



Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP)

Discharge of conditions for a golf club fitting bay.
At Chippenham Golf Club
The Club House, Malmesbury Rd,
Chippenham
SN15 5LT

On behalf of:
Chippenham Golf Club

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Hedgerow Creation and Management

Planning Reference: PL/2025/05155

1. Purpose of this Document

This Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) sets out the creation, establishment and long-term management of new native hedgerow associated with the approved fitting bay development at Chippenham Golf Club.

The BMP is submitted in place of a full Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) because:

- The biodiversity gain required is low and easily achieved through hedgerow replacement.
- The proposal results in no net loss and delivers a measurable net gain, evidenced in the Small Sites Metric v1.1.
- The habitat involved is simple to create and manage, and does not require complex monitoring or specialist oversight.

This BMP therefore provides proportionate details to demonstrate that the new hedgerow will be delivered, maintained, and brought to Moderate condition within 10 years.

2. Summary of Baseline and Proposed Biodiversity Measures

2.1 Baseline Habitat (Pre-Development)

- 15m of 12-year-old native hedgerow.
- Species: Hawthorn and Hazel (2 native woody species).
- No gaps, but no grassy base strip and low species diversity.
- Cut annually.
- Condition: Moderate

2.2 Proposed Habitat Creation (Post-Development)

- 14m of new species-rich native hedgerow.
- Located along the eastern and western edges of the car park.
- Planted in a double staggered row at 300mm spacing.

- To include at least five native woody species, such as:

Hawthorn, Hazel, Blackthorn, Dogwood, Field Maple Guelder Rose, Dog rose (as a climber, if desired)
- Managed to achieve Moderate condition within 10 years.

Outcome: Increased length and condition results in a clear biodiversity net gain using the Small Sites Metric.

3. Hedgerow Specification

3.1 Planting Specification

- Length: 14 metres total.
- Layout: Double staggered row, 300–450mm between rows, 300mm between plants.
- Planting Density: Approx. 5–6 plants per metre.
- Plant Stock: Bare-root native whips, 60–90cm.
- Planting Season: November–March.
- Mulch: 50–75mm organic mulch applied to base.
- Protection: Individual spiral guards or biodegradable mesh guards.

3.2 Species Mix (Minimum 5 Species)

A typical mix (approx. 60% primary species / 40% secondary species):

- Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) – 40%
- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) – 20%
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) – 15%
- Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) – 15%
- Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) – 10%

Substitutions of native species are acceptable if required for availability or local character.

4. Management and Aftercare (Years 0–10)

Year 0–3: Establishment Phase

- Water during dry periods in first two summers.
- Maintain a 1m vegetation-free strip along both sides (mulch or hand-weed; no herbicide unless essential).
- Replace failures annually in winter to maintain full stocking density.
- No cutting in Year 1.
- First light formative cut in winter of Year 2–3 to encourage dense structure.

Year 3–10: Condition Improvement Phase

To achieve “Moderate” condition in the Small Sites Metric:

- Maintain continuous length with no gaps >20cm and total gaps <10% of length.
- Allow a grassy/herbaceous margin to develop along base.
- Cut no more than once every 2–3 years, outside nesting bird season (September–February).
- Retain fruits/berries by avoiding annual cutting of all sides; adopt a rotational cutting regime.
- Replace any dead or declining plants annually.

By Year 10 the hedgerow should display:

- Minimum 5 native woody species.
- Grass/herb margin present.
- Less than 10% gaps.
- Height maintained between 1.5–3m with good structure.
- No signs of excessive trimming damage.

5. Monitoring Requirements (Proportionate Approach)

Because this project achieves a straightforward net gain and the habitat is simple to maintain, monitoring is proportionate and light-touch:

Years 1, 3 and 5:

- Check survival, stocking density, and evidence of drought or grazing.
- Replace dead plants.
- Confirm presence of grassy/herb strip.

Years 5 and 10:

- Condition assessment against Small Sites Metric “Moderate” criteria.
- Photographs at fixed points.

Monitoring can be undertaken by the applicant or site manager; no ecologist is required unless issues arise.

Years 11–30 (Long-Term Monitoring)

Monitoring continues at a reduced but appropriate frequency given the maturity and stability of the habitat:

Years 15, 20, 25 and 30:

- Visual inspection of hedgerow continuity (gaps, dieback, structural integrity).
- Check that species diversity remains in line with species-rich definition (minimum of 5 native woody species retained).
- Confirm ongoing presence and maintenance of the grassy/herb margin.
- Ensure trimming regime remains appropriate (2–3 year rotation, September–February only).
- Replace any significant losses or degraded sections (e.g., where gaps exceed 20cm or 10% of total length).
- Take updated fixed-point photographs for long-term record.

Monitoring throughout Years 11–30 can continue to be undertaken by the applicant or site manager; a professional ecologist is not required unless problems arise or the LPA specifically requests an external review.

6. Responsibilities and Delivery

- Installation: To be completed by a competent landscaper or grounds team.
- Management: Chippenham Golf Club site manager or delegated grounds staff.

- Timeframe: Planting to be completed in the first winter planting season following commencement of development.
- Retention and Duration:
It is understood that the biodiversity measures secured by this BMP are subject to the statutory minimum 30-year management and maintenance period required under the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) legislation.
The new hedgerow will therefore be maintained in accordance with this plan for no fewer than 30 years from completion.

7. Summary and Compliance Statement

This Biodiversity Management Plan secures 14m of new native species-rich hedgerow to replace 15m of moderate-condition hedgerow, achieving a measurable biodiversity net gain using the Small Sites Metric.

The BMP is submitted in place of a full Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) due to the low scale of impact and the simplicity of the replacement habitat. The document outlines clear and proportionate measures to ensure the hedgerow:

- Establishes successfully
- Achieves Moderate condition within 10 years
- Is managed and retained for the full 30-year minimum period required by the biodiversity gain condition attached to planning permission PL/2025/05155