

Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire, BA14 8JN

15th May 2026

To whom it may concern,

The current letter report is provided to satisfy the conditions of approval relating to the proposed development of an EV charging hub at **Leigh Delamere Motorway Services, Westbound** (Application reference number **PL/2025/08804**).

The relevant condition is given in full below:

2. Within three months of the date of this permission, or prior to the first use of the development hereby granted permission (whichever is the later), full and complete details of the proposed compensatory tree planting shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such details shall include the arrangement and species of trees to be planted along with the timing and arrangements for future maintenance. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

REASON: In the absence of detail within the application as to the effect of the development upon existing trees, and so as to ensure that any tree removal undertaken is suitably compensated.

Background

A Biodiversity Net Gain assessment was undertaken by Eleanor Pawley, Senior Ecologist of Maydencroft Limited on the 10th September 2025 which involved a detailed habitat survey and completion of condition assessment sheets. The subsequent calculations and written element were completed by Hannah Brookes, Ecologist of Maydencroft Limited. The project will result in the permanent loss of modified grassland in poor condition. The planting of **three individual trees in moderate condition** was decided upon as appropriate compensation. The proposed compensation would result in a net gain in biodiversity units of **41.61%**.



Tree planting specification and layout

Suitable native species for the soil type and level of the area include ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) and willow species (*Salix* spp.) (Ecological Site Classification 4, Accessed 15th May 2026). For ease of management and to reduce any impact of shading upon the adjacent woodland, it is considered that species which remain generally small are preferred.

As such, it is recommended that the planting arrangement should comprise of **2no. wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) and 1no. hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)**. Trees should be of **standard form**; 2.5 - 3 m height and 8-10 cm girth at 1 m. All should be planted with **5 m spacing** between new stems.

Tree planting methodology

1 General Guidance

- All plant handling to be in accordance with the HTA 'Handling and establishing landscape plants' Part I, Part II and Part III (obtainable from the Horticultural Trades Association) and the
- CPSE publication: 'Plant Handling' and all planting to conform to National Planting Specification Guidelines.
- The individual setting-out of the tree planting on site shall be the responsibility of the contractor and should follow closely the location shown on the planting plan.
- Contractor to check the locations of all underground services, existing and proposed, prior to any excavation and identify any potential conflicts to the Client.
- All arisings shall be removed from site and the contractor shall at all times, keep the site free from rubbish and debris.
- For the duration of the works the contractor shall keep the site free from injurious weeds as listed in the Weeds Act 1959.
- All plants should be supplied at the same size and of the same species as specified in the planting schedule above. Any proposed replacement species or deviation from the planting
- schedule should be highlighted to and agreed with the client prior to installation.
- The Contractor shall carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable. Planting is not to take place during periods of frost or strong winds.
- The contractor is to ensure that adequate watering and weed control is provided at the time of planting.
- Any topsoil retained on site in stockpiles for use in planting works is to be stored in accordance with the DEFRA publication; 'Code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on
- construction sites'. Do not use peat or peat based products.
- Prior to planting, planting areas shall be cleared of grass and weed growth physically.
- Tree to be watered thoroughly before planting stage to ensure rootball is thoroughly soaked prior to final backfilling.

2 Tree Planting

- Tree planting to be in accordance with BS 3936: Par 1:1992 (Ref. 13) and BS 8545:2014 (Ref. 14).
- Hole to be dug with gently sloping, scarified sides to comfortably accommodate the width, but of no greater depth than the root-ball. The hole may be slightly shallower than the rootball (approximately 2.5-5cm), in anticipation of soil settlement.
- Place the tree in the centre of the hole and backfill in layers of approximately 15cm depth, gently tamping each layer except the final one, to remove large voids and to reinstate the pre-existing soil profile. Excessive compaction will result in poor aeration and drainage whilst excessively loose, poorly structured soil may settle excessively.

- Apply water gradually until the roots or root-ball is thoroughly soaked along with the backfilled soil. Do not over-water to cause waterlogging
- Apply a thin (50-75mm) layer of organic mulch (e.g. shredded hardwood bark) but do not build up around the root flare.
- Backfilled soil should not be ameliorated with composts or fertilizers.
- Trees to be staked and supported with three low single stakes, consisting of: 3 no. 75mm diameter x min. 950mm length, rounded timber posts driven into the ground vertically 400mm either side of the trunk, approx. 450mm below ground level and 500mm above; tree to be secured to the posts with 3 no. proprietary rubber tree ties. The most effective supports are those that support the tree on all sides and as low down as practicable (stakes should not be more than one-third clear stem height), to allow for maximum stem movement and thereby strengthening of the stem base and roots.
- Trees shall be installed with proprietary flexible perforated irrigation/aeration pipe with integral cap. Pipe to be installed encircling equally around rootball to the full depth of planting pit, with the final cap section installed just above ground level and nailed securely in place to the adjacent timber stake.
- All trees in grass areas to be protected by min. 225mm high x 12-15mm diam. proprietary biodegradable strimmer/vole guards. Where trees have a basal trunk diameter greater than 12mm e.g. semi-mature, then two or more guards should be joined together using jointing tape and then secured in place.

3 Tree Sourcing

- All trees will be UK sourced and grown, and to meet the standards set out in BS 8545:2014. All trees to be sourced from reputable suppliers with good biosecurity and phytosanitary procedures.

4 Tree Planting Establishment Maintenance

- All soft landscape areas to be maintained to BS 7370-4:1993.
- Tree condition must be targeted and maintained at moderate condition.

4 Intervention

- All trees will be subject to adaptive management, which will allow deviations from normal maintenance practices to address specific issues.
- If a tree fails, re-planting of a suitable specimen should be carried out.
- If a tree is found to fall below its required condition, management should be adapted to rectify this.

Adherence to the given measures will result in the successful establishment and maintenance of the required Biodiversity Net Gain offsetting.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Brookes

Ecologist
Maydencroft Limited