



Wild Service

Phil Stephenson
Development Manager - Strategy
Cheltenham Borough Council

Glenn Norris
Wild Service
Unit 14 The Old Bakery
Lower Tuffley
Gloucester
GL2 5DP

5th December 2017

Re: Ecology Surveys for Sites included within the Cheltenham Borough Council Local Plan

Dear Mr Stephenson,

This letter concludes the surveys undertaken by Wild Service, informing Cheltenham Borough Council of the ecological constraints and opportunities for sites included within the Local Plan.

An 'extended' Phase 1 habitat survey was completed at each of the sites. This technique categorises broad habitat types identifying those that may warrant further detailed survey. The survey was 'extended' by searching for evidence or potential suitable habitats within each site that could support protected species.

Overall, the majority of sites exhibit limited ecological value, which would enable any potential development to maximise ecological enhancement in the local area. A summary of ecological constraints and recommended surveys is provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Summary of ecological recommendations for allocated sites.

Site Name	Surveys required prior to determination	Surveys required prior to commencement of works
Land at Brockhampton Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bats – activity surveys;• Great crested newt – habitat suitability index;• Reptiles – presence/absence survey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birds – breeding bird checks prior to vegetation removal;• Badger – pre-commencement survey at most three months prior to development commencing.
Land at Christ College Site B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reptiles – presence/absence survey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birds – breeding bird checks prior to vegetation removal;• Badger – pre-commencement survey at most three months prior to development commencing.

Site Name	Surveys required prior to determination	Surveys required prior to commencement of works
Land at Coronation Square	None	None
Land at former Monkscroft Primary School	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds – breeding bird checks prior to vegetation removal.
Land at Premiere Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bats – Building inspection for bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds – breeding bird checks prior to vegetation removal.
Land at Priors Farm Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bats – activity surveys; Reptiles – presence/absence survey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds – breeding bird checks prior to vegetation removal; Badger – pre-commencement survey at most three months prior to development commencing.
Land at Royal Well and Municipal Offices	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds – breeding bird checks prior to vegetation removal.
Land at Stone Crescent	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds – breeding bird checks prior to vegetation removal.
Lansdown Industrial Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bats – Building inspection for bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds – breeding bird checks prior to vegetation removal.
North Place and Portland Place	None	None
Reeves Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bats – Building inspection for bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds – breeding bird checks prior to vegetation removal.

If any further information is required, please don't not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Glenn Norris
Senior Ecologist
Wild Service



Wild Service

Site Name	Land at Brockhampton Lane
Prepared by	Olatz Gartzia
Date	31/10/2017

Site description

The Site is located on the northern edge of the town of Cheltenham, in Gloucestershire. It is an approximately 0.7ha field and the central grid reference for is SO 93638 25304. Most of the vegetation on the Site had been recently cut at the time of the survey.

The Site is surrounded by a mostly rural landscape, with arable lands linked by a well-established network of hedgerows. There is a housing estate to the south of the Site.

Methodology

An extended Phase 1 habitat survey of the Site was undertaken on 30 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 semi-improved grassland, hedgerows and buildings.

Table 1: Target Notes.

Target Note	Description
1	There were areas of recently cut scattered scrub within the Site.
2	Three sycamores on the northern boundary of the Site were covered with thick ivy and had low potential to support roosting bats.
3	Derelict building and piles of rubble could provide hibernation potential to a number of species.

Semi-improved grassland

The majority of the Site was composed of a field of semi-improved grassland (**Photo 1**). The grassland had abundant cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) with occasional white clover (*Trifolium repens*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.). Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and white dead-nettle (*Labium album*) were also present but rare.



Photo 1: Semi-improved grassland.

There were areas of recently cut scattered scrub within the grassland (**Target Note 1; Photo2**), these areas had abundant bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and lesser burdock (*Arctium minus*), with occasional nettle (*Urtica dioica*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), ivy (*Hedera helix*) and herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*). This area will likely revert to scattered scrub within a year if it is left unmanaged.



Photo 2: Recently cut scattered scrub.

Hedgerow

The northern and western boundaries of the Site comprised an immature species-poor hedge (**Photo 3**) with abundant hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), nettle and ivy, with occasional elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and bramble. Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and a young sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) were also present within the hedgerow.



Photo 3: Species-poor hedgerow.

On the northern boundary of the Site, there were three semi-mature sycamores in the hedgerow (**Target Note 2**), which has thick ivy growing over their trunk. They were assessed as providing a low potential to support roosting bats.

Buildings

There was a large, open fronted barn building in the middle of the Site. The barn had a steel frame and was composed of corrugated tin sheets. The interior of the barn was too exposed to support roosting bats and the materials in which it was made did not provide stable temperatures in the interior. As such, it was assessed as providing a negligible potential to support roosting bats.

There were two additional derelict buildings within the Site (**Photo 4**). The buildings had been partly demolished and there were piles of bricks and concrete block around them.



Photo 4: Partially demolished buildings.

Evaluation and Discussion

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

Bats

The buildings on Site had a negligible potential to support roosting bats. Three trees on the northern boundary of the Site had thick ivy growing on them and offered low potential for roosting bats. The hedgerow and grassland provided foraging and commuting opportunities for bats.

Breeding birds

The habitats on Site provided suitable habitat for breeding birds using residential and agricultural landscapes, including the scrub, hedgerow and trees.

Great Crested Newt

The Site provides optimal great crested newt foraging, sheltering and hibernating habitat, and there are two ponds within 500m of the Site, which could provide breeding habitat.

Reptiles

With a mosaic of habitats, the Site has potential to hold populations of reptiles such as common lizard and slow worm. The piles of rubble present on site provide refuge and hibernacula for reptiles.

Badger

The Site is suitable for badger foraging. Well-worn badger paths were present within the Site, and a number of push-throughs were observed along the hedgerow. There was a steep ditch covered by thick vegetation along Brockhampton Lane, which provide opportunities for sett building.

Hedgehog

The hedgerow, scrub, and grassland provide suitable habitat for hedgehog. The piles of rubble which may support hibernation sites.

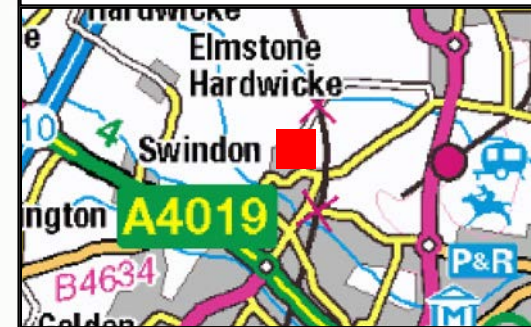
Further Surveys

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 – bat activity surveys to assess their use of linear features such as hedges;
- Birds – no specific survey is recommended, but vegetation scheduled for removal between March and August must be checked for evidence of breeding birds;
- Great Crested Newt – habitat suitability index of ponds within 500m of the Site, and presence/absence survey, if required;
- Badger – a pre-commencement survey for badger survey within 30m of the Site should be completed three months, at most, prior to development commencing; and
- Reptiles - presence/absence survey.



Wild Service



Legend

- Site boundary
- Native hedgerow
- Scattered trees
- ① Target note
- Buildings
- Semi-improved grassland

Phase 1 Habitats Map

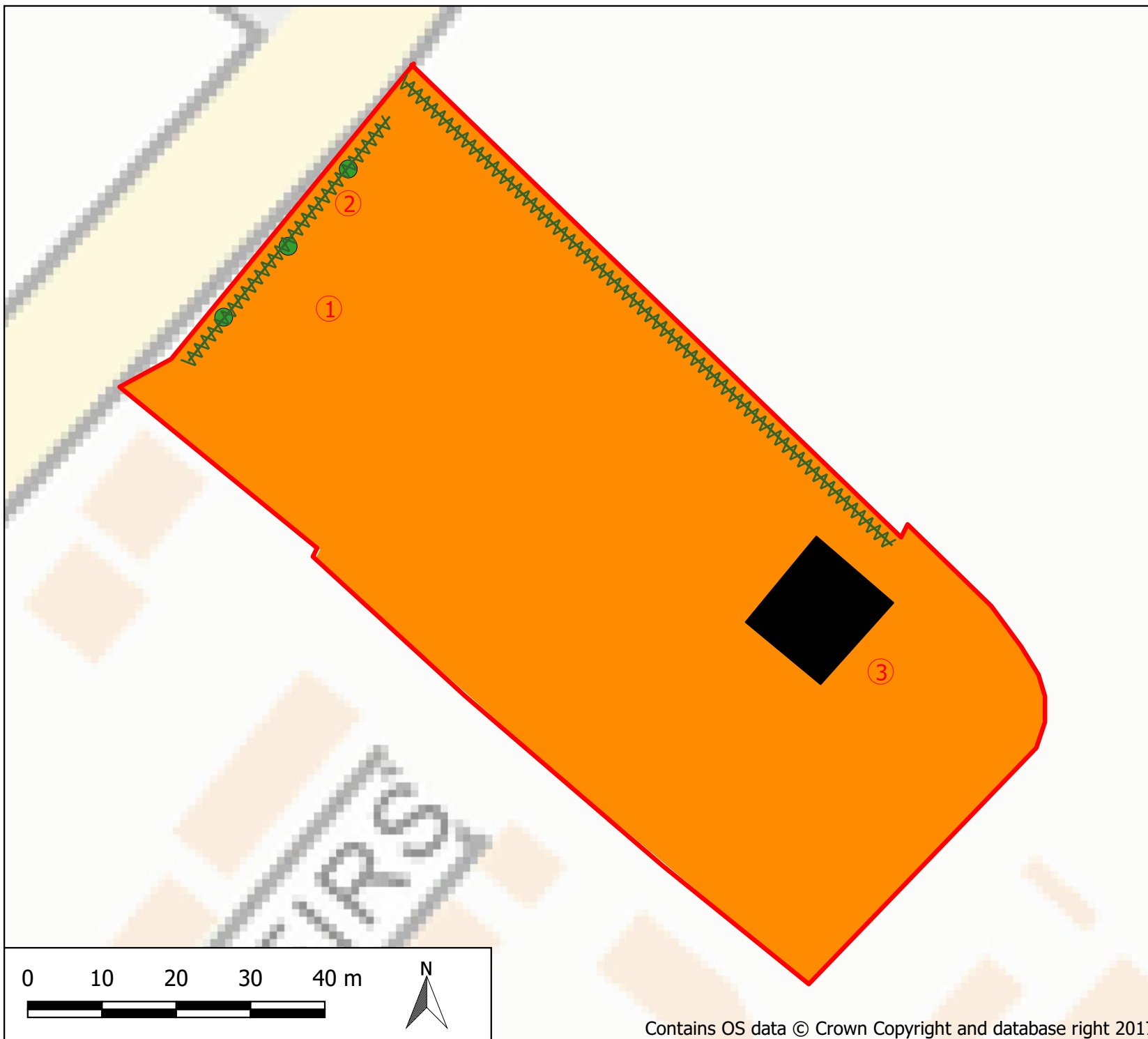
Land at Brockhampton Lane

Date: 30 October 2017

Scale: 1:1,150

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1



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Wild Service

Site Name	Land at Christ College Site B
Prepared by	Olatz Gartzia
Date	29/11/2017

Site description

The Site is located in the centre of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, near the north-western end of town. It was previously used as a playing field but has been left unmanaged. It measures approximately 2.1ha in area and the central grid reference is SO 93414 22947.

The Site is surrounded by a mostly urban landscape, and is bordered by housing to the west and south, the railway line to the east and an industrial estate to the north.

Methodology

An extended Phase 1 habitat survey of the Site was undertaken on 7 November 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 semi-improved grassland with scattered trees and scrub.

Table 1: Target Notes.

Target Note	Description
1	There were areas of scattered scrub within the Site.

Semi-improved grassland

The majority of the Site was composed of a field of semi-improved grassland (**Photo 1**). The grassland had abundant cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), soft brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*) with frequent tormentil (*Tormentilla erecta*) and occasional dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.), timothy-grass (*Phleum pratense*) and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*). Other species such as creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) were also present but were rare.



Photo 1: Semi-improved grassland on Site, previously used as playing fields.

Near the Site boundary on the eastern end of the Site, the grassland had occasional bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and hedge woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*) as well as bundles of tree seedlings such as hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and goat willow (*Salix caprea*).

Scattered scrub

The northern, southern and western boundaries of the Site had patches of scattered scrub (**Target Note 1; Photo 2**). The scrub present towards the northern and southern ends of the Site was composed of abundant bramble with frequent nettle, and occasional hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*), hedge bedstraw (*Gallium mollugo*) and cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*). White dead-nettle (*Lamium album*), creeping thistle and Buddlejia (*Buddleja davidii*) were also present within the scrub, but were rare.

On the scrub present on the western end of the Site, there was also noted an abundance of an ornamental scrub species.



Photo 2: Scattered scrub at the boundaries of the Site.

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, including the scrub, and scattered trees.

Reptiles

With a mosaic of habitats, the Site has potential to hold populations of reptiles such as slow worm. The grassland provides basking and foraging habitat within the Site, while the stone ballast on the railway line to the east of the Site provide refuge and hibernacula for reptiles.

Badger

The Site is suitable for badger foraging. Well-worn badger paths were present within the Site near the fence by the railway line.

Hedgehog

The scrub and grassland provide suitable habitat for hedgehog.

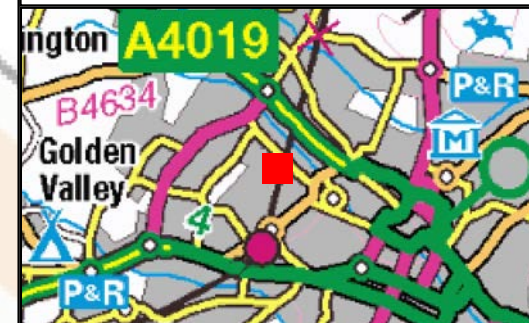
Further Surveys

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

- Birds – no specific survey is recommended, but vegetation scheduled for removal between March and August must be checked for evidence of breeding birds;
- Badger – a pre-commencement survey for badger survey within 30m of the Site should be completed three months, at most, prior to development commencing; and
- Reptiles – presence/absence survey.



Wild Service



Legend

- Site boundary
- SI Semi-improved grassland
- Scrub
- ① Target note

Phase 1 Habitats Map

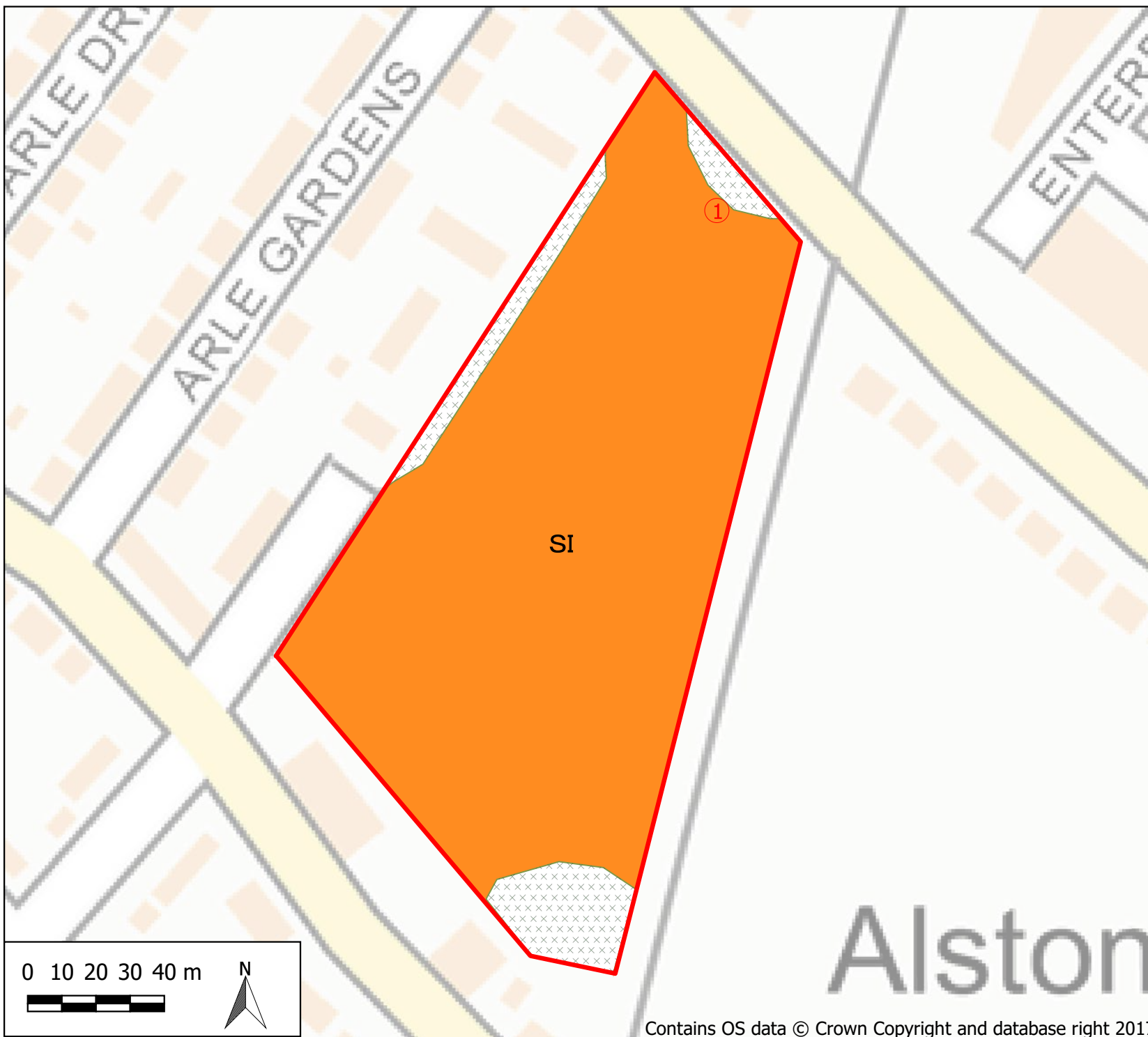
Land at Christ College Site B

Date: 7 November 2017

Scale: 1:2,500

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1



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Wild Service

Site Name	Land at Coronation Square
Prepared by	Olatz Gartzia
Date	27/10/2017

Site description

The Site is located towards the western end of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. It is approximately 1.5ha with a shopping area and car park. The central grid reference is SO 92227 22666.

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

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**.

Buildings and hardstanding

The entirety of the Site comprised a hardstanding platform and street pavement. There were several street and security lights on Site.



Photo 1: Hardstanding.

There were a number of tall buildings with shops and offices within the Site. The buildings were externally inspected for bats and, considering the location and street lighting, they were assessed as providing negligible potential for roosting bats.



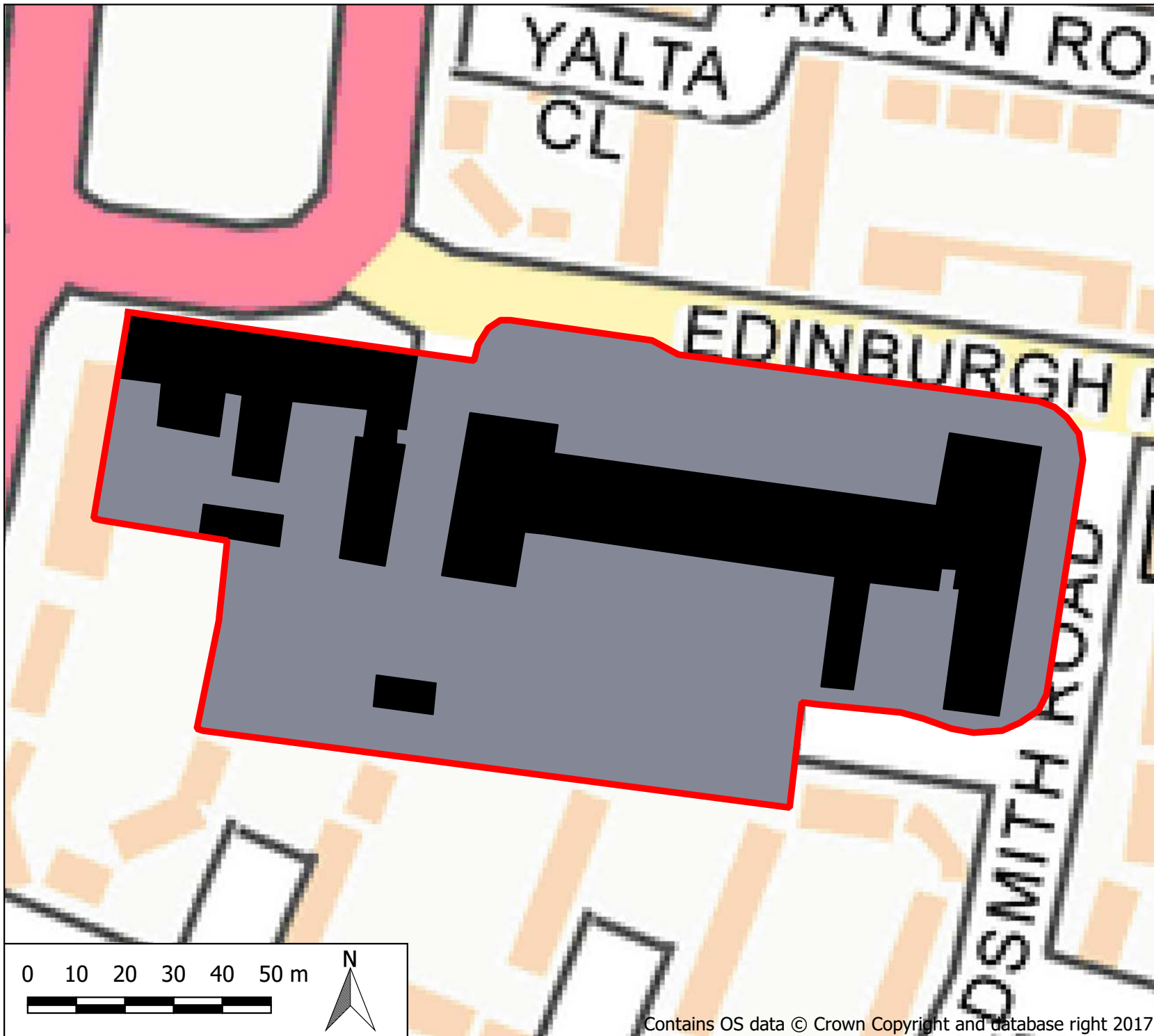
Photo 2: Buildings.

Evaluation and Discussion

No protected species were recorded during the survey, and the habitats and features present provided negligible opportunities for protected species.

Further Surveys

Due to the lack of potential for protected species to be present on site, no further surveys are likely to be recommended.



Wild Service



Legend

- Site boundary
- Buildings
- Hardstanding

Phase 1 Habitats Map

Land at Coronation Square

Date: 26 October 2017

Scale: 1:1,750

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1

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Wild Service

Site Name	Lansdown Industrial Estate
Prepared by	Olatz Gartzia
Date	31/10/2017

Site description

The Site is located near the centre of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. It is an industrial estate, approximately 5.5ha, and the central grid reference is SO 93290 22474.

The Site is surrounded by an extensively urban landscape, with several open green areas and an extensive garden network. The railway line runs along the eastern boundary of the Site.

Methodology

An extended Phase 1 habitat survey of the Site was undertaken on 31 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 and planted trees.

Table 1: Target Notes.

Target Note	Description
1	A large brick industrial building on the northern end of the Site had some broken tiles and gaps between tiles, providing opportunities for bats.
2	A residential building on the southern end of the Site had missing mortar under tiles on the southern gable end.
3	A building on the southern end of the Site had opportunities for roosting bats such as a loose ridge tile.
4	There was overgrown vegetation covering a fence that provide habitat for nesting birds.

Buildings and hardstanding

Most of the Site comprised several industrial buildings surrounded by hardstanding (**Photo 1**). The tarmac had cracks in several areas and plants such as butterfly bush (*Buddleja sp.*), spreading pellitory (*Parietaria Judaica*), Guernsey fleabane (*Conyza sumatrensis*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*) and old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*).

Most of the buildings provided a negligible potential to support roosting bats, however, three buildings could provide some opportunities for crevice dwelling bats (**Target Notes 1, 2 & 3**).



Photo 1: Buildings and hardstanding.

There was a fence near a residential building on the southern end of the Site that had overgrown vegetation covering it. Plants present included common ivy (*Hedera helix*) an Irish ivy (*H. hibernica*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and a young sycamore tree (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) (**Target Note 4**).

Amenity grassland

There were small areas of amenity grassland within the Site (**Photo 2**). This habitat had abundant perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), with occasional red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.).



Photo 2: Amenity grassland.

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 two building on the southern end provided opportunities for roosting bats.

Breeding birds

The overgrown vegetation in **Target Note 4** provided suitable habitat for breeding common garden bird species.

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 buildings on **Target Notes 1, 2 and 3**;
- 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
- Scattered trees
- ① Target note
- Hardstanding
- Buildings
- A Amenity grassland

Phase 1 Habitats Map

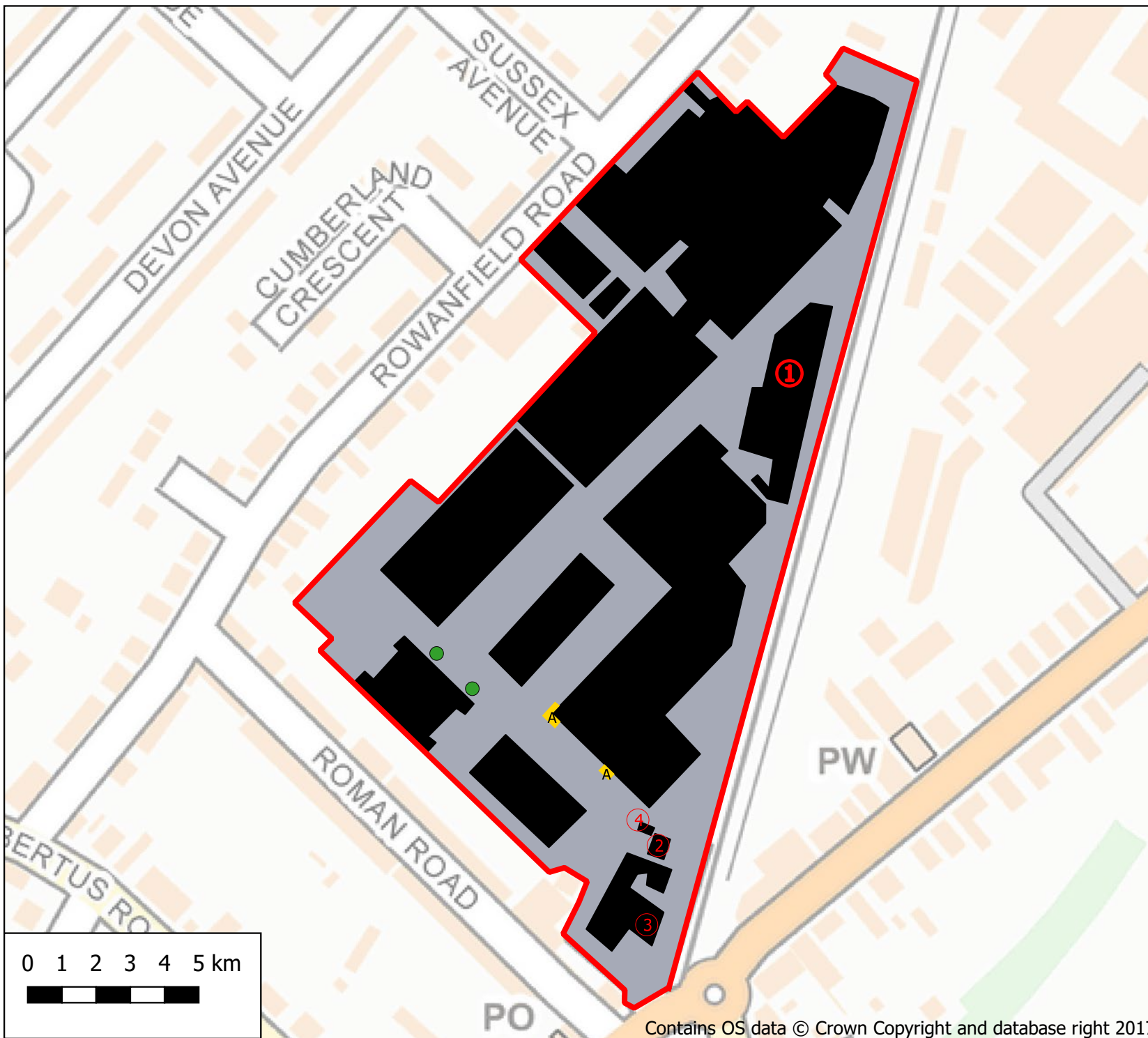
Landsdown Industrial Estate

Date: 31 October 2017

Scale: 1:4,000

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1



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Wild Service

Site Name	Land at former Monkscroft Primary School
Prepared by	Olatz Gartzia
Date	27/10/2017

Site description

The Site is located towards the western end of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. It is an approximately 1.8ha open green space and the central grid reference for is SO 92209 22487.

The Site is surrounded by an extensively urban landscape, with several open green areas and an extensive garden network within 2km radius.

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 amenity grassland with scattered trees, and tall ruderal vegetation.

Table 1: Target Notes.

Target Note	Description
1	There were scattered trees on the amenity grassland, which provide nesting opportunities for typical parkland birds.

Amenity grassland

The largest vegetative community of the Site was amenity grassland (**Photo 1**), this habitat had abundant perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and common field-speedwell (*Veronica persica*), with occasional daisy (*Bellis perennis*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.). Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) was also present but rare.

There were scattered young or semi-mature ornamental trees and bushes scattered within the amenity grassland, including weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), English elm (*Ulmus minor*) and Lawson's cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*).



Photo 1: Amenity grassland.

Tall ruderal vegetation

There was an area of tall ruderal vegetation near the western end of the Site (**Photo 2**), where the ground had a layer of broken stones and tiles. This habitat had abundant white and red clover, cocksfoot with occasional butterfly bush (*Buddleja* sp.), Guernsey fleabane (*Conyza sumatrensis*), tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*) and curled dock (*Rumex crispus*). Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) was locally common.



Photo 2: Tall ruderal vegetation.

Evaluation and Discussion

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

Bats

No potential roosting features were recorded on the trees on Site. The trees on Site provided some limited foraging opportunities for bats.

Badger

The Site is suitable for badger foraging. No setts, well-worn badger paths, push-throughs or trapped hairs were found along the fence surrounding the Site.

Breeding birds

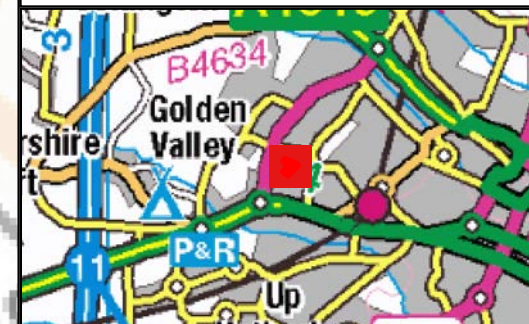
The scattered trees on Site provided limited habitat for breeding birds associated with urban parkland.

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.



Wild Service



Legend

- Site boundary
- A Amenity grassland
- /// Tall ruderal vegetation
- Hardstanding
- Scattered trees
- ① Target note

Phase 1 Habitats Map

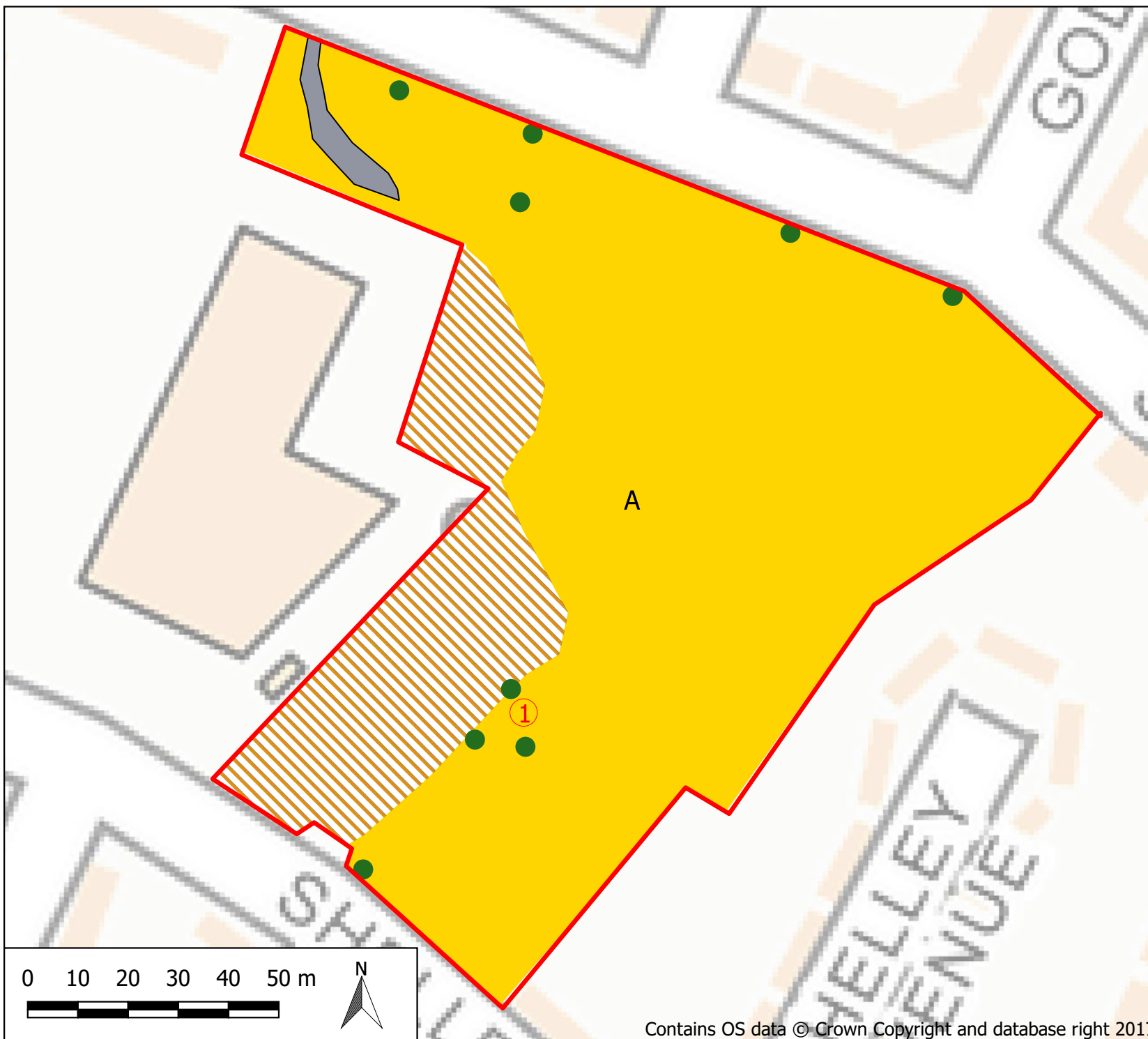
Former Monkscroft Primary School

Date: 26 October 2017

Scale: 1:1,700

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1



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Wild Service

Site Name	North place and Portland place
Prepared by	Olatz Gartzia
Date	27/10/2017

Site description

The Site is located in Cheltenham town centre, Gloucestershire. The Site is a car park, approximately 2.4ha in area and the central grid reference is SO 95072 22789.

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**.

Buildings and hardstanding

The entirety of the Site comprised a hardstanding platform for car parking (**Photo 1**). The Site was well lit by street lights. There were small cracks in the tarmac where plants such as Guernsey fleabane (*Conyza sumatrensis*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.) had grown.



Photo 1: Hardstanding within the car park.

There was a small, modern, single storey concrete block building on the southern end of the Site. The building was used as public toilet and had a metal hipped roof (**Photo 2**). The building had no potential to support roosting bats.



Photo 2: Small building with negligible bat roost potential.

Evaluation and Discussion

No protected species were recorded during the survey, and the habitats and features present provided negligible opportunities for protected species.

Further Surveys

Due to the lack of potential for protected species to be present on site, no further surveys are recommended.



Wild Service



Legend

- Site boundary
- Buildings
- Hardstanding

Phase 1 Habitats Map

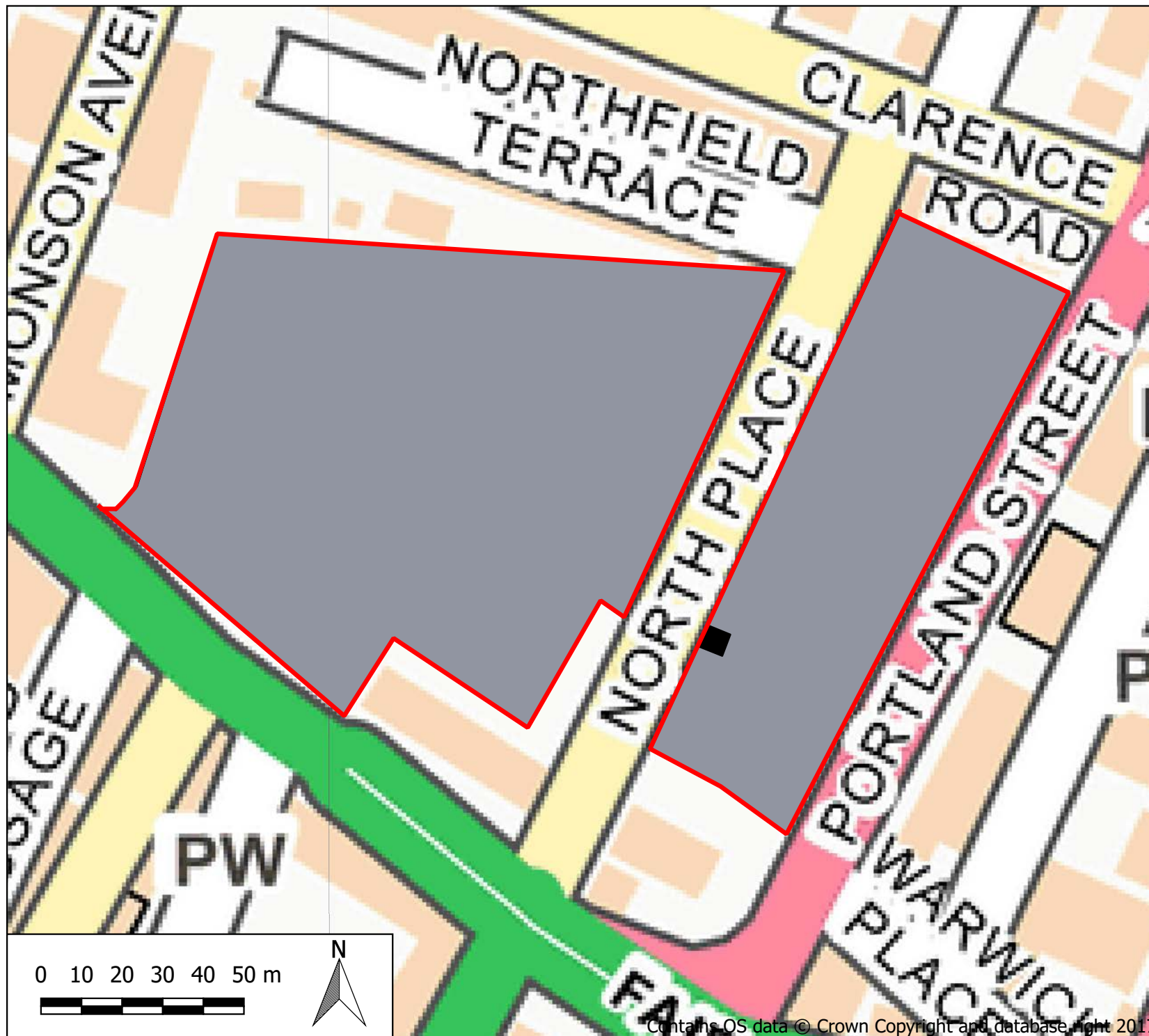
North Place and Portland Place

Date: 26 October 2017

Scale: 1:2,100

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1



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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
- I Improved grassland
- ▨ Ornamental planting
- ▨ Plantation woodland
- Hardstanding
- ① Target Note

Phase 1 Habitats Map

Land at Premiere Products

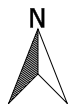
Date: 24 October 2017

Scale: 1:2,100

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1

0 10 20 30 40 50 m



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Wild Service

Site Name	Land at Priors Farm fields
Prepared by	Olatz Gartzia
Date	25/10/2017

Site description

The Site is located on the north-eastern edge of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. It is an approximately 12ha open green space and the central grid reference for is SO 97163 22808. The northern and western boundaries of the Site were under construction at the time of the survey.

The Site is surrounded by a mostly urban landscape to the west, and a more rural landscape to the east.

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 amenity grassland, semi-improved grassland, continuous scrub, a small patch of secondary woodland and a building.

Table 1: Target Notes.

Target Note	Description
1	There were fields of semi-improved grassland on the eastern end of the Site.
2	Tree with features with bat roosting potential.
3	Tree with features with bat roosting potential.
4	Tree with features with bat roosting potential.
5	Tree with features with bat roosting potential.

Amenity grassland

The western end of the Site was a large, well-maintained sports training field and play area and as such, it was composed of a well mowed amenity grassland (**Photo 1**). This habitat was composed of abundant perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), with frequent dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and occasional daisy (*Bellis perennis*). Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and common field-speedwell (*Veronica persica*) were also present but rare.



Photo 1: Playing fields with amenity grassland.

Semi-improved grassland

The fields on the eastern end of the Site were composed of semi-improved grassland (**Target Note 1; Photo 2**). The habitat here had abundant cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), creeping thistle

(*Cirsium arvense*), sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*) with frequent hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and occasional sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), broad-leaved dock (*R. obtusifolius*) and selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*).



Photo 2: Semi-improved grassland with abundant creeping thistle.

There were large areas bare ground within this habitat, likely the result of machinery movement and works within the Site.

Continuous scrub

There were several areas of dense, continuous scrub towards the eastern end of the Site. The scrub was dominated by bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) with frequent nettle (*Urtica dioica*), greater willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and occasional dog rose (*Rosa canina*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*).



Photo 3: Continuous scrub towards the eastern boundary.

There were semi-mature and mature scattered trees present within the scrub, including English oak (*Quercus robur*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), some of which had features with potential to support roosting bats (**Target Notes 2, 3, 4 & 5**).



Photo 4: A mature tree with potential roost features for bats.

Secondary woodland

There was a small area secondary woodland present in the centre of the Site. This habitat had abundant blackthorn with occasional bramble and ash. The understory had abundant bare ground, nettle and ivy (*Hedera helix*).

Building

There was a small, modern, single storey brick building on the south-western end of the Site. The building had a corrugated metal hipped roof. The building had no potential to support roosting bats.



Photo 5: The sole building on Site.

Evaluation and Discussion

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

Bats

The building on Site had a negligible potential to support roosting bats. There were several mature trees with bat roosting features on Site and the woodland and continuous scrub provided foraging and commuting opportunities for bats.

Reptiles

With a mosaic of habitats, the Site has potential to hold populations of reptiles such as common lizard and slow worm. The site has a mosaic of grasslands with different sward heights, shrubs and trees. These provide refuges and basking spots for reptiles.

Badger

The Site is suitable for badger foraging. No setts, 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 scrub, trees and woodland.

Hedgehog

The lines continuous scrub, woodland and tall ruderal vegetation on the eastern end of the Site may provide suitable habitat for hedgehog. The woodland had piles of logs and rubble which may support hibernation sites.

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 – bat activity surveys prior to the removal of linear vegetation; aerial tree inspection prior to the removal of trees with bat roosting potential;
- Birds – no specific survey is recommended, but vegetation scheduled for removal between March and August must be checked for evidence of breeding birds;
- Badger survey within 30m of the Site; and
- Reptiles – presence/absence survey in suitable habitat towards the eastern end of the Site.



Wild Service



Legend

- Boundary
- Bare ground
- A Amenity grassland
- SI Semi improved grassland
- Continuous scrub
- Semi-natural woodland
- Buildings
- ① Target note

Phase 1 Habitats Map

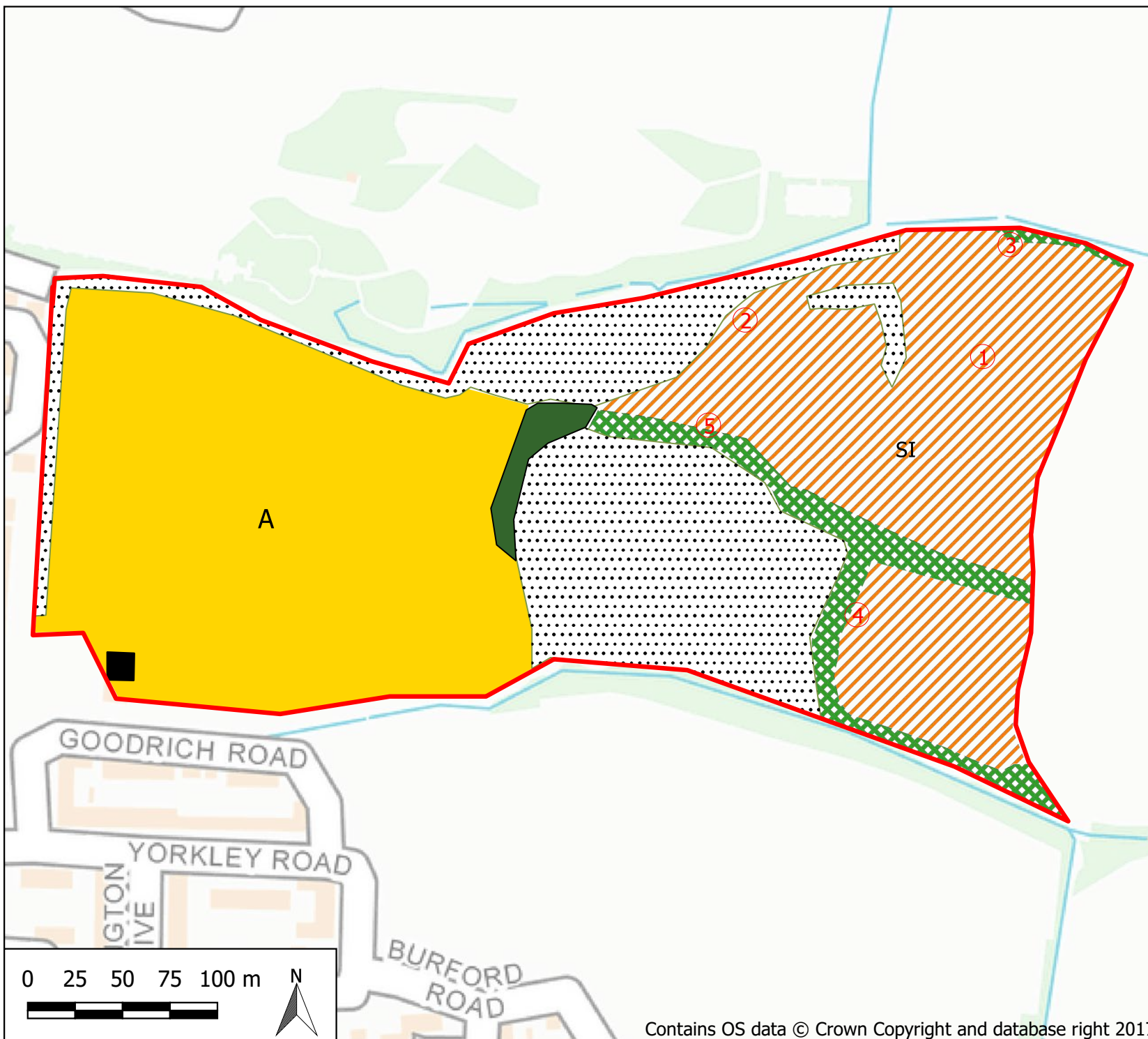
Land at Priors Farm fields

Date: 24 October 2017

Scale: 1:4,500

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1



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Wild Service

Site Name	Reeves Field
Prepared by	Olatz Gartzia
Date	25/10/2017

Site description

The Site is located in the centre of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. It is an approximately 4.6ha open playing field and the central grid reference for is SO 95553 21143.

The Site is positioned on the centre of the town, surrounded by an urban landscape, with several open greenspaces and an extensive garden network within 2km radius.

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 amenity grassland, lines of trees a small patch of tall ruderal vegetation and a building.

Table 1: Target Notes.

Target Note	Description
1	The Site was enclosed by a line of trees that could provide habitat for nesting birds and foraging and commuting habitat for bats.
2	The building on Site provides potential to support roosting bats.

Amenity grassland

The Site was a large, well-maintained rugby training field and as such, the majority was composed of a well mowed amenity grassland (**Photo 1**). This habitat was dominated by perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), but had areas where yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*), common field-speedwell (*Veronica persica*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.).



Photo 1: An example of amenity grassland within the Site.

Line of trees

The Site was enclosed by a line of trees (**Target Note 1; Photo 2**). The tree line was composed of small-leaved elm (*Ulmus minor*), horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), cherry (*Prunus avium*), English oak (*Quercus robur*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). On the northern end, the tree layer was thicker and the understory was less managed than the remaining of the Site. Species composition here was composed of bushes and tall ruderal herbs including hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*).



Photo 2: The line of trees surrounding the Site.

Tall ruderal vegetation

There was a small area of tall ruderal vegetation on the north-western end of the Site (**Photo 3**). This habitat had abundant nettle with occasional hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*). Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) was also present but rare.



Photo 3: Tall ruderal vegetation.

Building

There was a small, modern, single storey brick building on the south-western end of the Site (**Target Note 2; Photo 4**). The building had a pitched roof clad with concrete tiles. There were several small gaps between tiles and mortar that could provide opportunities for crevice dwelling bats.



Photo 4: Building with some potential roost features for bats.

Evaluation and Discussion

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

Bats

The building on Site had some gaps between the tiles and the mortar which provide roosting opportunities for crevice dwelling bats. No potential roosting features were recorded on the trees on Site. The line of trees provided foraging and commuting opportunities for bats.

Reptiles

The majority of the Site was composed of well-mown amenity grassland and therefore was unsuitable for reptiles. There was a small area of tall ruderal vegetation on the northern end of the Site that could provide habitat for common reptile species, however, this area was too small to sustain a population.

Badger

The Site is suitable for badger foraging. No well-worn badger paths, push-throughs or trapped hairs were found along the fence surrounding the Site.

Breeding birds

The line of trees on Site provided suitable habitat for breeding birds.

Hedgehog

The lines of trees and tall ruderal vegetation on the northern end of the Site may provide suitable habitat for hedgehog. The dense patch of ruderal had piles of logs and rubble which may support hibernation sites.

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 if the building is scheduled to be removed and bat activity surveys prior to the removal of the lines of trees;
- 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

- ① Target note
- Site boundary
- Tree line
- A Amenity grassland
- Buildings
- ▨ Tall ruderal vegetation

Phase 1 Habitats Map

Reeves field

Date: 24 October 2017

Scale: 1:2,750

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1

0 10 20 30 40 50 m



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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

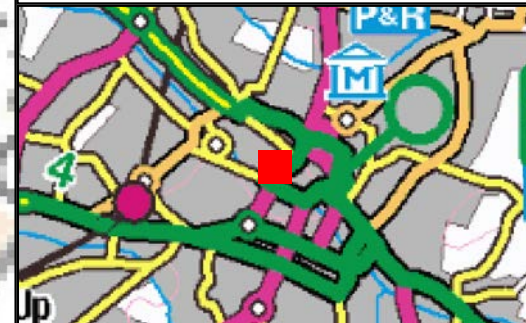
The habitats on Site provided suitable habitat for breeding birds typical of urban habitats, including the scattered trees, and hedgerow.

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.



Wild Service



Legend

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

Phase 1 Habitats Map

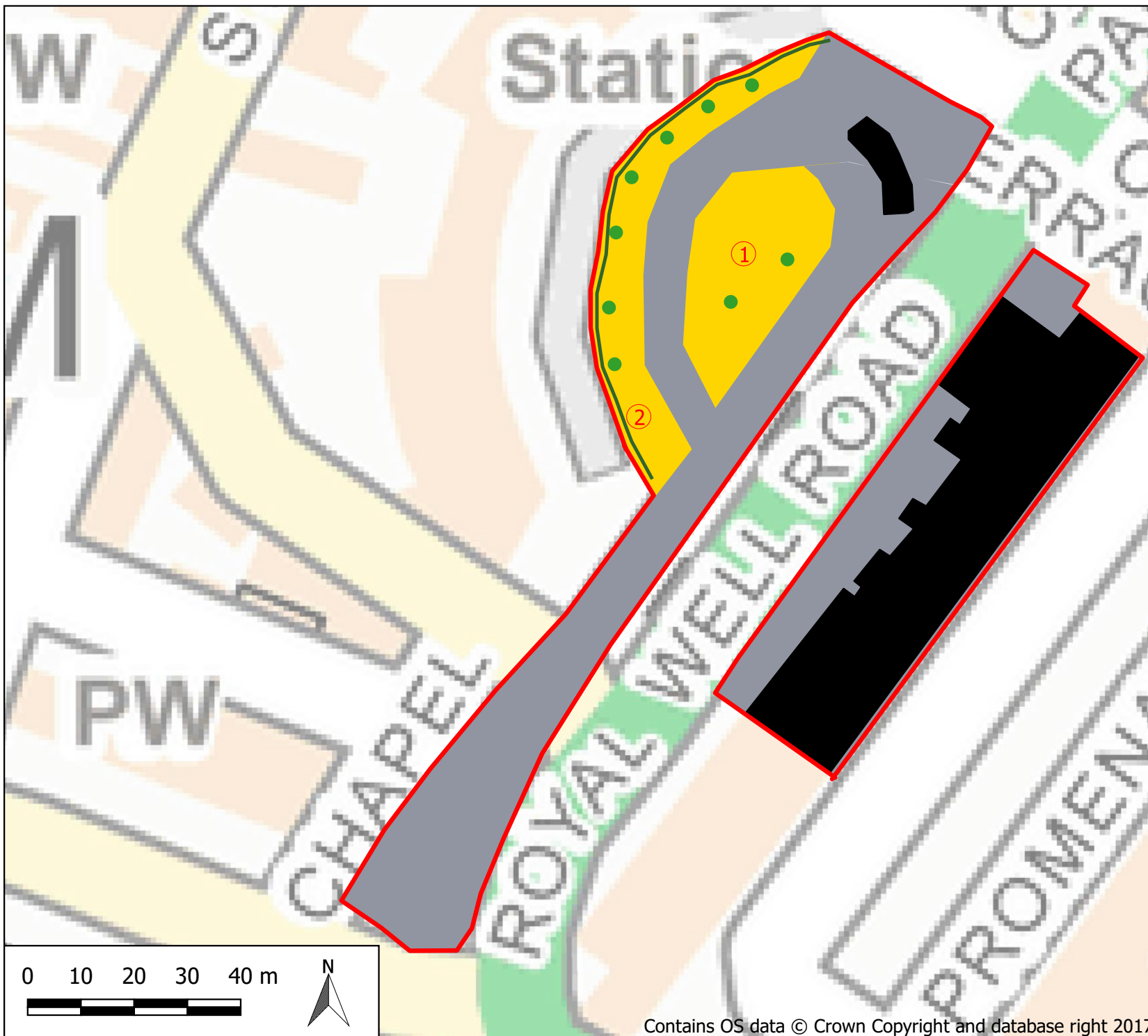
Royal Well and Municipal Offices

Date: 26 October 2017

Scale: 1:1,600

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1



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Wild Service

Site Name	Land at Stone Crescent
Prepared by	Olatz Gartzia
Date	29/11/2017

Site description

The Site is located towards the north-western end of the town of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. It is an approximately 0.5ha open green space and the central grid reference for is SO 92843 22966.

The Site is surrounded by an extensively urban landscape, with a housing estate bordering the northern and eastern ends of the Site and a large playing fields immediately to the south and west of the Site.

Methodology

An extended Phase 1 habitat survey of the Site was undertaken on 7 November 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**. The habitats identified on Site included amenity grassland and bare ground.

Amenity grassland

The majority of the Site was composed of a well-mown amenity grassland (**Photo 1**), which had abundant perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), with frequent daisy (*Bellis perennis*), and occasional dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) was locally abundant on areas of the northern end of the Site.



Photo 1: Regularly mown amenity grassland.

Bare ground

There was an area of bare-ground resulting from a recent vegetation clearance on the northern and eastern ends of the Site. The leftover vegetation in these areas was mostly bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), ivy (*Hedera helix*) and nettle.

There was a mature cherry tree (*Prunus avium*) within the bare ground on the eastern end of the Site. The tree had no features to support roosting bats.



Photo 2: An example of bare ground on Site with the singular cherry tree.

Evaluation and Discussion

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

Breeding birds

The cherry tree on Site provided suitable habitat for breeding birds.

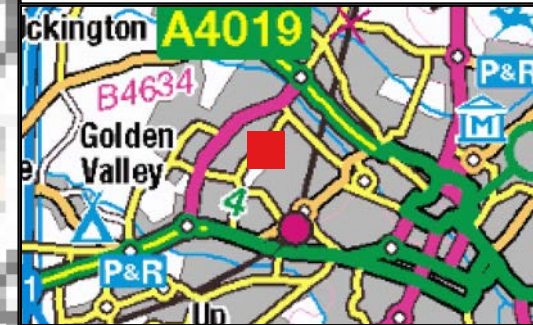
Further Surveys

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

- 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
- A Amenity grassland
- Bare ground
- Trees

Phase 1 Habitats Map

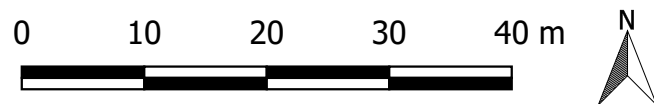
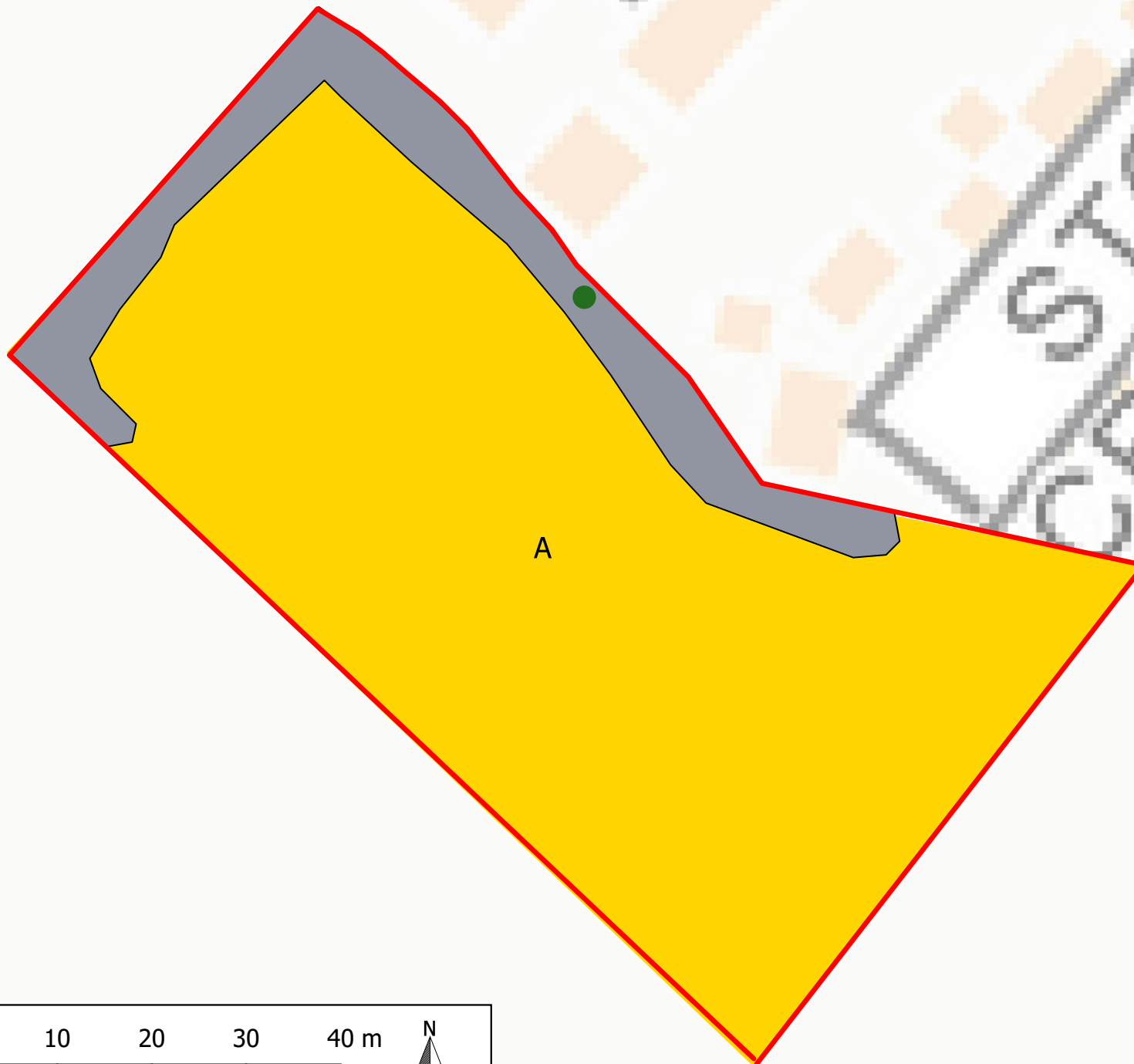
Land at Stone Crescent

Date: 7 November 2017

Scale: 1:1,000

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1



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