fruit trees. Because fruit trees are higher in price we're unlikely to supply the same quantities. These are often to enhance an existing planting scheme rather than plant new orchards.
- Large-scale woodland creation and woodland restoration projects will be directed to the Forestry Commission or Woodland Trust.

Conditions

Conditions will be applied to the trees supplied through a **Memorandum of Understanding**. Tree recipients will agree that they:

- Will cover the planting, ongoing care costs and take responsibility for the management and liability relating to the trees provided.
- **Will supply monitoring surveys** about the survival rate and health of trees supplied for a minimum of 5 years.
- **Will provide location details** of planted trees on a map once planted. This information will be published in order to monitor and promote the initiative.

The South Downs National Park Trust and South Downs National Park Authority occasionally works with other statutory agencies to monitor the health of tree species and cultivars. If accepting trees from us you will need to agree that we can share your contact details and site location with partner organisations for this purpose.

Submitting your Expression of Interest Form:

Please see below for specific guidance relating to each question on the EOI.

- **Project title** – E.g. Ash for Great Holt
- **Site Address** – please provide the street address of the site.
- **Site Town** – please provide the name of the town, village or parish in which the site sits.
- **Site County** – please provide the name of the county in which the site sits.
- **Site Location** – please provide the Easting and Northing coordinates for the site using www.gridreferencefinder.com:

1. Access the website; enter whichever location details you have into the search bar on the left of the screen and click "go".
2. Ensure that you have the correct location selected by checking the location using the map which is represented by a drawing pin.
3. If you would like to create a new drawing pin closer to the actual location Right Click on the desired location
4. Details of the location will appear when you hover over the drawing pin. The X and Y coordinates are the Easting and Northing coordinates.



5. Copy both sets of the 6 digit accurately and insert them into the Easting (X) and Northing (Y) fields in the form.

- **Site Type** – Please indicate which of categories would best describe your site
- **What is the total size of the site** – please provide your answer in metres squared
- **Tree species** – Please provide the names of up to 5 native tree species that you would like to plant. You must provide at least three for your request to be taken forward for assessment. You do not have to have researched fully but this indication is helpful. Links to sources of further information, should you want to research and plan, are available at the end of this document.
- **Approximately how many trees would you like to plant?** - tell us if you already have an idea or have received advice.
- **Describe the proposed site** - is the site publicly accessible? Why have you selected this site for tree planting? **Simple site map** – please attach a simple site map, this could be from google earth or hand drawn.
- **Current biodiversity** - What tree, plant and animal species are present on the site? What impact do you hope the tree planting will have? Have trees in the area or on the site been lost to ash dieback or any other diseases?
- **Have you previously received trees, or are you in receipt of other funding** – please make us aware, especially if you already have funding for the project from the SDNP.
- **Resources** – What funding and resources are you or your partners able to bring to the project?
 - In-kind contribution of equipment, materials or volunteer time to the project's delivery and maintenance.
 - Will it be accessible for educational and/or research visits?
 - Will there be any other cash contributions, for example, other grants or cash towards larger woodland planting schemes.

Once completed, please email the EOI to grants@southdowns.gov.uk



Other sources of trees and information:

Woodland Trust	Thresholds	Further information
Subsidised tree packs	30-420 trees	Online tree shop
MOREwoods	1000 - 1600 trees over minimum 0.5ha (1.2 acres)	FAQs and apply
MOREhedges	>100m of hedging	FAQs and apply
Forestry Commission		
Tree Health grant (requires land to be registered with the Rural Payments Agency first)	Restocking cleared areas of woodland following a tree health issue (e.g. ash dieback) minimum gross area of 0.25ha, each block size 0.1ha minimum	Further information

Other sources of information on species and planting:

- [Right trees for a changing climate database](#)- requires a login but gives a useful tool to help select species suitable for future climate based on site factors
- Woodland trust guidance on which species to plant [here](#)
- [Hillier](#)- tree selection and size guide- note for more ornamental/larger trees
- [Woodland trust](#) how to plant a tree
- [Barcham](#)- good planting guides and videos

Species List Guide - Green indicates suited landscapes.

		Coastal Plain	Chalk	Escarpment Chalk	Upper Greensand	Gault & Wealden Clays	Lower Greensand	River / wetlands	Comments	Performance (extracted from BC Report 2022 by A. Brookes): +++ = Good, ++ = Average, + = Poor
Alder	<i>Alnus</i>									
Aspen	<i>Populus</i>									
Beech	<i>Fagus</i>									
Black Poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i>									
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus</i>									
Cherry (Wild)	<i>Prunus avium</i>									
Crab Apple	<i>Malus</i>									
Dogwood	<i>Cornus</i>									
Elm (Ademuz)	<i>Ulmus minor</i> 'Ademuz'								Origin: Universidad Politecnica Madrid, Spain / Recommended for sheltered sites with moist, well drained soils; exposed downland with arid, chalk soils; poorly drained sites waterlogged in winter	+++ Stability (resistance to wind rock) +++ Resistance to exposure (leaf scorch, branch breakage) +++ Resemblance to native elm ++ Suitability for street planting +++ Rate of growth (height increase in Spain: 100 cm, d.b.h. increase: not known) +++ Tolerance of waterlogging +++ Tolerance of drought
Elm (Fiorente)	<i>Ulmus Fiorente</i>								Clay, chalk, loam and alluvial soils (not exposed, wet and sandy soils). Origin: IPP, Florence, Italy / Recommended for sheltered sites with moist, well drained soils; exposed downland with arid, chalk soils; poorly drained sites waterlogged in winter; Also recommended for Parks & Gardens	+++ Stability (resistance to wind rock) +++ Resistance to exposure (leaf scorch, branch breakage) +++ Resemblance to native elm +++ Suitability for street planting +++ Rate of growth (UK height increase: 60 cm, d.b.h. increase: 1.3 cm p. a.) Tolerance of waterlogging (> 3 months' inundation over winter) Tolerance of drought
Elm (Lutece / Nanguen)	<i>Ulmus Nanguen</i>								Clay chalk, loam, alluvial and sandy soils. In 2015, the 'White-letter Hairstreak' was found breeding on the DED-resistant cultivars LUTECE (IOW) and 'Sapporo Autumn Gold' (Hertfordshire). Origin: De Dorschkamp, Wageningen, Netherlands / Recommended for sheltered sites with moist, well drained soils; exposed downland with arid, chalk soils; poorly drained sites waterlogged in winter	+++ Stability (resistance to wind rock) +++ Resistance to exposure (leaf scorch, branch breakage) +++ Resemblance to native elm ++ Suitability for street planting Rate of growth (height increase: 87 cm, d.b.h. increase: 1.9 cm p. a.) Tolerance of waterlogging +++ Tolerance of drought
Field Maple	<i>Acer</i>									
Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum</i>									
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus</i>									
Hazel	<i>Corylus</i>									
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus</i>									
Juniper	<i>Juniperus</i>									
Lime (Small-)	<i>Tilia cordata</i>									
Oak (Sessile)	<i>Quercus</i>									
Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>									
Rowan	<i>Sorbus</i>									
Spindle	<i>Eucrymrus</i>									
Sweet	<i>Castanea</i>									
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>									
Wild Service	<i>Sorbus</i>									
Willow (Goat)	<i>Salix caprea</i>									
Yew	<i>Taxus</i>									

Please contact grants@southdowns.gov.uk if you need a larger format version of this table.