

Where to plant



(Photo: J Jennings/WTML)

The trick to successful planting is good planning.

Planting a single tree

If you're planting a single tree think about where you're planting it in relation to your house. Some roots and branches may spread beyond the boundaries of your property and trees can sometimes cause structural damage. Be aware of places where limbs may fall or roots might grow.

Planting a wood

If you're planting lots of trees, think about these questions before you begin:

What do you want from your trees?

(See Choose Your Tree leaflet)

Do you own the land you want to plant on?

If not, you will need to get full permission from the owner.

Is your land suitable? There are some places you mustn't plant trees on such as:

- Archaeological sites

- Sites with rare/protected species

- Grassland that has never been ploughed

- Wetlands

- Heathland

How much land do you want to plant?

This is very important as larger schemes (over 5 hectares) may need an Environmental Impact Assessment (most small schemes will not need planning permission). Funding is also often dependent on how much - and where - you want to plant.

Are there any features you want to make the most of?

This could include existing features, for example views or ponds, or ones you want to create, like open glades, orchards or copses of special trees. Establishing this will help you design the planting plan.

How will you access your trees?

Can you walk around the site or do you need access for a vehicle (important if you are planning to coppice/harvest the trees)? This will help you work out where to include management rides and access points.

Are you also offering public access?

If you are, think about where you want people to walk and which areas need rides, paths or even bridleways to accommodate this.

Any potential risks?

Are there overhead powerlines or underground services on your site? Rabbits or deer are also a hazard as they enjoy nibbling away at young trees and can kill them. If you have them on site, you will need tree guards to protect your trees while they establish.

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