



Mile Pond Farm Hedgerow Management Plan



5 YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN March 2012 to February 2017

Site specific to the newly planted boundary hedgerow

MANHOOD WILDLIFE and HERITAGE GROUP



Introduction

Name of site... Mile Pond Farm Hedgerow

Site specific to the newly planted hedgerow (running east of The Apuldram Centre and parallel to the Salterns Way Cycle Route)

Duration of plan... 5 Year Management Plan March 2012 - February 2017

Site status The land, which forms part of the Salterns Way, is leased to Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC)

Site reference not known

Grid reference SU 843 034

Area of site 0.32948 Hectares

NVC N/A

Local Authority Chichester District Council

County West Sussex

Land owner West Sussex County Council

Contacts **Tenant:** Gordon Read, Mile Pond Farm
Chichester Harbour AONB Manager: Alison Fowler
MWHG Team Leader: Felicity McStea
MWHG Community Wildlife Officer: Sarah Hughes
County Senior Ecologist: Don Baker

Contact details at Appendix 1

Right of access

Salterns Way Cycle Route runs alongside the newly planted hedge (Spring 2011).

The Salterns Way is an 18km permissive cycle route leading from Chichester to West Wittering through Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is not a Public Right of Way.

The route is managed by Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC).

N.B. CHC doesn't accept responsibility for any loss, damage or injury arising from use of the Salterns Way Cycle Route.

Site description

A new Hedgerow consisting of native farm hedging (60% Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* / 40% mix of Hazel *Corylus avellana* and Grey Willow *Salix cinerea*) was planted in March/April 2011 by MWHG (thereby match-funding, in volunteer hours, a Landscape Conservation Grant awarded to Gordon Read by WSCC). The hedgerow runs parallel with the Salterns Way Cycle Route, east of The Apuldram Centre. It forms a low physical barrier dividing arable farmland from the pedestrian/cycle path. Location & Utilities Map at Appendix 2.

Habitat management

Regular maintenance work to be carried out by MWHG with the aim of creating a low, sturdy hedge and laying it in due course. This plan has been drawn up with the co-operation of Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Gordon Read, and is subject to review and monitoring on a yearly basis.

Hedgerow not to be detrimental to the landscape (visual amenity) and to be managed in the following way:-

- 1 Cut and laid to limit the height so as not to obstruct the views over farmland to Chichester Cathedral and South Downs.
- 2 So that a sense of being out in the open air is not lost by allowing a narrowed or overbearing corridor to develop for users of the Salterns Way.
- 3 To maintain the site so that public use of the Salterns Way is not impeded (*other benefits shown in italics*).
 - Control of excessive plant growth to include cutting back lateral stems where they conflict with the public's use of the footpath/cycle way
 - Clearing brambles with long/arching stems that protrude from or close to the base of the maintained hedgerow (*prevents trip and scratch hazard*)
 - Trimming any straggly branches and topping the hedging plants (*encourages compact growth*)
 - Laying the hedge, once fully established (*reduces height / thickens base*)
 - Clearing away green waste and litter gathered at working parties.

Issues

Encroachment on cycle path and grass verge

- Snagging thorn and brambles / wet foliage / branches to brush past and excessive leaf fall underfoot
- Less room for cyclists, walkers with children/dogs etc. to pass each other
- Path surface taking longer to dry out after rain/thaw if icy (shaded from the sun) – though shade and shelter from the elements may sometimes be welcome.

Hazards

- Thorns on path (following bad weather/trimming/flailing) damaging to bicycle/wheelchair/pushchair tyres and walkers with thin-soled footwear
- Thorns, prickly thistles and stinging nettles/stinging insects (bee/wasp/hornet nests, etc)
- Slippery leaves on path when wet (autumn fall, etc.)
- Tripping over brambles and fallen twigs/branches.

CHC Cycle Way Management

- More difficult to cut/trim grass and vegetation at base of hedge
- More difficult to pick up cut grass and vegetation / more for disposal
- More likelihood that people will leave litter in the hedge.

Timetable

Years 1 and 2

Working parties to be carried out in spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Baseline survey to be undertaken in the Year 1 (see Appendix 3). Working parties to carry out sensitive management for the hedgerow by the removal of pernicious weeds, clearing around the base of hedging plants and litter picking.

Hedgerow sides to be trimmed back on Salterns Way side to prevent encroachment, cuttings cleared from Salterns Way surface.

Green waste to be left on the eastern side of the hedge – disposal/composting by Gordon Read.

Watering in drought condition to be undertaken by Gordon Read.

Yearly review and monitoring.

Years 3 and 4

Working parties to be carried out in early spring, late summer and late winter.

Clearance of vegetation, monitor dominant species, topping of hedging plants and litter picking.

Hedgerow sides to be trimmed back on Salterns Way side to prevent encroachment, with cuttings cleared from Salterns Way surface.

Years 3 and 4 *continued*

Green waste to be left on the eastern side of the hedge – disposal/composting by Gordon Read.

Yearly review and monitoring.

Watering in draught condition by Gordon Read.

Year 5 +

MWHG commits to the long term management of the hedgerow. Continuation of management plan and update for a further 5 years.

Hedgelaying to be completed when the stems are 2” – 5” thick. Due to the topography of the land, the hedge will be laid in a southeasterly direction toward the arable field.

Note Although best practice to trim only every 3 years / alternating sides, the hedgerow will need to be trimmed annually on the Salterns Way side to prevent encroachment.

N.B. All hedge work subject to bird and invertebrate activity.

Examples: nesting birds and sites used by mining bees/wasp – activity will not be undertaken at key times of year.

Conflict in managing for wildlife and biodiversity

- Longer grass and vegetation attracts invertebrates but competes with new hedge for moisture/nutrients.
- Recreational disturbance such as that caused by irresponsible people and dogs damaging plants and annoying or destroying wildlife.

History of land management

In between World War One 1914/1918 and the Second World War 1939/1945 the area housed three farms. West Sussex County Council purchased the land for approximately £4,000. Located to the northeast of the site was a meadow where cattle were taken for auctioning.

Land surrounding the site

To the north, east and south of the site there is productive arable farm land. To the west is a cycle path running adjacent to 'The Apuldram Centre', a small horticultural establishment.

Risk assessment

Hazard	Risk	Action
Lyme disease Borreliosis	Tick-borne bacterium	Clothing and body should be checked after working. Any incidents involving ticks to be reported to team leader.
Weils disease Leptospirosis	Rat-borne bacterial condition entering the body by way of cuts	Keep all cuts well covered.
Insect bites and stings, urticating hairs from brown-tail (tussock moth) caterpillars	Possible allergic reactions to skin, eyes and breathing	Wear protective clothing and gloves. Report any incident to team leader and enter on work sheet.
Harmful plants	Wounds, stings and rashes	Wear appropriate clothing and gloves when handling plants. Report any incident to team leader and enter on the work sheet.
Sunburn/ sunstroke	Dehydration and burning	Use sun screen and keep head covered in hot sunny weather. Take regular breaks and drink sufficient amounts of fluids. Report to team leader in the event over exposure.
Bamboo cane injuries (these hedge plant supports would be exposed if plastic rabbit guards were lost)	Bruising, puncture wounds, eye damage	Take care when bending down. Replace guard or remove cane.

A comprehensive MWHG Health and Safety document is held by the Safety Officer and further copies held by Team Leader for the Management Plan.

Volunteer holding a valid First Aid Certificate to accompany work parties.

Utilities

A map showing these installations is attached at Appendix 2

No telecommunications masts

No Sewers

Fertilisers

General purpose base fertiliser, supplemented by foliar feed if crop stressed.

Chemicals for the control of plants, fungi, invertebrates

CHC routinely sprays the surface of the Salterns Way with Roundup to prevent establishment of grasses.

Farmer applies selective weedkiller (crop of sweetcorn in adjacent field) and bicarbonate of soda (courgettes and marrows, elsewhere on farm).

Species	Chemical	Toxicity	Comments

Gordon Read and Chichester Harbour Conservancy to confirm details regularly

Pest control (native and non-native Flora and Fauna)

Species	Form of control	Reason
Brown-tail (tussock moth) caterpillar	Hand extraction and disposal	Caterpillars shed urticating hairs that cause skin irritation.
Invasive non-native plants	Remove by hand and dispose of separate to green waste (incinerate)	To comply with national directives.

Monitoring

Monitoring will be carried out on yearly basis via the working parties and at other site visits. A Monitoring Report will be added each year, with site photographs to show hedgerow development over time. See Appendix 4 onwards.

Summary

The planting and management of new hedgerows help to redress the balance of those lost over past decades to intensive farming, neglect or poor management. Well-maintained hedges help the farm environment by reducing soil erosion and water runoff. Hedgerows are an integral part of the English landscape and benefit wildlife by providing feeding stations, nesting opportunities and sanctuary. They also serve as corridors; enabling safe migration of wildlife from one area to another. MWHG is committed to the long term management of this hedgerow, planted 2011. Manhood Wildlife and Heritage is an active conservation group dedicated to the protection, enhancement and preservation of the natural and cultural well-being of the Manhood Peninsula.

Sources

Chichester Harbour Conservancy Management Plan 2009 - 2014
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP)
Chichester District Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP 2000) amended 2010
Hedgerow Habitat Action Plan www.hedgelink.org.uk
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Attached to this document

Useful Contacts.....	Appendix 1
Location & Utilities Map.....	Appendix 2
Baseline Survey.....	Appendix 3
Monitoring Report – Year 0 (March 2011 – February 2012)..... and Site Photographs: Spring 2011.....	Appendix 4 and 4A
Monitoring Report – Half Year 1 (March – September 2012)..... and Site Photographs: Summer 2012.....	Appendix 5 and 5A

Abbreviations used

CHC MWHG WSCC BAP LBAP	Chichester Harbour Conservancy Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group West Sussex County Council Biodiversity Action Plan Local Biodiversity Action Plan
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