

Our Ref: 19-1281

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Dear James,

FEWCOTT ROAD, FRITWELL /BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT MATRIC

This letter has been produced following your instruction to carry out a Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) calculation regarding the proposed development plan at the above Site. This letter has been produced to detail the methods of work that have led to the habitat enhancement recommendations for the Site.

Methodology

The BIA was calculated based upon the existing habitat recorded from the results of the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (ref: 18-1615) and the plans for the proposed development (ref: PL.02_Rev G Illustrative Site Layout Plan). Input for the proposed habitat also came from the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) reports issued by Lockhart Garratt (ref: 18-0038 and 18-1515 respectively).

The habitats were separated and inputted into the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) BIA calculator.

The habitat types are based upon standardised Phase 1 Habitat codes. The quality of the habitat was recorded as either 'Poor', 'Moderate' or 'Good' based on the results from the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Report.

Calculation Results

Initial results from the BIA calculation determined that the proposed development would result in a net loss of biodiversity. The habitat that is most likely going to reduce the biodiversity of the Site after the proposed works is the semi-improved grassland. This habitat was found to be species-poor during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey and plans to preserve an area of grassland in the paddock in the southern portion of the Site are already featured in the proposed development plan. However, the substantial decrease in the size of this habitat would have a large impact on the biodiversity present within the Site.

Another habitat that will be lost due to the proposed development is the tall ruderal and ephemeral vegetation that has mixed in with the bare ground, semi-improved grassland and improved grassland habitats. As most of these habitats are to be removed as part of the proposed works, the substantial loss in habitat area for this vegetation will likely result in a loss in biodiversity within the Site.

Positive gains in biodiversity were calculated for the hedgerows and the scattered trees currently found within the Site and in the proposed development plan. This accompanied by the recommendations found within the LVIA and AIA ensures that these habitats will have an increase in biodiversity due to the proposed development plans.

Table 1: BIA Calculation Results without enhancements

Phase 1 habitat	Loss / Gain
Woodland and Scrub	0.60
Grassland and Marsh	-2.09
Tall Herb and Fern	-0.80
Heathland	0.00
Mire	0.00
Swamp, Marginal and Inundation	0.00
Open Water	0.00
Rock Exposure and Waste	0.00
Hedgerows	0.04
Miscellaneous	-0.17
Total biodiversity units	-2

Recommended Improvements

In order to achieve a net gain in biodiversity within the Site, I recommend the following habitat changes and enhancements:

- One large pond or several smaller ponds totalling an area of approximately 0.05ha should be created on Site.

- Areas of marginal planting should be created around the pond(s) totalling an approximate area of 0.04ha.
- Any space of non-designated improved grassland should be bordered along the margins by semi-improved grassland and allowed to establish over two growing seasons before undergoing maintenance works. The overall increase in area of this habitat should cover at least 0.04ha within the Site.
- Any plants introduced as part of the proposed development should be native species, preferably of local provenance or species beneficial to wildlife. Species that provide shelter or a source of foraging for small mammals, birds and invertebrates would increase the biodiversity within the Site even further.

Table 2: BIA Calculation Results with enhancements

Phase 1 habitat	Loss / Gain
Woodland and Scrub	0.60
Grassland and Marsh	0.45
Tall Herb and Fern	-0.80
Heathland	0.00
Mire	0.00
Swamp, Marginal and Inundation	0.28
Open Water	0.17
Rock Exposure and Waste	0.00
Hedgerows	0.04
Miscellaneous	-0.17
Total biodiversity units	1

For further detail on recommendations and biodiversity enhancements, please refer to the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report, the LVIA and the AIA.

Yours sincerely,



Thomas Haynes MSc, MCIEEM
Principal Ecological Consultant