The Ecology Co-op
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
Unit 4 Langham Stables, Langham Lane, Lodsworth, West Sussex, GU28 9BU

[redacted]

28th August 2020

RE: P2536 – Reptile Translocation Mayflower Way, Angmering – Updated with new site plan

Summary

I am writing to formally confirm the completion of the reptile translocation at the land at Mayflower Way, Angmering in accordance with the methodology outlined in the Reptile Presence/Absence Survey Report produced by The Ecology Co-op[1]. This work was overseen by Sam Lunn MSc (Hons), ACIEEM.

This reptile translocation was undertaken to facilitate a new residential development. The reptile survey identified a 'low population' of slow worm *Anguis fragilis* with a peak count of two individuals. The translocation resulted in the movement of a total of 22 slow worms (10 females and 11 males) and a single grass snake *Natrix helvetica*.

Reptile Translocation

To accommodate the reptile population being displaced from the Mayflower Way development site, a section of the field north-east of the site was fenced off and used as an on-site receptor area. In addition, to mitigate impacts to the reptile population, an area of open greenspace indicated in the proposed landscape plans provided by Crossley Design Architecture will be seeded with a tussocky grassland mixture, and two new hibernacula will be added to the receptor site (see Figure 1). This plan was updated August 2020 to reflect the omission of garages to plots 1-4 within the scheme. The open greenspace has not changed.

[1]The Ecology Co-op, 2019. *Mayflower Way, Angmering - Reptile Presence/Absence Survey Report.*

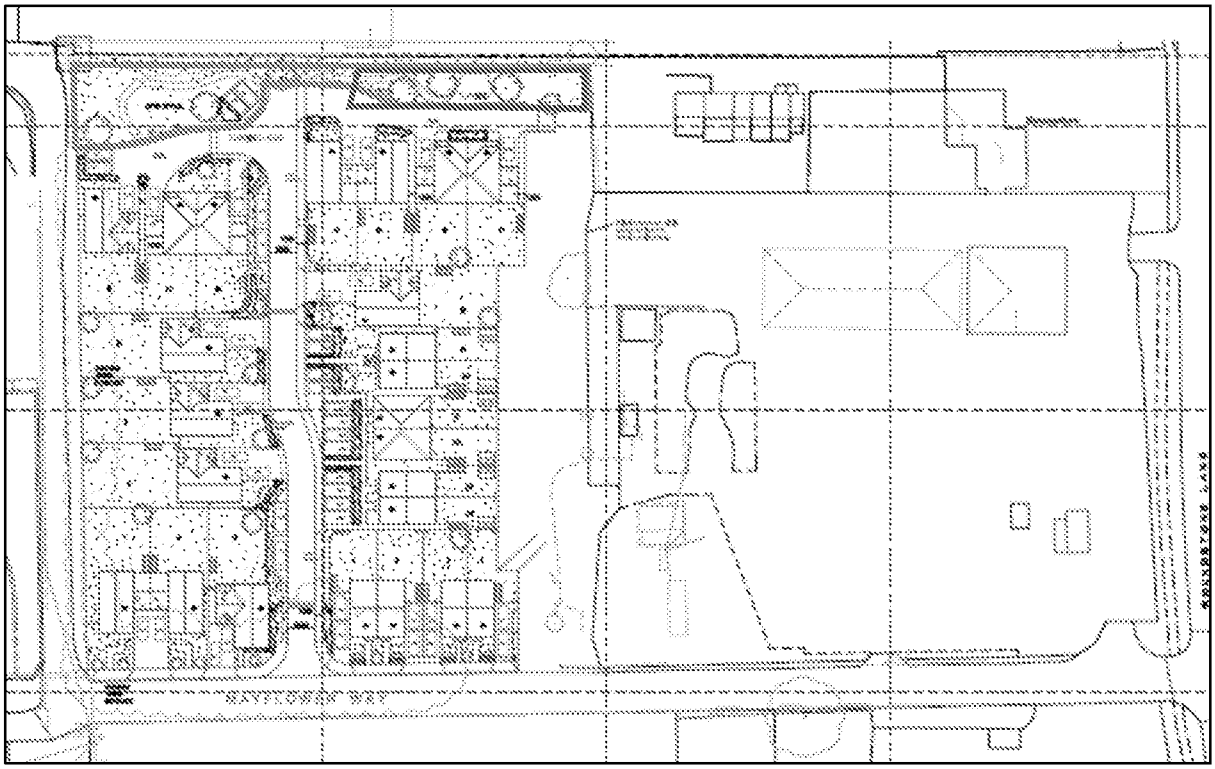

Figure 1. The receptor area to which reptiles were translocated to is outlined in red. The area for enhancement with a new tussocky grassland mixture is outlined in blue. Plan provided Crossley Design Architecture and amended Aug 2020. This drawing should be read inconjunction with Deacon Design landscape and Tree Planting Strategy Draw Ref: DD332/LOI.

On the 1st of May 2019 a total of 50 refugia were deployed across suitable reptile habitat at the Mayflower Way development site, including around all rubble piles. The reptile translocation was undertaken between the 13th of May and the 18th of July 2019. Across the 37 translocation visits 21 slow worms and one grass snake were translocated. Table 1 below details the species, age class and sex of translocated reptiles. All of the reptiles were found along the northern and western edges of the site. Reptiles captured were released with the onsite receptor area (see figure 1).

After 37 visits of trapping effort, and a clear decline in the number of animals being caught per visit, it was deemed appropriate to declare the trapping phase as complete.

Table 1. Total numbers of reptiles captured during the translocation completed in 2019 at Mayflower Way, Angmering.

Species	Sex/Age Class	Number of Animals Translocated
Grass Snake	No ID	1
	Total	**1**
Slow Worm	Male	11
	Female	10
	Total	**21**

Destructive Search

A destructive search which was overseen by an ecologist, was undertaken of some of the rubble piles to allow for the removal of the debris within them. This was undertaken between the 15th and the 18th of July 2019. The rubble piles which were carefully dismantled and checked had connectivity to areas where reptiles had been found at Mayflower Way. During this process, no reptiles were found. Not all piles held suitability for reptiles, and furthermore several of these contained contaminated material and therefore could not be checked for reasons of health and safety.

Turf Strip

A turf strip, which was overseen by an ecologist, was undertaken at Mayflower Way in order to render it unsuitable for reptiles prior to the beginning of the construction phase. This was undertaken on the 21st, 22nd and the 28th of October 2019. The strip focused on the southern and western boundaries and included an additional 5m wide strip extending into the site. The northern boundary remained unaffected by the turf strip as this area will be enhanced for reptiles. The turf strip uncovered one smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* at the western boundary. No other protected species where encountered during the works.

I am satisfied that these works constitute 'reasonable effort' to ensure that the proposed construction zone is clear from reptiles. There remain a low-level of risk to individual reptiles which may have been missed due to the often cryptic and subterranean nature of slow worms and grass snakes. It is important that in the event any reptiles are identified by construction staff, work should stop, and an ecologist should be contacted for advice.

Should you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me via the details at the top of this letter.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Sophie Bradfield *BSc*

Assistant Ecologist