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6 August 2021
Our Reference: Report P21224

Re: P21224 Lidl, Peninver Drive, Govan, Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Dear Daniel,

Thank you for commissioning Gavia Environmental Ltd (Gavia) to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) for the project noted above.

This report presents the combined results and recommendations of the survey work carried out on 3 August 2021.

Introduction

Gavia Environmental Ltd (Gavia) was commissioned by Rapleys ('the Client') to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of Lidl, Peninver Drive, Govan for a planned refurbishment the Lidl ('the Site') carpark.

This report presents the findings of an ecological desk study, as well as an *in situ* PEA that was carried out on the 2 August 2021. This will provide background for any ecological constraints (Protected Species or Habitats) within the Site and within a 250m buffer.

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The aims of the report are to:

1. Provide a description of the habitats and information regarding Protected Species across the Site.
2. Establish a baseline constraint assessment for the ecological features which could potentially influence the planned works.

The Site

The proposed development Site covers approximately 0.8Ha. It is located within an urban area in Govan, near the city centre of Glasgow, south of the River Clyde. The area contains both commercial and residential properties in all directions with the A739 to the south and Peninver Drive to the north.

There is very limited natural habitat near this site with the largest area of open grassland and woodland to the east at Elder Park. Parkland scattered trees are found dotted around the area within residential properties and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to the west of the Site.

Methodology

The methodology used for this project included a desk study and an ecological walkover survey (PEA) to provide baseline information. This baseline information will be used to provide recommendation on the potential for further survey or mitigations to consider. The PEA involved a single surveyor walking the Site and within a 250m buffer including a survey of the Lidl building and woodland within the buffer.

Desk Study

Prior to the field survey, a desk study was undertaken to provide up-to-date ecological information on statutory designated sites; habitats; and European and UK Protected Species within 2km of the survey area. The data search covered the past 10 years. The following sources were used:

- A search of publicly available information of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) available for commercial purposes, on statutory and non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the Site.
- Scottish Biodiversity List.
- Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC).

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Habitats

The ecological walkover survey was carried out according to the 'Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey' method, as recommended in the *Guidelines for baseline ecological assessment*, and Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) (CIEEM, 2013). This level of survey includes the documentation of habitats to a recognised standard and also includes the recording of signs indicating the presence, or potential presence of species that could constitute a material consideration in planning terms. This includes birds, mammals, and any stands of non-native (invasive) plants.

An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is a standardized method of recording habitat types and characteristic vegetation, as set out in the *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – a technique for Environmental Audit* (JNCC, 2010). The Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey maps are colour-coded (as per JNCC, 2010) and a key is provided for each habitat.

It should be noted that the Extended Phase 1 methodology does not constitute a full botanical or Protected Species survey but allows a professional judgement to be made on whether further specialist surveys would be advisable – either in relation to the planning application/design stage or subsequently.

Protected Species

The aim of the survey was to record evidence (if present) of any EU or UK Protected Species (PS) within the survey area. Recommendations are made for further detailed protected species surveys (where appropriate).

Survey effort was focused on prominent features such as trees, hedgerows, buildings or structures, and habitat boundaries, all of which provide shelter and commuting routes for wildlife.

Mammals

The key mammal legally PS considered to have the potential to be present are: bats, badger, red squirrel, and otter.

The following field signs were searched for:

- trees and/or structures suitable for roosting bats;
- faeces;
- footprints;
- hair, especially at all restricted passageways through undergrowth or fences;
- scratch posts;
- squirrel dreys;
- shelters, dens, setts, holts or burrows; and
- feeding signs.

Registrations of interest were noted as grid referenced Target Notes (handheld GPS) (**Appendix 2**).

Birds

Birds were surveyed during the survey and noted down within a full species list that can be found in **Appendix 3**.

Other

Ad hoc observations of notable species were recorded where possible. The presence of any invasive flora and fauna was also recorded as part of the field survey.

Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA)

Buildings were inspected externally from the ground by an experienced bat ecologist in order to assess their potential for use by roosting bats and to record field signs for roosting bats, if found. The walls up to the wall-heads, roofing, and windows were inspected and gaps and cavities within the fabric of the building were noted where present. Flat surfaces such as windowsills and paving close to the buildings were also inspected for field signs of bats. Torches and high-powered binoculars were used to search for gaps where appropriate. The following field signs were searched for:

- droppings of an appearance indicative of bats;
- polishing or staining suggesting that bats may have been entering, or exiting gaps or cavities;
- live or dead bats; and
- insect remains that may indicate feeding bats.

Constraints

The survey was undertaken in near perfect conditions to allow for a full survey with no constraints.

Results

Desk Study

No designated sites were identified within the survey area. There are no other protected areas within 2km of the survey area. The only green space can be found to the east at Elder Park with the River Clyde to the north.

Protected Fauna

Bats

One bat species have been recorded within 2km of the Site: Daubenton's *Myotis daubentoniid*.

Birds

A total of 137 birds have been recorded within 2km of the Site. Species within that list that fall under Schedule 1.1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and Annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive (2009) include: Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, Peregrine falcon *Falco Peregrinus*, and Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*.

Other species protected under Schedule 1.1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act include: Merlin *Falco columbarius* and Barn Owl *Tyto alba*.

Amphibians

A total of 5 species and 11 records of amphibians were recorded within the search area: two records of common toad *Bufo bufo*; three records of common frog *Rana temporaria*; two records of smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*; one record of palmate newt *Lissotriton helveticus*; and three records of great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*.

Ecological Walkover Survey Results

Habitats

This section describes the habitats recorded within the Site. Habitats are colour-coded according to the *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey* (JNCC, 2010) and presented in **Figure 1, Appendix 3**. Summary descriptions are included below, and a full species list is included in **Appendix 4**.

Amenity Grassland

Amenity grassland is found throughout the survey area predominantly within gardens of residential properties and areas surrounding the car parks near commercial properties (TN2).

Broadleaved Woodland – Plantation

To the northeast and northwest of the site there are small patches of this habitat which are completely closed-off from any other woodlands. These areas are very small with trees being semi-mature (TN4).

Broadleaved Parkland/Scattered Trees

This habitat is found throughout the Site boundary in very small areas as is to be expected in an entirely built-up area.

Buildings/Bare Ground

The most dominant habitat type is buildings/bare ground due to the entire area being within an urban setting: including roads; residential and commercial properties; car parks; etc.

Invasive Species

No invasive species were discovered during this survey.

Protected Species

Mammals (excluding bats)

No evidence of mammal Protected Species (PS) was recording during the walkover survey.

Bats

A PRA was undertaken as part of this PEA of the Lidl building and was only externally surveyed. The building is surrounded by unnatural habitat which does not provide very much foraging habitat for bats. The Lidl building is a modern build with a slate roof which is in very good condition – no gaps or cracks were recorded. The edging of the building does have some gaps but they are relatively large for small bat species and are made of metal which is not regarded as a place in which roosting bats would use due to their extreme variance in temperature – nor were these gaps entirely water-tight. Around the front and western sides of the building, there are panels which are in very good condition with no gaps or cracks able to provide any roosting potential.

Due to the reasons above, there are no constraints on bats for this proposed Site. To summarize, there is very limited foraging habitat for bats (no woodland or grasslands for insects, etc) the building does not contain any roosting potential as it is a new building and in very good condition, the entire area is within a very loud and disturbed urban-setting and is permanently lit by streetlights. Overall, this site does not have roosting potential for bats.

Summary and Recommendations

The Site was assessed as having limited suitability to support breeding bird species listed in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. At this stage the timescale for the construction of the Development is unknown, however, it is recommended that clearance of suitable nesting habitat such as scrub and woodland take place outside of the breeding bird season (March–August inclusive) to minimize adverse impacts on bird populations.

If for any reason construction works must take place during the bird breeding season it is recommended that all suitable breeding habitat is checked immediately prior to clearance by a suitably experienced ecologist to confirm presence, or absence of active nests. If an active nest is discovered, it must be left *in situ* and an appropriate exclusion zone (5m) applied – by a suitably experienced ecologist until the young have fledged.

No reptiles or hibernacula were identified on Site. The desk study returned four records of amphibians, however, the habitats on Site are not considered to be suitable for these species.

The building and area surrounding the Site is not suitable for roosting bats and therefore is not a constraint for the proposed works.

References

CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (2013). (Available at https://www.cieem.net/data/files/Resource_Library/Technical_Guidance_Series/GPEA/GPEA_April_2013.pdf)

Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (3rd edn) The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

JNCC (2010). *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey*. Online. (Available at http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/pub10_handbookforphase1habitatsurvey.pdf).

Yours sincerely,



Ryan Ward BSc
Senior Ecologist



Appendix 1: Target Notes (TNs)

TN	GRID REF	PHOTO	TN DESCRIPTION
1	NS 54012 65852	1	This TN is a description of the area surrounding the Lidl. The area is entirely urban with no natural habitats. Car parks, residential and commercial properties, roads and street lighting are found throughout.
2	NS 53973 65819	2	Cherry laurel hedge lining the main road along with some parkland scattered trees and amenity grassland.
3	NS 54053 65842	3	The Lidl building is a new, modern building that provides no roosting potential for bats. The panelling on the front and western-side of the building are in very good condition and do not contain any damage which could create gaps or cracks for a bat to enter. The back of the building contains very large cooling fans that are extremely noisy reducing the potential that bats will use this side of the building. The roofing slates are also in very good condition and whilst using binoculars there was no sign of any damage that could lead to cracks or gaps for a single bat. Around the edge of the building there are slightly overhanging metal panels with a large enough gap for a single bat – this is found around the entire building. It is very unlikely a bat would use this due to the extreme changes in temperature and the fact that they do not appear to be very weather-tight.
4	NS 53940 66018	4	A very small area of A1.1.2 plantation broadleaved woodland lining the front of an industrial estate entrance. No access was permitted.
5	NS 54039 65890	5	Tenement buildings surround the Site and could contain roosting potential, however, the only part surveyed was the front of these buildings and they do not contain any features which could be used by a roosting bat. The roofing of these buildings could provide some potential, however, this is unlikely due to the habitat in the area not supporting a good insect and, therefore, foraging habitat for bats.

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Appendix 2: Photos



Photo 1: TN1 – Lidl building surrounded by a completely urban setting.



Photo 2: Intact hedge with parkland scattered trees and amenity grassland.



Photo 4: Front of Lidl building.



Photo 5: Tenement buildings to the north and east of the Site.

Appendix 3: Phase 1 and TN Map

Please see next page



Legend

- Target notes
- Site Boundary
- A1.1.2 - Broadleaved woodland plantation
- A3.1 - Broadleaved Parkland /scattered trees
- C3.1 - Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
- J1.2 - Cultivated/disturbed land amenity grassland
- J3.6 - Buildings
- J4 - Bare Ground
- J2.1.2 - Intact hedge - species-poor

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P21233

Project Title:
Govan Lidl PEA

Client:

Figure Title:
PEA walkover map

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Appendix 4: Species List

Flora	
Common Name	Latin Name
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Barberry	<i>Berberis</i>
Beggary	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>
Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Cherry tree	<i>Prunus</i>
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxcum officinale</i>
Great maple	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Hairy willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Laurustinus	<i>Viburnum tinus</i>
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>

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Fauna	
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Wren	<i>Troglodytidae troglodytidae</i>