



Trees for the Downs Guidance Note

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 2025 for planting in Winter 2025 (usually with delivery from November). You should have carried out any ground preparation or clearance you need beforehand and by early November.

The application process

The Expression of Interest form 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 before completing the form.

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 landowner's permission to plant trees on the land.



- 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**. We will be interested in how you will manage the hedge after planting. If this is grazing land you will need to provide protection from grazing livestock. If this is gapping-up an existing hedge please tell us what the meterage of the gaps are and the plants that are already there.
- We can support a limited numbers of fruit trees. These are higher in price therefore provided in smaller quantities, often to enhance an existing planting scheme rather than to plant new orchards.
- Large-scale woodland creation and woodland restoration projects will be directed to the Forestry Commission or Woodland Trust.

If you have any questions please email grants@southdowns.gov.uk

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.

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	Applicant's guide: Woodland Tree Health grants 2024 - GOV.UK

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.