



The Ecology Co-op

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Unit 4, Langham Stables, Langham Lane, Lodsworth, West Sussex, GU28 9BU

Tel: 01798 861 800 - E-Mail: info@ecologyco-op.co.uk - Web: www.ecologyco-op.co.uk

P4697 Little Reeds Advice Note May 2024.

Introduction

This advice note has been prepared by The Ecology Co-op on behalf of the client Mick Cave.

- The Ecology Co-op previously undertook an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) of Little Reeds in January 2023 in relation to a proposal to inform a planning application to construct an acoustic bund along the western boundary of the site adjacent to the A23¹.
- A walkover survey was undertaken on 16th May 2024 by Dan Bennett BSc., MCIEEM, Principal Ecologist, and Nik Neale Assistant Ecologist to determine if the habitats present on site and identified in the previous EclA are still relevant.
- This advice note has been prepared to present the findings of the updated walkover survey, in line with the original EclA assessment.

Little Reeds Farm is located on the eastern side of the A23, north of Hickstead, West Sussex. The postcode for the site is RH17 5LY. The central grid reference for the site is TQ 2686 8083. Figure 1 shows the boundary of the site and local context.

¹ Ecological Impact Assessment. Little Reeds Farm, Hickstead. 3rd January 2023.



Figure 1. An aerial image showing the location of the site with approximate site boundary, (outlined in red). Image produced courtesy of Google Maps (map data 2022 Google).

The original site walkover to assess the habitats was undertaken on the 7th December 2021, during which the habitats were classified according to UK Habitat Classification (UKHab)². The area habitats of the site was broadly split into two field parcels, and based on the species composition, these fields were both described as an intermediate mix between ‘*Lolium-Cynosurus* neutral grassland (UKHab code = g3c6)’ and ‘modified grassland (UKHab code = g4)’, areas of hardstanding were also identified upon the site visit with buildings present in the centre of the site. Other habitats were also identified present around the boundary of the site including; mixed scrub and mixed trees, further information can be found in the EclA³

At the time of the site visit on 7th December 2021, the grassland habitats were recently subject to intensive grazing pressure, and therefore a short sward was present. The habitats had not recently been grazed at the time of the site visit on 16th May 2024 and therefore different species were identified, and an area of other neutral grassland was identified.

The updated site walkover undertaken on 16th May 2024 identified the following habitats on site at Little Reeds;

- Line of trees (UKHab code = w1g6)

² The UK Habitat Classification Working Group (2018) *The UK Habitat Classification User Manual* at <http://ecountability.co.uk/ukhabworkinggroup-ukhab>

³ Ecological Impact Assessment. Little Reeds Farm, Hickstead. 3rd January 2023.

- Native hedgerow (UKHab code = h2a)
- Canal or ditch (UKHab code = r1e)
- Other neutral grassland (UKHab code = g3c)
- Modified grassland (UKHab code = g4)
- Built up areas and gardens (UKHab code = u1)
- Developed land sealed surface (UKHab code = u1b)
- Buildings (UKHab code = u1b5)
- Sparsely vegetated land (UKHab code = S)

The habitats identified on the site were mapped using QGIS, see Figure 2. The habitats on site identified during the updated walkover (16th May 2024) were not dissimilar to the original walkover (7th December 2021).

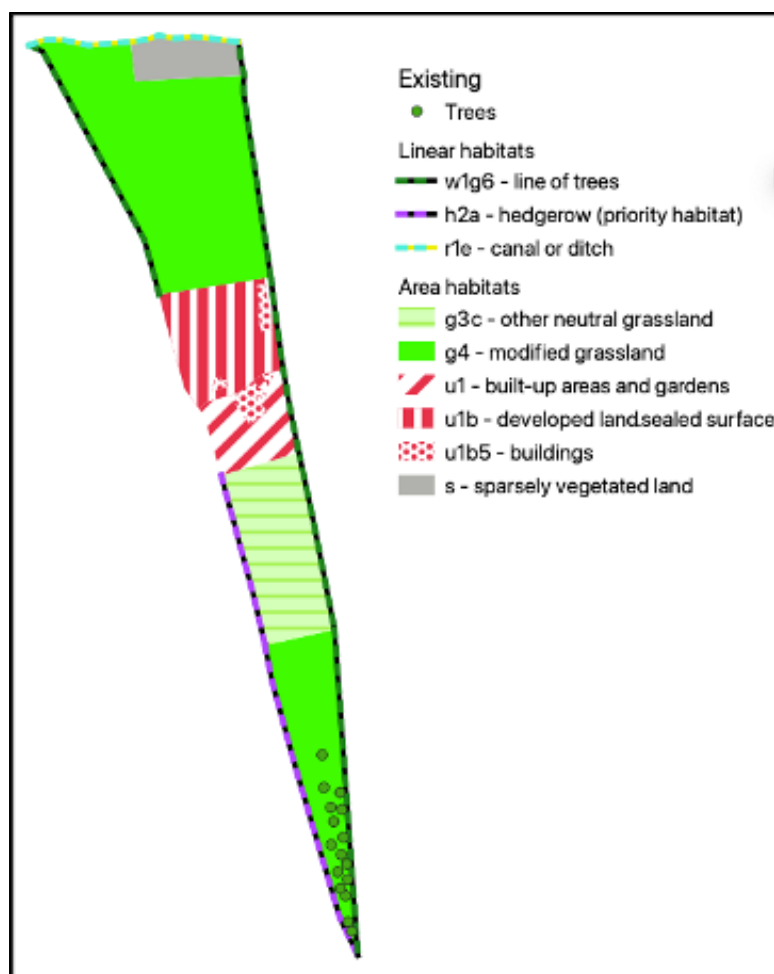


Figure 2. UKHAB map showing existing habitats within the site. Produced using QGIS software, version 4.06.3 - Hannover.

Conclusion

In conclusion the proposal at Little Reeds for the installation of an acoustic bund remains the same, and the updated walkover survey concludes with the mitigation proposals as set out in the original EcIA as appropriate. The development is also required to have a measurably positive impact upon biodiversity in line with the 10% Biodiversity Net Gain requirement of which a separate report will be issued alongside the planning application.

Kind regards,



Nik Neale BSc, Assistant Ecologist, Email: nik@ecologyco-op.co.uk,

Office: Unit 4,
Langham Stables,
Lodsworth,
Petworth,
GU28 9BU

Phone: 01798 861800

The Ecology Co-operation Ltd
Registered Office: Greens Court, West Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9NQ
Company number: 8905527