

## **West Suffolk Council Tree Management Policy**

### **Appendix 9: Right tree right place**

Alongside objectives to protect and enhance the tree and woodland resource across West Suffolk, recognition needs to be made of other key habitats, land uses and issues that effect the councils' trees.

Management and care for the councils' trees should seek to enhance their significance in terms of value, access and other benefits but also to manage the undesirable impacts they can have (such as damage to property and risk to human safety).

Towards this end, a 'right place right tree' approach should be followed which seeks to ensure new planting/colonisation are appropriately located and designed and that woodland expansion is not to the detriment of protecting and restoring existing priority native woodlands and other habitats.

In some environments, trees can cause problems. Trees which have been planted or allowed to colonise in inappropriate habitats should be considered for removal. In many cases, woodlands and trees are encroaching and reducing the wildlife value of these habitats. An ecological assessment should be undertaken to identify the suitability or otherwise of a site for new planting. A landscape assessment may also be appropriate to ascertain any potential disruption to important views or vistas. New planting should be considered within the context of an overall landscape plan and as part of a functioning ecological landscape, and should not occur randomly.

Once a site has been deemed appropriate for tree planting or colonisation, the type of tree should then be chosen to fit the environment. The following checklist highlights the principles and issues which need to be considered to achieve the right tree in the right place:

<b>right place - right tree checklist</b>	
<b>appropriate locations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the existing value of the space, and would the impact of trees be positive?</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing habitat and landscape value: establish the habitat and landscape type of the site - shade cast by trees, and their demands on soil, water and nutrients, mean that they can kill or damage valuable wildlife habitats such as wetlands, heathlands, flower rich grasslands and brownfields so check for existing value before committing to planting.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree cover history: check historical records to see if the site is in an area where there have been trees in the past, to establish whether the creation of new woodland or tree cover would be appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>appropriate species and design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development design: trees should not be located where they will experience inappropriate growing conditions e.g. in the shadow of tall buildings.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local character: check if there is a history in the area for the use of particular species that could be a reflected in the planned planting.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with nature: in natural areas, employ stock of locally native origin. Best of all, work with natural colonisation.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great trees of the future: where the setting allows, take opportunities to plant large species of trees with a long lifespan.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility: new trees and woodlands are most needed where they can provide people with access to nature and natural landscape in areas presently lacking in such access.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure: consider existing and future infrastructure requirements – do not plant too close to over/underground infrastructure. Replace removed trees in the same pit if appropriate.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways: meet the statutory safety requirements to maintain a clear route along roads (consider heights of buses, HGVs, cars, cycles and horses).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space: check available space against the final height and spread of the proposed species with a view to minimising frequency and amount of pruning required.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil condition: the soil in hard landscaped areas is often poor. Soil compaction needs to be limited in the tree pit and adequate nutrients supplied. Use species known to be robust to these limitations.</li> </ul>