

NPI Name: Standard parkland tree

NPI Code: SPT

NPI Payment: Year 1: £25.00 per tree

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: 'Standard parkland trees' are eligible where they will maintain and enhance the landscape and historical value of EFS(H) sites and are included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). Planting standard parkland trees 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
SPT1C	The planting of all 'Standard parkland trees' must be completed by the end of Year 1.	✓	✓	✓
SPT2C	The claimed number of 'Standard parkland trees' must be planted in the location in the fields where they have been approved.	✓	✓	✓
SPT3C	The newly planted 'Standard parkland trees' must comply with the Specification outlined below.			✓
SPT4C	Field records must be kept detailing location, number and date(s) planted for each 'Standard parkland tree'.	✓		✓

¹ The possible control types for each requirement may be:

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

Specification:

'Standard parkland trees' must:

- be approved suitable tree species (Table 1, Further Advice);
- have a girth of 8 - 12 cm at 1 m high;
- be protected from grazing livestock;
- be successfully established; and
- be 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 'Standard parkland trees' are planted along a roadway.

Weed control should be carried out before and after planting until the 'Standard parkland trees' become established. The use of herbicides/pesticides may only be applied if justified as part of the ssRMP and implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Select trees species which reflect the established tree species profile and proportions present on the site.

Using local provenance stock from Northern Ireland is the preferred option when undertaking all 'standard parkland tree' planting. However, where no supply is available from Northern Ireland, trees should be sourced from Ireland, Scotland, England or Wales.

Allow enough spacing between existing parkland trees and 'Standard parkland trees' for full crown development, except when replacement planting within parkland landscape features such as tree clumps and avenues.

'Standard parkland trees' should be protected from grazing livestock using a parkland native tree guard, if required.

Plant 'Standard parkland trees' between early November and mid-March, but not when the ground is frozen or waterlogged.

Flexible and adjustable rubber tree ties should be used to attach the 'Standard parkland trees' to a stake.

Dead 'Standard parkland trees' should be replaced in the following planting season.

'Standard parkland trees' 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.

'Standard parkland trees' should not be planted near roadsides, at lane or road junctions where the line of vision could be obstructed.

Planting guidelines:

1. Keep 'Standard parkland trees' roots moist at all times.
2. Make the planting hole big enough for the 'Standard parkland trees' roots.
3. Plant 'Standard parkland trees' 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 'Standard parkland trees' with the stems upright.
5. 'Standard parkland trees' may need to be supported by tying the tree to a stake.
6. Firm the soil around the 'Standard parkland trees' by treading it well with your heel.
7. During prolonged dry spells, 'Standard parkland trees' 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: Tree species suitable for 'Standard parkland tree' planting

Ash (currently not approved until further notice) *	Turkey oak
Beech	Holm oak
Horse chestnut	Scots pine
Indian chestnut	Sycamore
Sweet chestnut	Cedars of Lebanon
Common lime	Holly
Sessile oak*	Plane
Pedunculate oak*	Larch (nurse tree)
Lucombe oak	Weymouth pine (nurse tree)
Hawthorn	Other species that can be appropriately justified

* Preferred species for a woodland pasture site