



The Ecology Co-op

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Executive Summary

Biodiversity Impact Calculation

Phase 2 Rickman's Green Village, Crouchlands Farm, Billingshurst

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The Ecology Co-operation Ltd

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Report Summary

1. The Ecology Co-op was commissioned by Artemis Land and Agriculture Ltd to undertake a Biodiversity Impact Calculation for the Phase 2 development of Rickman's Green Village, Crouchland's Farm, Billingshurst, using the Biodiversity Metric 3.1, to quantify net change in biodiversity. The proposed application is in outline form and as such a detailed plan has not been provided for the site and an accurate calculation cannot be determined at this point. However, at the request of the client a calculation has been completed based upon the proposed plans which include a buffer zone/ecotone along the boundaries of the fields and a development area.

2. The proposed development scheme for the Phase 2 development of Rickman's Green Village at this site predicts the loss of:

- Modified grassland – 21.87ha (Poor) and 1.2ha (Moderate)
- Other neutral grassland – 0.76ha (Moderate)
- Bramble scrub – 0.2ha (Moderate)
- Native species-rich hedgerow (Moderate). – 0.32km (x1 20m access point / 300m hedge)
- Native species-rich hedgerow (Good) – 0.02km (x1 20m access point)
- Native species-rich hedgerow with trees (Good) – 40m (x2 20m access points)

The proposed development scheme at this site will likely retain:

On-site

- Lowland deciduous woodland (Good) – 0.16ha
- Modified grassland (Moderate)– 0.8ha
- Native species-rich hedgerow (Good) – 0.21km
- Native species-rich hedgerow (Moderate) – 0.57km
- Native species-rich hedgerow (unmanaged) (Good) – 0.23km
- Native species-rich hedgerow with trees (Good) – 0.91km
- Line of trees (Good)– 0.16km

Post intervention the following habitats will be created:

On-site

- Developed land; sealed surface – 14.51ha. (This includes areas of buildings, roads, gardens, allotments, play areas, urban trees, paths, and modified grassland which would provide a different number of habitat units based upon the size and condition).
- Buffer zone/ecotone planting 30m (width) – 5.52ha. (other woodland – 1.84ha, mixed scrub – 1.84ha, other neutral grassland – 1.84ha)
- Buffer zone/ecotone planting 10m (width) – 3.2ha. (mixed scrub – 1.6ha, other neutral grassland – 1.6ha)

3. The Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Calculation has demonstrated that the proposed scheme predicts a likely net gain of 0.63 habitat units, totalling a +1.05% net change. The linear feature calculation for the proposed scheme results in a likely loss of -3.73 hedgerow units, totaling a -12.32% net change. It is considered likely that both the habitat and hedgerow units will be delivered when the final development plan is determined through native planting of hedges, urban trees and the inclusion of gardens, allotments and other areas of amenity grassland within a subsequent reserved matters application, with none of these features presently incorporated into the metric. It is estimated that at least 1km of new native species rich hedgerow will need to be created in order to achieve 10% gain in hedgerow units, with clear opportunities to incorporate a significant amount of hedgerow planting within a reserved matters application, based on a detailed landscape plan.

4. The outline scheme satisfies the trading rules within the Biodiversity Metric 3.1. The calculation has identified a 'Low Distinctiveness Broad Habitat Deficit' of 22.27 Habitat Units and a 'Medium Distinctiveness Broad Habitat Deficit' of 0.96 Habitat Units.

5. The calculation outlined within this report has been produced for indicative/feasibility purposes only and CANNOT be considered as an accurate biodiversity impact calculation until a detailed landscape plan is provided. The result shows how the newly created buffer zones almost provide sufficient habitat units so that the mandatory 10% will be achieved when a reserved matters application is made.