



# Wild Service

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

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## **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 methods<sup>1</sup>. 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*).

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<sup>1</sup> 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*

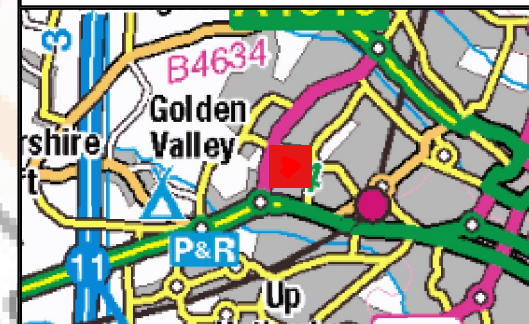
The scattered trees on Site provided limited habitat for breeding birds associated with urban parkland.

### **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.



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## Legend

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

## Phase 1 Habitats Map

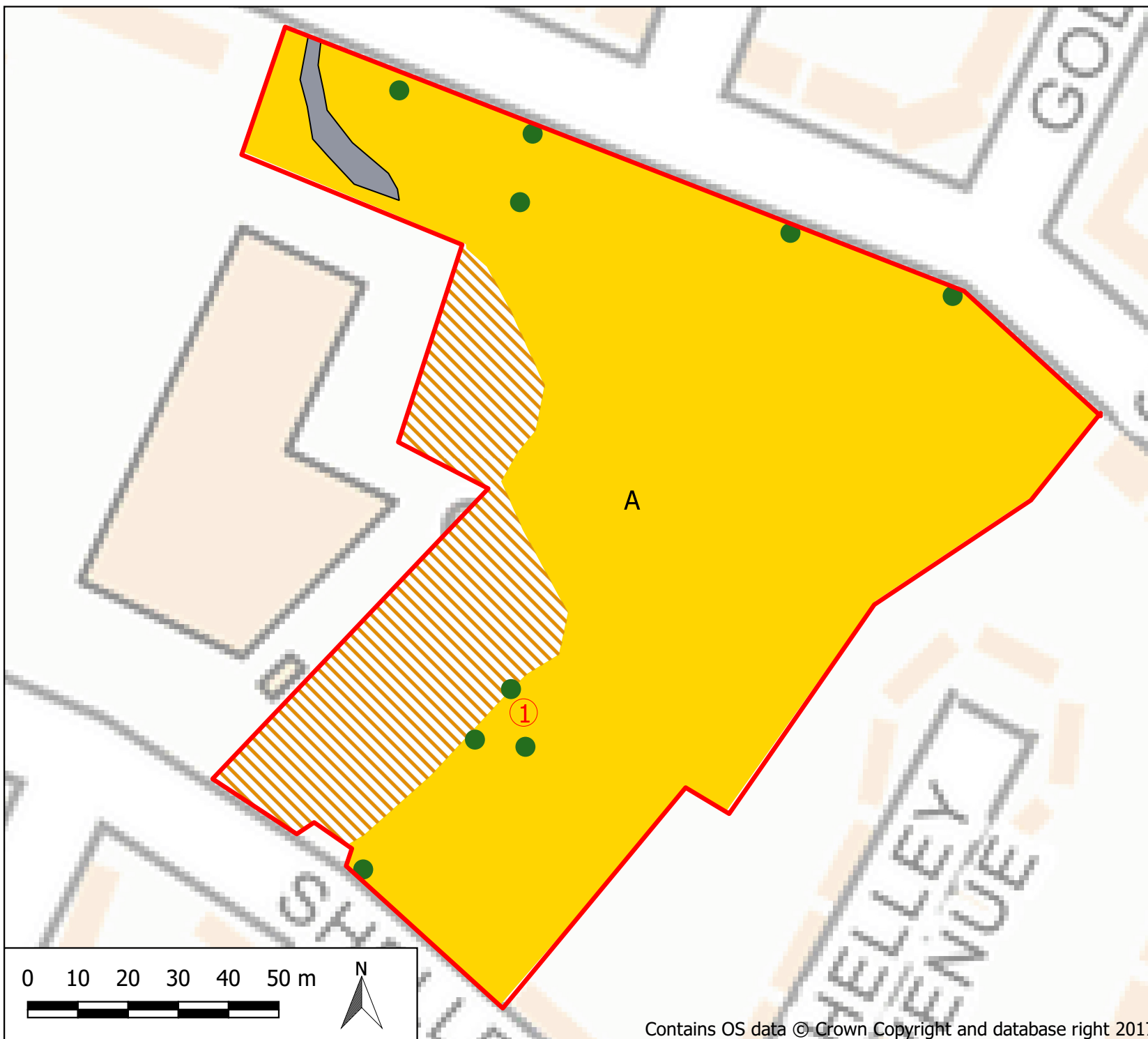
Former Monkscroft Primary School

Date: 26 October 2017

Scale: 1:1,700

Drawn by: OG

Drawing: Figure 1



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