



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.

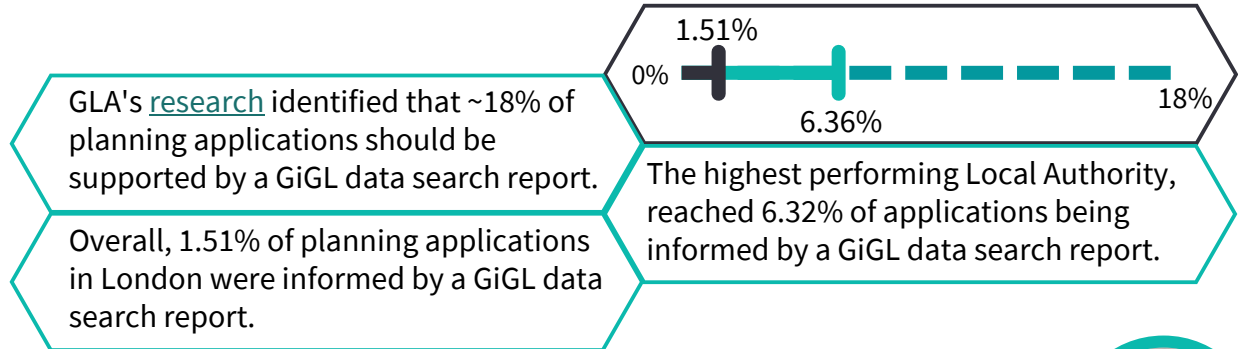


Ecological consultants who consult a GiGL data search report have access to a robust evidence base, gain an understanding of the local context of a site and are following best professional practice as set out by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).



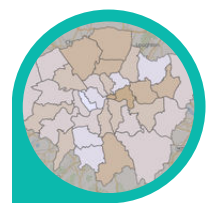
The data search reports also provide important information for effective biodiversity net gain and urban greening factor design. These reports include data relating to the London Priority Species List (LPSL), the London Species of Conservation Concern (LSOCC) and the London Invasive Species Initiative's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

How Local Authorities in London performed in 22/23 financial year



GiGL
Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC
the capital's environmental records centre

Learn more about these figures and how your LPA is performing on our [website](#).





GiGL's data search reports in development management

HOW

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

Pre-application

- Ensure developers take into account potential impacts on the natural environment by consulting the existing evidence base via a data search report.
- LPAs have access to the same evidence base via our SLA services which enables you to make informed decisions.

Decision making

- Accessing robust data and related services enables you to make evidence based decisions and focus efforts and funding efficiently.
- Ensure that adequate information has been submitted. 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

- Have clear requirements in your validation process, planning application requirements or other documents about developers considering impacts on the natural environment, consulting a data search report and sharing newly acquired data.
- LPAs should have mechanisms in place (e.g. alert layers) to ensure that statutory obligations of protections and enhancement of biodiversity are met.

Determination

- Ensure that appropriate conditions are in place, informed by appropriate data and the local context.
- [Data sharing](#) from developments is also very important. Consider adding a relevant condition and talk to us about data standards and setting up a process.

Important to note that:

- New data, if shared, can be used as evidence base for other work including Local Plans.
- Areas without data may still have unrecorded biodiversity.



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.



Read more on data sharing and data search report requirements on our [website](#).

