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DESIGN PACKAGE C122 – BORED TUNNELS

Biodiversity Accounting Report Central Section

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1 Introduction

Ove Arup & Partners Ltd (Arup) was commissioned by Crossrail Limited to undertake a biodiversity accounting study. The purpose of this study is to assess and quantify the amount of biodiversity to be lost and gained as a result of development at seventeen of the Crossrail sites across London (Central Section). Landscaping plans to be implemented after development and those already implemented allow an assessment of biodiversity gain to be made on each site, and collectively across the Central section. The Defra toolkit¹ for calculating 'biodiversity units' will be used to calculate the losses and gains.

1.1 Crossrail's Commitments

Under the Environment Minimum Requirements, the following general principles will be applied where applicable:

- After construction, habitats or ecological features that have been affected by construction activities will be reinstated or allowed to recolonise so that (as far as reasonably practicable), they recover to their pre-construction conditions;
- Where appropriate, landscape planting (other than ornamental and specimen tree planting) will be undertaken using native species typical of the area.
- Subject to any relevant approvals or agreements required for any restoration or mitigation schemes under Schedule 5 or 7 or 17 to the Act, land which is temporarily acquired or required in connection with the project will normally be restored to not less than former nature conservation value.

In addition, the Nominated Undertaker for the Crossrail project is considered a 'public authority' as defined in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006². The Nominated Undertaker will therefore have regard, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of its functions, to the conservation (restoration or enhancement) of biodiversity, integrating this commitment within its management processes.

² UK Government (2006) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. UK Government legislation online available at: <u>https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents</u> Page 6 of 34

¹ Defra (2012) Biodiversity Offsetting Pilots – Technical Paper: the metric for the biodiversity offsetting pilot in England. Defra and Natural England online report available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-paper-the-metric-for-the-biodiversity-offsettingpilot-in-england



1.2 The Development of Biodiversity Offsetting

In 2010, it was concluded in the Lawton report 'Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network' that only the more important areas of habitat, i.e. those that are designated or have a European protected species present, are adequately protected. This report recognised that non-statutory sites 'having only minimal protection through recognition in national planning policy, and are highly vulnerable to damage and loss [...] in general their management is under-funded'.

As a result, the Coalition Government agreed to *"introduce measures to protect wildlife and promote green spaces and wildlife corridors in order to halt the loss of habitats and restore biodiversity"*³. Following extensive consultation with interested stakeholders, in March 2012, Defra and Natural England published a toolkit for using a system of 'biodiversity units' to measure and compare biodiversity gains and losses on a development site and any offset requirement necessary to compensate for predicted biodiversity loss.

The National Planning Policy Framework (2012)⁴ highlights the role of the planning system in relation to biodiversity:

'The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;
- recognising the wider benefits of ecosystems and services;
- minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water, or noise pollution of land instability; and

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³ UK Government (2010) The Coalition: our programme for UK government. Quote from Lord Henley's speech at the RSPB Futurescapes launch, available online at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/lord-henley-s-speech-at-the-rspb-futurescapes-launch ⁴ UK Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework. UK Government online report available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 Page 7 of 34



• remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.'

Policy 7.19.C of the London Plan (2011)⁵ sets out the approach towards biodiversity conservation and planning decisions:

'Development proposals should:

- a) wherever possible, make a positive contribution to the protection, enhancement, creation and management of biodiversity;
- b) prioritise assisting in achieving targets in biodiversity action plans (BAPs)
 [...] and/or improve access to nature in areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites;
- c) not adversely affect the integrity of European sites, and be resisted where they have significant adverse impact on European or nationally designated sites or on the population or conservation status of a protected species, or a priority species or habitat identified in a UK, London or appropriate regional BAP or borough BAP.'

By quantifying the habitat lost to the development footprint, a value is being put on the services provided by those habitats and thus a robust indication of the level of compensation needed to offset development activities is given.

1.3 Biodiversity Offsetting

Defra states that "Biodiversity offsets are nature conservation activities designed to deliver biodiversity benefits in compensation for losses from development activity". Unlike previous forms of ecological compensation, there is a formal requirement for a quantitative calculation to demonstrate the loss and gain in biodiversity during the course of a development.

Losses (from the development footprint) and gains (from habitats created or enhanced as part of the development) are each measured in the same way, using a rigorous system of quantification. Firstly it can be seen if there is likely to be an overall loss in biodiversity on the site (and hence whether biodiversity offsetting is required), and secondly, where offsetting is required, the number of biodiversity units which need to

⁵ London Assembly (2011) London Plan 2011. Online report available at: <u>https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/past-versions-and-alterations-london-plan/london-plan-2011</u>

⁶ Defra (2012) Evaluation of the Biodiversity Offsetting pilot phase – WC1051. Online quote available at: <u>http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/biodiversity/uk/offsetting/</u>

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be offset (to ensure no net loss or a net gain in biodiversity as a result of the development).

Defra has detailed the principles for offsetting, including that it should:

- *'not change existing levels of protection for biodiversity;*
- deliver real benefits for biodiversity;
- be managed at the local level as far as possible;
- be as simple and straightforward as possible, for developers, local authorities and others;
- be transparent, giving clarity on how the offset calculations are derived and allowing people to see how offset resources are being used; and
- be good value for money.'7

2 Methodology

The following methodology was undertaken on each of the seventeen sites in order to quantify the amount of biodiversity lost or gained at each site. An overall net loss or gain of biodiversity was then calculated by summing the results of all sites.

- 1. Mile End Shaft
- 2. Eleanor Street Shaft
- 3. Old Oak Common
- 4. Paddington Integrated Project (PIP)
- 5. Plumstead Portal and Sidings
- 6. Pudding Mill Lane and Ham & Wick
- 7. Westbourne Park and Royal Oak Portal
- 8. Whitechapel Station

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⁷ Biodiversity Offsetting Pilots. Technical Paper: the metric for the biodiversity offsetting pilot in England (2012)



- 9. Limmo Peninsula Shaft
- 10. Liverpool Street Station
- 11. Ilford Yard
- 12. Connaught Tunnel
- 13. Woolwich Station
- 14. Custom House and Victoria Dock
- 15. North Woolwich Portal
- 16. Stepney Green Shaft
- 17. Urban Realm

The process of biodiversity accounting involves two distinct evaluation stages:

- Stage 1: Valuing the existing habitat of the development site; and
- Stage 2: Valuing the net impact of the development proposal from losses of existing habitat, gains of new habitat and enhancements of existing (retained) habitats.

Each of these stages involves the same basic calculation method, albeit with additional multipliers for the second stage to reflect risk factors in habitat restoration/creation such as the difficulty in recreating certain habitats and the likelihood of creating a similar value habitat.

2.1 Measuring Biodiversity Units

Biodiversity units are the currency of Defra's biodiversity offsetting methodology.

The calculation of the biodiversity units of a habitat type is based on three characteristics:

- 1. habitat distinctiveness;
- 2. habitat condition; and
- 3. size in hectares.

These characteristics are dealt with in more detail in Appendix 5.1.

Development sites are mapped and divided into habitat parcels with the number of biodiversity units calculated on a parcel-by-parcel basis for each habitat type.

Where habitats are proposed to be created or enhanced, the following additional risk factors are introduced into the calculation method:

 Delivery - the difficulty of creating or restoring the target habitat on the offsetting site;

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- Spatial whether the offsetting site is within or adjacent to an area identified in the Offsetting Strategy (or equivalent);
- Temporal the expected timescale for the habitat to reach its target condition.

These risk factors are dealt with in more detail in Appendix 5.2.

For each habitat type on-site, the first three factors (distinctiveness, condition and size) are multiplied to create a **Biodiversity Score**. These are summed to calculate the current value of existing habitat on-site.

For proposed new habitats or enhancements, the biodiversity score of each habitat is then divided by the three risk factors in turn to create a **Biodiversity Value** for each habitat type. These values are then summed to calculate the total biodiversity value of the site following development and on-site ecological mitigation.

Should on-site mitigation not be sufficient in replacing all biodiversity units lost to the development footprint, off-site offsetting will be required in order for the development to result in no net loss in biodiversity. The number of biodiversity units which need offsetting is calculated by subtracting the number of biodiversity units gained through on-site mitigation from the number of biodiversity units lost to the development footprint.

2.2 Limitations and Qualifications

Some habitats, principally non-BAP habitats, do not have detailed condition assessments within the Farm Environment Plan (FEP) manual. Where this is the case, professional judgement, based upon the detail within the original Phase 1 Habitat Surveys of the sites, has been used to make an informed decision on the condition of the habitat.

The results for each site detailed within this document are based on the original Phase 1 Habitat Surveys, undertaken in 2005 by Carter Ecological Ltd. As such, all limitations detailed within the original Phase 1 report should be acknowledged.

The areas of habitat which will be lost as a result of development have been provided by Crossrail. If it has not been indicated by Crossrail that biodiversity is lost as part of the development, it has been assumed that no biodiversity will be lost. A number of assumptions based on professional judgement have been made regarding landscaping proposals where the degree of detail given is not adequate enough to attribute a condition score. In these cases, assumptions made have been detailed in text associated with the relevant site.

Where landscaping proposals are to be undertaken within the site itself, no spatial risk has been incorporated into the calculations as this will be directly mitigating the habitat lost.



3 Results

Section 3.1 presents the biodiversity accounting results for each of the sites using landscaping proposals provided by Crossrail. These proposals have been reviewed to identify additional opportunities, where relevant.

3.1 Mile End Shaft 8

Table 1 details the biodiversity value of areas of the site which will be lost as a result of development. This equals **1.38 biodiversity units**.

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score
Amenity grassland	2	2	0.2470	0.9880
Introduced shrub	2	2	0.0150	0.0600
Scattered trees	4	2	0.0410	0.3280
Total				1.3760

Table 1 Mile End Shaft biodiversity lost

Table 2 details the site's biodiversity value following development, based on landscaping proposals supplied by Crossrail⁹. The value of the site will be **1.78 biodiversity units** following development.

Table 2 Mile End Shaft biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Wildflower			N		_		
green roof	4	2	0.1675	1.3400	1	1.2	1.1167
Scrub	4	2	0.0211	0.1688	1	1.4	0.1206
Amenity							
grassland	2	1	0.1675	0.3350	1	1.2	0.2792
Scattered broadleaved							
trees	6	2	0.0280	0.3360	1	1.4	0.2400
Introduced							
shrub	2	2	0.0081	0.0324	1	1.2	0.0270
Total				2.2122			1.7834

⁸ Information taken from The Ecology Consultancy report 'C360 Sites: Mile End Park / No Net Loss Assessment'

⁹ Drawing reference: 3294_CostainSKANSKA_Mile End Park_No Net Loss_V1 0

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As a result, there is a positive increase in the biodiversity value of the site by **0.41 biodiversity units** across the course of development.

3.2 Eleanor Street Shaft

Table 3 details the biodiversity value of areas of the site which will be lost as a result of development. This equals **0.51 biodiversity units**.

Table 3 Eleanor Street Shaft biodiversity lost

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score
Introduced shrub	2	2	0.0350	0.1400
Ephemeral/short perennial	2	2	0.0020	0.0080
Scattered trees	2	2	0.0900	0.3600
Total		·		0.5080

Table 4 details the site's biodiversity value following development, based on landscaping proposals supplied by the Ecology Consultancy¹⁰. The value of the site will be **2.08 biodiversity units** following development.

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Sedum green roof	2	2	0.1250	0.5000	1	1.2	0.4167
Wildflower	4	2	0.0710	0.5680	1	1.2	0.4733
Dry grassland	4	2	0.1382	1.1056	1	1.2	0.9213
Scrub	4	2	0.0045	0.0360	1	1.4	0.0257
Scattered broadleaved trees	6	2	0.0280	0.3360	1	1.4	0.2400
Introduced Shrub	2	2	0.0020	0.0080	1	1.2	0.0067
Total				2.5536			2.0837

Table 4 Eleanor Street Shaft biodiversity gained

As a result, there is a positive increase in the biodiversity value of the site by **1.58 biodiversity units** across the course of development.

¹⁰ Information taken from The Ecology Consultancy report 'C360 Sites: Eleanor Street / No Net Loss Assessment'

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3.3 Old Oak Common

Table 5 details the biodiversity value of areas of the site which will be lost as a result of development. This equals **38.21 biodiversity units**.

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity baseline
Dense scrub	4	2	0.7712	6.1696
Ephemeral	4	2	2.0920	16.7360
Introduced shrub	2	1	0.0430	0.0860
Scattered scrub	4	2	0.3434	2.7472
Bare ground	2	1	1.4980	2.9960
Unimproved neutral grassland	4	2	1.1850	9.4800
Total				38.2148

Table 6 details the site's biodiversity value following development, based on landscaping proposals supplied by Crossrail¹¹. The value of the site will be **21.59 biodiversity units** following development.

Table 6 Old Oak Common biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Woodland and scrub enhancement	6	3	0.0340	0.6120	1.5	1.4	0.2914
Wildflower	4	2	0.6660	5.3280	1	1.2	4.4400
Species rich grassland	4	2	1.2017	9.6136	1	1.2	8.0113
Shrub planting	4	2	0.2989	2.3912	1	1.2	1.9927
Scattered trees	6	2	0.0019	0.0228	1	1.2	0.0190
Ballast areas	2	2	2.0497	8.1988	1	1.2	6.8323
Total				25.554			21.2953

¹¹ Drawing reference: C160-MMD-T-DDA-CR074-SD004-1-40035; Q234-ATK-D-DDL-CR074_SD004_1-92032; and CRL1-XRL-Z1-DDA-CRG05-00030 P02

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As a result, there is a decrease in the biodiversity value of the site by **16.99 biodiversity units**.

Previous surveys have identified the presence of a population of slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) on site¹², features such as hibernacula and basking banks are incorporated into the landscaping plans to support these species.

3.4 Paddington Integrated Project (PIP)

No biodiversity will be lost as a result of the PIP. However, biodiversity enhancements in the form of a sedum green roof and planting of scattered trees are to be incorporated as part of the development¹³.

Table 7 PIP biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Green roof (sedum)	4	3	0.0780	0.9360		1 2	0.7800
Scattered	6	2	0.0780	0.5500		1.2	0.7800
trees			0.0050	0.0600	1	1.2	0.0500
Total				0.9960			0.8300

As a result of this development, this site will increase in biodiversity value by **0.83** biodiversity units.

¹² Report reference: Q234-BMB-T1-RGN-CR074-50002

¹³ Drawing references: 539-PLN-35101-WCC and 539-PLN-05100-WCC

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3.5 Plumstead Portal and Sidings

Table 8 details the biodiversity value of areas of the site which will be lost as a result of development. This equals **22.80 biodiversity units**.

Table 8 Plumstead Portal and sidings biodiversity lost

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Baseline
Bare ground	2	1	1.5920	3.1840
Broadleaved woodland	6	2	1.0535	12.6420
Bracken	2	1	0.0395	0.0790
Dense scrub	4	2	0.4987	3.9896
Scattered broadleaved trees	6	2	0.0024	0.0288
Scattered scrub	4	2	0.0259	0.2072
Scattered tall herb	4	2	0.0013	0.0104
Tall ruderal	4	2	0.0788	0.6304
Unimproved neutral grassland	4	2	0.2541	2.0328
Total			\mathbf{O}	22.8042

Table 9 details the site's biodiversity value following development, based on landscaping proposals supplied by Crossrail¹⁴. The value of the site will be **5.80 biodiversity units** following development.

Table 9 Plumstead Portal and sidings biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Wildflower meadow	4	2	0.5652	4.5214	1	1.2	3.7679
Hedge	6	2	0.0585	0.7015	1	1.2	0.5846
Ballast	2	2	0.3157	1.2626	1	1.2	1.0522
Ornamental grass	4	2	0.0103	0.0825	1	1.2	0.0687
Shrub	4	2	0.0492	0.3938	1	1.2	0.3281
Total				6.9618			5.8015

As a result, there is a decrease in the biodiversity value of the site by **17.00 biodiversity units** across the course of development.

¹⁴ Report reference: C610-ATC-T1-COL-CRG03-50002 and drawing reference: C122-OVE-S-DDA-CR148_1-87160

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3.6 Pudding Mill Lane and Ham & Wick

Table 10 details the biodiversity value of areas of the site which will be lost as a result of development. This equals **5.31 biodiversity units**.

Table 10 Pudding Mill Lane and Ham & Wick biodiversity lost

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Baseline
Unimproved neutral grassland	4	2	0.2120	1.6960
Scattered conifer	6	3	0.0010	0.0180
Scattered scrub	4	2	0.2570	2.0560
Dense scrub	4	2	0.0790	0.6320
Scattered broadleaved trees	6	3	0.0190	0.3420
Tall ruderal	4	2	0.0710	0.5680
Total				5.3120

Table 11 details the site's biodiversity value following development, based on landscaping proposals supplied by Crossrail¹⁵. The value of the site will be **1.28 biodiversity units** following development.

Table 11 Pudding Mill Lane and Ham & Wick biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Green wall	4	2	0.0040	0.0320	1	1.2	0.0267
Grass seeding	4	2	0.0170	0.1360	1	1.2	0.1133
Shrub	4	2	0.0794	0.6352	1	1.2	0.5293
Herb	4	2	0.0013	0.0104	1	1.2	0.0087
Broadleaved	6	2					
Woodland			0.0700	0.8400	1.5	1.2	0.4667
Scattered	6	2					
tress			0.0140	0.1680	1	1.2	0.1400
Total				1.8216			1.2847

As a result, there is a decrease in the biodiversity value of the site by **4.03 biodiversity units** across the course of development.

¹⁵ Drawing references: C152-SWN-L-DDA-CR094_PT002_Z-96170 and C152-SWN-L-DDA-CR094_PT002_Z-96171

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3.7 Westbourne Park and Royal Oak Portal

Table 12 details the biodiversity value of areas of the site which will be lost as a result of development. This equals **28.96 biodiversity units**.

Table 12 Westbourne Park and Royal Oak Portal biodiversity lost

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Baseline
Amenity grassland	2	1	0.0600	0.1200
Bare ground	2	1	2.9550	5.9100
Broadleaved woodland	6	3	0.0430	0.7740
Dense scrub	4	2	0.0390	0.3120
Ephemeral	4	2	1.2450	9.9600
Scattered broadleaved trees	6	2	0.0040	0.0480
Scattered scrub	4	2	0.3860	3.0880
Tall ruderal	4	2	0.0720	0.5760
Unimproved neutral grassland	4	2	1.0210	8.1680
Total				28.9560

Table 13 details the site's biodiversity value following development, based on landscaping proposals supplied by Crossrail¹⁶. The value of the site will be **4.03 biodiversity units** following development.

Table 13 Westbourne Park and Royal Oak Portal biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Ballast	2	2			1	1.2	
areas			0.1150	0.4600			0.3833
Shrub	4	2			1	1.2	
planting			0.0300	0.2400			0.2000
Grassland	4	2	0.3700	2.9600	1	1.2	2.4667
Wildflower	4	2			1.5	1.2	
meadow			0.1000	0.8000			0.4444
Scattered	6	2			1	1.4	
trees			0.0630	0.7560			0.5400
Total	0			5.2160			4.0344

¹⁶ Drawing references: C150-CSY-L-DDA-CR076_PT001-00001 and C178-CSY-L-DDA-CR076_MS005-01750

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As a result, there is a decrease in the biodiversity value of the site by **24.92 biodiversity units** across the course of development.

3.8 Whitechapel Station

No biodiversity will be lost as a result of development at Whitechapel Station. However, biodiversity enhancements in the form of green roofs are to be incorporated as part of the development¹⁷ (Table 14). The green roofs being installed are a mix of sedum and biodiverse areas, with the biodiverse green roofs targeting black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*). This is a bird species of particular importance in London as it favours living in the heart of urban areas in close association with sparsely vegetated brownfield sites. It is on the amber list of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) and is listed as a priority species on the London Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)¹⁸.

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Green roof	4	3			1	1.2	0.7700
(sedum)			0.0770	0.9240			
Green roof	6	3			1	1.2	1.5900
(biodiverse)			0.1060	1.9080			
Total			-	2.8320			2.3600

Table 14 Whitechapel Station biodiversity gained

As a result of this development, this site will increase in biodiversity value by **2.36 biodiversity units**.

¹⁷ Drawing references: C140-BBM-A-DDA-D061_WS106_C-LAN01, -LAN02, -LAN03, -LAN04 and – LAN05

¹⁸ http://www.lbp.org.uk/londonpriority.html

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3.9 Limmo Peninsula Shaft

Table details the biodiversity value of areas of the site which will be lost as a result of development. This equals **32.20 biodiversity units**.

Table 15 Limmo Peninsula Shaft biodiversity lost

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity baseline
Bare ground	2	1	1.9864	3.9728
Unimproved neutral grassland	4	2	1.0782	8.6256
Dense scrub	4	2	0.5856	4.6848
Broadleaved plantation	6	3	0.4120	7.4160
Ephemeral	4	2	0.2996	2.3968
Introduced shrub	2	1	0.2738	0.5476
Scattered tall herb	4	2	0.2740	2.1920
Scattered scrub	4	2	0.2951	2.3608
Total				32.1964

Table 16 details the site's biodiversity value following development, based on landscaping proposals supplied by Crossrail¹⁹. The value of the site will be **3.29 biodiversity units** following development.

Table 16 Limmo Peninsula Shaft biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Wildflower	4	2	0.4773	3.8184	1	1.2	3.1820
Ballast areas	2	2	0.0322	0.1288	1	1.2	0.1073
Total				3.9472			3.2893

As a result, there is a decrease in the biodiversity value of the site by **28.91 biodiversity units** across the course of development.

¹⁹ Drawing reference: C360-SKC-A-DDA-CR144_SH011_A-03501 Page 20 of 34



3.10 Liverpool Street Station

Table 17 details the biodiversity value of areas of the site which will be lost as a result of development. In total, **2.53 biodiversity units** will be lost at this site.

Table 17 Liverpool Street Station biodiversity lost

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Baseline
Amenity grassland	2	1	0.2890	0.5780
Introduced shrub	2	1	0.0105	0.0210
Hedge	6	2	0.1610	1.9320
Total				2.5310

Restoration plans are currently being progressed for this site with an urban realm scheme being delivered in the future by the City of London.

3.11 Ilford Yard

No biodiversity will be lost as a result of development at llford Yard. However, biodiversity enhancements in the form of tree and shrub planting have been incorporated as part of the development²⁰ (Table 18).

Table 18 Ilford Yard biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Shrub planting	4	2	0.0427	0.3416	1	1.2	0.2847
Scattered trees	6	2	0.0060	0.0720	1	1.4	0.0514
Total				0.4136			0.3361

As a result of this development, this site will increase in biodiversity value by **0.34 biodiversity units**.

²⁰ Drawing reference: C161-MMD-T-DDA-CR112-SD007-1-40102

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3.12 Connaught Tunnel

Table 19 details the biodiversity value of areas of the site which will be lost as a result of development. In total **4.05 biodiversity units** will be lost at this site.

Table 19 Connaught Tunnel biodiversity lost

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Baseline
Amenity grassland	2	1	0.2958	0.5916
Bare ground	2	1	0.5795	1.1590
Hedge	6	2	0.0450	0.5400
Broadleaved woodland	6	2	0.0130	0.1560
Dense scrub	4	2	0.0149	0.1192
Ephemeral	4	2	0.0019	0.0152
Introduced shrub	4	2	0.0825	0.6600
Unimproved neutral grassland	4	2	0.0671	0.5368
Scattered scrub	4	2	0.0202	0.1616
Scattered broadleaved trees	6	3	0.006	0.1080
Total				4.0474

3.13 Woolwich Station

No biodiversity will be lost as a result of development at Woolwich station. A brown roof²¹ is to be installed. It is recommended that this feature is further enhanced through the inclusion of invertebrate features such as log piles and insect hotels. Table 21 details the site's biodiversity value following development, based on landscaping proposals supplied by Crossrail²².

Table 21 Woolwich Station biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Scattered trees	6	2	0.0030	0.0360	1	1.4	0.0257
Grassland	4	2	0.0482	0.4680	1	1.2	0.3215
Brown Roof	4	2	0.1274	1.0192	1	1.2	0.8493
Total			•	1.4410			1.1965

²¹ Presentation 'Woolwich Station Roof Plant Alteration'

²² Drawing reference: C530-BBR-L-DDA-CR147_WS163_Z-20001

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As a result of this development, this site will increase in biodiversity value by **1.20 biodiversity units**.

3.14 Custom House and Victoria Dock

Table 22 details the biodiversity value of areas of the site which will be lost as a result of development at Custom House. In total, **8.83 biodiversity units** will be lost at this site.

|--|

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Baseline
Unimproved neutral grassland	4	2	0.0350	0.2800
Dense scrub	4	2	0.6560	5.2480
Scattered broadleaved trees	6	3	0.0030	0.0540
Ephemeral	4	2	0.2194	1.7552
Scattered scrub	4	2	0.1870	1.4960
Total				8.8332

Table 23 details the site's biodiversity value following development, based on landscaping proposals supplied by Crossrail²³. The value of the site will be **1.79 biodiversity units** following development.

Table 23 Custom House and Victoria Dock biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Species rich grassland	4	2	0.2684	2.1472	1	1.2	1.7893
Total		7		2.1472			1.7893

As a result, this site will decrease in biodiversity value by 7.04 biodiversity units.

²³ Drawing references: C340-VIN-L-DDA-CR144_PT003_1-10001, C340-VIN-L-DDA-CR144_PT003_1-10002, C340-VIN-L-DDA-CR144_PT003_1-10003

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3.15 North Woolwich Portal

Table 24 details the biodiversity value of areas of the site which will be lost as a result of development. This equals **19.82 biodiversity units**.

Table 24 North Woolwich Portal biodiversity lost

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Baseline
Unimproved neutral grassland	4	2	0.8115	6.4920
Bare ground	2	1	0.5556	1.1112
Dense scrub	4	2	0.0326	0.2608
Amenity grassland	2	1	0.0289	0.0578
Marshy grassland	4	2	0.0025	0.0200
Ephemeral	4	2	0.6880	5.5040
Scattered tall herb	4	2	0.2770	2.2160
Scattered scrub	4	2	0.5200	4.1600
Total				19.8218

Table 25 details the site's biodiversity value following development, based on landscaping proposals supplied by Crossrail²⁴. The value of the site will be **0.41 biodiversity units** following development.

Table 25 North Woolwich Portal biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Conditio	on Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Broadleaved							
trees	6	2	0.0012	0.0144	1.0	1.4	0.0103
Grassland	4	2	0.0005	0.0042	1.0	1.2	0.0035
Scrub	4	2	0.07000	0.5600	1.0	1.4	0.4000
Total				0.5786			0.4138

As a result, this site will decrease in biodiversity value by **19.41 biodiversity units**.

3.16 Stepney Green Shaft

Table 26 details the biodiversity value of areas of the site which will be lost as a result of development. This equals **0.38 biodiversity units**.



²⁴ Drawing reference: C530-BBR-L-DDA-CR146_PT004_Z-20001 & Proposed Site Plan 1.66-00-20 (CREATE London) Page 24 of 34



Table 26 Stepney Green Shaft biodiversity lost

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Baseline
Scattered tall herb	4	2	0.0288	0.2304
Amenity grassland	2	1	0.0500	0.1000
Scattered broadleaved trees	6	3	0.0025	0.0450
Total				0.3754

Table 27 details the site's biodiversity value following development, based on landscaping proposals supplied by Crossrail²⁵. The value of the site will be **1.66 biodiversity units** following development.

Table 27 Stepney Green biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Scattered							
trees	6	2	0.0024	0.0288	1.5	1.4	0.0137
Wildflower							0.50.40
meadow	4	2	0.0892	0.7138	1	1.2	0.5949
Shrub planting	4	2	0.0280	0.2242	1	1.2	0.1869
Permeable							
grassed							
pavement	2	2	0.0240	0.0960	1	1.2	0.0800
Grassland	4	2	0.1178	0.9422	1	1.2	0.7852
Total				2.0051			1.6606

As a result, this site will increase in biodiversity value by **1.29 biodiversity units**.

²⁵ Drawing reference: CRO_SG_C360_Garden Street Design_Draft GA for Schedule 7 CD-003

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3.17 Urban Realm

As part of urban realm works, Crossrail Ltd will be planting 85 trees within the urban realm in the central section of the Crossrail route.

Table 28 Urban realm biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Scattered trees	6	2	0.0085	0.1020	1	1.4	0.0729
Total				0.1020			0.0729

As a result of the urban realm works, an overall increase in biodiversity value of **0.07 biodiversity units** is expected across the Central Section.

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4 Conclusions

4.1 Losses and Gains

Table 29 details the overall losses and gains in biodiversity across the seventeen sites in the Central Section. Although several sites do display gains in biodiversity value, several sites also exhibit more significant losses. As such, the overall balance in biodiversity value resulting from development is a net loss of **116.75 biodiversity units**.

The most significant of these losses occurs at Limmo Peninsula Shaft and Westbourne Park, as a result of the loss of neutral grassland and woodland habitats in particular. The most significant gain occurs at Whitechapel station as a result of green roof creation.

Sites	Biodiversity Units
Mile End Shaft	0.41
Eleanor Street Shaft	1.58
Old Oak Common	-16.92
Paddington Integrated Project (PIP)	0.83
Plumstead Portal	-17.00
Pudding Mill Lane and Ham & Wick	-4.03
Westbourne Park and Royal Oak Portal	-24.92
Whitechapel Station	2.36
Limmo Peninsula Shaft	-28.91
Liverpool Street Station	-2.53
Ilford Yard	0.34
Connaught Tunnel	-4.05
Woolwich Station	1.20
Custom House and Victoria Dock	-7.04
North Woolwich Portal	-19.41
Stepney Green	1.29
Urban Realm	0.07
Total	-116.73

Table 29 Summary table of biodiversity lost and gained across the development sites

4.2 Wallasea Island

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is undertaking a flagship coastal habitat creation project on Wallasea Island, located at the junction of the Crouch and Roach Estuaries in Essex. Wallasea Island was originally five low-lying islands used primarily as a grazing marsh for sheep and cattle. In the 1950's and 1970's, the area



was drained and levelled for intensive agricultural use. A grid formation drainage system was created so the island was criss-crossed by 13 drainage ditches.

The aim of this project is to return the island to a diverse array of intertidal habitats which will provide resource for birds, fish, water voles and invertebrates. The creation of intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh and transitional habitats will contribute to the UK BAP targets as well as mitigate for the national loss of these important habitats, which is estimated to be at a rate of 600ha per year, mainly due to rising sea levels and climate change. This restoration will also include supra-littoral habitats into which water will move as sea levels rise, thus ensuring that the site will be sustainable in the long term.

This project has involved the importation of fill materials to facilitate the creation of suitable landforms within the Wallasea site. A principal source for this fill is the beneficial reuse of recovered tunnelled material from the Crossrail project. Crossrail consider the relocation and reuse of such materials to be the most appropriate and sustainable solution.

This project has necessarily resulted in the loss of arable fields and some smaller areas of neutral grassland habitats. The area of Wallasea associated with Crossrail (181 ha) has been valued at **362 biodiversity units** (Table 30) prior to it being restored to a range of more ecologically beneficial habitats.

Table 30 Wallasea biodiversity lost

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Baseline
Wallasea	2	1	181	362
Total				362

Given the biodiversity benefits and status of this project as outlined above, as well as the considerable involvement of the RSPB in the creation and ongoing management of the site (involving the production of a management plan with input from statutory bodies), it is believed that the habitats created over the 181 ha with which Crossrail is involved²⁶ will possess the highest distinctiveness and condition scores within the biodiversity offsetting calculations. However, the delivery risks involved in trying to create such important habitats are also 'high'. In total, and following these assumptions, it is calculated that this habitat creation project at Wallasea could be valued at **775.714 biodiversity units** (Table 31).



²⁶ Drawing reference: C176-FAB-C-DWG-CRT00_ES001-50003

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Table 31 Wallasea biodiversity gained

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area ha	Biodiversity Score	Delivery	Temporal	Biodiversity Offset Score
Wallasea	6	3	181	3258.000	3	1.4	775.714
Total				3258.000			775.714

The Wallasea Island project thus has the potential to generate a substantial biodiversity net gain (**413.7 biodiversity units**) as a standalone project, to which Crossrail has made an important contribution.

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5 Appendices

5.1 Measuring Biodiversity Units

5.1.1 Habitat Distinctiveness

Habitats are ranked into three types based on distinctiveness and assigned a numerical value; high (6), medium (4), and low (2). Parameters for this include species richness, diversity, and rarity at local, regional, national and international levels (Table 32).

Habitat distinctiveness	Broad habitat type covered	Type of offset	Habitat value
High	Priority habitat, as defined in Section 41 of the NERC Act	Same band type, and ideally like for like	6
Medium	Semi natural	Within band type or trade up	4
Low	E.g. Intensive agricultural – but may still form an important part of the ecological network in an area	Trade up	2

Table 32. Parameters for distinctiveness categories

5.1.2 Habitat Condition

There is no standard habitat condition assessment tool. Defra have recommended that the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Farm Environment Plan (FEP) manual is used to assess habitat condition.

Presently, habitat condition is ranked as good (3), moderate (2), or poor (1) and assigned the appropriate numerical value. In the FEP, each habitat type possesses specific condition requirements for it to meet one of these rankings based upon characteristics such as the presence of undesired species, the frequency of indicator species and the percentage cover of bare ground. If the habitat meets all the condition requirements, it is classed as good, if it fails one criterion it is classed as moderate, and if it fails two or more criteria it is classed as poor quality.

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Low distinctiveness habitats are, as standard, assigned a poor condition unless a particularly valuable or diverse example of that habitat is present.

5.1.3 Biodiversity Score

Condition and distinctiveness are combined to give the number of biodiversity units per hectare (Table 33).

Distincti	iveness	Low	Medium	High
Cond	ition	2	4	6
Good	3	6	12	18
Moderate	2	4	8	12
Poor	1	2	4	6

Table 33. Calculation of the biodiversity units per hectare of a habitat type.

The Biodiversity Score of each habitat type is therefore this value multiplied by the total number of habitat hectares being lost to the development footprint. These are then summed to calculate an overall Biodiversity Offset Value for all habitat being lost as a result of the development.

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5.2 Multipliers for Offsetting Risks

Risks inherent in successful offsetting delivery, including the difficulty of restoring/creating habitat, the spatial location of the offset and the time taken for recreated/restored habitats to reach their peak condition, are corrected by multipliers. Effectively, this increases the number of hectares required to deliver a target number of biodiversity units.

Delivery risks refer to the difficulty in recreating or restoring a habitat (Table 34).

Delivery RiskVery High10High3Medium1.5Low1

Table 34. Multipliers used to account for risks in habitat restoration/creation.

Spatial risks are judged against the priorities identified in a Local Offsetting Strategy or equivalent. Most councils do not have a specific Local Offsetting Strategy. Instead, pilot areas are using a combination of relevant documents such as Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs), Living Landscapes and Open Space Strategies to guide the selection of offsetting sites. Such documents highlight local areas of conservation concern/potential biodiversity improvement which are local priorities. Through directing offsetting to such sites, a strategic approach to conserving biodiversity can be used, directing efforts efficiently and effectively to *"enhance England's ecological network"*.

Table 35 Multipliers used to account for spatial risks.

Spatial Risk	
Offset is in a location identified in the offsetting strategy	No multiplier required
Offset is buffering, linking, restoring or expanding a habitat outside an area identified in the offsetting strategy	2
Offset is not making a contribution to the offsetting strategy	3



Temporal risks are judged on the number of years the habitat will take to reach its target condition (Table 36).

Table 36. Multipliers accounting for temporal risk in offsetting.

Years to target conditionMultiplier51.2101.4151.7
5 1.2 10 1.4 15 1.7
10 1.4 15 1.7
15 1.7
20 2.0
25 2.4
30 2.8
32 3
2

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- 5.3 Planting design and site photographs
- 5.3.1 Mile End Shaft



Fig 1. Mile End Shaft headhouse wildflower roof



Fig 2. Mile End wildflower roof

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5.3.2 Eleanor Street Shaft



Fig 3. Eleanor street shaft sedum roof



Fig 4. Eleanor street shaft sedum roof

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5.3.3 Old Oak Common

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5.3.4 Paddington Integrated Project PIP



Fig 5. Paddington Station sedum roof

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5.3.5 Plumstead Portal and Sidings

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5.3.6 Pudding Mill Lane and Ham & Wick







Fig 7. Pudding Mill Lane planting

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5.3.7 Westbourne Park and Royal Oak Portal







Fig 9. Royal Oak Portal planting

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5.3.8 Whitechapel Station



Fig 10. Whitechapel Station artist impression

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Fig 11. Limmo Peninsula Shaft mound turf

Fig 12. Limmo Peninsula Shaft mound turf and gabion handrail

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5.3.10 Illford Yard

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5.3.11 Woolwich Station

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5.3.12 Custom House and Victoria Dock



Fig 13. Custom House and Victoria Dock wildflower meadow

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5.3.13 North Woolwich Portal

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5.3.14 Stepney Green Shaft

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