



North Tyneside Council

**TREE PLANTING
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2021/2024**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The aim of new planting will be to maintain and increase tree cover across the Borough and to achieve a robust and diverse tree population, well suited to the planting location and able to meet the challenges of a changing climate, pests and disease, whilst maximising amenity, biodiversity and other tree related benefits.

It is important that the right tree is planted in the right place. A range of considerations such as ownership agreements, ground conditions, existing and current land use must be thoroughly assessed to ensure that the locations identified for this tree planting programme results in sustainable and healthy woodland areas. It is, however, likely that the majority of tree planting sites will be located on existing open space owned by the Council. This will directly relate to North Tyneside Council's Greenspace and Green Infrastructure Strategies, which aim to achieve a well-used, managed, connected and expanding network of green infrastructure within the Borough. It is not intended at this stage to liaise with private or other public sector landowners, as it is expected that the North East Community Forest will develop partnership working on a more detailed level.

Any new tree planting will give careful consideration to the species, layout and spacing of trees to ensure they have sufficient room to grow and develop, to minimise the requirements of future maintenance.

All new tree planting will utilise high quality, disease free planting stock from reputable suppliers grown to British Standard 3936 (1992) Nursery Stock.

The current most relevant standards must be followed in the implementation of all works

BS 3998: 2010: Tree work – Recommendations.

BS 5837: 2012: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations.

BS 8545: 2014: Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape: Recommendations.

BS 4428:1989: Code of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces).

BS 3882: Specification for topsoil and requirements for use.

It is expected that because many of the sites are small scale, the planting of trees can be delivered by North Tyneside Council (NTC). All trees will be planted on NTC land and greater interconnection between various NTC service areas. However, it is hoped that NTC will look to develop greater opportunities with volunteer and community groups to undertake planting as part of wider environmental improvement projects.

2.0 BIOSECURITY

- All trees unless specified for specific places (memorial or specimen for example) shall be native species and ordered from reputable nurseries where origin can be checked.
- Orders should be placed by July or August for supply in late autumn/winter. All trees are to be inspected as soon as they arrive. Any trees that are not to specification or unfit for planting e.g. have broken leading shoots or side branches, damaged bark or dried-out and damaged roots are to be returned to the nursery.

3.0 ENSURING SUCCESSFUL ESTABLISHMENT – TIMING

- Planting trees will usually be undertaken during winter months (mid November to mid- March) while it is dormant and allows the tree to establish in its new environment. Planting outside of this time can increase the stress on a tree when it is in leaf and the tree may struggle to become successfully established.
- Planting the tree will include the purchasing of a tree stake to assist the stabilising of the tree and allows the roots to become established. Tree staking is to be removed after three growing seasons. Tree Guards made from non-plastic material, should reflect likely threats and an irrigation pipe assists in the watering of the root system of larger trees.
- Good aftercare for 2-3 years after planting is essential to ensure that the investment in trees is not wasted. This is particularly true for larger 'standard' trees.

4.0 TREE PIT PREPARATION IN SOFT LANDSCAPED AREAS

- The size of the pit depends upon the size of the tree that is being planted. The hole should be 3 to 4 times wider than the container or the root ball and have sloping sides. Carefully removing the tree from the container keeping the soil around the roots intact.
- Set the tree in the middle of the hole and avoid planting the tree too deep. If the root collar sits below the top of the hole, compact some soil under the tree so that the root flare at the base of the trunk is slightly above ground level. Using some of the soil, secure the tree in a straight position. Place the stake at an angle to the tree to avoid penetrating the root mass and knock in until it is firm, ensuring the top of the stake is adjacent to the tree. Tie the tree firmly to the stake using a tree tie. A buckle tie can be adjusted if required and has a spacer to avoid the stake chaffing the tree. Fill and firmly pack the hole with the original soil, making sure there aren't any air pockets. Keep backfilling until the soil is just below the root collar. Water in the tree and spread mulch 75 to 100mm deep in a 1000mm diameter area around the base of the tree but not touching the trunk. Remove any tags and labels from the tree as these will affect the tree as it grows. Prune any dead or broken branches.

5.0 TREE PIT PREPARATION IN HARD LANDSCAPED AREAS

- Street trees live a tough life and they need to be able to cope with drought, compacted soils, road salt and traffic pollution. The choice of street tree species therefore needs to be appropriate for them to thrive in their environment.
- In order to ensure successful tree establishment in urban areas, we will look to install, where practicable, tree pits with sufficient soil volumes to avoid untimely death or costly repairs. In many situations, an engineered solution will be considered to direct tree roots by incorporating structural soil cells or similar support modules (Green Blue urban for example) and considered early enough in any design or development project and incorporated during the engineering specification or groundwork stage.

- Any tree planting near utilities or within paved areas should have appropriate root management specified. Depending on what needs to be protected and where it is in relation to the tree, different root management solutions are to be considered by the Council's Tree Team or Landscape Architect. Tree pits will incorporate tree irrigation and drainage. It is essential to incorporate the means to efficiently irrigate a tree pit, especially in the critical first three years.
- Root Barriers: Avenue tree-planting or trees in urban spaces may cause problems to the foundations of nearby buildings due to root spread. It is therefore recommended that a root barrier be considered between trees and nearby buildings in those cases where the face of the building would lie within the root spread at the eventual maturity of the tree. Whether a root barrier is necessary in order to protect underground services will depend on the depth of the services as well as their proximity to the trees.

6.0 HIGHWAY ENGINEERING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

- Where financial resources permit and projects are of sufficient size that can incorporate a number of new trees, a fully integrated system should be considered, which combines root management, structural soil components, aeration, irrigation and appropriate above ground surface grille and vertical guard.
- The system can be adapted to suit differing locations and demonstrates a long-term approach to tree planning and management issues. This method provides the necessary soil volumes for successful tree establishment and addresses the issues of soil compaction, poor drainage and low nutrient levels that typically prevent sustainable root growth. Systems can be designed to provide load bearing pavement support (so reduced footpath maintenance costs) that provide optimum soil conditions for root growth without damage to underground utilities. A system such as this should be considered as part of the overall design. This will help makes our urban spaces more resilient, pleasant and healthy places to live, work and play as well as helping provide an interconnected network of multifunctional green spaces which provides multiple benefits and can accommodate sustainable development.



7.0 PLANTING WHIPS AND TRANSPLANTS

- Whips and transplants in soft ground may need some preparation. If the soil is compacted, then ideally the area should be subsoiled to loosen the soil and break up the compaction or plough pan. If subsoiling is not practical, a solution can be to plant in large planting pits where material has been introduced to improve drainage and add nutrients.
- Notch planting is the usual way to plant small trees and is generally suitable for mass planting of bare-rooted transplants and whips under 90 cm high. It should not be used in wet soil, for large or expensive trees or where failures must be minimised. Other methods are turf planting and mound and ridge planting.

8.0 PROTECTING TREES FROM DAMAGE

- Trees, especially when young, are extremely vulnerable to damage from animals and people. It is usually more cost effective to protect groups rather than individual trees. The usual choices are fencing, guards (for larger trees) or shelters. Tree shelters (wire mesh) are the most common tree protection for plantings of less than a hectare (2.5 acres). For larger areas, perimeter fencing is usually cheaper, but it will not always deter rabbits or squirrels. Growth with shelters can be up to five times the normal rate in the first two years.