



Wild Service

Site Name	Land at Premiere Products
Prepared by	Olatz Gartzia
Date	25/10/2017

Site description

The Site is located towards the north-eastern edge of the town of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. It is an approximately 1.9ha industrial estate and the central grid reference is SO 96902 23141.

The Site is surrounded by an urban landscape, with several open green areas and an extensive garden network.

Methodology

An extended Phase 1 habitat survey of the Site was undertaken on 24 October 2017 following standard methods¹. Phase 1 habitat survey provides a rapid means of classifying broad habitat types in any given terrestrial Site.

The survey was 'extended' by considering the suitability of the Site to support notable or protected flora or fauna. Detailed surveys were not completed for these species; however, based on an understanding of species ecology, consideration was given to the Study Area's potential to provide sheltering or foraging habitat and/or connectivity to allow dispersal between populations.

The Study Area was also inspected for signs of any invasive plant species subject to legal controls e.g. Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) or Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*).

¹ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). 2010. *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit*. JNCC, Peterborough.

Results

Habitat descriptions are set out below. While considering this information, reference should be made to the Phase 1 habitat map presented in **Figure 1** and the target notes in **Table 1**. The habitats identified on Site included buildings and hardstanding, areas of amenity grassland, ornamental planting and a strip of plantation woodland.

Table 1: Target Notes.

Target Note	Description
1	One of the industrial buildings had hanging tiles on the western elevation with gaps that could provide opportunities for roosting bats.
2	A building on the southern end of the Site had several loose tiles that could provide opportunities for roosting bats.
3	There was a strip of plantation woodland on the southern end of the Site.

Buildings and hardstanding

The majority of the Site comprised several industrial buildings surrounded by hardstanding (**Photo 1**). The Site was not in use and plants such as butterfly bush (*Buddleja* sp.) and Guernsey fleabane (*Conyza sumatrensis*) had grown in cracks on the tarmac. One of the industrial buildings on the north-eastern end of the Site had hanging tiles with potential gaps that could provide opportunities for roosting bats (**Target Note 1**).

Additionally, there were two stone buildings part of Cheltenham cemetery and crematorium, one of which had a pitched roof clad with clay tiles (**Target Note 2**). There were a number of loose and broken tiles that could provide opportunities for roosting bats.



Photo 1: Example of buildings on Site.

Amenity grassland

There were areas of amenity grassland within the Site. This habitat had frequent perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) with occasional white clover (*Trifolium repens*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).

Areas of grassland on the northern end of the Site had been left unmanaged for some months.

There were scattered young or semi-mature ornamental trees and bushes scattered within the amenity grassland, including London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*), Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*), apple tree (*Malus domestica*) and bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*).



Photo 2: Amenity grassland with scattered trees.

Plantation woodland

There was a strip of broad-leaved plantation woodland on the southern end of the Site (**Target Note 3**). The tree layer was composed of a wide range of species, including hazel (*Corylus avellana*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) as well as other evergreen ornamental species. None of the trees were assessed as providing potential to support roosting bats.

The understorey present was mostly composed of bare ground with abundant ivy (*Hedera helix*) and occasional bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*).

Evaluation and Discussion

No protected species were recorded during the survey, although the habitats present provided opportunities for protected species.

Bats

Some buildings on Site, including an industrial building with hanging tiles on the northern end of the Site and a building part of Cheltenham cemetery and crematorium on the southern end

provided opportunities for roosting bats. No potential roosting features were recorded on the trees on Site.

Badger

The southern end of the Site is suitable for badger foraging. No well-worn badger paths, push-throughs or trapped hairs were found on the Site.

Breeding birds

The habitats on Site provided suitable habitat for breeding birds, including the scattered trees, plantation woodland and ornamental scrub planting.

Hedgehog

The strip of woodland may provide suitable habitat for hedgehog.

Further Surveys

Due to the potential for protected species to be present on site, the following surveys may be recommended prior to the commencement of works;

- Bats – a detailed building inspection and any required emergence/re-entry survey of all the buildings on Site;
- Birds - no specific survey is recommended, but vegetation scheduled for removal between March and August must be checked for evidence of breeding birds.



Wild Service



Legend

- Site boundary
- Buildings
- Improved grassland
- Ornamental planting
- Plantation woodland
- Hardstanding
- Target Note

Phase 1 Habitats Map

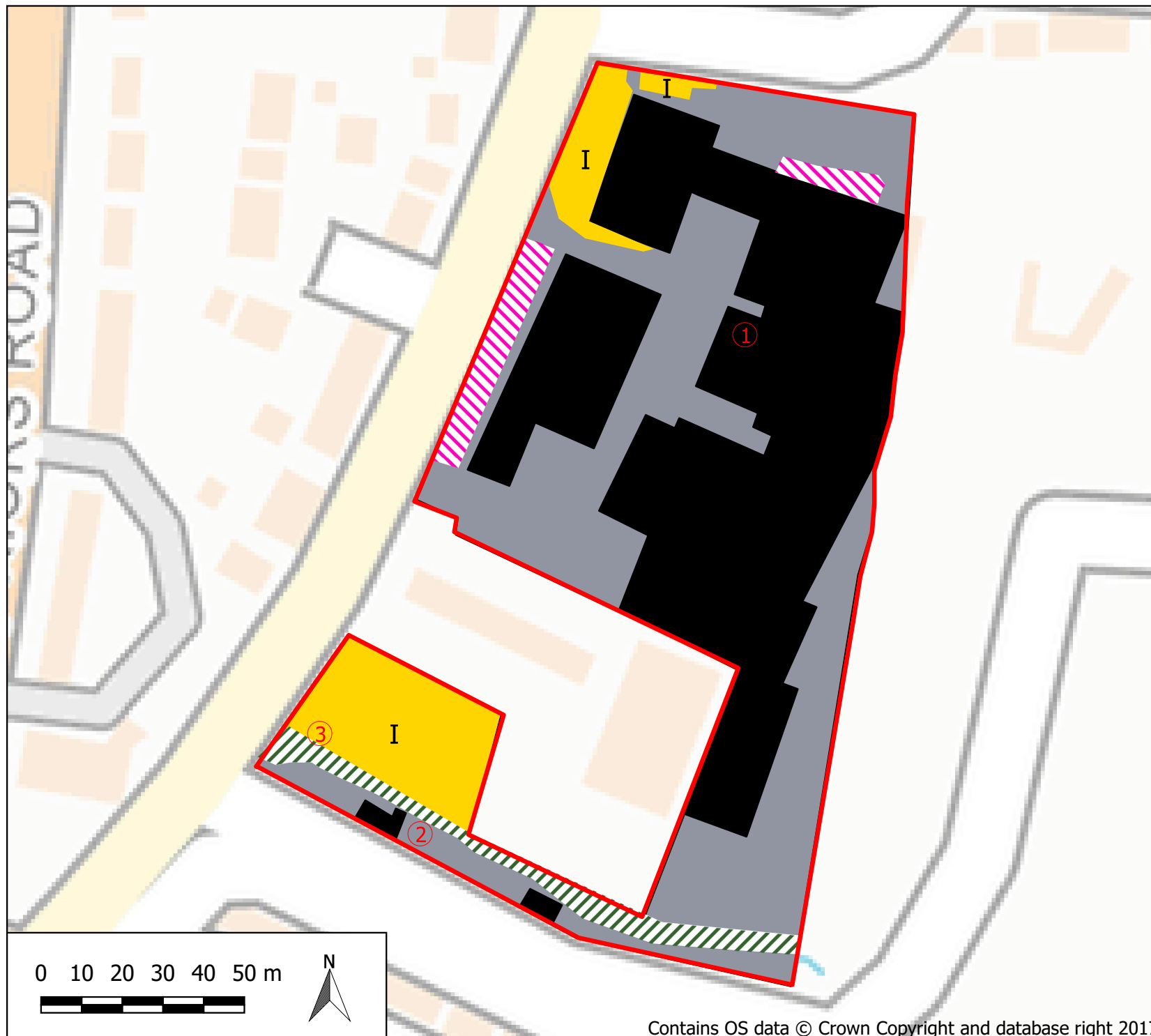
Land at Premiere Products

Date: 24 October 2017

Scale: 1:2,100

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1



0 10 20 30 40 50 m

