

# Planting Our Future

## Free Trees for Landowners

Solihull MBC have committed to planting 250,000 trees by 2030 through local engagement with schools, residents, businesses, and community groups, to help combat the impacts of climate change.

Trees can bring huge benefits, helping to capture carbon, increase biodiversity, provide shelter, prevent soil erosion, reduce flooding and much more.

If you have a corner of a field to spare or an area where you would like to establish a small copse, or extend an existing woodland or hedgerow you can apply for a free tree pack(s).

### Who can apply?

All landowners, farmers, and smallholders, including sports clubs and golf clubs in Solihull wishing to create hedgerows or small woodlands on their own land.

We will require assurances that the trees provided will be planted on land with the owner's permission, and that you will be willing to sign an agreement for the care of the trees until they are fully established.

We are currently taking applications for the 2023/24 tree planting season and will be available for collection in December 2023.

### Your planting site

It's important to think about the final size and spread of the trees and how you will use your site as the trees grow. Avoid planting under existing trees, as shade and lack of water will seriously restrict growth. Allow plenty of distance from existing hedges as they could swamp the growth of new trees, and you'll need access to the hedge for future maintenance. You should also ensure the trees will not interfere with underground or above ground services.

We recommend planting about 2 metres apart for woodland creation. If you're planting a single hedge, place trees 30cm apart, for a thick hedge, plant a double row of trees in a zig zag pattern and space your rows 50cm apart, with 40-45cm between each tree.



Howto apply

Applications are welcome from anyone wishing to create hedgerows or small woodlands on their own land, within Solihull.

You can apply online using the QR code, just choose your tree packs from the list below.

You will also need to provide a description of your planting project, in a few words tell us your motivations for planting, and what you are aiming to achieve. Include the size of the area and the number of trees to be planted.

Applications will close on Friday 30th June.

We review applications as they come in and aim to inform you if you have been successful within 4 weeks of submission, however this may be longer around the final deadline period. If you are successful, we will inform you by email, and send you an agreement form, which will need to be read carefully sign and returned to us via email at Planting our Future.



Tree Packs

You can apply for trees, hedges, orchards, or any combination of these.

<b>Hedgerow mix</b> Contains the following mix of 60 trees for every 10-metre section.	<b>Size</b>	<b>Qty</b>
Blackthorn	40-60cm	10
Hazel	40-60cm	10
Guelder Rose	40-60cm	10
Crab Apple	40-60cm	5
Elder	40-60cm	10
Hawthorn	40-60cm	15
<b>Woodland mix</b> Planting 20 trees, at 2m apart, covering an area of approx. 50sq. metres. Contains a mix of 5 species made up of any of the following trees.		
Silver Birch	80-120cm	4
Hazel	80-120cm	4
Rowan	80-120cm	4
Crab Apple	80-120cm	4
Wild Cherry	80-120cm	4
Downy Birch	80-120cm	4
Common Oak	80-120cm	4
Grey Willow	80-120cm	4
Blackthorn	80-120cm	4
<b>Orchard mix</b> Contains the following mix of 6 fruit trees.		
Pear	80-120cm	1
Plum	80-120cm	1
Apple	80-120cm	3
Cherry	80-120cm	1

Terms and conditions

- The trees should be planted on the applicant’s own land.
- The scheme does not apply to private gardens or public land.
- Trees will not be supplied to meet the requirements of a planning condition of any kind.
- The trees must not form any part of another grant.
- We cannot support areas of planting within existing woodland.
- The planting site should not exceed 2020m2, equivalent to 1/2 an acre.
- The trees should preferably be planted on the day they are collected but, in all cases, within three days of the collection date.
- The woodland mix and orchard tree pack(s) will be supplied with a supporting stake and a rubber tree tie. The hedgerow mix will be supplied with a biodegradable spiral guard and a cane.
- The trees must be planted and appropriately maintained by the applicant until they are fully established and subsequently allowed to grow on to maturity.