

Metrolink Extensions

Future Metrolink Environmental Policies

Tree Replacement Policy

GMPTe will plant at least five young trees for every tree removed as a result of Metrolink extensions. At least two saplings will be planted for every sapling removed. Species will be chosen for wildlife value and will normally be native to England, and have been raised in the North West of England. Exotic species will only be used in formal locations near stops.

Definitions:	Tree	75 mm diameter at 1.5 metres above ground level
	Young tree	'Standard' - about 2 metres high
	Sapling	'Whip' - about 1 metre high
	Native/exotic	Grows/does not grow naturally in England

Explanation: GMPTe will survey all the trees and saplings that could become trees along and near the proposed routes. It is generally accepted that there are five young trees for every mature tree in the countryside. Native trees are generally better for wildlife and grow better. Trees raised locally will already be adapted to the climate here (climate varies dramatically across the UK). Exotic trees add colour and interest, but cost more, need more looking after and are generally less good for wildlife, so their use should be restricted.

Wildlife Habitat Replacement Policy

GMPTe will replace any woodland, wetland or other habitat of high nature conservation value removed as a result of the Metrolink extensions. Other habitat of lower nature conservation value (such as mown grassland) will be replaced by higher value habitat (such as wildflower meadow). Replacement habitat will be planned with local communities, the Red Rose Community Forest and local authorities to be close to the extension, open to the local community where possible, and to create the greatest benefit for people and wildlife.

Explanation: There is little point in recreating a habitat that is not good for wildlife. In any case, high value habitats are often better value for money. The highest value is obtained where new habitat is actually joined to existing habitat (rather than creating an island). Involving local communities in planning adds about 10% to capital costs, but often reduces maintenance costs. Construction work will be timed to avoid the bird nesting season. Where protected species such as bats are found, they will be moved according to nationally agreed best practice. Once work is completed, species could move back and live safely near Metrolink.

Aftercare Policy

All new trees and habitat will be looked after for the first five years as part of the construction contract. If any plants die, they will be replaced. Management arrangements will continue after this, and will involve local people.

Explanation: It is important that new planting is looked after. However after this time there is a need to manage vegetation to ensure it remains safe, attractive and is good for wildlife. This is much easier and cost effective if local people are involved as they then defend 'their' territory. Our arrangements could involve the local authority, the Red Rose Community Forest and local people.

If you would like this information in other formats, please phone Traveline on 0871 200 22 33

Calls cost 10p a minute from landlines, mobile and landline networks may charge an additional tariff.
Lines are open 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

