



## Hampshire Forest Partnership

### Shoots Along the Routes

#### About Shoots Along the Routes

This fund aims to boost ecosystem services by supporting tree planting on land that will develop a 2km wide corridor spanning selected road routes across Hampshire. This will create over 630 kilometres of new green networks across the county.

The fund is for trees on privately owned land, community owned land or other land owned by parish councils. Permission must be sought by the landowner and evidenced as part of your application. Tree planting on Hampshire Highways is not included in this scheme, as this is delivered separately by Hampshire Highways arboriculture team.

This will aim to strategically deliver on ecosystem service provision, specifically with regards to:

- **Noise pollution** from the roads
- **Flooding** – absorption from trees reduces the effect of road and land run-off during heavy rain periods. Roads often follow the contours of slopes, so interception of run-off will alleviate flooding impacts further down valleys.
- **Air cooling** (and reflection of heat) along roads to mitigate heat from roads (albedo effect) and traffic.
- **Air pollution** along the roads selected, which are the busier roads in the county
- **River cooling and shading for fish** – some of the roads run adjacent to rivers, the green corridors may help providing cooling for the rivers, as well as intercepting pollutants from road run-off into watercourses – see below.
- **Road run-off** – occurs when pollutants that settle on the surface of the road – such as residue from oil spills, as well as tyre and brake wear from vehicles – build up during dry weather and are then washed into rivers and streams when it rains. The problem is likely to increase with the effects of a changing climate.
- **Biodiversity and local nature recovery** – enhancing biodiversity by creating green corridors and providing opportunities for species that favour these locations, including birds, mammals and insects.
- **Agroforestry** – supporting opportunities for farmers to increase tree planting within their farming systems to promote a range of benefits. Developing ‘living barns’, shelter belts, tree clusters and trees within hedges.
- **Soil Health** – planting trees improves soil structure and carbon sequestration in soil.
- **Visual amenity value** – planting trees to enhance landscape character along the routes.

- **Mental health and Wellbeing** – being in the presence of trees reduces stress and lowers our cortisol levels. Trees have significant benefits for our mental wellbeing.

Shoots Along the Routes will provide trees and tree protection to successful applicants and can advise on pre-planting ground preparation, planting plans and aftercare. However, the applicant is responsible for carrying out these activities and associated costs. In some cases, we may be able to help you plant the trees or put you in touch with groups that can help – let us know if you would like help with planting in the Application Form.

### **Eligibility criteria**

The routes selected will be either A or B-roads that would benefit from tree planting due to a lack of tree canopy cover or the potential value to ecosystem services. Please see below for specific routes currently eligible for funding through this scheme.

#### **Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council area:**

- A339 – Alton to Headley via Basingstoke
- B3046 – Alresford via Candovers to Basingstoke
- B3400 – Whitchurch, Overton, Basingstoke (as Test Valley BC)
- B3051 – Overton to Kingsclere
- A33 – from Chineham, north to the borough boundary
- A30 – from basing Eastwards towards the borough boundary
- Sherfield Road/Bramley Road between Sherfield on Loddon and Pamber End
- B3048 – Longparish to Hurstbourne Tarrant
- A343 – Andover to Berkshire border via Highclere

#### **East Hampshire District Council area:**

- A272 – Petersfield to Winchester
- A32 – Alton to Wickham
- B3349 – Alton to Reading Route
- B3006 – Liss to Alton
- A31 – Farnham to Winchester
- A339 – Alton to Basingstoke
- A3 – Hindhead to Horndean

#### **Hart District Council area:**

- B3349 – north to south through the district via Hook
- A30 – Hook towards Yateley Common via Hartley Wintney
- A287 – Hook towards Farnham

#### **Test Valley Borough Council area:**

- B3084 – Dunbridge, Middle Wallop route
- A343 – Andover to Berkshire border



- B3051 – Overton to Kingsclere
- A3057 – Romsey to Andover
- B3400 – Whitchurch, Overton, Basingstoke
- B3048 – Hurstborne Tarrant to Wherwell
- A3090 – Winchester to Romsey
- B3049 – Winchester to Stockbridge
- A30 – East-West borough boundaries via Stockbridge

#### **Winchester City Council area:**

- A272 – Petersfield to Winchester (as EHDC)
- B3046 – Alresford via Candovers to Basingstoke (as BDBC)
- B3047 – along River Itchen
- A31 – ancient route from London to Winchester
- B3049 – Winchester to Stockbridge
- A33 – from Winchester north to borough boundary
- A30 – short section north-east of Winchester
- A32 – West Meon south through the Meon Valley towards Fareham
- A3090 – Winchester to Romsey
- B3035 – Botley via Bishops Waltham to Corhampton
- A3051 – Botley to Swanwick

#### **Tree planting eligible for funding through this scheme includes:**

- Standard trees in/adjacent to existing hedgerows
- New hedges
- Linear woodlands and shelterbelts
- ‘Living barns’ – clusters of trees planted to provide shelter for livestock from heat and cold
- Tree clusters and individual trees
- Trees for agroforestry – in livestock pasture and arable.
- Tree circles (cultural landscape features that create a ring of trees for visual amenity)
- Mini Forests (based on Miyawaki method - must be publicly accessible land only/community-based projects – please request separate application form)
- Community Orchards (must be publicly accessible land only and community run projects)

Planting sites for linear woodlands or tree clusters must be **under 0.5ha**. We are unable to fund larger woodland creation. Larger woodlands (from 0.5ha and above) are eligible for funding from other sources, please see appendix 1 for further information on alternative funding. We can also put you in touch with our partners that can help you with larger woodland creation projects and application forms.

We cannot fund tree planting within existing woodlands. The fund will only support trees outside of woodlands.



We can fund **tree protection, stakes and guards**, and will assess requests on a case-by-case basis. We may not be able to fund all requests and will fund projects that show best value for money. We are unable to fund any necessary watering of the trees or mulch. Please ensure that newly planted trees receive adequate watering and mulch to ensure their survival.

We can fund **community orchards** but cannot provide funding to subsidise production of fruit to be sold for commercial gain.

We cannot fund agricultural producers for products that are sold commercially at this time.

**Nb: Trees funded will be smaller (whips, or small trees 2-2.5m tall), but funded with greater protection to enable better resilience to drought, deer browsing or trampling etc. In some cases, standard trees may be necessary, please indicate if you require standards and provide your justification in the full application where indicated.**

As part of this funding offer, we ask that all newly planted trees and hedges are recorded on the Hampshire Forest Partnership Tree & Hedge Tracker Survey within one month following planting. We will share instructions for uploading trees to the tracker with successful applicants. We may get in touch with you to ask for tree and hedge survival information to help us evaluate the Shoots Along the Routes project.

This is a limited fund based on the above eligibility criteria. It is not a grant and is not competitive. Once funds are allocated, we will no longer be able to provide further funding. Phase 1 planting will take place during winter 2023/24. We may postpone projects until Phase 2, to be carried out in winter 2024/25 if high numbers of applications are received.

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**If you are interested in helping to develop a green corridor in your parish or community, or you are a private landowner, farmer or land manager that would like to apply, please complete our short Application Form (see Appendix 2 below for guidance on completing the form) and send it to [treeplanting@hants.gov.uk](mailto:treeplanting@hants.gov.uk). You can also submit a [Project Enquiry Form](#) prior to submitting a full application if you would like to help to determine which funding source is most appropriate for your project idea.**

**We like to work with local community groups where we can. If you are a community group that would like to help with tree planting days, please get in touch at [treeplanting@hants.gov.uk](mailto:treeplanting@hants.gov.uk).**

**If you are a resident and would like to donate and plant a tree along one of our chosen routes, please get in touch at [treeplanting@hants.gov.uk](mailto:treeplanting@hants.gov.uk) as we are accepting public donations to help us to plant as many trees as possible.**

**Please see our funding page for further information on current funding offers as part of the Hampshire Forest Partnership: [Funding support offered by Hampshire Forest Partnership | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)**

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## **Appendix 1: Alternative funding schemes for tree planting projects that are ineligible for funding through Shoots Along the Routes or are unsuccessful with their application.**

### [The Tree Council – Branching Out Fund](#)

Fund projects from £250 to £2,500 with eligibility criteria based on funding bracket – projects below £500 need strong community involvement and those above £500 should include additional biodiversity and planning considerations.

### [Woodland Trust – MOREWoods](#)

For projects greater than 0.5 ha in size and 500+ trees. The Woodland Trust can help with advice and project design, supply the trees and tree protection, and cover up to 75% of project costs.

### [Woodland Trust - MOREHedges](#)

Funding is available for projects to create new hedge links between woodlands. Hedges must be at least 100m long with trees allowed to grow every 6m. As with the MOREWoods scheme, the Woodland Trust will provide advice, trees and protection and cover up to 75% of costs.

### [Forestry Commission – England Woodland Creation Offer \(EWCO\)](#)

Woodland creation projects that are at least 1 ha in size may be eligible for funding. The scheme is available for landowners, land managers and public bodies and includes financial support for establishing new woodland and installing associated infrastructure, as well as ongoing maintenance payments.

### [Defra – Sustainable Farming Incentive](#)

This scheme pays farmers for sustainable farming practices over a 3-year agreement for actions including maintaining or establishing hedgerow trees. Funding can be provided through this scheme alongside other Countryside Stewardship payments.

### [Portsmouth Water – Downs & Harbours Clean Water Partnership](#)

For farmers carrying out nitrate reduction measures in Portsmouth Water's high-priority zones. Funding cover trees and protection measures up to £10,000 per farm per year, including agroforestry projects. The project must be a low nutrient scheme.

### [Free Trees for Communities Across the UK \(tcv.org.uk\)](#)

For communities across the UK, free tree packs up to 950 trees per application. Projects must have community involvement and public access.

### [UK Community Tree Planting Grant — International Tree Foundation](#)

This grant is available for community groups planning projects on public or publicly accessible land. Funding streams fall into two categories: (1) community woodlands/hedging and (2) community orchards.

### [CPRE Hampshire Community Hedge Fund 2023 - CPRE Hampshire](#)

Grants up to £750 are available for community projects to plant or rejuvenate hedges in publicly accessible areas. Funding covers the purchase of whips, tree guards and/or the cost of labour and materials if restoring hedging through laying.

## [Farming in Protected Landscapes - Defra](#)

Farmers and land managers in AONBs and National Parks are eligible for funding for projects that will support and improve the protected area. Funding covers up to 100% of the costs of a project if you will not make a commercial gain from it, and a proportion of the costs if you will benefit commercially.

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### **Appendix 2: Guidance on completing Shoots Along the Routes Application Form**

1. **Project title** – Please provide a short, descriptive title for your project.
2. **Applicant name**
3. **Organisation or name of farm/property**
4. **Applicant address**
5. **Contact details** – Please provide a contact e-mail address and telephone number.
6. **Which Shoots Along the Routes eligible road(s) will you plant along?** – Please look at the guidance and state which road(s) falls within 1km of your planting site.
7. **Site location** – Please provide a What3Words location and attach a site map showing the area to be planted. A Google Maps screenshot or similar with the planting area highlighted would be preferable.
8. **Site area** – Please provide an estimate of the planting site in metres squared.
9. **Current site usage** – Please indicate what the planting site is currently used for. If there are multiple uses, please tick all that apply. If the use is not listed, please tick other and provide a short description.
10. **Is the site publicly accessible?** – Please indicate yes or no. Do not leave blank.
11. **Landowner name and address** – Please provide the name and address of the landowner if this is different from the applicant. If you are applying on behalf of the landowner, please provide a letter from the landowner giving permission to apply on their behalf.
12. **What type of tree planting would you like to carry out?** – Please indicate what type of trees you would like to plant. Please tick all that apply.
13. **How many trees would you like to plant?** – Please provide an estimate of the number of trees that you would like to plant overall. If you would like to plant hedges, please give an approximate number of metres of hedging.
14. **a) Which species of tree would you like to plant?** – If you would like to plant standard trees or whips outside of hedges, please tick which species you would be interested in planting and provide numbers per species. To request trees that are not included, please provide a list of these noting the species. For community orchards we will need to know the

variety of fruit trees, including root stock required. If you would like to plant hedges, we will provide a native hedge mix based on your soil type.

**b) Please provide your justification for planting standard trees rather than whips** – standards require greater aftercare and are slower to get established, so we are only able to fund standards in areas which are more vulnerable.

- 15. Please provide information about your proposed planting design.** – Please detail how the trees will be spread out across the site. Include whether they will be planted in rows, clumps or individually, and what spacing will be between trees. A simple map or sketch to illustrate this would be helpful.
- 16. Please provide information about your proposed planting method.** Please detail how you would like to plant e.g. notch planting, pit planting. How will you prepare the site beforehand e.g. turf scraping, soil enhancement etc.? Who will carry out the planting e.g. yourself, volunteers, corporate volunteers etc.?
- 17. We may be able to offer help with planting** or put you in touch with organisations or groups that could assist. Please indicate whether you would be interested in this.
- 18. Which animals are present at the site?** – To improve tree survival rate, we will provide tree protection as needed. Please let us know which animals are present at the planting site so we can provide appropriate protection. You will need to show value for money for fencing, we may not be able to provide this and it will be assessed on a case by case basis.
- 19. During which of the following time periods would you prefer to carry out planting?** – Please tell us when you would like to plant the trees. We will aim to deliver trees to your local area at a time that suits your preference. Ideally, trees would be planted as soon as possible following delivery. If this is not possible, they will need to be 'heeled in' until planting can take place.
- 20. Please provide information about your tree monitoring and aftercare plan.** – We are interested to know how you will provide aftercare to the planted trees, including watering, mulching and weeding as required. As part of this offer for funding support, we ask that you set up a simple monitoring plan to track tree survival and health on e.g. an annual basis. We also ask you to record all newly planted trees on our Tree & Hedge Tracker Survey, to help build up a picture of tree planting across Hampshire.
- 21. Please indicate if you would be interested to find out more about how you can help pollinators at your site,** and we will pass your contact details on to colleagues who will get in touch to help.
- 22. Please indicate if you would like advice for planting trees/woodland in areas greater than 0.5 ha.** We will put you in touch with funding partners offering grants that could help.