

24th January 2023

ECOLOGICAL STATEMENT FOR CHEETHAM HILL SERVICES, SHIRLEY ROAD, MANCHESTER

INTRODUCTION

Rachel Hacking Ecology Limited was commissioned in 2022 by Euro Garages to comprise an ecological addendum for land at Shirley Road, Cheetham Hill, Greater Manchester. The site is situated off Shirley Road, Cheetham Hill, Greater Manchester (O.S. grid reference: SD 84235 01177 – see Figure 1). The proposed development site currently comprises a petrol filling station and associated amenities, a patch of amenity grassland, immature broadleaved woodland and hardstanding. The site is bordered by residential housing and lies adjacent to Cheetham Hill Road. In a wider context, further residential and commercial areas surround the site in all directions as the site is situated within an urban setting.

Development Context

The site will be the subject of a planning application for the demolition of the existing petrol station and the construction of a new petrol station, associated services and hardstanding and car parking spaces.

Site History

An Extended Phase 1 Habitat and Daytime Bat Survey was carried out in 8th July 2022 by Rachel Hacking Ecology (see document - *Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Daytime Bat Survey at Cheetham Hill, Shirley Road, EG, 2022*). A small patch of immature woodland with an understorey of scrub is present to the north west of the site. Recommendations were made to place a static doctor to assess the roosting potential and foraging habitat for bats. The report concluded that further survey effort will be required to confirm presence/likely absence of a bat roost.

ECOLOGICAL STATEMENT

Protected Species - Bats

The proposals involve the removal of trees from the northwest corner of the site. The woodland was assessed from the ground for their potential roosting features (PRFs) during the preliminary ecological appraisal. The trees are immature and show evidence of pollarding and human intervention. There are no features that would support roosting bats including knot holes and/or lifted bark. The woodland is considered to offer negligible potential to support roosting bats.

The site is located in an urban setting with very little habitat connectivity. Due to its separation from surrounding green spaces and corridors, it is considered that the woodland holds no suitable connectivity and is therefore unlikely to support bat foraging habitat.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A pre-commencement survey is to be carried out prior to the removal of the trees and woodland. The development work should be undertaken with care. should be done using

sympathetic felling techniques. The tree should be section felled with each section of the tree then lowered to the ground rather than dropped and the pieces left on the ground for at least 24hour prior to chipping/removal from the site. Should any bats or evidence of bats, for example bat droppings, be discovered during the felling process of any tree then works must stop and an ecologist be contacted for advice. This can be Rachel Hacking Ecology (0161 465 8971) who undertook the initial survey, any licensed bat worker, or the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) helpline (0845 1300 228).

