

Our **Northern Devon Natural Solutions** project, in conjunction with the Woodland Trust, has a free tree offer open community groups who can receive up to 1200 trees (equivalent to 100m of new hedge planting or 0.5ha of woodland creation). The trees will come with spiral guards and bamboo canes – everything you need to get your trees up and away. You can use the trees to create, extend or restore woodlands or hedges or they could also be used for in-field trees/agroforestry.



What is required from you?

An in-kind contribution from community groups will be expected, such as fencing off areas, the time spent planting the trees or planting further areas on top of this offer – this could be a great opportunity to arrange a community tree planting day.

We will need to know what you plan on doing with the trees and would appreciate both evidence that the trees have been planted and an estimate of what your in-kind contribution has been. **PLEASE NOTE: this offer cannot be used to supply trees funded through other schemes (for example: EWCO, Countryside Stewardship or SFI)** and the offer is subject to being within the project area.



The offer is also available to landowners, farmers and schools, with the ultimate hope that this will boost habitat connectivity across the rural landscape – providing corridors and accommodations for a variety of wildlife.

Why are we offering this?

Hedges are important corridors for wildlife, as well as providing a vital nesting and foraging habitat for our farmland birds. We have lost a large proportion of our hedges over the previous century so planting these vital habitats helps to restore some of this lost resource. Not only are hedges important for wildlife they also capture carbon and can reduce floodwater run-off and improve soil structure. This could be a great way to get your wider community engaged with nature as the trees grow, then the hope is so will community interest in a new wood or hedge.

Small woodland areas, agroforestry and in-field trees: Small pockets of woodland, agroforestry and in-field trees help to slow the flow of water, provide vital habitat for wildlife and help to capture carbon. They could also provide a future source of wood fuel and coppice products for your farm, if carefully managed. Carefully planted trees can also provide a wind break as well as shade from the sun and shelter from the rain. Planting trees along watercourses can also help to stabilise banks, and to improve the river for fish by providing shade.