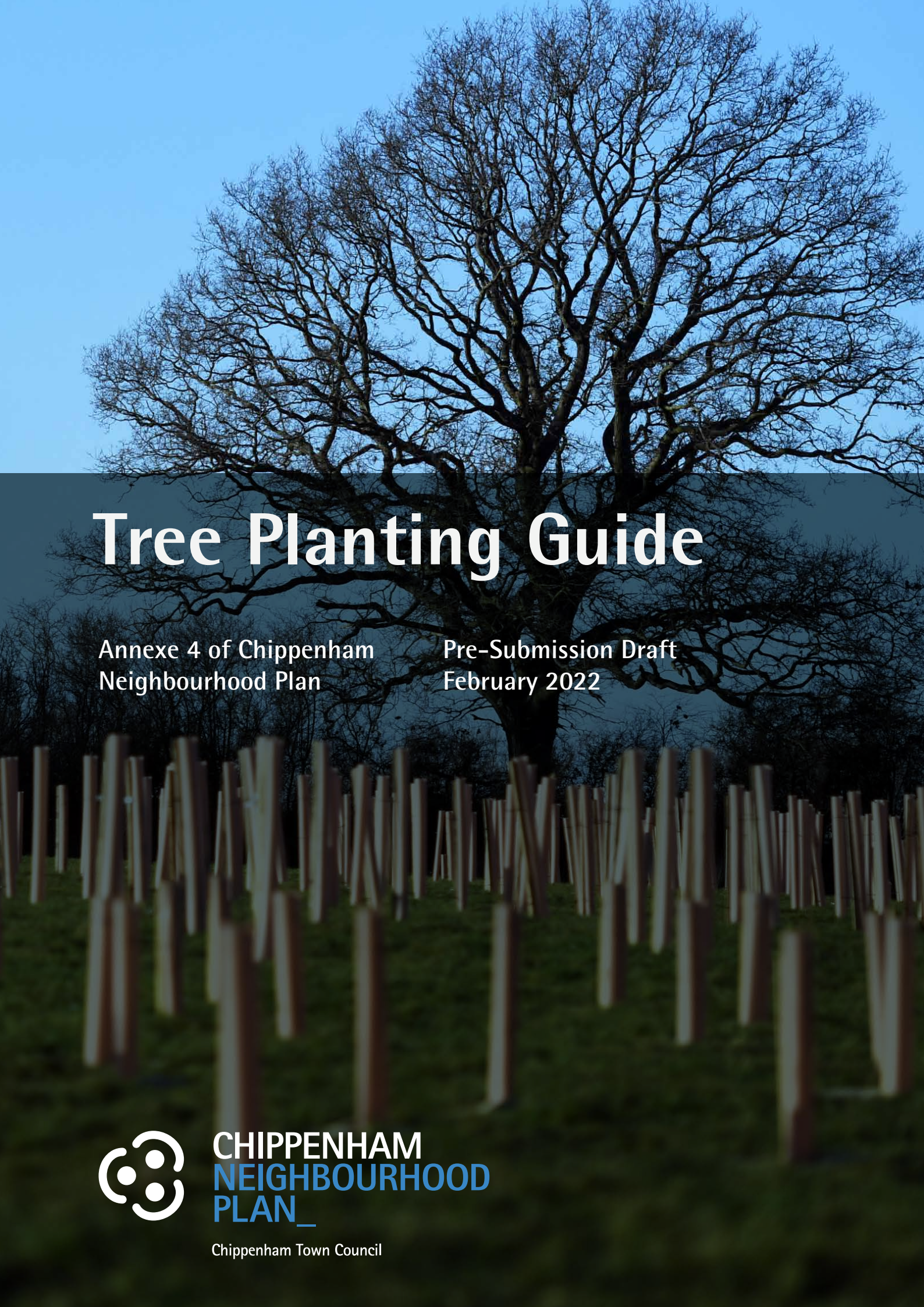


Tree Planting Guide

Annexe 4 of Chippenham Neighbourhood Plan

Pre-Submission Draft
February 2022

CHIPPENHAM
NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN_

Chippenham Town Council

All images provided courtesy of Chippenham Town Council.

Front and back cover:
Tree planting at Stanley Lane, Chippenham

Introduction

This Guide accompanies Neighbourhood Plan Policy GI4 – Trees, Woodlands & Hedgerows. It provides further guidance and details, in the form of codes, for development proposals requiring new and/or replacement tree planting in Chippenham.

Existing and retained trees must be incorporated into masterplans as focal elements within the public realm. Larger individual trees could be included at key focal points within the scheme where a landmark or primary landscape feature is required. Trees can be planted at a range of sizes and sometimes using a very large tree can provide 'instant maturity'.

Code 1 - Tree Replacement: Quantity

In preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, the importance of trees in Chippenham and the need to improve tree cover in the town has become clear, especially in those Wards where tree cover is below average. Tree loss and replacement as a consequence of development has been researched in order to find good precedents that can be used to inform development proposals.

In many instances it will not be possible to replace the value (ecological, amenity or otherwise) of a felled tree with a single new planting, e.g. the value of a veteran oak cannot be replaced with a single semi-mature tree. However, Bristol City Council have developed the Bristol Tree Replacement Standard (BTRS) which takes into account tree maturity and therefore value. It uses a bespoke system of compensation for the loss of trees from development sites dependent upon the size of the diameter of the trunk of the tree to be lost. The BTRS has also been used by Cam Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

The BTRS should be used to inform how trees lost in Chippenham should be replaced, and is set out in the table below:

Trunk Diameter of tree lost to development (cm measured at 1.5 m)	Number of replacement trees
<15	0-1
15-19.9	1
20-29.9	2
30-39.9	3
40-49.9	4
50-59.9	5
60-69.9	6
70-79.9	7
80+	8

IN TEXT LINKS

Urban Tree Manual

www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/urban-tree-manual/

Right Trees For a Changing Climate

www.righttrees4cc.org.uk/default.aspx

Replacement planting should normally be within the development site, but could also be planted at a suitable location off-site if that is not feasible.

It is recognised that trees may be felled in preparation for development, sometimes in advance of a planning application. Where there is evidence of prior felling, this should be applied retrospectively to include all trees felled within the year before the planning application. In this way any trees felled before the development could be taken into account when considering appropriate replacement.

Whilst the number of tree replacements contributes to Chippenham's aim of increasing tree cover, the quality of trees to be lost and the quality of proposed replacement trees should also help to inform the decision on numbers of replacement trees.

New trees, when planted, should be of size which is at least 'standard' tree size (8cm to 10cm) in accordance with BS3936-1 (Nursery stock – Part 1: Specification for trees and shrubs). At times the landscape design may require larger trees e.g. 'extra heavy standard' to give depth and maturity to the design, or also 'feathered' trees (multi-stemmed trees).

Code 2 - Tree Selection

The Government's Urban Tree Manual offers good, all round advice on selecting the right tree species in the urban environment, and signposts to other useful resources. The Manual also highlights long term issues of the threats to existing trees from pests, disease and climate change, and describes the benefits to the environment and for wellbeing that urban trees can provide.

Right Trees For a Changing Climate is the best resource to use in selecting the right tree for a particular place. It is important to understand the particular function a tree is expected to provide and then look for a species that matches those criteria.

Depending on the function of the tree and nature of the site selected, there is a preference for native trees and large-canopied species to be planted, as these can provide a wider range of ecological benefits than other species. The Chippenham community were also keen to see an increase in orchard trees for, amongst other things, a local food resource.

This retained, mature, English Oak provides a landmark tree which has positively influenced the siting and design of new housing, North Chippenham

Below is a list of native tree species that are likely to be appropriate in different situations in Chippenham:

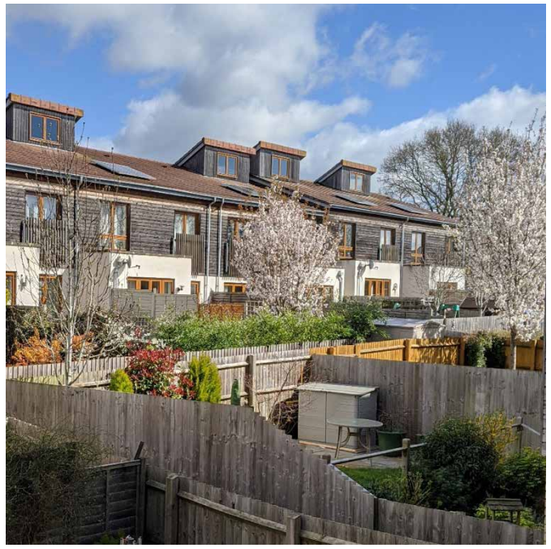
Gateway or landmark trees could include:

- English Oak (Quercus robur) - large canopied
- Purple Beech (Fagus sylvatica purpurea) - large canopied
- Sweet Chestnut (Castanea sativa) - large canopied

Neighbourhood street trees could include:

- Small Leafed Lime (Tilia cordata) - large canopied
- Field Maple (Acer campestre) - large canopied
- Bird Cherry (Prunus padus)
- Silver Birch (Betula pendula)

Callery pear 'chanticleer' is an appropriate species for a neighbourhood street tree because it can tolerate relatively harsh urban environments and can grow to a medium canopy size and height, Hunters Moon



Smaller fruit trees have been appropriately selected for smaller rear gardens and provide visual interest at different times of the year and habitat for garden birds, Great Mead

Trees for rear gardens could include:

- Alder (Alnus glutinosa)
- Silver birch (Betula pendula)
- Crab apple (Malus sylvestris)
- Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia)
- Goat willow (Salix caprea)
- Bird cherry (Prunus padus)
- Apple (Malus x domestica) - orchard tree (non-native)
- Pear (Pyrus communis) - orchard tree (non-native)
- Plum (Prunus domestica) - orchard tree (non-native)

Code 3 - Planting and Maintenance

It is critically important that a new tree is planted properly and cared for, especially in the first 2-3 years whilst it is establishing itself in its new home. Ground preparation and the use of good quality soil and other ameliorants is key. Consider the use of an irrigation system if the tree is to be planted in a paved area.

The most recent guidance is found in BS 8545 Trees: From nursery to independence in the landscape.

CHIPPENHAM
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Improving the quality of town life

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