



LIZARD

Landscape Design and Ecology

MR JAMIE ORTON

Land Adjacent to Scyld, Horsemere Green Lane, Climping,
West Sussex

- Reptile Presence / Absence Survey Report

Planning Issue

Prepared by	GS
Checked by	JJ
Date	30 th July 2019
Document Reference	LLD1488
Revision	00

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The Old Bank, 34 South Street, Tarring, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7LH

SUMMARY

Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned to undertake a *Reptile Population Class Assessment Presence / Absence Survey* of the land adjacent to the property called 'Scyld', Horsemere Green Lane, Climping, West Sussex (*Grid Reference: SU 977 022 – hereafter referred to as 'the site'*).

The surveys were recommended within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal undertaken by Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology on the 4th July 2018, due to habitats on-site being identified as having the potential to support protected species of reptiles.

The site comprises an area of land adjacent to the property 'Scyld'. The site largely consists of tall ruderal vegetation and amenity grassland garden, surrounded by trees forming narrow woodland belts.

22 no. artificial reptile refugia were laid out around the site within areas which had potential to support reptiles on 17th June 2019 and allowed to settle for 14 days prior to commencement of the survey. 07 no. site visits were conducted, where the number, species, age and sex of any reptiles present was recorded.

No reptiles recorded during the survey undertaken during July 2019. The survey suggests that reptiles are not using the site area. There is a '*negligible*' risk of killing and / or injuring reptiles during the construction process in the absence of mitigation measures.

The survey was undertaken during July which is considered suboptimal; however visits were undertaken within suitable weather conditions; the results are considered to be representative. The results demonstrate an absence of protected species of reptile within the site area, and the development can proceed as proposed without contravention of the legal framework protecting reptiles within England and Wales (*The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*).

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LAND ADJACENT TO SCYLD, HORSEMER GREEN LANE, CLIMPING, WEST SUSSEX
REPTILE PRESENCE / ABSENCE SURVEY REPORT

LLD1488-ECO-REP-002-Reptile Survey Report

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned to undertake a Reptile Population Class Assessment Presence / Absence Survey of the land adjacent to the property called 'Scyld', Horsemere Green Lane, Climping, West Sussex (*Grid Reference: SU 977 022 – hereafter referred to as 'the site'*).
- 1.2 The surveys were recommended within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal undertaken by Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology on the 4th July 2018, due to habitats on-site being identified as having the potential to support protected species of reptiles.
- 1.3 This report outlines the results of the reptile survey and has been prepared by George Sayer (*BSc(Hons) PgDip, Project Ecologist – Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology*). The report has been reviewed by Joe Jackson; (*Landscape Architect BA (Hons) LA DipLA CMLI; Principal; Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology*).

Site Description

- 1.4 The site comprises an area of land adjacent to the property 'Scyld'. The site largely consists of tall ruderal vegetation and amenity grassland garden, surrounded by trees forming narrow woodland belts. Some trees have recently been cleared, and the vegetation on-site has been cut during the spring with regrowth to 45.0 cm height.
- 1.5 The red-line boundary covers a total area of approximately 8,500 m². The site is bounded by Horsemere Green Lane to the north and neighbouring residential properties to all other aspects. Soils on site are described as *freely draining slightly acid loamy soils*.

Survey Rationale

- 1.6 The development scheme proposes the removal and disturbance of areas of suitable reptile habitat throughout the site; without suitable mitigation this could result in a contravention of *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (As Amended)*. The habitats on-site considered to hold potential for reptiles consist of: tall ruderal and grassland covering the majority of the site. The habitats are recorded within *Figure No. 01 – Location of Artificial Reptile Refugia*.

Development Proposals

- 1.7 It is understood that the development proposals include the development of 9 no. new dwellings and associated gardens within the site boundary. The existing dwelling is outside of the ownership boundary and would be retained.

Widespread Reptiles & Legislation

- 1.8 The common or viviparous lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) has a wide range over most of Europe. Its body can reach 7.0 cm in length and can have very variable patterns and colour. Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) is also found over most of Europe; it can reach lengths of up to 50.0 cm and is typically brown, grey, or reddish, with females frequently having a dorsal stripe. Grass snake (*recently re-described as Natrix helvetica*) may reach up to 120.0 cm in length and is thick-bodied – many have a distinct yellow-black bordered collar around the neck. Adders (*Vipera berus*) have a characteristic diamond pattern along their backs.
- 1.9 Adders, grass snakes, common lizards and slow worms are protected against killing, injury or sale under *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*. Developments that could predictably kill or injure reptiles could result in an offence. Furthermore, these species are targets of UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans and listed as *Species of Principle Importance* under *Section 41* of the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006*. This obligates local authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity, with particular emphasis on targeted species.

MR JAMIE ORTONLAND ADJACENT TO SCYLD, HORSEMERE GREEN LANE, CLIMPING, WEST SUSSEX
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2.0 SCOPE OF THE SURVEY

2.1 The aim of the reptile survey was:

- *To identify the presence / absence of reptile species within the site as a whole;*
- *To estimate population size classes for said populations; and;*
- *To advise mitigation for reptiles within the proposed development scheme.*

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 22 no. artificial reptile refugia (*roofing felt; 0.5 x 0.5 m*) were laid out around the area on 17th June 2019 and allowed to settle for 14 days prior to commencement of the survey.

3.2 07 no. site visits were conducted during July 2019, where the number, species, age and sex of the reptiles present were recorded.

3.3 Surveys were undertaken during recommended times (*08:00–11:00 and 16:00–18:30 unless weather conditions dictated otherwise*) with suitable weather conditions for surveying reptiles (*guidelines recommend temperatures 9-18°C with intermittent or hazy sunshine during warm days*). Weather conditions recorded at each survey visit are shown in Table No. 1 below.

Table No. 1 - Details of Weather Conditions during the Reptile Surveys

Survey	Date of Visit	Time	Weather	Temperature	Wind
1	1/7/2019	16:45	Clear & Sunny	19°C	F2
2	9/7/2019	09:00	Overcast	17°C	F2
3	12/7/2019	08:30	Light Cloud	17°C	F1
4	15/7/2019	08:45	Light Cloud	16°C	F1
5	23/7/2019	08:45	Clear & Sunny	18°C	F2
6	29/7/2019	09:30	Clear & Sunny	18°C	F1
7	30/7/2019	08:30	Light Cloud	17°C	F4

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- 3.4 Debris piles on-site considered suitable as reptile refugia were checked during the surveys, and repeated walkovers of the site were used to search for active reptiles.

3.5 Evaluation Methodology

- 3.5.1 Despite its withdrawal, *Natural England Technical Information Note TIN102* still provides a valuable resource tool to allow the comparison and evaluation of reptile populations on site. A population size class category has been derived using guidance provided by the *Key Reptile Site Register Mechanism (Froglife – Advice Sheet 10)*, designed to promote the protection of key reptile areas.
- 3.5.2 The criteria for key reptile site selection include:
- 1) *supports 3 or more reptile species;*
 - 2) *supports 2 snake species;*
 - 3) *supports an exceptional population of one species (see Table No. 02);*
 - 4) *supports an assemblage of species scoring at least 4 (see Table No. 02);*
 - 5) *supports a local rarity or even adder with low population score.*
- 3.5.3 The population size classes used in this instance are provided in *Froglife – Advice Sheet 10* and displayed in Table No. 02.

Table No. 02 – Population Scores for Selection of Key Reptile Sites

Species	'Low' Score 1	'Good' Score 2	'Exceptional' Score 3
Adder	< 5	5 – 10	> 10
Grass Snake	< 5	5 – 10	> 10
Common Lizard	< 5	5 – 20	> 20
Slow Worm	< 10	10 – 20	> 20

- 3.5.4 Figures in Table No. 02 refer to the maximum number of reptile adults seen by observation and / or under refugia by one person during one survey visit with artificial refugia placed at a maximum density 10/ha.

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4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Background Information

- 4.1.1 There are records of grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) and common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) within 2.0 km of the site. All species of UK reptile are protected against reckless or intentional killing or injuring under *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)*.

4.2 Field Survey

- 4.2.1 No reptiles were recorded during the survey visits undertaken in July 2019.
- 4.2.2 In addition to the refugia surveys undertaken during May 2019, a number of spot searches of the site were undertaken on the same days as refugia surveys. These involved searching piles of debris and rubbish on the site which were deemed suitable for reptiles. These searches uncovered no reptiles or evidence of reptiles.

Constraints and Limitations

- 4.2.3 No major constraints or limitations were encountered during the survey. The time of year during which the surveys were undertaken is generally considered 'suboptimal'; however, surveys were carried out during optimal weather conditions at appropriate times of day and the survey is considered to be representative.

5.0 EVALUATION

- 5.1 No reptiles were recorded during the survey visits undertaken in July 2019. The survey demonstrates absence and that reptiles are not using the site area. There is a '*negligible*' risk of killing and / or injuring reptiles during the construction process in the absence of mitigation measures.
- 5.2 The survey was undertaken during July which is considered suboptimal; however, visits were undertaken within suitable weather conditions; the results are considered to be representative. The development can proceed as proposed without contravention of the legal framework protecting reptiles within England and Wales (The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981).
- 5.3 No further mitigation is proposed or recommended with regards reptiles; habitats on-site shall be kept maintained to ensure they are not subsequently colonised by reptiles.

6.0 REFERENCES

Griffiths, R. A. and Inns, H. (1998): Surveying - Herpetofauna Workers' Manual

Gent, A. H. & Gibson, S. D. (Eds.): Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough, Pp. 1–6

www.arc-trust.org: Herptile Conservation Trust and Froglife Merged in 2009

Guidelines from Froglife (Factsheet 10): Froglife; 1999

Natural England Technical Information: Note TIN102; Natural England; 2011

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Survey Visit No. 1

Surveyor	Will Mills			
Date	01/07/19			
Time	16:45			
Temperature	19°C			
Wind	2			
Weather	Clear & Sunny			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
None Found				

Survey Visit No. 2

Surveyor	George Sayer			
Date	09/07/19			
Time	09:00			
Temperature	17°C			
Wind	f2			
Weather	Overcast			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
None Found				

Survey Visit No. 3

Surveyor	George Sayer			
Date	12/07/19			
Time	08:30			
Temperature	17°C			
Wind	f1			
Weather	Light Cloud			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
None Found				

Survey Visit No. 4

Surveyor	George Sayer			
Date	15/07/19			
Time	08:45			
Temperature	16°C			
Wind	F1			
Weather	Light Cloud			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
None Found				

Survey Visit No. 5

Surveyor	George Sayer			
Date	23/07/19			
Time	08:45			
Temperature	18°C			
Wind	f2			
Weather	Clear & Sunny			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
None Found				

Survey Visit No. 6

Surveyor	Louise Barker			
Date	29/07/19			
Time	00.40			
Temperature	18°C			
Wind	F1			
Weather	Light Cloud			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
None Found				

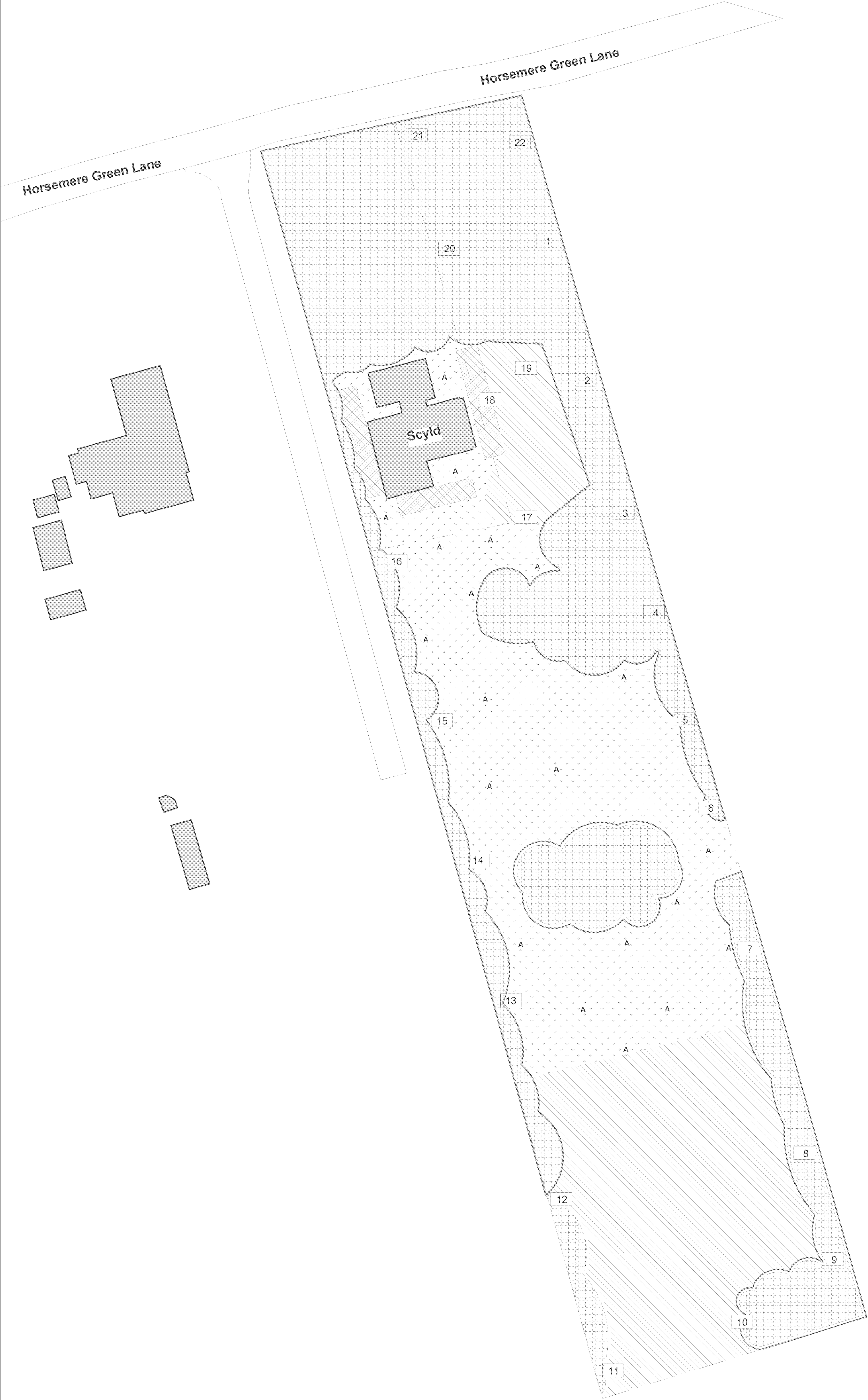
Survey Visit No. 7

Surveyor	George Sayer			
Date	30/07/19			
Time	08:30			
Temperature	17°C			
Wind	F4			
Weather	Light Cloud			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
None found				

Summary of Reptile Survey Results

Visit No.	SW	GS	CL	A
1	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0

SW= Slow Worm, GS= Grass Snake, CL= Common Lizard, A= Adder



Legend

- Development Site Boundary / Survey Area.
- Artificial Reptile Refugia - No Reptiles Recorded.
- Existing Buildings and Walls.
- Amenity Grassland.
- Tall Ruderal Vegetation.
- Broadleaved Woodland.
- Introduced Shrub Planting.
- Road/Track.

PLANNING ISSUE

Rev	Description	Date	Initials
00	Planning Issue	30.07.19	GS



LIZARD
Landscape Design and Ecology

The Old Bank, 34 South Street, Tarring, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7LH

Project Title and Location

Land Adjacent to Scyld, Horsemere Green Lane
Client
Mr. Jamie Orton

Drawing Title
Location of Artificial Reptile Refugia

Scale
1:300@A1

Drawn
WM
Approved
GS

Date
30.07.19

Drawing No
LLD1488-ECO-FIG-01

CAD Filename
LLD1488-CAD-ECO

Revision
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