

NPI Name: Native tree whip

NPI Code: NTW

NPI Payment: Year 1: £0.86 per whip

NPI Aim(s): To enhance the visual and historical value of the landscape and improve biodiversity. To facilitate remedial management of EFS(H) sites and contribute to carbon sequestration.

Scheme Applicability: Wider – EFS(W) Higher – EFS(H) Group – EFS(G)

This NPI is: Permanent Rotational

NPI Description and Outcome: 'Native tree whips' are eligible where they will maintain and enhance the biodiversity and landscape value of EFS(H) sites and are included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). 'Native tree whips' will facilitate implementation of the ssRMP.

Number Permitted: Minimum 1 Maximum Not Applicable*

*DAERA reserves the right to limit a Higher Level agreement value where it considers appropriate to ensure value for money.

Requirements and Controls:

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type ¹		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
NTW1C	The planting of all 'Native tree whips' must be completed by the end of Year 1.	✓		✓
NTW2C	The claimed number of 'Native tree whips' must be established in the fields where they have been approved.	✓		✓
NTW3C	The newly planted 'Native tree whips' must comply with the Specification outlined below.			✓
NTW4C	Field records must be kept detailing location, number, date planted and management requirements for the 'Native tree whips'.	✓		✓

¹ The possible control types for each requirement may be:

'Admin' – administrative checks, 'CwRS' – Control with Remote Sensing, 'OTSC' – On-the-Spot Check

Specification:

'Native tree whips' must be:

- suitable native species (see Table 1 in 'Further advice');
- protected from grazing livestock;
- successfully established; and
- planted and maintained as detailed in the ssRMP, for EFS(H) sites.

Further Advice:

If you intend to complete this NPI on a march boundary you should ensure that you have fully discussed and agreed that you can carry out the NPI requirements and controls on the march boundary with the person who has control of the neighbouring land.

Approval should be sought from DFI TransportNI before 'Native tree whips' are planted along a roadway.

Weed control should be carried out prior to planting. The use of herbicides/pesticides may only be applied if justified as part of the ssRMP and implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

'Native tree whips' should be planted between early November and mid-March, but not when the ground is frozen or waterlogged.

'Native tree whips' should not be planted beneath or within 20 m of overhead power lines, or other overhead and underground services, close to buildings or where they would interfere with future farm development.

'Native tree whips' should not be planted near roadsides, at lane or road junctions where the line of vision could be obstructed.

Planting guidelines:

1. Keep 'Native tree whips' roots moist at all times.
2. Make the planting hole big enough for the tree roots.
3. Plant 'Native tree whips' at the same depth at which they were growing in the nursery, shown by a lighter soil mark on the stem close to the roots.
4. Plant 'Native tree whips' with the stems upright.
5. Firm the soil around the plants by treading it well with your heel.
6. During prolonged dry spells, 'Native tree whips' may require watering.

Plant health

Experience of diseases like *Chalara* dieback in ash and *Phytophthora ramorum* in larch has highlighted the impact that introduced plant pests and diseases can have on the environment.

When sourcing plants for planting, reduce the risk of introducing or spreading plant pests and diseases by sourcing from within a reputable supply chain.

Further information on plant and tree health is available on the DAERA website at:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health>

Table 1: List of tree and shrub species suitable for 'Native tree whips'

Site	Suitable species	Comments
Wet	Alder*	Stabilises stream banks
	Birch	Intolerant of shade
	Native willow	Grows from cuttings
	Guelder rose	
Dry	Crab apple	Unsuitable for shade
	Oak	Excellent for wildlife
	Scots pine	Native conifer
Exposed	Birch	Suitable for poorly drained peat
	Rowan	Tolerates thin, acid soils
Lowland	Scots pine	
	Birch	
	Rowan	
	Wild cherry	
	Crab apple	
	Blackthorn	Low growing shrubs provides shelter
	Hawthorn	
Coastal	Hazel	All are good for steep banks
	Whin	
	Blackthorn	
Winter shelter for wildlife	Scots pine	All retain leaves/needles over winter
	Holly	
	Whin (gorse)	
Red squirrel areas	Scots pine	All are small-seeded trees and shrubs
	Hawthorn	
	Birch	
	Rowan	
	Native willow	
	Alder*	
	Guelder rose	
Dog rose		
Upland sites	Rowan	All are hardy species
	Birch	
	Blackthorn	
Screening buildings	Birch	Include shrub species
	Rowan	
	Scots pine	
	Hazel	
	Hawthorn	

*If the area is prone to flooding, Alder must not be planted.