



NatureBid Auction Measure Specification

Cross-Slope Woodland Planting



Planting areas of woodland across slopes and runoff flow pathways has the following flood mitigation benefits:

- Provides a physical barrier to field run-off
- Creates a grassy strip that aids infiltration and uptake of water
- Reduces soil erosion as roots help bind the soil

Other benefits include:

- Reduced risk of nutrient leaching into nearby watercourses by increasing nutrient uptake
- Increased habitat diversity, wildlife corridors and food sources for insects, pollinators, small mammals and birds
- High landscape value
- Planting small areas or strips of trees require less management than hedgerows
- Double fencing the area of trees can create an area of rough grassland around the trees which can further help to slow the flow of run-off and nutrients

Areas or strips of woodland should not need to be extensive if strategically located across contours to target key runoff pathways. Cross-slope woodland strips are typically up to 10 m wide depending on land access and availability, although on steeper gradients, they may need to be wider to improve effectiveness (up to 30 m).

Guide for cross slope planting:

	Tree Planting
Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across slopes to interrupt flow pathways • Where grass buffer strips alone are unlikely to reduce run-off
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant native species similar to those in surrounding landscape and hedges (Oak, Field Maple, Wild Cherry, Birch are suitable for most settings—FWAG SW can provide advice on suitable species) • Native woody shrubs such as Hazel can be planted at intervals between standard trees that will allow for future laying and coppicing to create a natural filter barrier
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn/late Autumn when the ground is warm and damp, and whips will take.
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant 60-90cm whips and use 1.2m tree shelters for protection • Whips should be planted at a density of 1 tree per 1-2 m² and as staggered rows where possible to create a more natural looking landscape feature. • Cross-slope woodlands are best planted as a mixed species stand, typically with a minimum of five species. • If interplanting with native woody shrubs, trees should be no closer than 2m apart • Ensure any fencing is at least 2m away from the tree plants • A standard density for areas of tree planting is up to 1600 trees per hectare

Management of trees

- Clear weeds (particularly grass) around each plant until it has established

Consent and Licences

You may need to inform the Rural Payments Agency if these areas are considered Permanent Ineligible Features. Inform the Rural Payments Agency if the new line/area of tree planting splits one existing field parcel into separate fields. You may need consent from Natural England if the land is designated as a SSSI or in an agri-environment agreement. Your FWAG SW adviser can help you with this.

Trees planted as part of this auction will need to be in the ground by 31st December 2022

