

Introduction

Support National Highways to achieve the Net-Zero Highways Plan commitment to plant an additional 3 million trees by 2030.

National Highways has secured a supply of UK native trees grown peat free from a variety of seeds of UK provenance, please see Annex 1. The seeds will be grown to 2-year, bare root whips of 450-900mm in size. The first 600k whips will be ready to leave the nurseries for planting from October 2024, and then 600k every year thereafter until 2029.

National Highways only has enough room on our own estate to plant less than 10% of the 3m trees, so we are looking to engage with organisations that own or have access to land available for tree planting.

Background

Our objectives and deliverables are as follows. Please make sure your expression of interest meets these objectives prior to submitting.

- We aim to deliver social value and environmental benefits from planting 3m trees, and further to support our [Social Value Plan 2022-2024](#) and [Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#).
- The trees must be 'additional' to any contractual or legal restoration requirements. They cannot be used to offset existing commitments, but they may be considered in cases where for example you want to increase numbers beyond the minimum requirement.
- National Highways will only consider applicants that will be planting the trees in England.
- The trees must provide a legacy for the future and cannot be planted for example as a biomass fuel source.
- We are flexible in the approach on who will own the carbon/biodiversity credits.

The whips must be planted during the winter planting season (ideally November – February). The nursery will deliver the whips to the chosen applicants from October 2024 onwards.

Our objective is for you to maintain the trees for a minimum period of 5 years. National Highways can provide that maintenance; however, your application will score lower than those who can provide maintenance. At the end of the 5-year period the trees will remain in the ownership of the tree recipient and the on-going maintenance is expected.

Next Steps

Following receipt of the selection questionnaire responses, we will evaluate all applicant responses with the intention of informing applicants of the status of their response within a 6-week period. Successful applicants will be invited to the next stage, which will comprise of the request for further detail on the applicants plans for the whips; details such as delivery/transport, planting, maintenance and the ownership of carbon/biodiversity net gain credits.

We appreciate your participation in this process and look forward to understanding how your organisation can contribute to the success of this project.

For further questions, please contact:

treeplantingandmaintenance@nationalhighways.co.uk

Annex 1

Species	% of total
Acer campestre (Field maple)	9%
Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	2%
Alnus glutinosa (Alder)	2%
Betula pendula (Silver birch)	10%
Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)	5%
Corylus avellane (Hazel)	4%
Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)	4%
Crataegus laevigata (Midland hawthorn)	4%
Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	6%
Frangula alnus (Alder Buckthorn)	6%
Ilex aquifolium (Holly)	6%
Malus sylvestris (Common or crab apple)	6%
Pinus sylvestris (Scots pine)	4%
Populus nigra subsp. betulifolia (Native black poplar)	2%
Prunus avium (Wild cherry)	6%
Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)	2%
Quercus robur (Native Oak)	10%
Salix alba (White willow)	2%
Sambucus nigra (Common Elder)	2%
Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)	2%
Taxus baccata (Yew)	4%
Tilia cordata (Small leaved lime)	3%

