
Free Trees for the UK, 2022-2023

Native Woodland Creation
“Our Native Woods, Revived”

Plant & Protect, Gone West

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a Limited Company, organised and existing under UK law, hereafter referred to as “Gone West”.

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Initiative Overview:

Initiative Description:

Free Trees for the UK: Native Woodland Creation: “Our Native Woods, Revived.”

The ‘*Free Trees for the UK*’ initiative is a brand new project aimed at re-greening the United Kingdom. The initiative comes after our success with the *Free Trees for Portugal* initiative, which is now in its fourth season. We aim to advance the *Free Trees for the UK* initiative so that we can work to bring *Free Trees* initiatives from Gone West, all over the UK, to revive our native woodlands.

Currently Gone West is sculpting a far-reaching native reforestation initiative that will create cascading benefits for everyone involved. Through this initiative, a co-financed initiative we are calling *Free Trees for the UK*, Gone West would be able to offer our funders a competitive price per tree. The beauty of this initiative is that Gone West’s gold-standard forestry team will be able to plant every single tree provided within this initiative— but at a fraction of the ordinary B2B costs. This co-beneficial partnership would enable GW to further our vision of creating native woodlands while at the same time significantly reducing the cost per tree that our funders pay and, with the exponential scaling capacity of this initiative— well, the maths rather speaks for itself.

The initiative also intends to provide promotional support and visibility to our *Plant & Protect* project partners so as to champion and continue the work of ecological restoration in the UK. We aim to demonstrate that reforestation can occur in a holistic manner that addresses all sectors of society including environmental, social, financial and inspirational and work together to restore and revitalise our natural ecosystems.

Initiative Duration:

- *Free Trees for the UK*: September 2022 - May 2023

Initiative Scope:

- In the upcoming planting seasons, this initiative has the potential to scale exponentially, making this an ongoing, annual initiative.

Tree Procurement/Delivery:



- Procurement/Delivery will be coordinated by the Gone West logistics team.

Native Woodland Protection:

- As per our *Plant & Protect Agreement*, customarily electronically signed by each project partner, the native trees will be allowed to live out the “natural duration of their lives.” Also outlined in *the Agreement*, the trees will undergo close monitoring and maintenance, especially during the first 1 - 3 years when the trees are at their most vulnerable.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting:

- GW will provide our funders with digital material– photos and videos – to prove that the trees have been maintained/monitored. We will also update our funders on the health and growth status of the trees within the first year after planting; after the first year, reasonable long-term monitoring will be maintained.

Locations:

- This far-reaching initiative will take place throughout the UK from Wales and England to the Scottish Highlands.

Species:

The following 11 species constitute the preliminary species mix for the UK. These species are subject to change based on provenance, availability and land requirements.

- Common Alder *Alnus Glutinosa*
- Silver Birch *Betula Pendula*
- Downy Birch *Betula Pubescens*
- Common Hawthorn *Crataegus Monogyna* (*Rosaceae*)
- Goat Willow (Sallow) *Salix Caprea* (*Salicaceae*)
- Rowan (Mountain Ash) *Sorbus Aucuparia* (*Rosaceae*)
- Scots Pine *Pinus Sylvestris* (*Pinaceae*)
- English Oak (Pendunculata) *Quercus Robur*
- Sessile Oak *Quercus Petraea*
- Bird Cherry *Prunus Padus*
- Holly *Ilex Aquifolium*

Social Impacts:



- Since we started, Gone West has expanded its operations through meaningful and effective partnerships with its stakeholders. Accountability, transparency and credibility have been achieved through such a community model and are the foundations upon which we operate. With all of these elements in place, we would be able to bring across a message that insists on trees as a means to create communities, raise awareness, support and educate people.

By teaming up with local partners and communities, from nurseries to smallholders to ecological professionals, we can provide them with crucial funding, visibility and support that for many of them could make a massive difference, especially during such harsh times. This initiative is an engaging solution to battle both the oncoming economic and environmental crisis.

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Ecological Impacts:

- In addition to the cascading social benefits that are at the core of this initiative, it has far-reaching environmental benefits as well. By restoring previously degraded or cleared land and reintroducing of native flora back to the ecosystem, we restore water tables, prevent further soil erosion/degradation, create carbon sinks in the soil, and foster thriving ecosystems where native fauna can take refuge, providing essential habitat for a variety of species that call UK's native forests home. We consider native woodland creation a key solution to re-establish native, multilayered forests. Gone West's implements regenerative forestry systems that provide ecosystem services and improve land productivity, creating a patchwork of wildlife habitat all over the planet. By working together with local ecology experts, this initiative takes into account the full-range of wildlife protection and biodiversity in each unique ecosystem/biosphere.