

# **COYNE ENVIRONMENTAL**

**Little Ravenscourt**

**Amwell Hill**

**Great Amwell**



## **Biodiversity Net Gain Report**

**November 2023**

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## INTRODUCTION

Coyne Environmental has been instructed by Country & City to carry out an Ecological Assessment of Little Ravenscourt. This is to establish the potential presence or absence of protected ecological features of significance and carry out an assessment to obtain a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in accordance with the Environment Act 2021. A planning application is in preparation to submit East Herts Council (EHC) for a new dwelling and garden with parking.

I am a qualified Ecologist, Associate of the Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management with over 35 years' experience in the environmental field. This includes being a licence bat worker (Bat Licence 2015-15943-CLS-CLS). The initial Ecological Assessment survey was carried out on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023.



It is proposed to use the Standard Metric 4.0 for this project to obtain the BNG for the site and put forward biodiversity and mitigation measures to obtain a minimum 10% gain. The initial BNG metric was below the necessary 10% Net Gain and had to be reviewed. Additional landscape proposals have now been included in the mitigation proposals and the Excel metric has been re-calculated. This has achieved a **NET GAIN of 11.73%** as set out in the accompanying Excel Sheet. This shows that the **BNG TARGET** has been met and can be submitted as required to EHC.

## HEAD LINE RESULTS

|                       |                |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total net unit change |                |                |
|                       | Habitat Units  | <b>11.73%</b>  |
|                       | Hedgerow Units | <b>234.73%</b> |
| Total net % change    |                |                |
|                       | Habitat Units  | 11.73%         |
|                       | Hedgerow Units | 234.73%        |

|   |                |      |
|---|----------------|------|
| Habitats units needed required to meet target |                |      |
|   | Habitat Units  | 0.61 |
|   | Hedgerow Units | 0.01 |

This indicates that the required BNG can be achieved with no need for off-site mitigation. The proposals will therefore gain the necessary overall **10% gain**, as seen in the Detailed Results and as set out in the landscape proposal plan.

## DETAILED RESULTS

|                        |                |         |
|------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Base Line Value        |                |         |
|                        | Habitat Units  | 0.56    |
|                        | Hedgerow Units | 0.02    |
| Post development value |                |         |
|                        | Habitat Units  | 0.21    |
|                        | Hedgerow Units | 0.08    |
| Net gain targets       |                |         |
|                        | Habitat Units  | 0.19    |
|                        | Hedgerow Units | 0.01    |
| Total net unit change  |                |         |
|                        | Habitat Units  | 11.73%  |
|                        | Hedgerow Units | 234.73% |
| Total net % change     |                |         |
|                        | Habitat Units  | 11.73%  |
|                        | Hedgerow Units | 234.73% |

## TRADING RESULTS

|                                   |                |        |         |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|
| <b>On site Base Line</b>          |                |        |         |
|                                   | Habitat Units  | 0.56   |         |
|                                   | Hedgerow Units | 0.03   |         |
| <b>On site post intervention</b>  |                |        |         |
|                                   | Habitat Units  | 0.21   |         |
|                                   | Hedgerow Units | 0.08   |         |
| <b>Off-site Base Line</b>         |                |        |         |
|                                   | Habitat Units  | -0.19  |         |
|                                   | Hedgerow Units | 0.00   |         |
| <b>Off-site post intervention</b> |                |        |         |
|                                   | Habitat Units  | 0.61   |         |
|                                   | Hedgerow Units | 0.01   |         |
| <b>Off-site net change</b>        |                |        |         |
|                                   | Habitat Units  | 0.42   | 218.71% |
|                                   | Hedgerow Units | 0.00   | 0.00%   |
| <b>On site net change</b>         |                |        |         |
|                                   | Habitat Units  | -0.35% | 62.27%  |

|                                 |                |         |         |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|
|                                 | Hedgerow Units | 0.00    | 234.73% |
| <b>Combined net unit change</b> |                |         |         |
|                                 | Habitat Units  | 0.07    |         |
|                                 | Hedgerow Units | 0.00    |         |
| <b>Total net % change</b>       |                |         |         |
|                                 | Habitat Units  | 11.73%  |         |
|                                 | Hedgerow Units | 234.73% |         |

#### TRADING SUMMARY

| Unit type     | Target | Baseline Unit | Unit required | Unit deficit |
|---------------|--------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Habitat Unit  | 10.00% | 0.56          | 0.21          | 0.61         |
| Hedgerow Unit | 10.00% | 0.03          | 0.08          | 0.01         |

#### ASSESSMENT

The Biodiversity Metric shows a total net % change habitat unit of **11.73%** and a total net % change hedgerow unit of **234.73%** so the overall **BNG meets the minimum 10.00 %** required. This therefore meets the Environment Act 2021 mandatory requirement for information on biodiversity.

To achieve this result On -Site enhancement, of the current landscape proposals will have to be carried out, along with Off-Site mitigation as follows:

##### On -Site enhancement:

The new landscape proposal should form part of the mitigation

##### Off -Site mitigation:

750m<sup>2</sup> converting poor grassland to wild flower meadow ([www.wildflower.co.uk](http://www.wildflower.co.uk) Mix LWXP)

200m<sup>2</sup> native shrub planting (hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, spindle, dog rose mix)

25m lin. hedge of native whips (hawthorn, field maple, holly mix)

All stock to be protected against wildlife

All stock to be maintained for 12 month and any that die are to be replaced at no cost.

#### REVIEW

Coyne Environmental has been instructed to assess the potential presence or absence of protected ecological features of significance at Little Ravenscourt and carry out an assessment to obtain a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in accordance with the Environment Act 2021. This is part of a planning proposal for a new dwelling within the grounds of Little Ravenscourt, to be submitted to East Herts Council.

A Preliminary Ecological Analysis (PEA) has already been undertaken in a separate Report. The requirement for information on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) has now been undertaken, using the Standard Metric 4.0 calculation and indicates that the **10% gain** can be achieved. The two Reports and the accompanying Excel Sheet form a joint proposal of the Ecological Assessment (EA) indicating that the development will have minimal effect on ecology and provide the opportunity to increase the areas biodiversity.

## **CONCLUSION**

In accordance with BCT Guidelines and having regard to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, I conclude that this site does not contain evidence of areas of significance and high biodiversity value, including European Protected Species (EPS), and assess that no further surveys would be needed to confirm this absence.

Therefore, in my professional opinion the Ecology Appraisal Report and the Biodiversity Net Gain Report, satisfy the requirements in respect of biodiversity enhancement as required for submission to EHC. I recommend that the application can be considered on this basis and that no further environment surveys are necessary to determine the application.

## **REFERENCES**

Proposed Landscape Design Proposals  
Little Ravenscourt Plan  
UKHAB Baseline Habitat Map  
The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)  
BS 42020 (2013)  
EU Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020.











NOTES:

Plan to be read in conjunction with the clients drawings and other relevant landscape drawings.

No measurements are to be scaled of these drawings. Work from figured dimensions only.

All measurements and levels are to be checked out on site. Landscape architect to be notified immediately of any discrepancies prior to the commencement of works.

KEY:

-  Proposed (Wildflower seeding)
-  Proposed Shrubs
-  Proposed Lawns
-  Proposed Hedge
-  Proposed Trees
-  Existing Trees
-  Building area
-  Driveway

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|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| PROJECT NO: | DATE:      |
| LR012       | 30.11.2023 |
| REVISION:   |            |
| A           |            |

