

PROJECT PROFILE

Title	Developing a Biodiversity Accounting Methodology for Use on Linear Infrastructure Projects in Ireland.
Contractor	ARUP
Contact details	Tom Butterworth, UKIMEA Biodiversity and Environment Leader, ARUP.
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Start date	Oct-23
End date	Dec-25
Status	Complete
Type of project	TII Research Project
Project reference	TII351- Lot 3

Description	Ireland is facing a well-documented biodiversity crisis, with many EU protected habitats and species in unfavourable condition. The purpose of this project was to carry out research and trials leading to the development of a biodiversity accounting methodology applicable to Irish biodiversity and to TII's projects. The project built on international best practice, particularly Defra Metric 3.1, while adapting the methodology for the Fossitt habitat classification and incorporating Irish datasets like the Tailte Éireann National Land Cover Mapping. The TII Biodiversity Metric was designed to support informed decision-making at key project stages- from early route selection through to detailed environmental assessment and post-construction auditing.
Objectives	<p>The TII Biodiversity Metric comprises three integrated components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Options Appraisal Tool: Bringing Biodiversity Into Early Design Decision 2. Habitat Condition Assessments: Ground Truthing the Metric 3. The Full Biodiversity Metric: Turning Data into Decisions. 
Benefits	The TII Biodiversity Metric starts with a baseline calculation: what habitats exist now, and what condition are they in? It then models the post-construction scenario, factoring in losses, gains, and enhancements. The metric is more than a technical tool, it represents a new approach to integrating nature into infrastructure planning in Ireland. By combining GIS technology, ecological expertise, and stakeholder collaboration, we've created a system that makes biodiversity accountability part of Ireland's infrastructure DNA. It's a foundation for informed decisions today and a stepping stone towards future biodiversity net gain policies.
Outputs	<p>RE-ENV-01201 Developing a Biodiversity Accounting Methodology for Use on Linear Infrastructure Projects in Ireland – Literature Review</p> <p>GE-ENV-01112 Transport Infrastructure Ireland Biodiversity Metric Tool for Road, Greenway and Light Rail Projects: User Guide Document</p> <p>RE-ENV-01113 Transport Infrastructure Ireland Biodiversity Metric Tool for Road, Greenway and Light Rail Projects: Technical Report</p>

