



Reptile Survey and Report

Church Field, Station Road, East Preston, West Sussex

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for



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Appendix 1 – Reptiles and the Law

1.0 Background

- 1.1 A previous scoping survey carried out by Dr Patrick Roper had established possible habitat for reptiles at the site and advised that reptile surveys be carried out. Slow worm and common lizard are species often occurring on Brownfield development sites and both species receive legal protection against killing or injuring, under current legislation.
- 1.2 Features potentially attractive to reptiles on site include bare stonework, a pond, rough grassland, scrub (in the form of shrubberies) and log piles.

2.0 Aims of Survey

- 2.1 To establish the presence or absence of any protected reptile species, using currently accepted best practice methods.
- 2.2 To comment on the breeding status of any population found.
- 2.3 To advise on appropriate mitigation measures, should reptiles be found, to facilitate development without a breach of current protected species legislation.

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 22 black refuges, comprising 500mm square tiles of roofing felt, were laid out across the site. Refuges were placed one week before the start of the survey, to allow them time to settle. 22 refuges on this site was well above the suggested density per hectare, to increase the chances of positive observations if protected reptiles were present.
- 3.2 Refuges were placed around the edge of shrubberies, as well as across the centre of the site. Every attempt was made to try and distribute refuges as evenly as possible across the site.
- 3.3 A transect was walked carefully during each visit and binoculars used to watch for basking animals in likely spots, prior to inspection under refuges. Typical basking areas included sunny woodland edge, pools of sunlight in vegetation, well lit bare earth and log piles.
- 3.4 Seven visits were carried out between August 7 and August 28 2007 under suitable weather conditions. Windy conditions were avoided and guidance from the '*Herpetofauna Workers Manual*' was followed as to what constituted suitable environmental conditions for survey.

4.0 Results

Date: 07/08/07
Time: 17:00
Weather: Sunny, light breeze
Temperature: 23.2C
Observations: None

Date: 12/08/07
Time: 16:08
Weather: sunny spells, winds light to fresh
Temperature: 22.8C
Observations: None

Date: 21/08/07
Time: 11:00
Weather: Spells of hazy sunshine, light wind.
Temperature: 18.3C
Observations: None

Date: 23/08/07
Time: 16:55
Weather: Overcast, light winds, showery.
Temperature: 18.7C
Observations: None

Date: 25/08/07
Time: 16:55
Weather: Sunny, light wind.
Temperature: 22.3C
Observations: None

Date: 28/08/07
Time: 16:30
Weather: Sunny spells, light winds.
Temperature: 22.4C
Observations: None

Date: 29/08/07
Time: 15:30
Weather: Sunny spells, winds light.
Temperature: 22C
Observations: None

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 No reptiles were found or observed during the survey.
- 5.2 The absence of reptiles may well be due to a number of factors as the site certainly has ecological features that could be of interest to reptiles. However, it does seem to be isolated by urban infrastructure on all sides. Where there is vegetation abutting the site, this appears to be fairly well maintained, thus lacking structural diversity that would encourage biodiversity.
- 5.3 No further investigation is considered necessary in connection with protected reptile species at this site and no mitigation for protected reptile species is necessary in connection with the current development proposals.
- 5.4 Indicative soft landscape proposals illustrated on drawing CCFEP.0207.LP01 Rev A include measures aimed to enhance the biodiversity of the site, post development.

Reptiles and the Law

All British reptiles receive varying levels of protection under current protected species legislation.

Smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*) and Sand lizard (our rarest species) (*Lacerta agilis*) receive the full protection where all elements of section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside act as well as the Habitat regulations act apply. This means the habitat as well as the animal is protected.

Slow worm ((*Anguis fragilis*), common lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*), Grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) and Adder (*Vipera berus*) receive protection against killing, injuring, sale, etc only. They are protected by all of section 9(5) and parts of section 9(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.