



Wild Service

Site Name	Land at Royal Well and Municipal Offices
Prepared by	Olatz Gartzia
Date	27/10/2017

Site description

The Site is located in Cheltenham town centre, Gloucestershire. It is approximately 0.8ha with car parking spaces, pavement, the council office building and a small seating area. The central grid reference is SO 94708 22365.

The Site is surrounded by an extensively urban landscape, with roads, shopping areas and open green areas.

Methodology

An extended Phase 1 habitat survey of the Site was undertaken on 26 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, an area of amenity grassland with scattered trees, and a species-poor hedge.

Table 1: Target Notes.

Target Note	Description
1	There were scattered trees on the amenity grassland, which provide opportunities for nesting birds.
2	There was a species-poor hedge on the western boundary of the Site, which provide opportunities for nesting birds.

Buildings and hardstanding

The majority of the Site comprised hardstanding car parks and street pavement. The Council Office (**Photo 1**) is a large, four storey rendered building on the eastern end of the Site. The building had parapet walls and a flat roof. There was a small hipped roof extension clad with tightly fitted slate tiles. The building had no potential to support roosting bats.



Photo 1: The Council Office, Cheltenham.

Amenity grassland

There was a small area of amenity grassland within the Site (**Photo 2**). This habitat had frequent perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and daisy (*Bellis perennis*) with occasional patches of bare ground and white clover (*Trifolium repens*).

There were scattered young or semi-mature ornamental trees and bushes scattered within the amenity grassland (**Target Note 1**), including London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*), white poplar (*Populus alba*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). No potential roosting features were recorded on the trees on Site.



Photo 2: Amenity grassland.

Species-poor hedge

There was a hedge dominated by beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica*) with occasional sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) (**Target Note 2**).



Photo 3: Species-poor hedgerow.

Evaluation and Discussion

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

Breeding birds

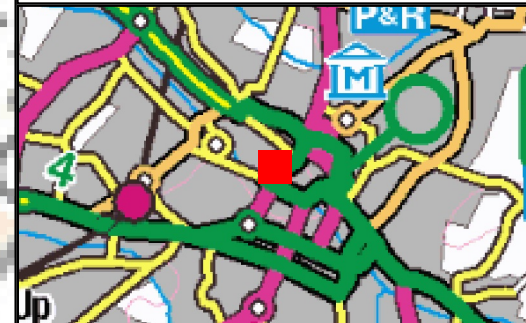
The habitats on Site provided suitable habitat for breeding birds typical of urban habitats, including the scattered trees, and hedgerow.

Further Surveys

No specific surveys are recommended to progress this Site, however if suitable habitat for breeding birds is scheduled for removal between March and August, it must be checked for any active nests.



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Legend

- Site boundary
- Species poor hedgerow
- Amenity grassland
- Hardstanding
- Buildings
- Scattered trees
- ① Target note

Phase 1 Habitats Map

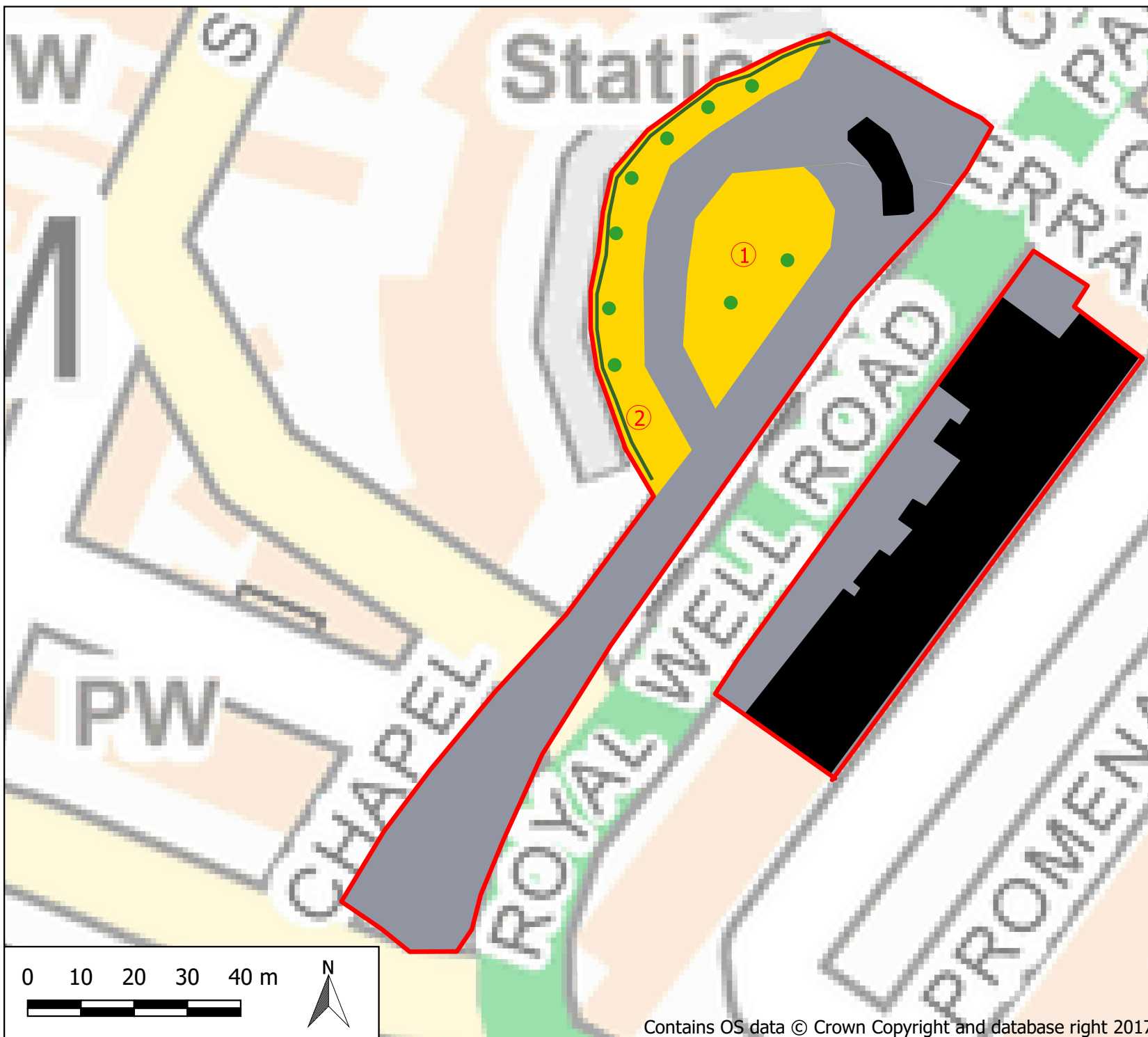
Royal Well and Municipal Offices

Date: 26 October 2017

Scale: 1:1,600

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1



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