



GiGL's data search reports

Their importance in planning and tips to improve the process

GiGL's data search reports are an authoritative source of information on London's natural environment. Each pdf report contains interpreted and summarised data relating to a specific site and its surrounding area, including designated sites, species, habitats, open spaces and other important features. See an example of a report [here](#).

WHY

Why data search reports should be consulted in the development management process.



GiGL, as a well established and trusted organisation working in London since 1996, has access to a huge network of recorders and data providers. GiGL has been accredited by the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres since 2016, and is a certified member of Social Enterprise UK.



Ecological assessments that have consulted a data search report have accessed a robust evidence base, have taken into account the local context of a site and have followed best professional practice as set out by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).



The data search reports also provide important information for effective biodiversity net gain and urban greening factor design. These reports include data relating to the London Priority Species List (LPSL), the London Species of Conservation Concern (LSOCC) and the London Invasive Species Initiative's species of concern (LISI).



When protected and priority species are not adequately taken into account early on in the planning process, impacts on biodiversity can be detrimental; however, it can have many other consequences such as delays or failure to obtain planning permission, or costly legal and other implications. Examples: [here](#) and [here](#).

London Plan (2021)

Policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature - D:

“Development proposals should manage impacts on biodiversity and aim to secure net biodiversity gain. This should be informed by the best available ecological information and addressed from the start of the development process.”





GiGL's data search reports in development management

HOW

How to ensure that the existing evidence base is consulted and enhanced.

Pre-application

- Consider potential impacts on the natural environment by consulting experts and the existing evidence base via a data search report.
- Data published online are not always provided at appropriate resolution and/or available for commercial use.

Decision making

- To avoid delays, ensure that adequate ecological information has been submitted, informed by appropriate data, information and the local context.
- Ecology reports can demonstrate they have consulted a GiGL data search report by including the report's [summary sheet](#).

Implementation

- Ecology reports are valid for one year. Depending on the works and BNG requirements an up to date data search report might be required for monitoring and reporting.
- New data generated during implementation should be shared to enhance the evidence base for the future.

Validation

- Check the validation and planning application requirements of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and ensure you submit sufficient ecological information.
- LPAs have access to the same evidence base via our SLA services which enables them to make informed decisions.

Determination

- [Data sharing](#) from developments is also very important. By sharing data you are enhancing the existing evidence base and enable data to be re-used in decision making and other projects.
- Ensure you have the right information and engage with the right experts to discharge any ecology related conditions.

Partners can request a data search report from GiGL's [Partnership team](#), and members of the public can get a report from GiGL's [Community team](#), while [eCountability](#) delivers the reports for our clients on our behalf.

Important to note that:

- Areas without data may still have unrecorded biodiversity.

