



**Koru  
Ecology  
Associates**



Our ref: 192 Technical note - PEA update v2.docx

14<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Site:** Land off Providence Lane, Bishopston

**Technical Note:** Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) update

**Author:** Diana Clark MSc MCIEEM (Director/Principal Ecologist)

## Introduction

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) – including a desk study, Phase 1 Habitat survey and assessment for protected/notable species suitability – was completed of land off Providence Lane, Bishopston, Swansea, in 2022 (Koru Ecology Associates, 2024). The survey was completed in relation to the proposed development of fourteen near-zero-carbon affordable homes for local people, together with areas for food growing and provision of natural space. Surveys for other species were also completed, including wintering birds (during November 2022 – February 2023), reptiles (during the summer of 2023) and bats in trees (during the summer of 2023). Due to the time since some of these surveys have been completed, and a delay to planning submission, the requirement for updated surveys was considered possible.

Following discussion with the local authority Planning Ecologist on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (Kathryn Mach, pers comm) the following was agreed:

1. **Repeat winter bird surveys are not required at this stage**, although if planning application submission slips to winter 2025 then they would be needed then.
2. **Repeat reptile checks not required**, largely on welfare grounds but also because the last surveys were completed only a year ago.

3. **A repeat survey of the ash tree in relation to bats is not required** as the last survey was only completed a year ago, however note requirement for pre-works checks of the identified Potential Roost Feature (PRF) and any other PRFs that are found.
4. **An updated habitat survey is required** as it is now two years since the last one was completed. The planning ecologist considered it appropriate for a site visit to be made and a technical note with supporting photographs submitted, assuming the condition of the site has remained largely the same.

This technical note therefore addresses the requirement for point 4 above.

## Methodology

A walkover survey of the Site was completed by Diana Clark MSc MCIEEM on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024. During the visit, the entire Site was walked, notes made on the habitats and photographs taken. Particular attention was paid to whether anything had substantially changed since the completion of the previous survey visit in 2022.

## Results

No significant changes to the Site were noted during the walkover survey, other than that the size of the patches of Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) appears to have slightly increased in places. The rest of the Site remains semi-improved neutral grassland, uncut at the time of the visit, plus the outgrown hedges and trees around the perimeter as previously noted (Koru Ecology Associates, 2024). The following photographs give some indication of the condition of the Site during the September 2024 survey.

Figure 1. The majority of the site remains semi-improved grassland.



Figure 2. Tall ruderal and scrub vegetation on the northern boundary.



Figure 3. Japanese knotweed on northern boundary may be slightly more extensive.



Figure 4. Mature ash tree previously surveyed for bats and to be managed as part of the development, still *in situ*.



## **Recommendations**

All recommendations made within the previous ecological survey report (Koru Ecology associates, 2024) are still valid and should be followed in relation to the development proposals. No further recommendations are required.

## **References**

Koru Ecology Associates, 2024	Ecology Report for Land off Providence Lane, Bishopston. KEA, Swansea.
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