General

The various species and sizes of trees and shrubs incorporated in the proposed mitigation design will be arranged in such a way that they create natural woodland characteristics typical of a locality or form a designed landscape feature. The planting would be based on native species that have an established presence within the local area.

Young stock is generally easier to establish and will therefore be predominant in mixes, with a smaller proportion of woodland mixes (typically 5-10%) comprising feathered trees. An increased percentage of feathered trees will be used for initial impact in specific locations, for example in close proximity to visual receptors where early screening is required and at locations where there is a need to help integrate structures into the landscape.

Deciduous and Mixed Woodland

Proposed deciduous and mixed woodland planting will comprise of a mix of sizes of plants such as feathered trees, whips and transplants to create a multi-layered woodland that will be dominated by native deciduous trees. The areas are intended to mature as multi-layered woodland with a mix of native species, including evergreen species to assist with year round screening in mixed woodlands. Species mixes proposed in the Environmental Statement (ES) (refer to Chapter 13: Landscape) generally reflect locally occurring native vegetation and will include typical species such as oak, birch, alder, aspen, wych elm, holly, Scots pine and rowan.

The proposed woodland planting is intended to resemble naturally occurring planting, featuring clumps and glades. Areas towards the edges of woodlands areas will be planted with native trees and shrubs but with a high percentage of small trees, shrubs and climbers, but no large trees.

Individual Trees

Groups of individual trees and tree lines will comprise standard trees in informal or formal groupings to reflect the character of existing landscape pattern and provide screening or filtration of views of the proposed scheme. Typical species to be used for tree lines would include Scots pine, birch and oak.

Hedgerow

Hedgerows will be planted in two locations to improve integration of a ditch into the landscape and to screen views of the A9. The hedge species proposed in the ES (refer to Chapter 13: Landscape) reflect those of the existing hedgerows. Native species will be utilised, including hawthorn, blackthorn, rowan and cherry.

Riparian Woodland

Riparian woodland is to be planted adjacent to watercourses and proposed retention ponds and in other areas along floodplains. It will comprise a mix of sizes of plants such as feathered trees, whips and transplants using wetland species such as willow, birch and alder.

Scrub

These areas are intended to mature as a mix of native shrubs such as hawthorn, blackthorn, and juniper. The scrub planting is intended to resemble naturally occurring planting, with a dense, low to medium height canopy featuring clumps and glades, with species mixes reflecting locally occurring native vegetation.







