

Field at SP452968

MOREwoods Site Report

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Site Checks

1. Site Details			
Name of property	Field at SP452968	Low risk woodland creation zone	Partial
Grid Ref for the Project (6 figure)	SP452968	Woodland Creation Area (Ha)	0.5
Nearest Town	Barwell	Altitude (metres above sea level)	109-120m (approx.)
Local Authority district	Leicestershire County Council	Stewardship Schemes	None
2. Landscape			
	Description and Source	Mitigation	
Current Land Use	Permanent pasture, previously grazed by cows/pigs/sheep. Site will now be used for doggy daycare.	N/A	
Is the site within a protected landscape	None	N/A	
National Landscape Character	94 Leicestershire Vales	SEO2 and SEO4 in the NCA profile advocate appropriate woodland creation.	
Services	None	N/A	
Residential Boundaries	None	N/A	
3. Biodiversity			
Priority species present	Lapwing records in local area.	N/A Site too enclosed to be utilised by lapwing.	
Priority Habitats present	None	N/A	
Wading bird suitability (1-5)	All species 1	N/A	
Ancient Woodland	None	N/A	
Veteran Trees	Veteran oak at northern end of field.	Avoid planting within 5m of dripline, or 15 x DBH, whichever is greater.	

4. Water		
Watercourses	None	N/A
Ponds	Pond to be excavated in wettest part of field where spring rises.	Avoid planting directly up the water edge. Dappled shade on the water's surface promotes biodiversity. Plant wet tolerant tree species on the wettest areas.
River Catchment	Soar	N/A
Flood Risk (<i>Magic Maps</i>)	None	N/A
Public or Private drinking water supplies	None	N/A
5. Soils		
Soil Type	Boundary of S6: freely draining, slightly acid loamy soils and S8: slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage.	Plant suitable species in areas that sit wet.
Natural England Peat map layer	None	N/A
6. Historic Landscape		
Scheduled Archaeological features	None	N/A
Other Archaeological Features	None	N/A

Site Background, Planting Objectives/ Vision

The proposed planting measures 0.50ha (as mapped below). The planting is situated on a small permanent pasture field bounded by mature trees and hedgerows, which has previously been used for grazing cows, pigs and sheep. The woodland will be developed alongside a pond, orchard and open grassy areas to create a mixed mosaic habitat for wildlife benefit. The northern end of the site will have a dog kennel built on it. The field is gently sloping from north to south and sits across the boundary of Soilscales 6 and 8 (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/>). It is not anticipated that deer browsing pressure will be high, but there are rabbits.

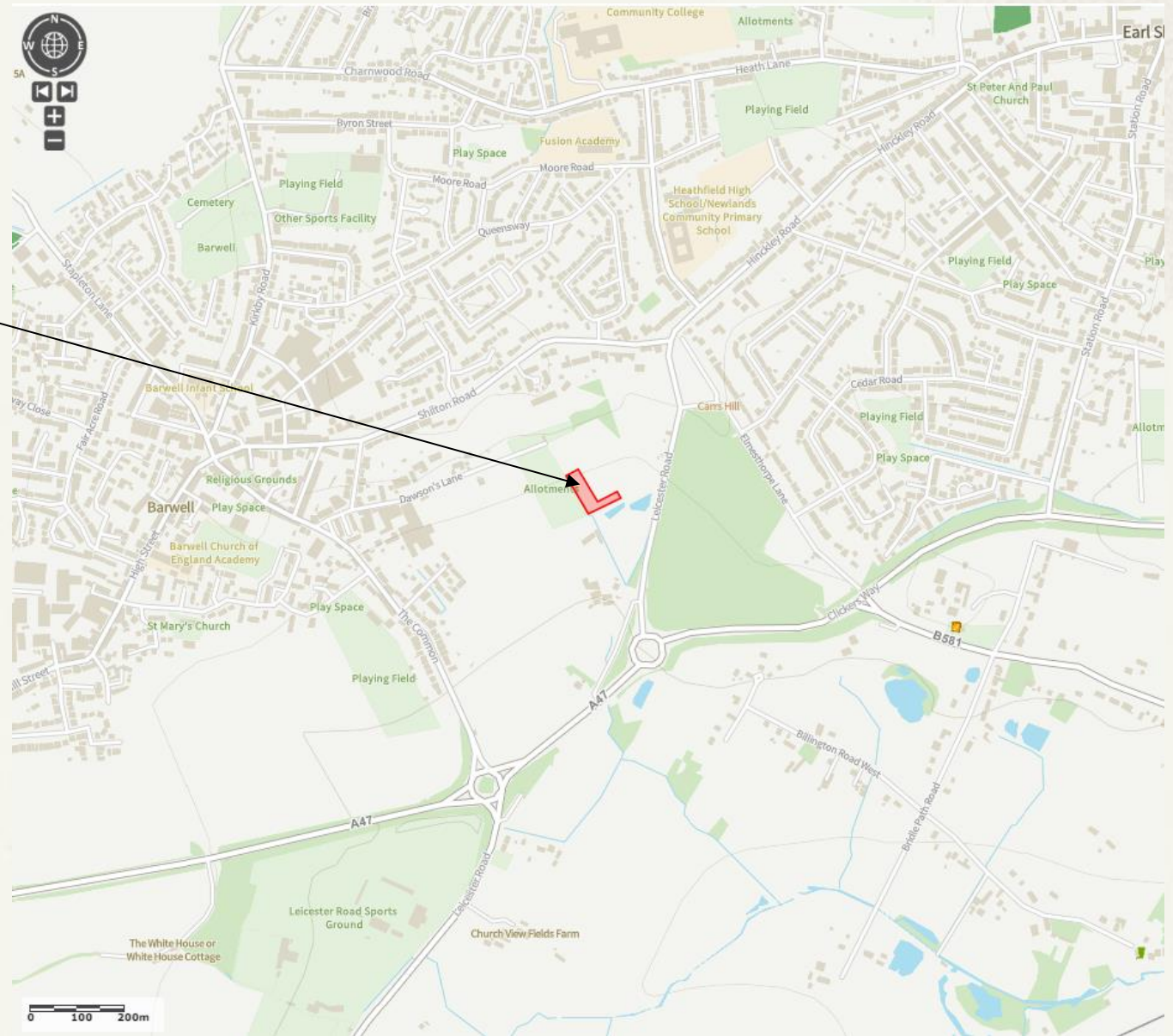
The objective for this woodland is to create a functioning native woodland ecosystem that is a valuable habitat for wildlife, stores carbon and provides an amenity benefit to the landowner and the dogs which will utilise the site.

Planting Design

Overleaf is an overview showing the location of the proposed planting. The area is to be planted with a mix of native broadleaf species of high habitat value to meet your objectives. All the species recommended in the report can be planted in these areas following the general planting advice below.

Location Map

Planting sits within a green area between Barwell and Earl Shilton. The new woodland will improve habitat connectivity within this important pocket of ecologically valuable habitat.



Features and Design Map

Dog kennel will be constructed at the northern end of the field. Some planting could take place around the kennel in any areas that aren't used.

Veteran oak sits within the field. No planting should take place within ~5m of the dripline or within 15 x the DBH (diameter at breast height).

Yellow areas which sit wetter should be planted with wet tolerant species like willow, alder, downy birch and bird cherry. Planting should be set back from the edges of the pond to avoid it being completely shaded out.

Orange margins should be planted predominantly with shrubby species to create a graded edge to the woodland. Green areas should be planted predominantly with high forest species.

Indicative ride allows access for recreation and maintenance. A break in planting should also be left around the edge of the site to allow access to existing hedgerows and mature trees for maintenance.



Woodland design and density

The planting area measures 0.50ha in total. It is advised that tree species are to be planted at an average 3m spacing (1000 stems/ha). To give the planting a more 'natural' look, trees could be planted in more dense clusters of 15-25 individuals of one or two major forest species, with sparser areas of minor species in between. Alternatively, trees could be planted in staggered wavy lines as this gives something of a natural look while also keeping the planting in lines and thus maintenance easier.

In general, the margins of the planting area should be predominantly planted with shrubby species to create a graded edge to the woodland. An indicative ride has been included within the planting area to allow access for recreation and maintenance, while also creating ecologically valuable forest edge habitat. A break in planting could also be left around the margins of the site.

In the wetter areas, planting should predominantly be of wet-tolerant species like alder, willow, downy birch and bird cherry. The veteran oak in the field should be allowed space to develop as it will be a valuable habitat for hundreds of years to come. In general, we advise no planting within 5m of the dripline, or 15 x the DBH (diameter at breast height), whichever is greater.

Species Mix

I suggest the following species that will grow well (with the right maintenance) and meet your objectives. The species are all native to the UK and all offer benefits to wildlife in different ways. All seed has been sourced and grown in the UK. Multiples of 25.

Tree species - 375

25 x Alder	50 x Downy Birch	75 x Oak (Common)
50 x Bird Cherry	50 x Field Maple	25 x Rowan
25 x Crab Apple	50 x Goat Willow	25 x Wild Cherry

Shrub species - 125

25 x Alder Buckthorn	25 x Elder
25 x Dogwood	50 x Hazel

Trees should be planted within 7 days of delivery (or 'heeled in' to a trench straight away) to ensure the best success rate for your new wood. The trees delivered will be young bare root saplings and will vary in size between 40 – 60cm.

Planting Tips

At this stage the greatest threat to your bare root trees will be excessive exposure of the roots to the air. The fine roots can easily and quickly dry out, therefore keep the time that the roots are out of the bag to an absolute minimum. The risk, of course, is very weather dependant; they are most vulnerable on dry windy days.

The trees must be planted at the same depth that they were when they were growing in the nursery. It is easy to see on the stem where this is by the change in colour.

When planted pay attention when firming up the soil around the stem to ensure that there are no gaps. This is particularly important in clay soils which are prone to opening and exposing the roots when the soil shrinks as it dries.

More information and a video of planting can be found at

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/how-to-plant/>

Protection

All woodland tree and shrub species are to be planted with 75cm spirals and canes.

This protection will help protect against small mammal damage, but not deer. If the presence of muntjac becomes apparent in the intervening period prior to planting, please let your adviser know and other protection options can be considered.

Site Preparation

It would be advisable to cut/graze grass short to make planting and subsequent maintenance easier.

Maintenance

We suggest maintaining a weed free area around the base of each tree for 2 years after planting. This helps to reduce competition from weeds/grass and assist the trees establish more quickly. You could use mulch mats (or well-rotted wood-chip)

around each tree or hand-weed the base of the trees approximately twice a year. Please note that cutting grass stimulates it to compete strongly and is best avoided in the early years after planting.

We also recommend you check that the tree shelters and stakes/canes are in place after strong winds and firm them up as necessary. Each spring before the ground hardens the stakes/canes should be returned to an upright position as necessary and the tubes/spirals placed in direct contact with the ground.

Remove guards as soon as they split and before they start to disintegrate (usually after 5-10 years). This is best done in the winter. The guards have now done their job and may hamper growth. Please dispose of the plastics responsibly to protect local wildlife. The tubes are made from polypropylene (PP) and the spirals are PVC. Both can be recycled where facilities exist; please check with your local authority or find a specialist company like Agri-Cycle.

Estimated Costs

We are able to offer the following funding options for a project of this size:

Option 1: Self plant

On a self-plant scheme we are able to offer 75% funding, this means the cost to you for the woodland would be approximately £334 excluding VAT. Due to our partnership with Leicestershire County Council, you may be eligible for an increased subsidy of 90%, this would mean the cost of your contribution would be approximately £134 excluding VAT. We will supply the trees and protection and it would then be up to you to plant the trees or arrange a planting contractor.

Next steps

If you are happy to proceed to the next steps, then please let me know. Our team will confirm the costs and issue a formal quote once we get in touch with the nurseries. We are able to deliver/plant your trees next season, between late November 2023 and

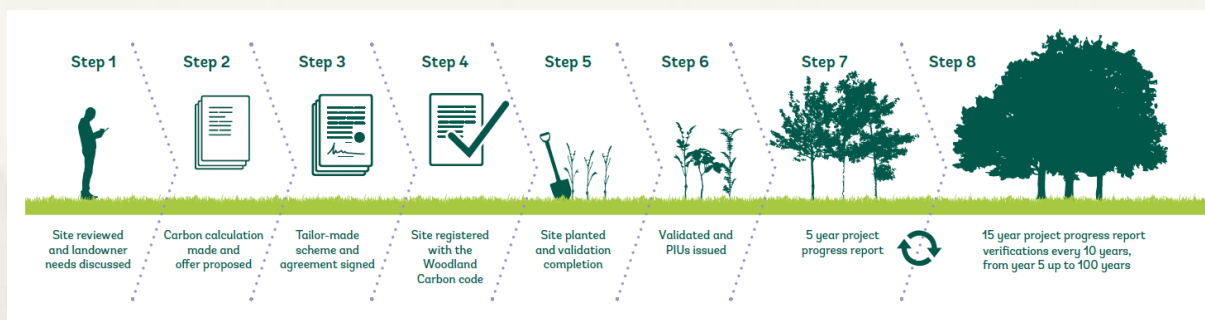
late March 2024. Once you are happy with the scheme and the quote, our team will be in contact to arrange a suitable delivery date and send out an agreement for signing.

If you have any questions before you make your decision, please feel free to contact me to discuss.

MOREwoods and other grants

As stated during the application process, you should be aware that areas planted with trees through MOREwoods will become ineligible for Basic Farm Payment. If you hold any form of Stewardship agreement (ELS; HLS; CS) with Natural England they must be informed before proceeding.

Woodland Carbon Scheme



When you plant a woodland through MOREwoods, you retain the rights to any carbon sequestered by the trees as landowner.

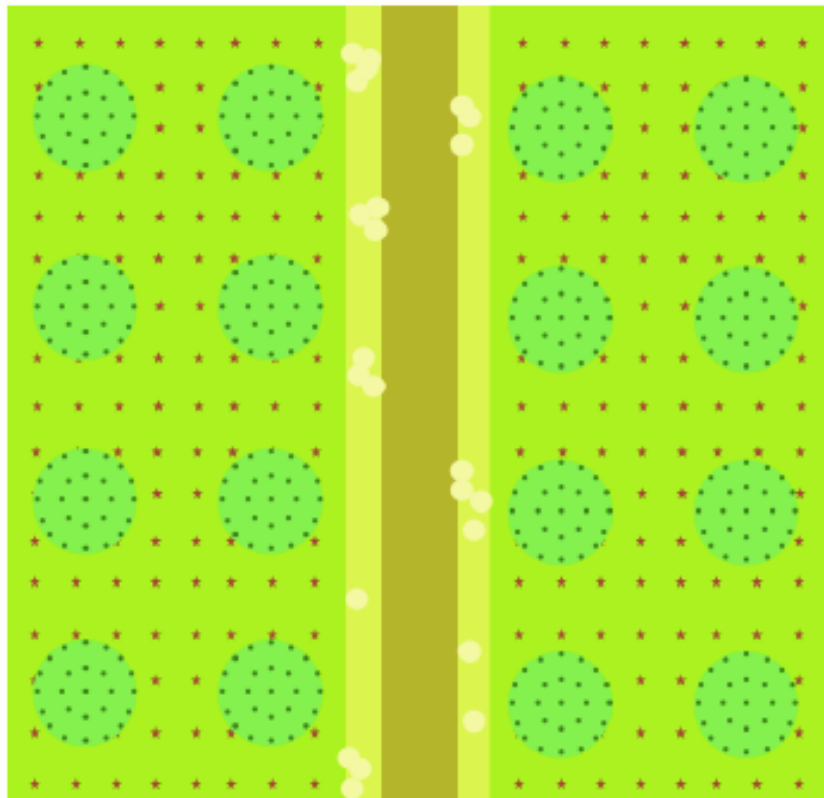
You may be eligible for carbon payments by selling your captured carbon in the form of verified carbon credits. The Woodland Trust is a carbon project developer and will consider buying carbon from any native woodland project greater than 5 hectares.

‘Woodland Carbon’, the Trust’s woodland carbon buying scheme, provides numerous benefits to landowners including – upfront payment for carbon (in advance of actual sequestration), management and delivery of all WCC processes (Registration, Validation, Verifications), and certainty of income. If payments for carbon may be of interest, then please ask your Outreach Advisor for further information.

If you wish to register and sell your carbon independent of the Trust, or if your scheme is smaller than the 5 hectare threshold, you can register your woodland with the [Woodland Carbon Code](#) yourself. You will need to register the woodland prior to planting if you think you may want to sell WCC verified carbon credits in future.

Appendix 1 – Recommended planting designs

Productive (timber) broadleaved woodland - native species with high conservation value @ 1600/ha



Oak/Beech (Primary species) - Planted in groups of 25, with group centres at approximately 16m centres. There are 2m spaces between circles from the central tree creating a circular group of 4m radius (8m diameter), therefore the edges of groups are approximately 8m apart from one another.



Birch, alder, small leaved lime, hazel, wild cherry etc (minor species) - Planted at 3m spacing in the gaps between the groups



Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Dog rose, etc (shrub species) - randomised in small groups along rides and open spaces (grouping may help avoid browsing and natural look)

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