

Network Rail Proposed Electrification Works Between Dunblane and Aberdeen Stations EIA Screening Opinion Request

Appendix F Extracts from ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan) on Biodiversity Accounting

Biodiversity Accounting

Project works may include the removal of biodiversity through de-vegetation activities. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal has provided a baseline for the existing biodiversity units on the project. Where vegetation removal is required for the works, the Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Metric 3.0 shall be utilised to calculate the offsetting requirements to ensure a no net loss of biodiversity. During the survey and design element of the contract, opportunities for onsite enhancement shall be identified and proposed for biodiversity net gain. This may include areas where the existing habitat is in poor condition and can be improved, or areas where no habitat exists, and locally important species can be planted to provide a net gain.

Avoidance

The habitat information shall be utilised to illustrate options which will reduce the value of habitat removal. This will include but not be limited to:

- Sighting the equipment on bare ground as much as possible

- Educating design team of habitat values and the importance of avoiding high value habitats.

An overview of the habitat types and calculation shall be provided in Table 3-5.

Validation

The biodiversity calculation and biodiversity units removed will be updated through the design process and validated at the end of the project.

Net Gain

Opportunities to deliver net gain will be assessed with a focus on delivering locally, regionally and then nationally. The scheme utilised to deliver net gain will be included within future updates. A baseline of the biodiversity units currently found within the footprint is given in Table 3-5. This shall be updated following design confirmation once de-veg requirements are known.

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.-1 Biodiversity Calculation

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ELR	Broad Habitat	Habitat Type	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Condition Rating	Total Units	Area Removed (m ³)	Biodiversity Units Removed
Section 1								
	Cropland	Arable field margins cultivated annually	14.54	Medium	N/A Agricultural	58.16		
	Grassland	Modified grassland	30.25	Low	Moderate	121		
	Grassland	Other neutral grassland	0.67	Medium	Moderate	5.36		
	Heathland and shrub	Mixed scrub	16.2	Medium	Moderate	129.60		
	Urban	Developed land, sealed surface	1.88	Very Low	N/A - Other	0		
	Urban	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.11	Very Low	N/A - Other	0		
	Urban	Built linear features	54.63	Very Low	N/A - Other	0		
	Woodland and forest	Other woodland: broadleaved	15.82	Medium	Moderate	126.48		
	Woodland and forest	Other coniferous woodland	0.5	Low	Moderate	2		
	River	Other Rivers and Stream	0.64 (km)	High	Fairly Good			
Section 2								
	Cropland	Arable field margins	18.67	Medium	N/A Agricultural	74.68		
	Grassland	Modified grassland	4.392	Low	Moderate	17.57		
	Grassland	Other neutral grassland	1.2	Medium	Moderate	9.60		
	Heathland and shrub	Mixed scrub	6.2	Medium	Moderate	49.60		

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	Urban	Develop land, sealed surface	6.14	Very Low	N/A - Other	0		
	Urban	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	2.64	Very Low	N/A - Other	0		
	Urban	Built linear features	42.28	Very Low	N/A - Other	0		
	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	19.32	Medium	Moderate	154.56		
	Woodland and forest	Other coniferous woodland	0.48	Low	Moderate	1.92		
Section 3								
	Cropland	Arable field margins cultivated annually	24.35	Medium	N/A - Agricultural	97.40		
	Grassland	Modified grassland	6.73	Low	Moderate	26.92		
	Grassland	Other neutral grassland	3.2	Medium	Moderate	25.60		
	Heathland and shrub	Mixed scrub	9.52	Medium	Moderate	76.16		
	Urban	Developed land; sealed surface	14.6	Very Low	N/A - Other	0		
	Urban	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	4.65	Very Low	N/A - Other	0		
	Urban	Built linear features	67.59	Very Low	N/A - Other	0		
	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	15.2	Medium	Moderate	121.60		
	Woodland and forest	Other coniferous woodland	0.48	Low	Moderate	1.92		
Section 4								
	Cropland	Arable field margins cultivated annually	26.75	Medium	N/A - Agricultural	107		

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	Grassland	Modified grassland	3.25	Low	Moderate	13		
	Grassland	Other neutral grassland	0.35	Medium	Moderate	2.80		
	Heathland and shrub	Mixed scrub	13.44	Medium	Moderate	107.52		
	Urban	Developed land; sealed surface	16.2	Very Low	N/A - Other	0		
	Urban	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	5.34	Very Low	N/A - Other	0		
	Urban	Built linear features	78.73	Very Low	N/A - Other	0		
	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	14.5	Medium	Moderate	116		
	Woodland and forest	Other coniferous woodland	1.2	Low	Moderate	4.80		
Section 5								
	Cropland	Arable field margins cultivated annually	2.44	Medium	N/A – Agricultural	9.76		
	Grassland	Modified grassland	9.06	Low	Moderate	36.24		
	Grassland	Other neutral grassland	1.4	Medium	Moderate	11.20		
	Heathland and shrub	Mixed scrub	10.97	Medium	Moderate	87.76		
	Urban	Developed land; sealed surface	6.14	Very Low	N/A – Other	0		
	Urban	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	3.84	Very Low	N/A – Other	0		
	Urban	Built linear features	41.33	Very Low	N/A – Other	0		
	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	6.13	Medium	Moderate	49.04		

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Total Baseline: 1645.25	Total Removed: TBC	Total Removed: TBC
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Note: Biodiversity calculation was determined using the Biodiversity Metric 3.0

Biodiversity Management

Where the PEA has identified protected species and works in these areas cannot be avoided, a Precautionary Working Method Statement shall be developed to appropriately manage activities where there is a significant risk of protected or invasive species being impacted by works, and Environmental Permit must be sought and adhered to.