

Natural Environment Grant Scheme

Project Constraints

Certain sites can have specific constraints on what sort of project might be suitable for them. This note gives you details of these. In many cases you will need to check these points with another organisation before we will offer you a grant.

If you fail to follow the guidance and get the appropriate authorisation, most of the organisations involved have the power to require you to remove any unauthorised planting and make good any damage at your expense - this can be costly!

Road Verges

You cannot plant on road verge without first obtaining permission from the Highways Section of the City Council. The actual position of a road verge can sometimes be unclear as well as safety and longer-term maintenance issues to be considered. You must therefore contact the Highways Department if you want to plant within 15m of a road. Before a scheme will be offered we will want agreement in writing from the Transportation and Highways sections.

Bridge House, Town Bridge, Peterborough PE1 1HB. Tel (01733) 453453

Land Ownership

We will only grant aid schemes with the landowner consent. If you are a tenant or have another interest in the land we will need written consent from the owner to approve the proposed scheme. If you sell the land within 5 years of receiving a scheme we will need to be informed of who the new owner will be.

Other Field Drains and Ditches

These are normally a landowner responsibility to keep clear. If they are cleaned from your side you need to leave enough space to do this. Machines will normally need at least 6m to gain access and subsequently spread the spoil. If in doubt about the ownership consult your deeds, if you own the drain it is your responsibility and your neighbour will expect you to maintain it appropriately.

Whatever the ownership we advise you to consult your neighbour before planting close a shared drain. They may have specific requirements or knowledge of how things have been done in the past, which you should know about. Early consultation avoids subsequent miss-understandings and even expensive legal challenges.

Overhead Cables

Trees should not be planted within 8m of overhead cables. Hedges and shrubs are usually acceptable providing they are regularly trimmed, however before allowing a scheme under overhead cables we will want to see permission from the appropriate Electricity company (**contact their estates and wayleaves officer**).

Underground Cables and Pipes

Planting cannot occur within 8m of underground cables or pipes. If you suspect they are present you should contact the appropriate company to find out exactly where they are and then avoid planting in this locality.

Railways

In some parts of the Peterborough area there are restrictions on planting close to railway lines. If planting is proposed within 30m of a railway line you should consult National Rail. We will not normally authorise a scheme without appropriate written permission.

Planning conditions

We cannot grant aid a planting scheme that is being used to fulfil a planning condition. We must tell your advisor if you proposed planting is part of a planning or landscaping condition. We reserve the rights to re-claim the full cost of a scheme if planting is later shown to be to fulfil a planning condition.

Garden Extensions or Other Change of Use

You may need planning permission to extend a garden or paddock onto farmland. We will not grant aid a scheme until we are satisfied that all planning requirements have been met. If you need planning permission we will grant aid a scheme if landscaping is not a specific requirement/condition.

Internal Drainage Board and EA Drains

It is not normally possible to plant within 9m of an Internal Drainage Board or Environment Agency Drain. If you wish to plant within 15m of a drain you are advised to contact the appropriate IDB. We will not offer a scheme within 9m of an IDB or EA drain unless you have obtained written authorisation from them. To identify your local Internal Drainage Board contact The EA Head Office.

Boundaries

It is your responsibility to ensure your trees or hedge do not shade or otherwise interfere with your neighbour's land and that grazing animals do not eat young plants. It may be advisable to discuss your proposed scheme with your neighbours and ensure that you have their agreement.

Planting Adjacent to Buildings

Trees planted too close to adjacent walls, buildings etc. can cause structural damage by roots penetrating under their foundations or by soil shrinkage as a result of water loss from the soil to the roots. Some tree species are more likely to cause building damage if planted too close to a building than others are. If you are concerned about new planting next to a building contact: The Arboricultural Association Office 01794 368717 for further advice.

Natural & Historic Environment Team

Stuart House East Wing
St Johns Street
Peterborough
PE1 5DD

Contact:

James Fisher
Wildlife Officer

Telephone: (01733) 453543

E-mail: wildlife@peterborough.gov.uk