



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 blocks 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.

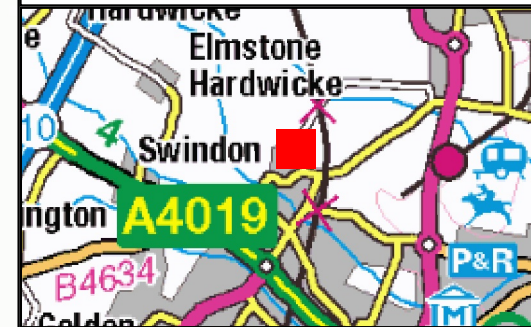
Further Surveys

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

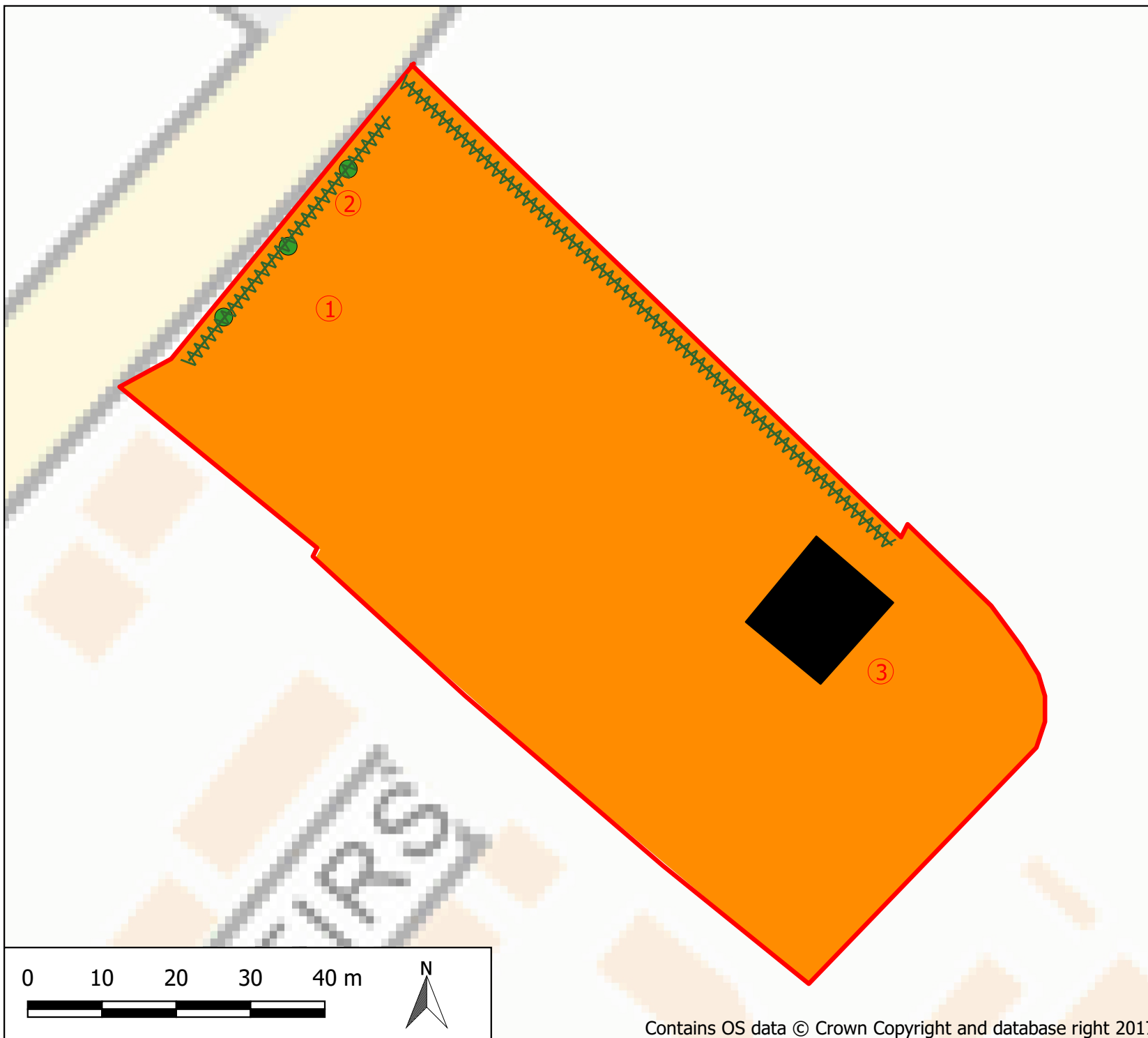
Land at Brockhampton Lane

Date: 30 October 2017

Scale: 1:1,150

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1



Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2017