



Biodiversity Impact Assessment
Land off Rownall Road
Cheddleton
Staffordshire Moorlands
NGR SJ95102 49501

Assessment by
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	Reviewed by: KLB	Report Version: V1
	Report ref: P2359 / 0122 - 03	C B E Consulting Highbank, 5 Grantham Road, Navenby Lincoln. LN5 0JJ. Telephone (01522) 810086. www.cbeconsulting.co.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 Site Description and Location

The site being assessed comprises agricultural land utilised for arable production situated to the west of Rownall Road, Cheddleton, Staffordshire centred at NGR SJ9102 49501. The location of the site is shown on the plan within **Figure 1** and an aerial photograph has been provided within **Figure 2** to place the site in context.

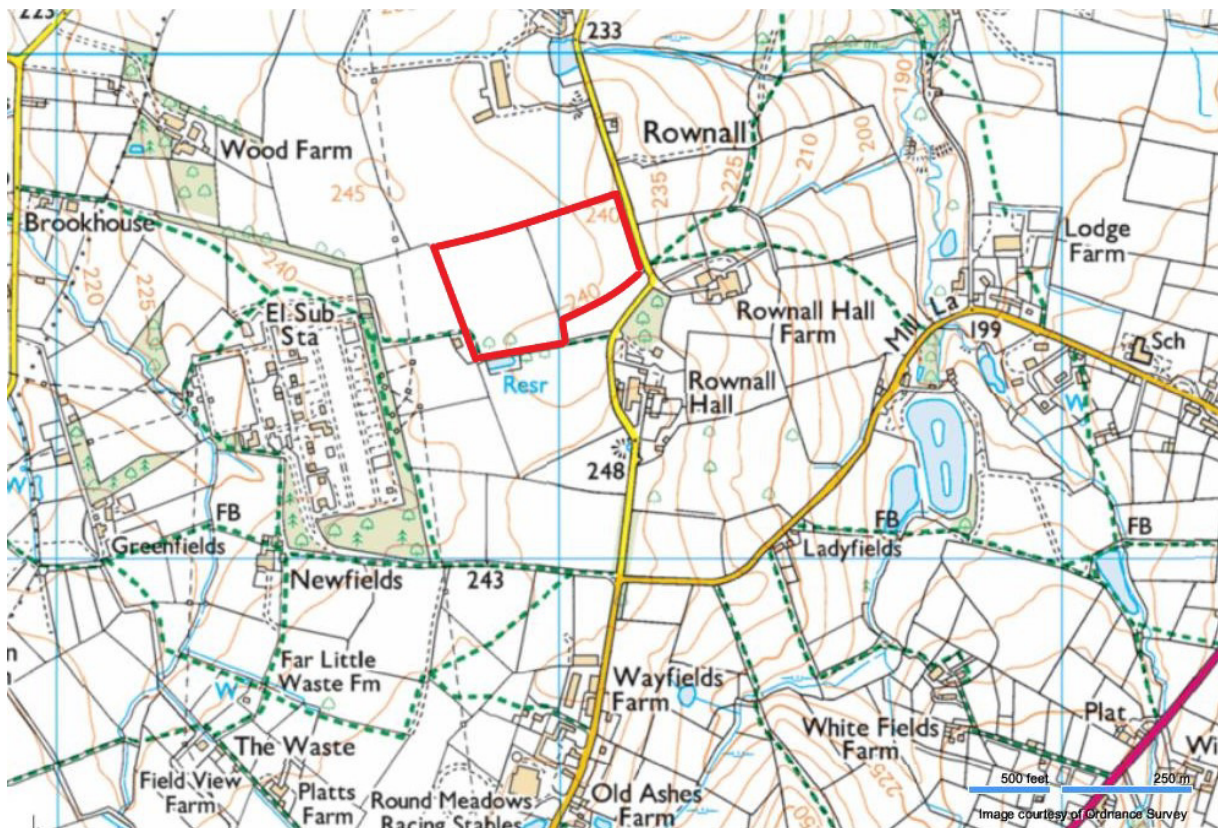


Figure 1: Site location.

Copyright Ordnance Survey Mapping 2022

The defined site area was the subject of an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey prepared by CBE Consulting based on an inspection completed in July 2021 (report reference P2359 / 0921 – 012 dated 09th September 2021).

The defined site area comprises two fields of arable land divided by an internal hedgerow. The land has arable and grazing land to all sides. The field boundaries and internal hedgerow contain a significant number of mature trees of significant stature. The land has been agricultural land since Ordnance Survey plans were first published and there is no record of it ever having been used for any purpose except crop production.

An application has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority to redevelop the existing site and use one of the two arable fields as a battery store site and provide access through the other field area. A development plan has been prepared as part of the application process. The Local Planning Authority have requested that a biodiversity impact assessment should be carried out for the site to determine the potential impact on biodiversity which could result from the proposed redevelopment.

The current biodiversity value of the land can be assessed and determined using the information within the Phase 1 Habitat Survey prepared by CBE consulting which identifies and classifies the habitat present within the site area. The biodiversity offset methodology developed by Warwickshire County Council has been used to complete this assessment,

the details of which are provided as Appendix 1 (separate appendix). A copy of the Phase 1 Habitat plan and the proposed development plan are provided within Appendix 2.



Figure 2: Site Contextual Aerial Photograph

Image Copyright Microsoft Mapping 2021

2. Phase 1 Habitat Report and Proposed Development.

2.1 Habitat descriptions

Within the 2021 Phase I Habitat Survey the following habitats were identified within the area assessed:

- Arable Land with narrow field margins
- Semi-improved grassland
- Boundary Hedgerows with trees

The total area originally surveyed within the Ecology report is larger than the area now being developed and for the purposes of this assessment only the area being developed or disturbed and utilised for landscaping purposes is being included within the biodiversity calculation. This is an area of 50,740m², the majority of which is under arable production and seasonally cultivated. The area under the new facility and within the acoustic barrier is only 32580m² and this entire area will be utilised for the development. Additional arable land outside of this is to be utilised for landscaping and habitat creation purposes.

Assessment of the site using the habitat survey plan has identified that the different habitat over the calculated areas stated above within the site and these values have been used for assessment purposes.

Existing arable land: 4.54 hectares = 45,410m²

Existing semi-improved grassland: 0.53 hectares = 5330m²

Existing hedgerow around the field boundaries: = 1900 linear metres

2.2 Proposed development plan

The site area assessed measures 5.07 hectares. The new development incorporates significant tree planting and landscaped areas around the margins of the new battery storage area. The area measurements below provided by the Planning Consultant have been used to help assess the habitats to be created after development of the land.

1. Total Site Area: 5.07 hectares = 50,740 m²
2. Total Site Area under battery storage after development): 3.26 hectares = 32,580m²
3. New Native Shrub Planting: 0.62 hectares = 6,280 sqm
4. New Buffer Planting: 0.19 hectares = 1,910 sqm
5. New Woodland Planting: 0.53 hectares = 5,330 sqm
6. New Field Margin Seeding: 0.47 hectares = 4,640 sqm
7. New Hedge Planting: = 3,115 linear metres

The existing mature trees and hedgerows around the arable field and adjacent to the southern boundary of the cultivated land will not be disturbed. Further tree, hedgerow and shrub planting is proposed to provide screening for the development area and access track and a small field of good quality semi-improved grassland on the south-eastern boundary of the cultivated land is to be utilised to create a broadleaved woodland area to extend a small woodland compartment that is adjacent to this. A landscape plan prepared by Stephenson Halliday (reference Figure 06 Landscape Mitigation Plan) provides details of the species and sizes of trees and shrubs to be planted to provide screening for the development area.

2.3 Biodiversity Impact Calculation

The assumptions made within the biodiversity impact calculation are stated above based on the proposed layout and areas shown within the development plan.

The development plan as it is with the assumptions made above results in a net gain in calculated biodiversity units across this site area of 9.08 units and an increase in hedgerow biodiversity units of 1.11. This increase in biodiversity arises principally from the replacement of arable land which has a relatively low biodiversity unit score with an area of woodland, scrub planting and marginal areas of semi-improved grassland and hedgerow planting.

The calculation summary sheet is provided below. The full biodiversity calculation spreadsheet is provided as Appendix 1.



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Biodiversity Impact Assessment Summary



Derived Locally from the Defra Metric
Version 19.0 (01/04/2018)

Site name: Rownall Road, Cheddleton

Planning reference number: to be copied from the BIA sheet

Existing	Habitat Area (ha)	Hedgerow impact (km)	Connectivity Features (km)	Habitat Biodiversity Value	Hedgerow Biodiversity Value	Connectivity Biodiversity Value
Onsite Biodiversity Impact	5.07	0.00	0.00	11.20	1.90	0.00
Indirect Biodiversity Impact	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total habitat / linear features impacted	5.07	0.00	0.00	11.20	1.90	0.00
Retained / Created / Enhanced						
Onsite biodiversity retained	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Onsite Creation	5.07	0.31	0.00	20.28	1.11	0.00
Biodiversity retained and enhanced	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total biodiversity retained/enhanced	5.07	0.50	0.00	20.28	1.11	0.00
Trading Down						
	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.00	0.00	0.00
Biodiversity Impact	n/a	n/a	n/a	9.08	1.11	0.00

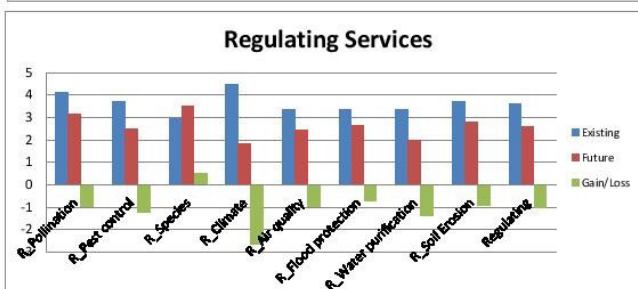
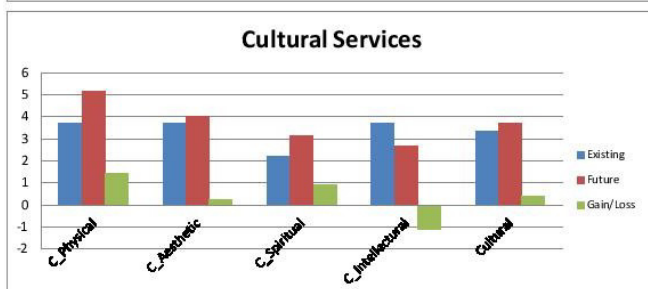
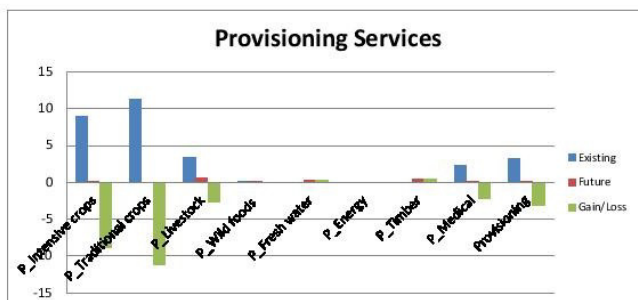
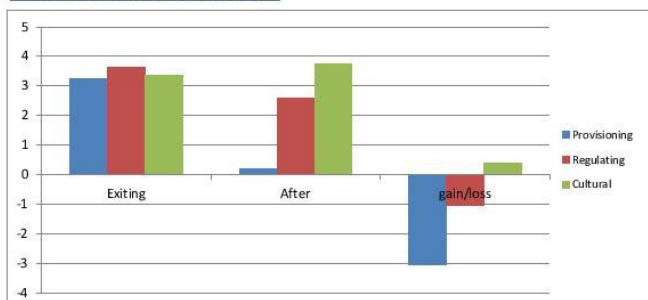
Habitat Impacts	Loss	Gain	Impact	%age losses	Compensatory Unit loss	Indicative Offset (ha)	WCC Offset units	WCC Indicative Offset Contribution
Woodland Habitat	0.00	11.22	11.22					
Grassland Habitat	2.12	3.13	1.01					
Wetland Habitat	0.00	0.00	0.00					
Other Habitat (incl. Built Env)	9.08	5.93	-3.15			Transferred to Wetland		
Total	11.20	20.28	9.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	£0
		Trading down	0.00					
			9.08					

Hedgerow Impacts	Loss	Gain	Trading down	Impact	Unit loss	Indicative Offset (km)	WCC Offset units	WCC Offset Contribution
Hedgerow	0.00	1.11		1.11				

SUMMARY

This development will result in 9.08 Habitat Biodiversity Units gain; 1.11 Hedgerow Units gain and 0 Connectivity Biodiversity Units loss

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES ANALYSIS



For any questions with regard to biodiversity impact and this development please contact Warwickshire County Council Ecological Services:
email: planningecology@warwickshire.gov.uk or telephone 01926 418060

Full Assessment Contained within a separate Appendix 1

Appendix 2 – Habitat Plan and Development Plan

Proposed Development Plan



Habitat Plan July 2021

