

TREE PLANTING CHECKLIST

Following the Dorset Council principle of **Right Tree Right Place** this checklist has been put together by Dorset Council and its partners to provide advice on selecting and planting of trees for individuals, Town and Parish Councils, community groups, businesses and organisations who are looking to plant trees within the Dorset Council area.

STEP ONE

Be clear on why you are planting trees.. is it to:

- Help to address the climate emergency.
- Deflect noise in urban areas.
- Attract different and new wildlife.
- Help with flood alleviation.
- Increase property value.
- Add screening for privacy.
- Provide woodland creation for wildlife/amenity.
- Provide a community well-being project.



STEP TWO



Consider the impact on the local landscape.

Check if it will affect other people. Talking to the local community, neighbours and organisations at the very start will help avoid future conflicts.

STEP THREE

Is the land you are considering private or public?

Public land - You must obtain professional advice and the permission of the local tree officer: [Trees and development guidelines - Dorset Council](#).

Private land – We recommend the advice of an arboriculture consultant.



STEP FOUR

Is the site I have chosen suitable?

In the Dorset Council area, there are important things you must consider including:



a. Do I need planning permission?

Certain projects will need planning permission (if over a particular size or in certain locations) and advice should be sought online or from Dorset Council Planning if in doubt. If planning consent is required you should use the Dorset Council Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol which will help ensure that other wildlife is considered alongside the tree planting: [The Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol - Dorset Council](#).

b. Is your site within Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?

Comprehensive guidance on the AONB's Management objectives can be provided by the local AONB team. To find out if your intended planting areas are within and appropriate to the AONB:





[Map | Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty \(dorsetaonb.org.uk\)](http://dorsetaonb.org.uk). To contact the team for advice: www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/contact.

c. Important wildlife and habitats

Tree planting isn't always the best use for a piece of land: Always check to see if there are any important species or habitats in your proposed area, or close vicinity by contact the Dorset Environmental Records Centre at: derc@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk. For private land consider seeking advice from an ecological consultant, for public land talk to the Dorset Council Natural Environment team at: naturalenvironmentteam@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

d. Archaeological importance

Your tree planting scheme needs to consider what impact it would have on legally protected and other significant heritage assets. Contact the Dorset Council Historic Environment team: [Historic Environment Record \(HER\) enquiries - Dorset Council](#).

e. Underground services

Be aware of any services underground and over ground such as electricity, gas and water pipes. A good starting point to find out any location is: [Home - LinesearchbeforeUdig \(lsbud.co.uk\)](http://lsbud.co.uk).

f. Highways

There are certain regulations and restrictions that apply to what can and cannot be done on the highways – contact Dorset Council Highways to

check: [Highway development management advice - Dorset Council](#).



g. Roadside verges

For planting on verges you need to consider any impact new trees may have e.g., mowing around trees and the maintenance of trees etc. For advice contact Dorset Council Greenspace team: [Dorset Greenspace Service - Dorset Council](#).

h. The soil conditions

Always check the soil type and choose trees that are best suited to that type. Dorset Environmental Records Centre, the Natural Environment team at Dorset Council, and the Dorset AONB team can all advise. Also, a good resource is: [Geology of Britain viewer - British Geological Survey \(bgs.ac.uk\)](#).



i. Placement of trees

Consideration should also be given to tree species and planting distance from buildings, especially if on clay soil as this can cause subsidence.

STEP FIVE

Tree selections

Now you have chosen the **Right Place** to have your tree(s) you now need to consider the **Right Tree(s)** to plant. Always consider native British species first as these are best adapted to our climate and have the highest wildlife value. There is plenty of advice to help:



Dorset Council:

- The Dorset Council Arboricultural team provide advice on the different types of trees to plant:
arboriculture@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.
- Tree officers: [Trees in conservation areas - Dorset Council](#)
- Dorset Environmental Records Centre
- The Natural Environment team
- Dorset AONB



[RTRP-Guidance-WEB-JUNE-2022.pdf \(cranbornechase.org.uk\)](#) is intended for communities, individuals and landowners who are interested in planting trees in the Cranborne Chase AONB.

The Woodland Trust provide a useful booklet on tree selection and is based on native species: [twigged.pdf \(woodlandtrust.org.uk\)](#).

The Citree website allows you to put in your criteria and then provides trees suiting your particular area: [citree - Woody species for urban spaces – Database planning tool](#).

STEP SIX



Tree guards

Under the Dorset Council Single Use Plastic Policy we recommend that only biodegradable spiral guards are used when planting small trees. Plastic guards degrade and become brittle over time, breaking down into the small fragments that create litter in the countryside. In large plantings it is more cost effective to fence

off the whole area rather than use individual guards.

STEP SEVEN

Biosecurity – threats from pests

One of the key issues of biosecurity is the importation of trees which could have pests and pathogens. We recommend when planting groups of trees, you use a diverse mix of native species, so if a disease spreads it is less likely to wipe out a plantation, just a select species.



STEP EIGHT



How to plant trees?

The Woodland Trust provide advice on how to plant trees: [How to Plant Trees - Plant Trees - Woodland Trust](#).

STEP NINE

Who is going to maintain the trees?

The Woodland Trust provide links and guidance on how to look after your trees so that future generations can enjoy them:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/care/>.

This advice has been collated by the Environment Policy, Partnerships and Project Manager bridget.betts@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.