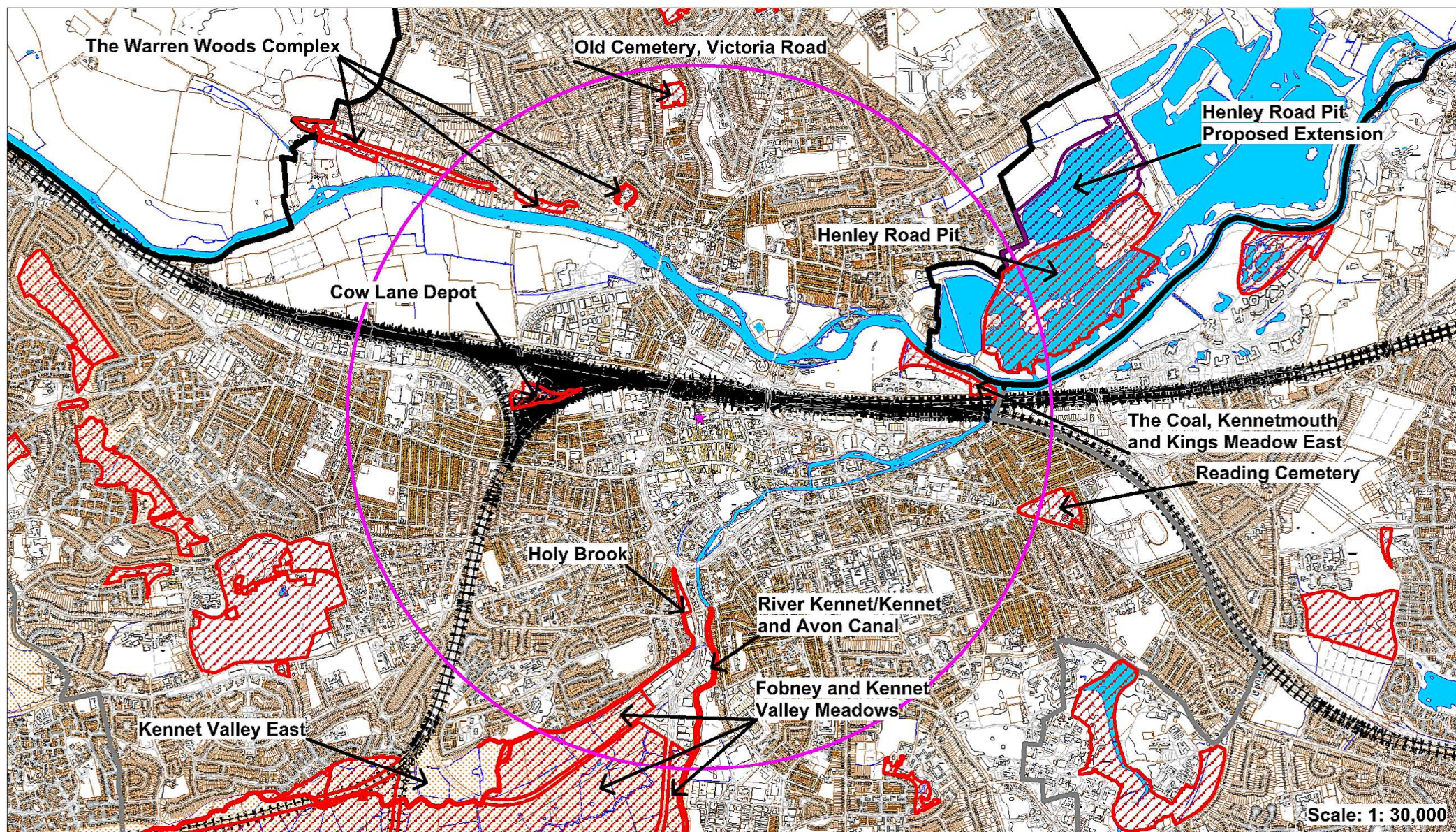


Garrard Street, Reading - Designated Wildlife Sites Map



Scale: 1: 30,000

- ★ Garrard Street, Reading
- 2 km search area
- Proposed Local Wildlife Site (p-LWS)
- Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA)
- Local Wildlife Site (LWS)

Map produced by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre in 2014
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Berkshire Local Wildlife Site citation

COW LANE DEPOT

Site Code: 77B03

Grid Reference: SU70449 73848

Area (ha): 1.544

Local Authority: Reading Borough

Last Survey Date(s): May 2004

Designation Date:

Site Description

A small isolated, triangular site bounded by a railway track, situated towards the centre of Reading. The site forms a mosaic of habitats ranging from willow scrub with mature trees, to open standing water with swamp to ruderal and tall herb grassland. The site has a varied topography with a steep north facing slope colonized by buddleia, hazel and goat willow. Cow Lane Depot provides a wildlife corridor in an urban landscape.

Standing water has collected at the centre of the site where stands of greater pond sedge and common reedmace swamp (with affinities to an S6/12 NVC community) form a mosaic with open water and areas of encroaching willow scrub. In 1985 the site consisted of a phragmites reedbed, which was not recorded in the 2004 survey.

Areas of willow scrub are dominated by crack willow with some mature trees and a shaded ground flora of predominantly nettle and areas of dense bramble. A stagnant, shaded ditch lies to the north with little vegetation and some litter has collected. Adjacent to the railway track lies a recently disturbed area that consists of a ruderal type grassland. Species include red fescue, creeping bent, black knapweed, meadow vetchling, teasel and great willowherb.

SECTION 41 HABITAT(S) OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE: None

PROTECTED SPECIES: None recorded

SECTION 41 SPECIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE: Reed bunting (1986)

RED DATA BOOK (RDB) SPECIES RECORDED: None recorded

NATIONALLY SCARCE (NSC) SPECIES RECORDED: None recorded

BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN (BoCC) RECORDED:

Red List Species: Reed bunting (1985)

Amber List Species: Kestrel (2004)

TYPICAL SPECIES OF THE HABITAT TYPE(S)

Typical wetland species: hemp agrimony (1986), common reed (1986), greater and lesser pond sedge (2004), soft and hard rush (2004), bulrush (2004), fool's water-cress (1986), great willowherb (2004), marsh horsetail (1986), meadowsweet (1986), branched bur-reed (1986), purple-loosestrife (1986),

Typical grassland species: common sedge (1986), sneezewort (1986)

Oxfordshire Local Wildlife Site description

HENLEY ROAD GRAVEL PIT

Site Code: 77H01

Grid Reference: SU705772

Area (ha): 53.7

Local Authority: South Oxfordshire

Last Survey Date(s): 2009

Designation Date:

Site Description

This site is large pit next to the Thames where gravel was extracted in the past. The site supports a range of wildfowl that winter in the UK including species such as gadwall which is classed a bird of conservation concern. The value of the site is dependent on the amount of disturbance. This pit is quite large and there are quieter areas and part of the site is divided by off by a thin causeway where scrub has established. The pit is one of the best sites for wildfowl in South Oxfordshire. Some nationally scarce insects have also been recorded here.

However part of the site is a marina and another part is a rowing lake and it is planned to reassess the area with other pits to the north and west, that are currently outside the site boundary, in the future.

Berkshire Local Wildlife Site citation

THE WARREN WOODLANDS COMPLEX

Site Code: 67X02

Grid Reference: SU697752

Area (ha): 7.64

Local Authority: Reading Borough Council

Last Survey Date(s): 08/04/2004

Designation Date:

Site Description

The Warren Woodland Complex consists of six sites. These are Warren Woods Chalkpit, Chalkpit Wood (SU692753), Chazney Wood (SU707764), Grass Hill and Warren Court Wood (SU706749), Woodrow Court Woods (SU709750) and Long Drain (SU693752). The sites are situated on the chalk scarp of The Warren in Caversham, Reading.

Warren Woods Chalkpit is at the western end of the site. It is a small chalk pit with a vertical face and scree below. It is in a sheltered, sunny, south-facing position. Soils are a mixture of calcareous and neutral on spoil. The floor of the pit is covered with a dense swathe of assemblage of scattered scrub, young trees, ruderal and woodland herbs. There is much dead wood and fallen trees across the site which inhibit access.

Chalkpit Wood is also at the western end of the site and surrounds the chalkpit. It is a small, largely semi-natural woodland of beech, ash and oak with some wild cherry, containing a few mature conifers on steep to moderate sloping land. It has a very diverse tree and shrub flora, typical of chalk woodlands and there are some old coppice stools. The ground flora includes wood melick, sanicle and white helleborine.

Chazney Wood is a long section of semi-natural woodland that stretches from the chalk pit in the west to Grass Hill, an unmade road, in the east along the steep, south-facing scarp. The southern boundary coincides with the road along the foot of the scarp but the existing northern boundary adjoins both woodlands and gardens. The woodland is a mixture of beech, ash and sycamore with scattered Scots pine in the east where yew becomes more abundant. The dog's mercury and ivy dominated ground flora includes ransoms and wood melick. The whole area is riddled with badger setts.

Grass Hill and Warren Court Wood consists of two adjoining sites at the eastern end of the scarp. The habitat is mixed broadleaved with beech, ash and sycamore and mature yew *Taxus baccata* woodland, most of the yew being present on the steep, unstable and eroding chalky slopes around Warren Court. The woodland is south-facing and is sheltered. There are badger setts and tracks throughout.

Woodrow Court Wood lies further to the east. It is an area of woodland at the edge of an old quarry in which flats have been built. It was not surveyed in 2004.

The Long Drain is a linear site that lies at the base of the scarp in the east and includes a steep chalk bank and a flat area on the alluvium of the Thames Valley. It consists of a steep wooded bank with beech and ash dominated woodland, wet woodland including a line of crack willow pollards, patches of sedge swamp and the drain itself which flows into the Thames a short distance to the east. There is also a grassy clearing at the western end. The wet woodland supports a population of the nationally scarce Loddon lily.

SECTION 41 HABITAT(S) OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, Lowland beech and yew woodland, Wet woodland, Fen

PROTECTED SPECIES Badger, Bluebell

SECTION 41 SPECIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE: White helleborine

RED DATA BOOK (RDB) SPECIES RECORDED: White helleborine

NATIONALLY SCARCE (NSC) SPECIES RECORDED: Loddon lily

BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN (BoCC) RECORDED:

Red List Species:

Amber List Species:

TYPICAL SPECIES OF THE HABITAT TYPE(S):

Berkshire Local Wildlife Site citation

KENNET & AVON CANAL AND RIVER KENNET

Site Code: SU77A02

Grid Reference: SU685709 – SU713719

Area (ha):

Local Authority: Reading

Last Survey Date(s): May 2004

Designation Date: Retained 2004

Site Description

A section of the River Kennet and the Kennet and Avon Canal from near Burghfield Bridge, south-east of Reading, to Waterloo Meadows adjacent to Edgar Road near the centre of Reading. The River Kennet is one of the best examples of a chalk river nationally, and is an UK BAP Priority Habitat. The Kennet & Avon Canal section is also fed by water from the River Kennet and is also calcareous in nature.

SECTION 41 HABITAT(S) OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE: Chalk river.

PROTECTED SPECIES: Water vole (2000), Freshwater crayfish (1979), Bluebell (2004)

SECTION 41 SPECIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE: Water vole (2000), Freshwater crayfish (1979)

RED DATA BOOK (RDB) SPECIES RECORDED: Freshwater crayfish (1979),

NATIONALLY SCARCE (NSC) SPECIES RECORDED: Whorled water-milfoil (1985), River water-dropwort (1985), Chives (1985), Beautiful demoiselle (local - 2004).

BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN (BoCC) RECORDED:

Red List Species:

Amber List Species: Green woodpecker, mute swan, cuckoo.

TYPICAL SPECIES OF WETLAND HABITAT: Common alder, fool's water-cress, winter-cress, cuckooflower, lesser pond-sedge, marsh thistle, hemp agrimony, meadowsweet, floating sweet-grass, reed sweet-grass, yellow flag iris, soft rush, hard rush, purple loosestrife, water mint, water forget-me-not, water chickweed, amphibious bistort, butterbur, canary reed-grass, common reed, lesser spearwort, celery-leaved buttercup, clustered dock, water dock, goat willow, grey willow, crack willow, common osier, water figwort, branched bur-reed, marsh woundwort, greater reedmace, common valerian, brooklime, hemlock water-dropwort (36).

Berkshire Local Wildlife Site description

FOBNEY & KENNET VALLEY MEADOWS

Site Code: SU77A03

Grid Reference: SU701714

Area (ha): 140.4

Local Authority: Reading

Last Survey Date(s): 2004

Designation Date: Retained 2004

Site Description

A large area of permanent pasture with some wet grassland and patches of swamp vegetation. The site has a good series of ditches with tall wetland and aquatic species and a small area of woodland. Species found along the ditches include common reed, common marsh bedstraw, yellow flag iris, purple loosestrife, water mint, hemlock water-dropwort, fennel pondweed, marsh woundwort and lesser water parsnip. Dragonflies and damselflies seen here include the common darter, banded demoiselle and common hawk. The meadows flood regularly in winter providing an attractive area for overwintering wildfowl.

There are also areas of unmanaged grassland with areas of swamp, scrub and tall herb vegetation, including the recently added areas along Rose Kiln Lane. There is a backwater of the River Kennet near Southcote Lock which has been recorded as being rich in aquatic species including the rare river water-dropwort, fennel pondweed, flowering rush, and spiked water milfoil.

Berkshire Local Wildlife Site citation

HOLY BROOK

Site Code: SU77B01

Grid Reference: SU703718

Length (km): 4.5

Local Authority: Reading Borough Council

Last Survey Date(s): 26/4/2004

Designation Date: Retained 2004

Site Description

This site was originally designated as a number of separate sites which have now been combined. These were the stretch south of Berkley Avenue and the stretch between Berkley Avenue and the Reading Inner Distribution Road. The Holy Brook is a stream that carries water from and emptying back into the River Kennet, a chalk river. The western end of the site lies just west of the Burghfield Road although the brook originates further west near Theale. The central section it flows through the Fobney and River Kennet Meadows. To the east its course is adjacent to housing and through commercial and industrial areas. The site ends at the Reading Inner Distribution Road. Here the Brook is canalised within concrete revetments which are absent in the rest of its length. Alder and willows line the banks and a variety of wetland species are found along the banks with stands of reed sweet-grass, hemlock water-dropwort and occasional water dock. Water-crowfoots (*Ranunculus aquatilis/fluitans*) were recorded in the Brook in 1987 and 1994. A number of notable invertebrates have been recorded in Holy Brook and water vole has been recorded in the central and western sections.

SECTION 41 HABITAT(S) OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE: Chalk river.

PROTECTED SPECIES:

SECTION 41 SPECIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE:

RED DATA BOOK (RDB) SPECIES RECORDED:

NATIONALLY SCARCE (NSC) SPECIES RECORDED:

BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN (BoCC) RECORDED:

Red List Species: House sparrow

Amber List Species: Mute swan

TYPICAL SPECIES OF WETLAND HABITATS (2004): Common alder, reed sweet-grass, water dock, goat willow, crack willow, common osier, hemlock water-dropwort (7).

Berkshire Local Wildlife Site Citation

OLD CEMETERY, VICTORIA ROAD

SITE CODE: SU77C04

GRID REF: SU712755

AREA (Ha): 1.5

LOCAL AUTHORITY: Reading Borough Council

LAST SURVEY DATE: 23/4/2004

DESIGNATION DATE: 2005

SITE DESCRIPTION

This small Victorian cemetery is laid out on a formal grid with tarmac paths surrounded by hedges. It is a sheltered man-made habitat in the midst of an urban environment in Caversham, Reading. Many large trees, generally not native and evergreens, form a backdrop to a carpet of native and garden bluebells, native primroses and celandine in a shaded moist environment.

The ground slopes gently to the east and the soil appears to be quite heavy clay. It is fairly isolated from other Wildlife Heritage sites.

SECTION 41 HABITAT(S) OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE:

PROTECTED SPECIES

SECTION 41 SPECIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE:

RED DATA BOOK (RDB) SPECIES RECORDED:

NATIONALLY SCARCE (NSC) SPECIES RECORDED:

BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN (BoCC) RECORDED:

Red List Species:

Amber List Species:

TYPICAL SPECIES OF THE HABITAT TYPE(S)

Six ancient woodland indicator species were noted and one unimproved grassland indicator.

Berkshire Local Wildlife Site citation

THE COAL, KENNETMOUTH AND KINGS MEADOW EAST

Site Code: SU77G02

Grid Reference: SU730739

Area (ha): 0.83

Local Authority: Reading Borough Council

Last Survey Date(s): 2004

Designation Date: retained 2004

Site Description

This is a small site located on the southern bank of the Thames near the mouth of the River Kennet. It is contiguous with the Kennetmouth WHS, which is noted for its good colony of loddon lily (an RDB species). The site sits on the elevated alluvial bank of the Thames but is probably subject to flooding at times. The Coal is also an old colliery spoil site and there is still evidence of this industrial past, with coal found on the surface throughout. The site is bordered to the south by the Thames towpath and a general footpath also bisects the WHS.

The site comprises a central and riverside woodland area and an open wayleave at the foot of a steep railway embankment. The former is dominated by canopy trees including two large poplars and a small stand of semi-mature hornbeams. Large horse chestnuts also dominate in places. The understorey of elder, buddleia and hawthorn forms a dense thicket in places effectively shading out the ground flora throughout. There are signs of a formerly richer past with two woodland indicators found at time of survey.

The open wayleave and willow scrub embankment are more interesting, but extensive management work to keep the area open has left it disturbed and impoverished. There is however substantial scope to enhance this section, especially with a more sympathetic use of wood mulch which is currently spread throughout.

SECTION 41 HABITAT(S) OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE:

PROTECTED SPECIES

Bluebell Schedule 8 WACA 1981

SECTION 41 SPECIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE:

RED DATA BOOK (RDB) SPECIES RECORDED:

NATIONALLY SCARCE (NSC) SPECIES RECORDED:

BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN (BoCC) RECORDED:

Red List Species:

Amber List Species: Cormorant

TYPICAL SPECIES OF THE HABITAT TYPE(S):

Berkshire Local Wildlife Site citation

READING CEMETERY

Site Code: SU77G04

Grid Reference: SU733732

Area (ha): 4.7

Local Authority: Reading Borough Council

Last Survey Date(s): 12/7/2007

Designation Date: retained 2008

Site Description

A large, old cemetery, bound by a high stone wall with sections of semi-improved grassland with more diverse, flower-rich areas, split into sections by many concrete footpaths. Several mature and immature trees and shrubs are scattered around the site with a range of both native and ornamental species. The grassland sward varies from areas which are grass-dominated, to areas with a more flower-rich composition particularly towards the north west. In the most diverse areas red fescue is predominant with occasional common and creeping bent, smooth meadow-grass, Yorkshire fog and false oat-grass. Forbs include lady's bedstraw, lesser stitchwort, oxeye daisy, prickly sedge and common bird's-foot-trefoil. The grassland has affinities (in areas) to a species poor MG5 *Cynosurus cristatus-Centaurea nigra* grassland, National Vegetation Classification (NVC) community. But in other sections the grassland is grading/ has affinities to an MG1 *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland, NVC Community. The site has elements of a Lowland Meadow (Section 41 Habitat) as meadow vetchling, oxeye daisy, common bird's foot-trefoil and lady's bedstraw are species typical of Lowland Meadow. However the grassland does lack some of the more typical unimproved grassland indicator species. Sycamore and common lime line the wall with sections of landscaped snowberry. On a section of the northern wall lie two small patches of wall rue. The cemetery is enclosed by roads and is located towards the north of Reading where it forms a wildlife stepping stone across an urban environment.

SECTION 41 HABITAT(S) OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE:

PROTECTED SPECIES: Bluebell (1998)

SECTION 41 SPECIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE: Song Thrush (1994),
Cinnabar Moth (1986)

RED DATA BOOK (RDB) SPECIES RECORDED:

NATIONALLY SCARCE (NSC) SPECIES RECORDED:

BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN (BoCC) RECORDED: Song Thrush
(1994, Red List)

TYPICAL SPECIES OF THE HABITAT TYPE(S)

Lady's bedstraw (2007), meadow vetchling (2007), oxeye daisy (2007) and common bird's-foot-trefoil (2007).

Kennet Valley East

The Kennet Valley from Newbury to Reading extending to include large areas of gravel pits in the east. The area includes all the area in the valley covered by the West Berkshire Living landscape Project. Also includes the lower section of the Enborne Valley extending to include the valley of a tributary stream at Ashford Hill.

Geology: this area lies on the alluvium and River Terrace sand and gravel.

Topography: flat riverside land

Biodiversity:

- Chalk River: The River Kennet is an important chalk river and is notified as an SSSI as far as Woolhampton.
- Reedbeds: This area supports the most extensive areas of reedbed habitat in Berkshire including the SSSI and LNR at Thatcham and the SSSI at Woolhampton.
- Fen: There are some areas of tall fen habitat especially near Thatcham as well as areas within gravel pits in the east and in some of the meadows. There are also areas in the valley at Ashford Hill.
- Wet woodland: There are patches of willow dominated woodland.
- Lowland meadow: the most important area is at Ashford Hill where the valley supports a diversity of lowland meadow and fen habitat.
- Wet grassland: there are remnant areas of wet grassland throughout the valley.
- Standing water: The extensive gravel pits in the east provide important habitat for birds. Hosehill Lake is a Local Nature Reserve. Aldermaston Gravel Pit is an SSSI and Nature Reserve. The associated fen, scrub and woodland habitat adds greatly to the diversity of the area. The Kennet and Avon Canal runs the whole length of the area.

-

Geodiversity: Brimpton Gravel Pit has important geological exposures.

Access: The canal provides the main focus of access, while the are accessible Local Nature Reserves at Thatcham and Hosehill Lake near Theale.

Targets and Opportunities: River management, restoration and protection. Management and re-creation of reedbed and fen. Management of gravel pits and associated habitats. Potential for some nature conservation after use in future mineral extraction. Management, restoration and re-creation of lowland meadow and wet grassland habitat. The west of the area is within the West Berkshire Living Landscape boundary.

GUIDANCE ON THE VARIOUS STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY WILDLIFE SITE DESIGNATIONS.

SITE DESIGNATIONS THAT PROTECT THE UK'S NATURAL HERITAGE THROUGH STATUTE

LOCAL NATURE RESERVES (LNRs) (IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES)

Under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 LNRs may be declared by local authorities after consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation agency. LNRs are declared and managed for nature conservation, and provide opportunities for research and education, or simply enjoying and having contact with nature.

NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES (NNRS)

NNRs contain examples of some of the most important natural and semi-natural terrestrial and coastal ecosystems in Great Britain. They are managed to conserve their habitats or to provide special opportunities for scientific study of the habitats communities and species represented within them.

NNRs are declared by the statutory country conservation agencies under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. In Northern Ireland, Nature Reserves are designated under the Amenity Lands Act (Northern Ireland) 1965.

RAMSAR SITES

Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, agreed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. Originally intended to protect sites of importance especially as waterfowl habitat, the Convention has broadened its scope over the years to cover all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, recognizing wetlands as ecosystems that are extremely important for biodiversity conservation in general and for the well-being of human communities. The Convention adopts a broad definition of wetland, namely "areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres". Wetlands "may incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six metres at low tide lying within the wetlands".

There is only one Ramsar site in Berkshire or Oxfordshire, South West London Waterbodies.

SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI) (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES)

The SSSI series has developed since 1949 as the national suite of sites providing statutory protection for the best examples of the UK's flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features. These sites are also used to underpin other national and international nature conservation designations. Most SSSIs are privately-owned or managed; others are owned or managed by public bodies or non-government organisations.

Originally notified under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, SSSIs have been renotified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Improved provisions for the protection and management of SSSIs were introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (in England and Wales) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI)

SACs are designated under the EC Habitats Directive. SACs are areas which have been identified as best representing the range and variety within the European Union of habitats and (non-bird) species listed on Annexes I and II to the Directive. SACs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles are designated under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended). New and/or amended Habitats sites which have been submitted to the European Commission by Government, but not yet formally adopted by the Commission, are referred to as candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs). Sites which have been adopted by the EC, but not yet formally designated by governments of Member States are known as Sites of Community Importance (SCIs). In the UK, designation of SACs is devolved to the relevant administration within each country.

SACs, together with SPAs, form the Natura 2000 network. SPAs, together with SACs, form the Natura 2000 network.

SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)

SPAs are classified by the UK Government under the EC Birds Directive. SPAs are areas of the most important habitat for rare (listed on Annex I to the Directive) and migratory birds within the European Union. SPAs in terrestrial areas and territorial marine waters out to 12 nautical miles are classified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

SPAs, together with SACs, form the Natura 2000 network.

NON-STATUTORY NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

Local authorities for any given area may designate certain areas as being of local conservation interest. The criteria for inclusion, and the level of protection provided, if any, may vary between areas. Most individual counties have a similar scheme, although they do vary.

Most Local Wildlife Sites systems involve a panel of ecologists and others in the development of local criteria and the selection of the sites. Panels usually include a local government ecologist, an Natural England representative, the Local Wildlife Trust, the Local Environmental Record Centre and sometimes include a representative of local landowners and local naturalists.

These sites, which may be given various titles such as 'County Wildlife Sites' (CWS), 'Local Wildlife Sites' (LWS), 'Local Nature Conservation Sites' (LNCS), 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation' (SINCs), or Sites of Nature Conservation Importance' (SNCIs), together with statutory designations, are defined in local plans under the Town and Country Planning system and the National Planning Policy Framework and are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined.

As part of a national standardisation process these sites have recently been renamed as Local Wildlife Sites in Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Previously they were known as County Wildlife Sites in Oxfordshire and Wildlife Heritage Sites in Berkshire. Although the use of these names, especially in citations and descriptions, is being edited and replaced with Local Wildlife Sites or LWS it is likely that some references will remain to these former names until this is complete.

PROPOSED LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES AND EXTENSIONS

These are also included on designated sites maps. They are areas thought to include important areas of UKBAP habitat or priority or protected species populations. Extensions are likely to have similar habitats to the adjacent Local Wildlife Sites. Local Authorities are made aware of these sites. They will not have been fully surveyed and taken to the selection panel as yet.

NGO PROPERTIES / NATURE RESERVES

A variety of non-governmental organisations such as the John Muir Trust, Plantlife, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Wildlife Trusts and Woodland Trust own or manage nature reserves or other areas of land that are important for biodiversity. These sites may be intended primarily for nature conservation, or for other purposes such as protection of landscape features or the provision public access to the countryside. These areas of themselves have no statutory basis, but a large number are also designated SSSIs / NNRs / SPAs / SACs / Ramsar sites, etc.

In Berkshire and Oxfordshire, BBOWT (Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust), Woodland Trust and RSPB sites fall into this category.

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES (LGS)

Local Geological Sites formerly known as Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) are the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). As part of a national standardisation process these sites have recently been renamed as Local Geological Sites in Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Sites are selected under locally-developed criteria, according to their value for education, scientific study, historical significance or aesthetic qualities. Whilst not benefiting from statutory protection, LGS are equivalent to Local Wildlife Sites, and *"...consideration of their importance becomes integral to the planning process"*.

OTHER SITES

Occasionally other sites might be shown on maps. These are likely to be sites with some wildlife interest, usually managed by local groups, local authorities or town councils but which do not have a specific statutory or non-statutory designation.

Some local authorities within Oxfordshire and Berkshire have identified other sites which are protected through policies in their local plans, including sites of local importance to nature conservation (SLINCs) in Oxford city and district wildlife sites in Cherwell. For SLINCs we only show sites on maps that are not local wildlife sites or proposed local wildlife sites.

CONSERVATION TARGET AREAS/ BIODIVERSITY OPPORTUNITY AREAS

These landscape scale areas have been identified as supporting high concentrations of UKBAP habitats and species populations and the potential to restore habitats at a landscape scale. These areas act as a focus for targeting resources into habitat management and restoration.



Appendix 14.2

Black Redstart Survey Report (September 2012)

Station Hill, Reading

Black Redstart Survey

September 2012

Waterman Energy, Environment & Design Limited

Merchants House Wapping Road, Bristol, BS1 4RW
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Station Hill, Reading

Black Redstart Survey

Client Name: Sacville Developments (Reading) Ltd
Document Reference: E12350-101_R_2_1_3_NJ
Project Number: EED12350

Quality Assurance – Approval Status

This document has been prepared and checked in accordance with
Waterman Group's IMS (BS EN ISO 9001: 2008 and BS EN ISO 14001: 2004)

Issue	Date	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
First	17/09/2012	Bill Haines West London Birding	Craig Stenson Senior Ecologist	

Comments

Our Markets



Property & Buildings



Transport & Infrastructure



Energy & Utilities



Environment



Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by Waterman Energy, Environment & Design Ltd, with all reasonable skill, care and diligence within the terms of the Contract with the client, incorporation of our General Terms and Condition of Business and taking account of the resources devoted to us by agreement with the client.

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Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
2. Legislation.....	2
3. Methodology	3
4. Results.....	4
5. Discussion and Recommendations.....	7
6. References	8

Figures

Appendices

- A. Bird Species List**
- B. Photographs**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Waterman Energy, Environment & Design Ltd (Waterman) were commissioned by Sacville Developments (Reading) Ltd to undertake a Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* survey on the land at Station Hill, Reading (hereafter referred to as the 'Site'). The Site is located at National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 7137, 7371 on Station Hill, located directly to the south of the Reading Mainline Station in Reading town centre. The Site occupies an area of approximately 2.56 hectares.
- 1.2. A Black Redstart survey undertaken in 2005 revealed a pair of Black Redstarts together with dependent young on the roof of a building adjacent to the east of the Site. Therefore it was considered highly likely that Black Redstarts would be breeding on or in proximity to the Site.
- 1.3. The re-development proposals for the Site comprise a mixed-use city centre development including commercial (office), retail, residential and leisure land uses. Car parking and servicing facilities are to be located within the lower ground level. The Black Redstart survey was undertaken to determine what potential impacts may occur as a result of the proposed development at the Site and to inform the design of appropriate mitigation.
- 1.4. The Site comprises a mixture of predominately old (pre 1980) buildings and include a multi-storey Car Park owned by NCP and a covered bus station as well as other commercial buildings. Station Hill is in the process of major works presumably in connection with modernisation of the station area, and as a result some of it was not accessible during the survey. A vantage point from the top of the multi-storey Car Park was utilised as this gives good views over many of the rooftops across the study area. The tallest building on Site is Western Tower, which is abandoned.

2. Legislation

Breeding Birds

- 2.1. All species of wild bird in the UK (apart from certain pest species) are protected under Part 1 Section 1(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (WCA) (as amended). However, all species are protected during the breeding season against intentional killing, injuring or taking as well as taking, damaging or destroying nests in use or being built, and taking or destroying eggs.
- 2.2. Black redstarts are afforded National protection under Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to intentionally take, injure or kill a black redstart or to take damage or destroy its nest, eggs or young. It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the birds close to their nest during the breeding season.
- 2.3. In addition to statutory protection, the bird species of Britain are also subject to various conservation designations intended to indicate their rarity, population status and conservation priority. These do not have statutory force but may be instrumental in determining local, regional and national planning and development policy. The main categories of designation comprise the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) 'Species Alert' lists, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) 'Birds of Conservation Concern' lists and species listed in the UK and local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs).
- 2.4. The BTO Conservation Alert System lists of 'Birds of Conservation Concern' including a 'Red List' for birds of high conservation concern. Red List species are those that are globally threatened according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria; those whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery, including:
 - Globally threatened according to the IUCN;
 - Historical population decline in UK during 1800-1995;
 - Rapid (>50%) decline in UK breeding population over the last 25 years; and
 - Rapid (>50%) contraction of UK breeding range over the last 25 years.
- 2.5. The BTO Conservation Alert System lists 'Birds of Conservation Concern' including an 'Amber List' for birds of medium conservation concern. 'Amber List' species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years; those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeders; and those with internationally important or localised populations, including:
 - Historical population decline during 1800-1995, but recovering: population size has more than doubled over last 25 years;
 - Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK breeding population over the last 25 years;
 - Moderate (25-49%) contraction of UK breeding range over the last 25 years;
 - >50% of UK breeding population in 10 or fewer sites;
 - >20% of European breeding population in UK;
 - Species with unfavourable conservation status in Europe; and
 - It is important to note that certain 'Red list' species also qualify for 'Amber List' criteria.
- 2.6. An updated list of 'Red' and 'Amber List' species was published in May 2009 (Eaton et al., 2009)¹

¹ Eaton et al (2009) 'Birds of Conservation Concern 3: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man'

3. Methodology

- 3.1. Five survey visits were carried out between 21 May and 12 July 2012 to ascertain the status of Black Redstart on the site. The methodology used followed the industry standard for this species as outlined in Gilbert *et al*, (1998). During each visit the whole site was covered at a minimum of once before dawn, once at dawn and once in full daylight. Use was also made of the NCP Car Park in Garrard Street as a vantage point providing a good view of many of the rooftops within the survey area. Permission for this was granted by the NCP Car Park staff and Area Manager. All avian species were recorded on each visit and it was noted whether they were present on Site, adjacent to the site or over-flying the site. A full list of species recorded has been provided in **Appendix A**.
- 3.2. In addition, an extra visit was made on 29 June 2012 to check Western Tower for evidence of breeding Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* and the check the 1st Black Redstart nest. No other field survey work was carried out during this visit.

Visit 1 – 21/05/2012

- Time Start: 04:20
- Time Finish: 07:20
- Weather: Overcast (8 oktas, cloud); mild (10+°C); dry; Wind: N or NE2 (Beaufort Scale).

Visit 2 – 28/05/2012

- Time Start: 04:20
- Time Finish: 07:20
- Weather: Clear (0 oktas at start of survey gradually clouding over to 6 oktas by the end of survey); dry, bright warm, calm or very light wind (E <1 Beaufort Scale).

Visit 3 – 14/06/2012

- Time Start: 04:25
- Time Finish: 07:23
- Weather: Cloud 2 oktas at start of survey increasing to 6 oktas before clearing again to 1 oktar; dry, bright, cool, light to moderate SE wind (2-3 Beaufort Scale).

Visit 4 – 25/06/2012

- Time Start: 04:47
- Time Finish: 07:47
- Weather: Cloud 6 oktas clearing to 2 oktas by end of survey; mild, dry & becoming sunny; light SW wind (1-2 Beaufort Scale).

Visit 5 – 12/07/2012

- Time Start: 04:34
- Time Finish: 07:31
- Weather: 1 oktar cloud; cool, dry & sunny; light W wind (1-2 Beaufort Scale).

4. Results

- 4.1. Data searches for the Site and the surrounding area were undertaken in 2009 and 2011. On both occasions, the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre were contacted, which is the main repository for biological data in Berkshire, along with Berkshire Ornithological Society (formerly Reading Ornithological Club). Records for Black Redstarts in the immediate vicinity of the Site from 2009, 2010 and 2011 were provided, with breeding records held for 2009 and 2010.
- 4.2. The following summary of the Black Redstart survey visits should be read in conjunction with the bird species list (**Appendix A and B**) and **Figures 1-5 (E12350-101_GR_EC_2A - E12350-101_GR_EC_6A)**.

Visit 1 – 21/05/2012

Target Species

- 4.3. A pair of Black Redstart was located on Level 13 of the NCP Car Park and probable nest was located behind an old fire bell adjacent to the entrance to the stair-well at the western end of this floor (NGR: SU 7137 7374).
- 4.4. Both male and female birds were seen near to this strongly suggesting that this is a nest, or if not there is another site with a nest very close by. The male was seen at range of between 5 and 10m from the observer and was carrying food and incessantly calling and the female was seen c15m away from the presumed nest on Level 12 (1/2 a floor below).
- 4.5. Protective measures were recommended to prevent disturbance to the probable Black Redstart nest on Level 13 of the NCP Car Park.
- 4.6. Another bird thought to be of this species was heard calling just off-site on or near the Novotel building (in Friar Street) and was seen very briefly on a TV aerial just southeast of the junction of Friars Road and Queen Victoria Street.

Other Notable Species

- 4.7. No other Schedule I Species were recorded on Site, though two Red Kite *Milvus milvus* (assumed to be from the ever-increasing (both range-wise and in population) from the RSPB Oxfordshire re-introduction scheme) were seen flying south, to the west of the Site.

Visit 2 – 28/05/2012

Target Species

- 4.8. The pair of Black Redstart found during Visit 1 was still frequenting the 13th floor of the NCP Garrard Street Car Park. NCP adhered to the recommendations made following the discovery of a probable nest during the first visit and sealed off the door to the western end of the 13th Floor and erected barriers to afford some, but adequate, protection to the birds and the nest (see **Photograph 1 and 2 in Appendix B**). Both male and female birds were seen and were alarm calling in-between collecting insects, presumably to feed young.
- 4.9. No other birds of this species were seen or heard during this visit.

Other Notable Species

- 4.10. A pair of Peregrine (Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 1 species) were observed near the top of the south western corner of Western Tower (see **Photograph 3 in Appendix B**). These birds were

not noted during Visit 1, but the female was calling occasionally, which is often behaviour associated with an active nest site. The pair were present for much of the survey period (when the observer was able to see the south western aspect of the building), though the female appeared to leave towards the end of the survey, but was not seen to do so.

Visit 3 – 14/06/2012

Target Species

- 4.11. The pair of Black Redstart that was present during visits 1 & 2 was not able to be located during Visit 3. However, according to the Area Manager for the NCP car park, with who a conversation was held whilst on site during this visit, chicks were heard calling from the nest the previous week (beginning 4th June). This confirms that the structure identified was, as suspected, an active nest. Without examination of the nest (which would have meant dislodging it), it is not known for certain if the chicks fledged.

Other Notable Species

The pair of Peregrine previously observed near the top of the south western corner of Western Tower (see **Photograph 4** in **Appendix B**) was again present with the birds calling to each other in the early morning.

Visit 4 – 25/06/2012

Target Species

- 4.12. After no birds being seen during Visit 3, the male Black Redstart was again present. The bird was initially seen at towards the eastern end of the Garrard Street NCP Car Park before flying to a building on the south side of Garrard Street (which is outside the survey area). It was again seen later during the survey on buildings between Garrard Street and Friar Street.
- 4.13. The female Black Redstart was found sitting on a new nest (2nd brood) at the eastern end of the Car Park on the 14th Floor (NGR : SU 7143 7373).

Other Notable Species

- 4.14. The pair of Peregrine were again present on the western side of Western Tower.

Visit to Check Peregrine & Black Redstart Nests – 29/06/2016

- 4.15. An additional visit was made on 29 June to inspect the sub-roof space of Western Tower for evidence of Peregrine activity such as nesting and perching. No signs of nesting was found. However, it is known that Peregrines have nested on Western Tower in the past. The birds were not noted on Site on the date of the inspection.
- 4.16. Also, the 1st Black Redstart nest at the western end of the Car Park was examined and found to contain 3 eggs (cold) (see **Photograph 5** in **Appendix B**). Further examination of the nest for dead chicks was not possible without disturbing the structure.
- 4.17. The second Black Redstart nest at the eastern end of the building was not examined for fear of disturbing the bird and thus the possibility of desertion.
- 4.18. Both checks of the (possible) nests were carried out under a Schedule I licence issued to the surveyor (Bill Haines) by Natural England.

Visit 5 – 12/07/2012

Target Species

- 4.19. Both the male and female Black Redstart (see **Photograph 6 and 7** in **Appendix B**) were located near the nest at the eastern end of the Garrard Street Car Park and on an adjacent building just outside the Site boundary to the south. The pair were observed carrying food, calling continuously and were seen to go into the nest to feed the chicks. An examination of the nest under licence, revealed four, healthy-looking, well-grown, feathered chicks (see **Photograph 8** in **Appendix B**). One chick was temporarily removed from the nest for examination (see **Photograph 9** in **Appendix B**) and from the size and length of the primary wing feathers, it is judged that the brood was likely to fledge within 4-5 days time. When the chicks weren't being fed they were generally silent. Due to the proximity of fledging, the location of the nest (it could only be reached by the use of a ladder) and the fact that it was on a floor of the car park that is not well used, it was decided that no precautionary measures were needed to protect the nest. However, the Car Park staff and Area Manager were made aware of the location of the nest and were asked to keep an eye on it and inform the surveyor should anything happen to it, or when the chicks fledged.
- 4.20. No other Black Redstart were located at other parts of the Site.

Other Notable Species

- 4.21. The female Peregrine was again present on the western side of Western Tower during the early part of the survey. She was not seen later in the survey.
- 4.22. A pair of Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* were seen foraging on one of the roofs within the survey area, but no young were seen.

Summary of Results

- 4.23. The Site was found to contain a pair of Black Redstart which attempted to breed twice on-Site, both times in the NCP Car Park on Garrard Street. Two nests were found; the first is thought to have been partially successful, as chicks were heard calling from it. On inspection under licence on 29 June 2012, it was found to contain three cold eggs, but any surviving chicks will have left the nest by then. The second nest contained four well, grown feathered young at the time of the last planned survey on 12 July 2012.
- 4.24. The Site contained a pair of Peregrine which were often seen on Western Tower. A search was made for a nesting scrape on the tower though no sign of any breeding activity was found. It is therefore thought that the pair attempted to breed elsewhere in the town or nearby countryside, but were unsuccessful.
- 4.25. Other species considered likely to have bred on site were Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, Blackbird *Turdus merula*, Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*, Grey Wagtail, Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* and Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*. Of these Grey Wagtail is an amber-listed species; one pair is likely to have attempted to have bred on or very near to the site though no young were recorded on any of the visits.
- 4.26. Three red-listed species, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* and Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* are not thought to have breed on-Site, but to breed within the vicinity of the Site.

5. Discussion and Recommendations

Black Redstarts

- 5.1. It is recommended that any development within the Site boundary includes the provision of Green Roofs and open nest-boxes suitable for Black Redstart in appropriate places within the plans. Further Information regarding the types and siting of nest-boxes is available on request or on various bona-fide internet sites (e.g. see the “Further Information” section below).
- 5.2. The demolition of any buildings on-Site should be done outside the breeding season (i.e. between September and February when there is no chance of disturbing any Schedule 1 species or other birds that might be nesting in the area (*N.B. Some species of pigeons and doves nest all year round so any species that are covered under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Act and any subsequent amendments should be considered*).
- 5.3. It is recommended that further surveys should be made in future breeding seasons to continue to monitor the Black Redstart on Site.
- 5.4. The Garrard Street Car Park is to be retained on Site and should not have any modifications made to it prior to further surveys for Black Redstart being completed in future years.

Peregrine Falcons

- 5.5. The Western Tower (which is due for demolition) should, until such a time that it is demolished, have all the open areas just below the roof (where the Peregrines have been seen) covered in Pigeon Netting. This will dissuade the birds from attempting to nest there. Some pigeon netting is in place but it appears in poor repair and does not cover the whole of the area. This should be carried out outside of the Peregrine nesting season (September to January inclusive) in case the Peregrines take up residence on the building and attempt to nest there again (the building has been used as a nest site by Peregrines in the past).
- 5.6. It is recommended that re-development is also undertaken outside of the Peregrine nesting season (September to January inclusive) or a check for any signs of the presence of a territorial pair of breeding peregrines on or immediately adjacent to the Site is undertaken prior to the re-development of the Site to prevent the disturbance of nesting birds and the contravention of planning policy and legislation. If the presence of a territorial pair of breeding peregrines is recorded during this check then a suitable buffer zone should be maintained around the nest to prevent disturbance until the end of the breeding season (January – August inclusive) or when the birds have fledged.
- 5.7. It is also recommended that;
 - Replacement perching opportunities (high elevation protruding platforms located on west and east facing vertical sides of the building) for Peregrines are provided within the re-development proposals; and
 - Open fronted peregrine falcon nest boxes are erected at a high elevation on the vertical sides of a tall building in undisturbed areas within the proposed development or in adjacent off-Site areas to encourage the birds to nest. Alternatively a specially designed high elevation ledge or recess could be included within the design of the proposed development to provide a safe platform for a nest. The artificial nest site should be sited facing north-east or east to prevent possible overheating of the eggs and newly hatched young (Ratcliffe 1995).

6. References

Berkshire Ornithological Society. berksoc.org.uk/

BTO Bird Facts - Black Redstart - <http://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/results/bob11210.htm>

Eaton MA, Brown AF, Noble DG, Musgrove AJ, Hearn R, Aebischer NJ, Gibbons DW, Evans A and Gregory RD (2009) Birds of Conservation Concern 3: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. *British Birds* 102, pp296-341.

Gilbert G, Gibbons DW & Evans J. Bird Monitoring Methods. A manual of techniques for key UK species. RSPB. 1998 (reprinted in 2011).

HMSO (1981) 'Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)'

Ratcliffe, D A 1995 The Peregrine Falcon. Second Edition. T and A D Poyser, London.

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre. www.tverc.org/

Further Information

<http://www.blackredstarts.org.uk/index.html>



Figures

Figure 1-6



-  Site boundary
-  Black Redstart Observation (Recorded in 2005)
-  Amenity Grassland
-  Hardstanding
-  Buildings
-  Ornamental Shrubs and Scattered Trees

Project Details	E12350-100: Station Hill, Reading
Figure Title	Figure 1: Habitat Features Plan
Figure Ref	E12350-100_GR_EC_1A
Date	January 2012
File Location	\\nt-lnss\\weed\\projects\\12350\\graphics\\ec\\issued figures

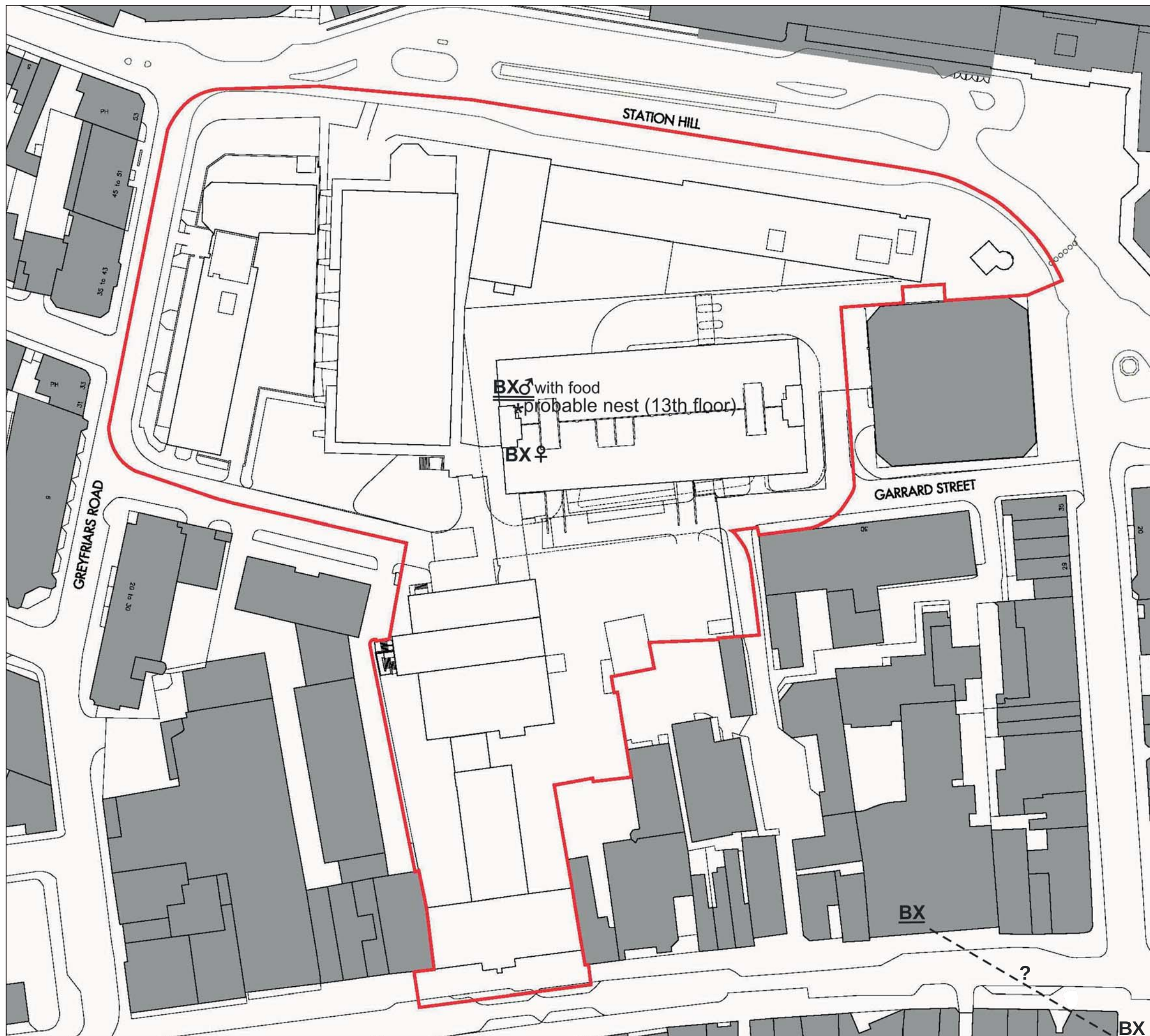


Site Boundary

Bird Survey



Black Redstart



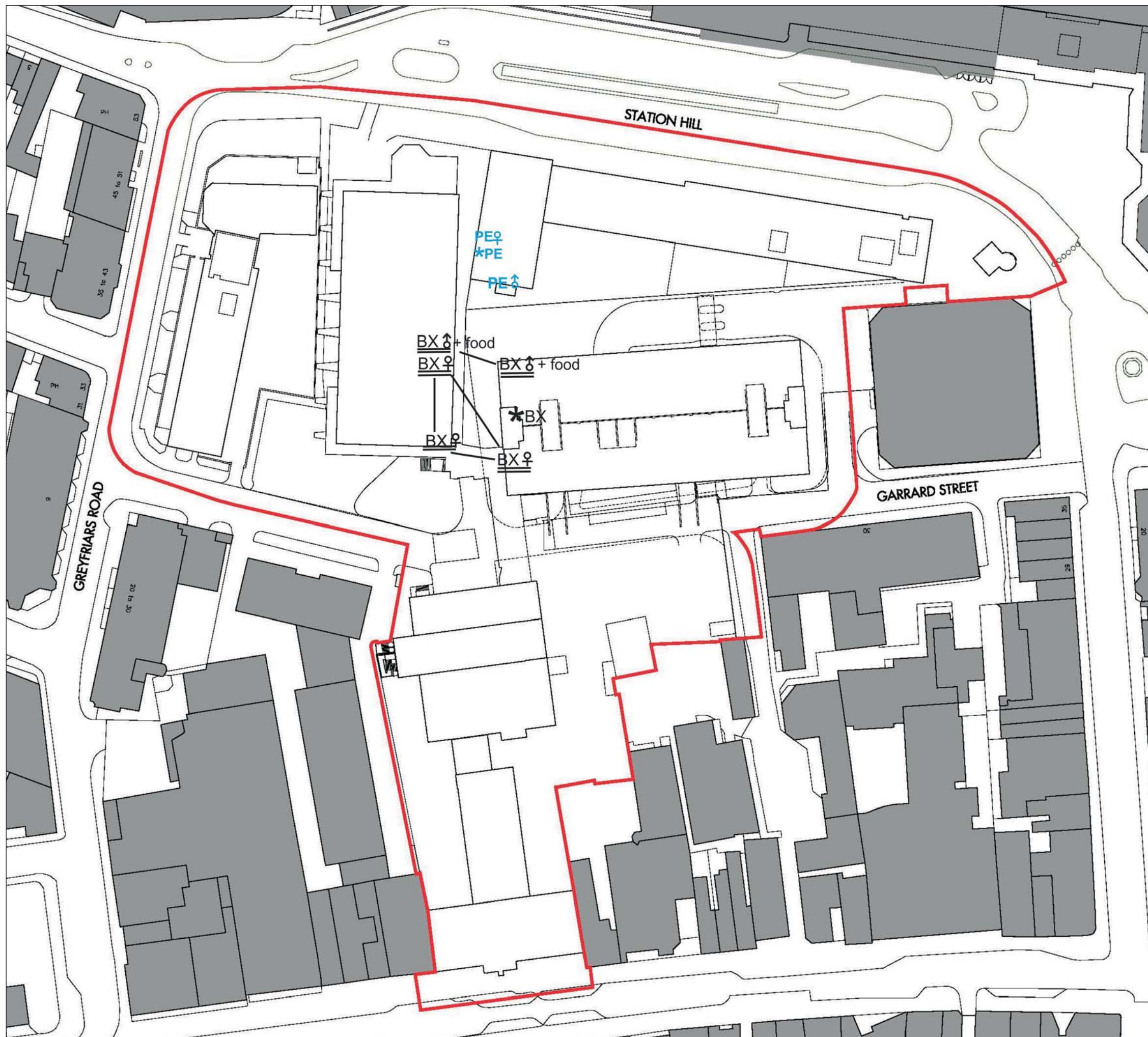
Project Details	E12350-101: Station Hill, Reading
Figure Title	Figure 1: Bird Survey - Visit 1 - 21/05/12
Figure Ref	E12350-101_GR_EC_2A
Date	August 2012
File Location	\\nt-lncs\weed\projects\12350\graphics\ec\issued figures



Bird Survey

BX Black Redstart

PE Peregrine Falcon



Project Details

E12350-101: Station Hill, Reading

Figure Title

Figure 2: Bird Survey - Visit 2 - 28/05/12

Figure Ref

E12350-101_GR_EC_3A

Date

August 2012

File Location

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