

ALLEY PLANTING

Tree alleys can be designed to fit into existing systems, support and enhance aspects of your grass and livestock management and reflect your farm business' requirements. Universally they provide shelter, shade, and beneficial alternative browse improving animal welfare and farm resilience.



Tree alleys can be placed within field parcels to create sheltered grazing blocks that support current farming practices. Trees cannot only improve soil drainage, but they can also keep the soil warmer for longer in early spring and late autumn. This helps extend the grazing and cropping season by up to 17 weeks. During cold and wet weather events, livestock can require considerably more feed to stay warm. Trees create warmer and more sheltered microclimates in these weather events, meaning resources are more efficiently used. Tree hay can also improve animal performance and health. For example, the nutritional composition of tree leaves can provide necessary trace minerals and anti-inflammatory compounds, decreasing the worm burden of livestock. Tree alleys can help diversify the farming enterprise by producing different crops like wood fuel, nuts or fruit.



TREE PLANTING DESIGN/SPECIES

This is an example of alley planting design; they can be adapted to achieve the goals of the farm.



Outside rows: Browse lines and wind shelters; double row, **1m spacing between trees** and **4m between rows**.

Tree species: Goat willow, hazel, rowan, aspen, common alder.

Central row: Standard trees planted between browse lines at 6m spacing to offer long-term shade/shelter and timber (12 trees/row).

Tree species: English oak, field maple, walnut, wild cherry, small-leaved lime.

Orientation: Tree alleys oriented N-S allow the highest sunlight capture between rows. Orientation can differ to reflect slope, prevailing winds or specific farm/field management e.g. planting along contours to reduce soil erosion.

Fencing: Initially the planted areas will require stock-proof fencing to prevent damage to young trees. Once established tree alleys can remain unfenced if required.

If you are interested in planting trees on farms and other opportunities to find out more visit [woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant) or contact plant@woodlandtrust.org.uk