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ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN AND ECOLOGY

**PROPOSED CARE HOME AND SUPPORTED  
LIVING ACCOMMODATION AT  
POTHOUSE LANE  
STOCKSBRIDGE**

**BIODIVERSITY METRIC 4.0**

**(November 2023)**

**REPORT REF: 2355 - PHA**



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**Introduction.**

Paul Hicking Associates were commissioned by Millhouse Care to undertake a biodiversity impact assessment for the proposed care home and supported living accommodation at Pothouse Lane, Stocksbridge in order to assess the potential impact of the site wide change of use to achieve the required 10% biodiversity net gain using the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Auditing and accounting for biodiversity Calculation tool.

The development proposals comprise of the construction of a new care home for up to 90 residents and supported living accommodation for up to 29 residents with associated hard and soft landscaping.



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**Site Surveys and supporting survey effort.**

2023 – a survey of the existing habitats present within the site was undertaken by Paul Hicking Associates on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to assess the condition of the habitats present within the development site

A photographic record of the habitats present within the development site recorded on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 is included within Appendix A of this report.

**Methodology.****Habitat Survey**

The terrestrial Habitat survey was carried out on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by experience surveyor and practical habitat manager Mr. P Hicking to determine the general ecological value of the habitats within the site. The surrounding area was also extensively walked to determine the sites connectivity to other adjacent habitats. A list of plant species was catalogued in accordance with habitat type and tested against Ratcliffe's Criteria. Habitats were mapped and classified in accordance with the Phase 1 Habitat Survey Methodology of the UK Habitat Classification (ukhab, 2021). The data was then checked against the data obtained from the desktop study to determine how the study site sits within the local network of habitats and its potential contribution.

## Weather Conditions

Table 1:

Date	Weather Conditions
25/08/2023	20°C Dry and sunny with wind 0, 10% high cloud cover.

**Existing Habitats.**

The development site comprises of the following habitats;

Habitat Type	Size ha.	Condition
Developed land sealed surface	0.0806	Assessment n/a
Modified (Amenity) grassland	0.0434	Poor
Tall ruderal	0.00428	Poor
Introduced shrub	0.02188	Poor
Semi-improved grassland	0.45204	Poor
Urban tree	0.0774	Small and medium Good
Urban tree	0.0896	Small and medium moderate

Total site area of 0.6022ha with a biodiversity unit value of **3.59 units**.

All areas have been calculated using the current topographical survey of the site to establish an existing base-line ecological value for the site.

Proposals.

A defined scheme for the proposed development is not available at this time for the outline application. Biodiversity Net Gain will be lawfully introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. The development will therefore be required to achieve a net gain of 10% for the proposals. The overall site post development will therefore be required to achieve the following unit value;

Total site area of 0.6022ha with a biodiversity unit value of **3.949 units**.

Trading rules for the habitat types will also be required to be satisfied to achieve a positive outcome

Hedgerows

There is currently hedgerows/line of trees present within the site with a unit value of 0.08 units.

The requirement for the 10% gain will require the unit value for hedgerows to achieve **0.088 units**.

**Appendix A**

Site record photographs taken during the site survey 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023.









