

Date: 11th April 2024

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To whom it may concern,

Technical Note: Lidl Havant Habitat Clearance

This technical note provides a summary of the habitat clearance work undertaken at the of land off of Purbrook Way, Havant, Hampshire.

The work was undertaken in accordance with planning permission for the site granted in December 2022 (planning condition Ref APP/20/01221).

Background

RPS undertook a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) at the site in 2020 (RPS, 2020a). The site previously comprised dense scrub, neutral grassland and broadleaved woodland.

The trees and scrub provided suitable habitat to support breeding birds and dormouse. Dormouse surveys concluded the likely absence of the species from the site, however based on the suitability of the habitat a precautionary method of working was implemented to protect dormouse.

While no evidence of badgers was recorded at the site the dense scrub at the centre of the site could not be fully accessed during walkover surveys.

Given the small size of the site and its isolation from other areas of habitat the site was considered unlikely to support a population of reptiles.

The previous habitat plan of the site is shown on Figure 1.

Habitat Clearance

Habitat clearance was undertaken throughout November 2023 under the supervision of an experienced ecologist who holds a Natural England dormouse licence. All works were completed in accordance with the methodology set out in the letter report provided by RPS (RPS, 2020b).

In summary this included the following measures:

- All work was carried out in the presence of the ecologist.
- All personnel carrying out the work were given a toolbox talk by the ecologist who explained the potential for protected species to be present at the site, what dormice and their nests look like, and the precautionary method that would be followed.
- The clearance work was timed to avoid the main bird breeding season. All work was completed during daylight hours to avoid potential impacts on badgers if present.

- All habitat was first checked by the ecologist for any signs of protected species such as nests, badger setts or pathways.
- A finger-tip search was undertaken of dense areas of vegetation to check for nests.

No dormouse or dormouse nests were encountered during the works.

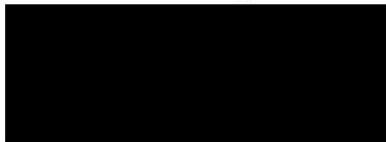
No badger setts or evidence of badgers were encountered during the works.

There were no other protected species such as reptiles or active birds nests encountered during the works.

Following completion of the habitat clearance works, the site comprises bare ground and retained woodland trees. The current habitat plan of the site is shown on Figure 2.

If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,
for RPS Consulting Services Ltd



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References:

RPS (2020a). Lidl, Purbrook Road, Havant – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

RPS (2020b). Lidl, Purbrook Road, Havant – Ecology Summary