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.

Typically young plant stock would be used as they are generally easier and more successful to establish, however, an increased percentage of feathered trees will be used for initial effect in spe

Broadleaved Woodland Planting

Proposed broadleaved 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 nat broadleaved trees, with oak/ash as the principal climax community. This reflects surrounding broadleaved woodlands.

Broadleaved woodland planting proposals are derived from canopy compositions of NVC dry-land woodlands. These woodlands are generally classified based on the acidity of the soil, with oak/ woodland on acidic and mesotrophic soils (neither very acidic nor very alkaline) and mixed broadleaved woodland on more base-rich (calcium-rich) and free-draining soils. The NVC classification types of woodland is often derived from differences in the ground and shrub layer rather than the canopy composition, therefore the planting proposals are designed to develop into broad types of woodland, rather than distinct NVC communities.

A typical species mix to be used for broadleaved woodland would include pedunculate oak (20%) and silver birch (15%) with smaller proportions of alder, wych elm, rowan, aspen, crab apple, ho cherry and guelder-rose.

Mixed Woodland Planting

Proposed Mixed Woodland planting for visual screening purposes, will comprise plants which range in size from feathered trees to whips and transplants. This will aim to create multi-layered woo balanced mix of native deciduous and coniferous trees, including understorey. The balance between deciduous and evergreen species will be varied to achieve year-round screening and reflect woodland local to the various sections of the proposed scheme. The coniferous species within the mixed woodland will be predominantly Scots pine, with smaller proportions of yew and juniper, surrounding woodlands and providing a strong evergreen framework and a habitat for red squirrels.

A typical species mix to be used for Mixed Woodland will include Scots pine, downy birch and pedunculate oak with smaller proportions of sessile oak, alder, wych elm, holly, aspen, silver birch, hazel, blackthorn, bird cherry and rowan.

Riparian Woodland Planting

Riparian Woodland is to be planted adjacent to watercourses and proposed SuDS features and in other areas along flood plains. It will comprise a mix of sizes of plants such as feathered trees, transplants using wetland species such as birch, willow and alder.

A typical species mix to be used for Riparian Woodland would include downy birch, aspen and hazel with smaller proportions of alder, white willow, eared willow, goat willow and grey willow.

Scrub Planting

Proposed scrub planting will comprise native species of local provenance creating a dense medium height canopy. This mix will be used in areas where a lower height plant cover is more appropriate taller woodland mixes.

A typical species mix to be used for scrub will include hawthorn, blackthorn, juniper and wild cherry with smaller proportions of blaeberry, heather, bell heather, guelder-rose, dog-rose and elder.

Individual Standard Trees

Groups of individual trees and tree lines will comprise appropriately sized trees in informal or formal groupings to reflect the character of existing landscapes, mitigate for lost landscape features, habitat connectivity and provide screening or to filter views of the proposed scheme. Typical species to be used will include Scots pine, silver birch, rowan, wych elm and pedunculate oak.



Illustration of the typical structure of scrub and tree groups used to soften abrupt edges of woodland planting (DMRB Vol 10 Section 1 Part 2 HA 56/92).

Typical Woodland Planting Matrix



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