



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.

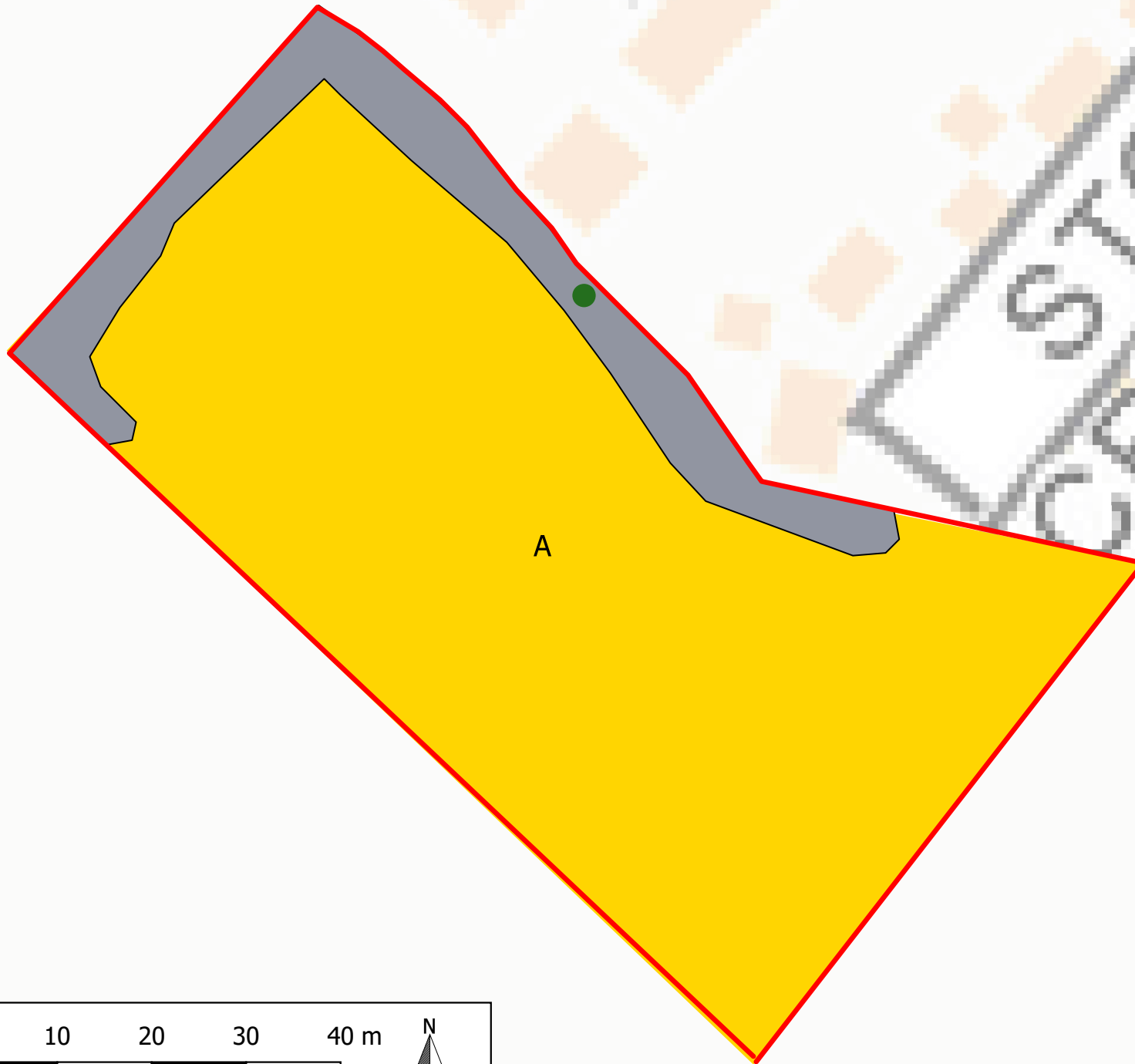
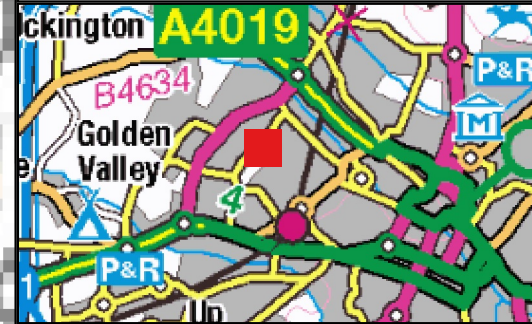
Further Surveys

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.



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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

