

What to consider during tree planting choice?

The species is to be narrowed down from our approved species pick-list, i.e. from 90 down to 1.

We have undertaken to plant any replacement tree in as close to the original tree position as possible unless there are good reasons to relocate it. Bearing this in mind, we might ask...

1). Site. What is the available space? What are the constraints?

- Close to buildings, gardens, other trees—both on and off network, other infrastructure, signs, lights, sightlines at junctions, so can the tree realistically reach maturity without coming into undue conflict or requiring such regular and detrimental pruning that would significantly damage the tree?
- Prevailing site conditions. Is it... Exposed, windy, dry or droughty, wet, waterlogged (intermittently? permanently?) , shaded, hard paved or soft surface, compacted, busy footfall

2). What is the existing tree cover nearby? Both on and off highway.

- Try to choose a species that is in keeping visually with the road whilst trying to fulfil the next point...

3.) Is there option/scope to diversify the species mix whilst meeting points 1 and 2?

If so, find a species from our approved pick list that is...

- In a genus not overrepresented on the highway (see species diversity, meeting 1),
- In keeping in fairly broad terms with existing nearby tree cover,
- Able to grow to maturity without coming into undue conflict with its surroundings.

After the above considerations, where a choice of species is still available the larger, longer lived species and natives are preferable.

Additional factors and exceptions to the above...

- Where difficult site conditions dictate a specific recommendation.
- Where trees have been removed for subsidence we would consider relocating the tree to reduce likelihood of damage recurrence in future.
- Where wishing to limit the potential of disease infection of the new tree, e.g. where a pathogen appears to be endemic within an area.
- Where species choice is predetermined, perhaps by a planning permission or it is part of a third party (non-core) scheme, or is on the instruction of SCC.
- Within the Peak District National Park or a conservation area, or within or adjacent to an 'important landscape', e.g. woodland, avenue, memorial planting.

Species Factors

Existing planting on site, (if applicable)
Mature size
Similarity to existing whilst mindful of diversity
Avoidance of monoculture
Hardiness
Resistance to vandalism
Pollution tolerance, including salt
Climate change resilient
Resilient to Pests and Diseases, both current and threatening
What is growing well currently?

Amenity

Primarily visual amenity
May also be touch, smell
Part of avenue, or wider planting plan, old hedgerows, historic considerations

Site Factors

Try to plant as close to original position as possible
Available space, can tree reach its mature size without need for damaging amounts of pruning?
Will it be overshadowed or develop unnatural phototropism?
Constraints—Utilities, above and below
Sightlines, necessary highway clearances
Soil, type, volume, quality, drought, compacted
Climatic, exposure, windy, cold, snow
Waterlogging—periodic, frequency, extent
Wider locality, National Park
Degree of site usage, access, footfall
Choose largest, longest lived species suited to space

Ecologic Values

Carbon sequestration. Rate? Total lifespan quantity?
Ability to improve air quality
Wildlife value, bees, birds, mammals, insects
Provision of future habitat
Interconnectedness with other trees
Native, define?
Naturalised
Possibility of local provenance
Own grown, raised from seed

Practicalities

Availability of stock in suitable size
Within required timeframe

Public Factors

Opposition in general
Impacts on public, real or perceived, e.g. shade, risk, subsid-
ence
Demand for similarity to existing species
Where applicable, plant where tree will provide the most ben-
efits to people. Make it accessible.

End goal—Right Tree,
Right Location