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LIDL HAVANT

Biodiversity Net Gain Report

Approval for issue

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BNG Report
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose and Scope of this Report

- 1.1.1 RPS was commissioned by Lidl Great Britain Limited to undertake an assessment of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), at the proposed site of a new Lidl store, located off Purbrook Way, Havant, Hampshire.
- 1.1.2 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric provides a comparison of the values (as defined by the Habitat Unit, River Unit and Hedgerow Unit scores) of the site prior to development and following development, habitat creation and enhancement.
- 1.1.3 This assessment takes into account Habitat Units only as there are no watercourses or hedgerows within the pre-development or post-development site.
- 1.1.4 Habitat Units are calculated based on the habitat type, area, distinctiveness, condition, ecological connectivity and strategic significance. For enhanced or created habitats the time required and difficulty of establishing the habitat are also taken into consideration.
- 1.1.5 The assessment for the Lidl Havant development has been undertaken in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric excel spreadsheet supplied alongside this report.
- 1.1.6 This report provides details of the following:
- The baseline habitats present within the site and the Habitat Unit score
 - The habitats which will be created or retained within the post-development site and the Habitat Units score
 - A comparison of the baseline and post-development Habitat Unit scores.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 The site is located to the north-west of Havant (OS grid reference SU 6941 0778). The site is bordered by B&Q to the east, Purbrook Way to the south, and the B&Q access road to the north and west. Generally, the surrounding area is urban in character, although north of the site is Neville's Park Wood.
- 1.2.2 The site comprises an area of land for which planning permission was previously granted (planning application ref APP/20/01221). After planning permission was granted habitat clearance works were undertaken at the site in autumn 2023 under ecological supervision (RPS, 2024).
- 1.2.3 Prior to clearance works, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA), a dormouse survey and a bat survey of the site was undertaken by RPS throughout 2020 - 2021 (RPS, 2020 and RPS, 2012).

2 PRE-DEVELOPMENT SITE

2.1 Baseline Habitats

Bare Ground

- 2.1.1 Following the clearance the current site consists of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface and broadleaved woodland. The artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface covers 0.961 ha. At the east of the site is a road into the adjoining retail area covering 0.075 ha. The baseline habitats within the site are shown on Figure 1.

Broadleaved Woodland

- 2.1.2 The broadleaved woodland covers 0.179 ha and is located at the south of the site. The woodland consists of young to semi-mature trees including white poplar *Populus alba*, wild cherry *Prunus avium*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, white willow *Salix alba* and goat willow *Salix caprea*. Smaller hawthorn *Crateagus monogyna*, willow, silver birch *Betula pendula* and holly *Ilex aquifolium* shrubs are present throughout. The woodland is classified as 'Other woodland; broadleaved' in 'Poor' condition.

Mixed Scrub

- 2.1.3 The mixed scrub covers 0.062 ha and is located at the east of the site. The scrub consists of hawthorn, Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*, turkey oak *Quercus cerris*, wild cherry *Prunus avium* and goat willow *Salix caprea*. The scrub is classified as 'Other woodland; broadleaved' in 'Poor' condition.

Broadleaved Tree

- 2.1.4 A single Scot's pine tree is present at the east of the site. The tree is classified as an 'Urban tree' in 'Good' condition and covers 0.016 ha.

2.2 Baseline Habitat Unit Score

- 2.2.1 The baseline site achieves a score of **1.16 Habitat Units**.

3 POST-DEVELOPMENT SITE

3.1 Habitats within the Development

- 3.1.1 The proposed development will comprise a new Lidl store, consisting of a building, a car park, retaining structures and pedestrian footpath/cycleway and associated infrastructure with areas of landscaping around the perimeter.
- 3.1.2 The majority of the broadleaved woodland at the south of the site will be retained and new areas of shrubs and grassland will be planted / sown.
- 3.1.3 The extent of the habitats are shown on the Landscape Strategy Plan (Figure 2) and described below.
- 3.1.4 The new site proposals will retain a greater number of trees and create a greater extent of scrub than the previous consented scheme (Figure 3). There will also be a larger area of native scrub created and a larger area of shade-tolerant grassland.

Developed land; sealed surface

- 3.1.5 The majority of the site will comprise the new Lidl store and car park.
- 3.1.6 In total 0.752 ha of 'Developed land, sealed surface' will be created post-development. This would deliver **0.00 habitat units**.

Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface

- 3.1.7 An area of bark mulch will be created at the east of the site and a small area of gravel will be created at the west of the site.
- 3.1.8 In total 0.004 ha of 'Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface' will be created post-development. This would deliver **0.00 habitat units**.

Introduced shrub

- 3.1.9 Sections of no-native shrubs and herbaceous planting will be planted around the perimeter of the car park. Species will include Hebe 'White Gem', *Euonymus fortunei* 'Emerald 'n' Gold', *Cornus stolonifera* 'Kelsey' and *Hedera helix* 'Schafer Three', *Lonicera pileata* 'Loughgall Evergreen' and *Juniperus horizontalis* 'Wiltonii'.
- 3.1.10 In total 0.107 ha of 'Introduced shrub' will be created post-development. This would deliver **0.21 habitat units**.

Mixed scrub

- 3.1.11 Two sections of mixed native shrubs will be planted at the east of the site. One of the sections will partially replace the mixed scrub removed during construction, while the second will comprise a new area of mixed scrub to the south.
- 3.1.12 The following species will be planted: wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, guelder rose *Viburnum opulus* and dog rose *Rosa canina*.
- 3.1.13 In total 0.048 ha of 'Mixed scrub' will be created post-development. This would deliver **0.18 habitat units**.

Modified grassland – flowering lawn mixture

- 3.1.14 Areas of flowering lawn will be sown around the northern and western site boundaries, using the Emorsgate seed mixture EL1 or similar and approved.
- 3.1.15 In total 0.052 ha of 'Modified grassland' will be created post-development, delivering **0.18 habitat units**.

Modified grassland – shade tolerant mixture

- 3.1.16 A shade tolerant flowering mixture will be sown at the south of the site adjoining the retained woodland. The area will be sown with Emorsgate seed mixture EH1 or similar and approved.
- 3.1.17 This seed mix provides a good distinctiveness grassland, and it has been assumed that a "Moderate" condition will be achieved for the purposes of BNG assessment.
- 3.1.18 To achieve moderate condition, this habitat will achieve between 3-4 of the criteria listed in Table 3.1, of which Criterion 1 is essential.
- 3.1.19 The creation of 0.088 ha 'Modified grassland' will be created, delivering **0.31 habitat units**.

Table 3.1: Habitat condition criteria for modified grassland

Criterion no.	Criterion
1	The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific grassland habitat type are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward. NB - This criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition (non-acid grassland types only).
2	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.
3	Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.
4	Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) less than 5%.
5	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981). Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition ¹ and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area.
6	There are greater than 9 species per metre squared. NB - This criterion is essential for achieving good condition (non-acid grassland types only).

Urban tree

- 3.1.20 A total of 27 broadleaved trees will be planted throughout the site. A total of six species will be planted including: *Carpinus betulus* 'Lucas', *Acer campestre* 'Streetwise' and *Betula pendula* 'Tristis'.
- 3.1.21 The creation of 0.110 ha of 'Poor' urban trees delivers **0.31 habitat units**.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The baseline site largely comprises artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface which will be lost, and broadleaved woodland and mixed scrub of which some will be removed to facilitate the development.
- 4.1.2 The post-development plans for the site include the planting of areas of introduced shrubs, scattered trees and buffer planting. Areas of grassland will be created using two different grassland mixtures selected to suit the conditions of each area.
- 4.1.3 The development requires the loss of woodland to create a footpath/cycleway into the site at the south. Given the required footprint for the built infrastructure and the requirement for retaining walls along the perimeter of the site it will not be possible to create new areas of woodland within the site. As such the Statutory Metric Trading Rules are not met and there is a Habitat Unit shortfall of **0.40** A2 units. The Habitat Unit shortfall may be compensated for via purchasing Habitat Units or Statutory Credits.
- 4.1.4 The assessment above indicates that the development proposals will deliver a net gain of **54.58%** for habitats.
- 4.1.5 The total habitat units post-development delivered by the proposals is **1.79** units which is **0.63** units more than the baseline of 1.16 units.

REFERENCES

RPS (2020). Lidl: Land off of Purbrook Way, Havant, Hampshire – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

RPS (2021). Lidl: Land off of Purbrook Way, Havant, Hampshire – Dormouse and Bat Survey Report.

RPS (2024). Lidl: Land off of Purbrook Way, Havant, Hampshire – Technical Note: Habitat Clearance.

FIGURES

- Figure 1** Baseline Habitat Plan
- Figure 2** Landscape Strategy Plan
- Figure 3** Previous Consented Scheme Landscape Strategy Plan