



MKA Ecology Ltd: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Technical Summary Note

Site	Priory Park Tennis Courts
Project number	133122
Client name / address	Haringey Council
Date of issue	03 November 2022
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Summary

Site description: The Site is located within Priory Park, Haringey. It comprises the existing non-compliant tennis courts, areas of surrounding modified grassland, other neutral grassland, lines of trees, scattered trees, broadleaved woodland, hedgerows, introduced shrubs and a small building. The Site is in constant use.

Development proposals: The current proposals involve the resurfacing and development of two compliant tennis courts in the footprint of the non-compliant courts currently present at the Site, and the creation of two mini courts. New fencing and lighting will also be implemented in association with the courts.

Constraints

	Further survey effort required prior to planning application
	No surveys but mitigation/avoidance measures required for project planning/development
	No constraint

Designated sites

☐ Potentially present on Site
☒ Present in Zone of Influence (ZOI)
☐ No constraint

☐ Further survey required
☒ No further survey required but mitigation/avoidance measures necessary ☒ Notes: The Site is situated within Priory Park, which is designated as a Local Grade Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). The current proposals involve the resurfacing and development of two compliant tennis courts in the footprint of the non-compliant courts currently present at the Site, and the creation of two mini courts. New fencing and lighting will also be implemented in association with the courts. The operational phase of the proposed development is unlikely to significantly impact Priory Park SINC; Priory Park is well equipped to deal with any increase in recreational pressure resultant from the redevelopment of the tennis courts, which is anticipated to be very limited. The development phase of the proposed development is unlikely to significantly impact Priory Park SINC, provided appropriate management and mitigation measures are implemented during construction. Mitigation measures designed to maintain the integrity of Priory Park SINC during the construction phase of the development are detailed within the recommendations section below. These measures will be further detailed within the Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) report (MKA Ecology Ltd, 2022 in prep).

Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI)
☒ Potentially present on Site
☐ Potentially present in ZOI
☐ No constraint
☐ Further survey required.
☐ No further survey required but mitigation/avoidance measures necessary.
☒ Notes: The majority of the habitats present on Site, including the areas of hardstanding, modified grassland, lines of trees, scattered trees, introduced shrub, ornamental hedgerows and a small building, are not classified as Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI). Nevertheless, the lines of trees and scattered trees present are of elevated ecological value in the context of the Site so should be retained and protected where possible. Given the native species it supports and its establishment, the areas of woodland habitat within the Site are considered likely to satisfy the criteria of a lowland mixed deciduous woodland HPI, whilst the native hedgerow is also considered to be a HPI as it comprises a native woody species and forms a continuous feature over 20m in length. HPIs are those which have been identified as being the most threatened and require conservation action and protection. Accordingly, it is recommended that the native hedgerow and woodland habitats are retained and protected during the works using root protection

fencing around the root zones in accordance with British Standards BS 5837 2012: Trees in Relation to Construction Recommendations or as otherwise directed by a suitably competent arboriculturist. Where the removal of trees is required, it is proposed that this area be replanted with native British species, as detailed in the opportunities for enhancement section below.

Plants/fungi

☒ Present on Site

☐ Potentially present in ZOI

☐ No constraint

☐ Further survey required.

☒ No further survey required but mitigation/avoidance measures necessary.

☒ Notes: Wall cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis* and small-leaved cotoneaster *Cotoneaster integrifolius* were identified at the Site. These species are listed as invasive under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), meaning it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause these species to spread in the wild. Green alkanet *Pentaglottis sempervirens* and cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* were also identified at the Site. These species are listed as invasive on London's Invasive Species Initiative (LISI). All instances of invasive species should be subject to sensitive removal from the Site, with arisings treated as controlled waste and disposed of appropriately in order to avoid their spread.

Invertebrates

☒ Potentially present on Site

☐ Potentially present in ZOI

☐ No constraint

☐ Further survey required.

☒ No further survey required but mitigation/avoidance measures necessary.

☒ Notes: There exist a number of standing dead tree stumps (Target note 1, Appendix 1) as well as other deadwood features (Target note 2, Appendix 1) within the Site. These deadwood features are important for invertebrates, particularly stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*, which is listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended and are a London Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species. It is recommended that these features are protected and retained during development works in order to safeguard this protected species.

Fish

☐ Potentially present on Site

☐ Potentially present in ZOI

☒ No constraint
☐ Further survey required.
☐ No further survey required but mitigation/avoidance measures necessary.
☒ Notes: The Site comprises only terrestrial habitats and supports no aquatic habitats of suitability for notable or protected fish species.

Amphibians
☐ Potentially present on Site
☐ Potentially present in ZOI
☒ No constraint
☐ Further survey required.
☐ No further survey required but mitigation/avoidance measures necessary.
☒ Notes: No aquatic habitats of suitability for amphibians are present within 500m of the Site. As such, there has been assessed to be a negligible likelihood that the Site supports notable or protected amphibian species.

Reptiles
☒ Potentially present on Site
☐ Potentially present in ZOI
☐ No constraint
☐ Further survey required.
☒ No further survey required but mitigation/avoidance measures necessary.
☒ Notes: The introduced shrub, other neutral grassland and woodland margin habitats have some limited suitability for reptiles. As a precautionary measure, it is recommended that any clearance of these habitats be undertaken in a staged, directional manner. A full methodology will be included within the to-be-produced EcIA report (MKA Ecology Ltd, 2022 in prep).

Birds
☒ Potentially present on Site
☐ Potentially present in ZOI
☐ No constraint
☐ Further survey required.
☒ No further survey required but mitigation/avoidance measures necessary.

☒ Notes: The lines of trees, scattered trees, introduced shrub, native hedgerows, ornamental hedgerows and lowland deciduous woodland habitats found throughout the Site hold potential for common nesting bird species. All wild birds, their active nests and eggs are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which makes it an offence deliberately, or recklessly, to kill or injure any wild bird or damage or destroy any active birds' nest or eggs. It is recommended that any vegetation clearance works are undertaken outside of the breeding bird season. Scheduling works between the months of September and February inclusive (i.e. outside of the bird season) would avoid impacts on breeding birds. Where clearance works are required during the breeding bird season (between the months of March and August inclusive), such works can only proceed following the completion of a nesting bird check undertaken by an experienced ornithologist. Any active birds' nest identified during this check must be protected from harm until the nesting attempt is complete. This will require a buffer to be left around the nest, the size of which will depend upon the species involved (as a general rule, this will be 10m in all directions around the nest). Any buffers established as a result of the initial nesting bird check must be subjected to a second check after the original nesting attempt is completed, before such areas can be removed during the breeding bird season.

Bats

☒ Potentially present on Site

☐ Potentially present in ZOI

☐ No constraint

☐ Further survey required.

☒ No further survey required but mitigation/avoidance measures necessary.

☒ Notes: The building present on Site has been assessed to be of low bat roost potential. Should its demolition be included within the development plans, it is recommended that an internal inspection of the structure be undertaken in order to confirm or reject the provisional assessment.

The Site further comprises habitats that offer suitability for foraging and commuting bats. It is recommended that a sensitive lighting scheme be developed for both the construction and operational phases of the proposed development. This will ensure that the Site maintains suitability for foraging and commuting bats.

Other mammals

☒ Potentially present on Site

☐ Potentially present in ZOI

☐ No constraint

☐ Further survey required.

☐ No further survey required but mitigation/avoidance measures necessary.

☒ Notes: The woodland offers some suitability for badger sett building, however no evidence of badger presence were observed during the survey. Should the woodland be set to be impacted under the development proposals, it is recommended that an update badger survey be undertaken of this area in order to confirm the continued absence of badger.

Other Ecological Features of Note

Description:

The lines of trees, scattered trees and broadleaved woodland are of elevated ecological value in the context of the Site and should be retained where possible.

Opportunities

Habitat Creation Measures

The planting of native species or those with a known attraction or benefit to local wildlife is recommended for the landscape proposals. This will help to increase native plant species diversity, provide more ecologically valuable habitats, and result in a greater diversity of other dependent taxonomic groups. There is the opportunity to incorporate a diversity of native tree and shrub species into the planting schemes for the new development, which would provide opportunities to invertebrates and subsequent foraging resources for other species within the ecosystem, including birds and bats.

There is also the opportunity to incorporate species-rich hedgerow planting within the Site. To achieve this, retained hedgerows should be subject to infill planting so that they comprise a minimum of five native woody hedgerow species. Any newly planted hedgerows should also comprise at least five native woody species.

Faunal Enhancement Measures

Enhanced opportunities for breeding birds should be incorporated into the design scheme. Bird boxes should be mounted on trees, fences and built structures at the Site.

Enhanced opportunities for roosting bats should also be incorporated into the design scheme. Bat boxes should be mounted on trees and buildings at the Site.

Standing deadwood piles and buried deadwood features should be incorporated into the Site design so as to provide opportunities for invertebrates, such as stag beetle

Next steps

We will produce an EclA report for the proposed development to support the forthcoming planning application. The EclA will follow the best-practice guidelines provided by CIEEM (2022) and will fully evaluate the nature conservation value of ecological features present at the application Site, assess the significance of the effects of the proposed development on these features, and set out confirmed mitigation and enhancement measures.

Appendix

Figure 1: UK Habitat Classification Map of the Site



Target note 1: Dead tree stump

Target note 2: Fallen deadwood

Invasive species 1: Wall cotoneaster

Invasive species 2: Cherry Laurel

Invasive species 3: Green alkanet

Invasive species 4: Small-leaved cotoneaster