

Car Park Extension & New Service Yard Area Ecological Assessment Gnoll Country Park

Gnoll Country Park is currently the focus of a Levelling up Fund grant which has been approved to improve multiple features in the Park (for full details please see The Stage 2 Report. Rev_B. Hiraeth).

The project has been subdivided up into multiple planning applications and the focus of this report is the New Service Yard & Car Park Extension.

During 2023, both areas were surveyed to ensure that any ecological issues with the proposed developments would be picked up and appropriately mitigated for.

Car Park Extension

The Proposed Car Park Extension is located on species poor amenity grassland to the North east and the West of the existing car park. One tree is being removed as part of the works, however this tree (Grey Alder – *Aldus incana*) is dead and dying so would have to be removed as part of the normal tree works in the Country Park.



Figure 1- Car Park Extension locations

The car park extension will be built close to existing trees however appropriate tree protection

measures will be put in place to ensure there is no damage to these trees from the works (See the BS5837:2012 Tree Survey and Arboriculture Constraints Report produced July 2023 – Nick Thomas).

To ensure there is an overall biodiversity enhancement provided as part of this scheme, Figure 1 below shows the landscape proposals. 2 lines of native hedgerow will be planted adjacent to the car park extension areas.



Figure 2 - Car Park Extension Landscaping Proposals

New Service Yard Area

The new service yard area is located to the west of the existing car park in an area of Alder and Goat Willow scrub. There is a large oak tree to the north of the area however this tree will be protected with appropriate measures (See the BS5837:2012 Tree Survey and Arboriculture Constraints Report produced August 2023 – Nick Thomas).



Figure 3- Location of new service yard

Approximately 700m² of scrub woodland will be cleared to allow for the proposed service yard (Figure 3 below shows the proposed plan). All the trees are semi mature and small in size with a dense growth that makes entry into the area very difficult. No ecological constraints are associated with the clearance of this scrub to allow the service yard to be constructed.

To compensate and enhance for the loss of this scrub woodland, the adjacent scrub woodland areas will be entered into a woodland management plan, currently the area to be managed has not been decided however it will be at least 3 times the size of the area cleared to allow works to proceed. The management of the adjacent woodland will promote good ground flora and allow the tree canopy to develop properly. Resulting in more biodiverse woodland for the future.

