



HNW ARCHITECTS LTD

**Yeomans Honda Development, Littlehampton Road,
Ferring**

- Reptile Presence / Absence Survey Report

Planning Issue

Prepared by	CO
Checked by	JJ
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SUMMARY

Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned to undertake a Reptile Presence / Absence Survey of land adjacent the existing Yeomans site, Littlehampton Road, Ferring (*Grid Reference: TQ 089 034– hereafter referred to as ‘the site’*).

The surveys were recommended within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal undertaken by Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology on the 23rd February 2018, due to habitats on-site being identified as having the potential to support protected species of reptiles. The detailed reptile survey has been carried out in accordance with relevant best practice guidelines; this report outlines the results of the reptile survey and has been prepared by Catherine O'Reilly (*MCIEEM, Senior Ecologist – Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology*).

12 no. artificial reptile refugia were laid out around the area on 12th April 2018 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 were recorded during the survey undertaken during 2018. The survey strongly suggests that the site area potentially affected by development is not of value to the *Favourable Conservation Status* of reptiles within the vicinity. Moreover, the results suggest that reptiles should not be an ecological constraint to these development proposals. There is a '*negligible*' risk of killing and / or injuring reptiles during the construction process.

The survey was undertaken during the late summer/early autumn, and within suitable weather conditions; it is therefore considered very unlikely that the results could represent a false negative. Small populations of reptiles can be difficult to identify, however the negative results obtained should provide adequate reassurance that development can proceed without legislative contravention of legal framework protecting reptiles within England and Wales (*The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*).

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned to undertake a Reptile Presence / Absence Survey of land adjacent the existing Yeomans site, Littlehampton Road, Ferring (*Grid Reference: TQ 089 034– 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 23rd February 2018, due to habitats on-site being identified as having the potential to support protected species of reptiles. The detailed reptile survey has been carried out in accordance with relevant best practice guidelines; this report outlines the results of the reptile survey and has been prepared by Catherine O’Reilly (*MCIEEM, Senior Ecologist – Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology*).

Site Description

- 1.3 The ecological survey conducted during February 2018 identified habitats of amenity grassland, bare ground, building, hardstanding, scattered trees and introduced shrub.
- 1.4 The eastern and southern sections of the site are currently operating as Yeomans Peugeot, while the western section of the site is currently formed of an existing residential bungalow, stables and associated gardens. The site is approximately 0.6 hectares (*ha*) in size and is approximately 7.0 metres (*m*) above sea level.

Survey Rationale

- 1.5 Development proposals propose the removal and disturbance of areas of suitable reptile habitat, without suitable mitigation this could result in a contravention of *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (As Amended)*. The habitats considered to hold potential for reptiles consist of scattered scrub and tall ruderal to the south of the former stable area. The habitats are recorded within *Figure No. 01 – Location of Artificial Reptile Refugia*.

Development Proposals

- 1.6 It is understood that the development proposals include the demolition of the existing residential building and stables to make way for new areas of parking, offices and car showroom.

Widespread Reptiles & Legislation

- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.

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 12 no. artificial reptile refugia (*roofing felt; 0.50 x 1.0 m²*) were laid out around the area on 12th April 2018 and allowed to settle for 14 days prior to commencement of the survey.
- 3.2 07 no. site visits were conducted, where the number, species, age and sex of any reptiles present were recorded.
- 3.3 Surveys were undertaken during recommended times (*08:00–11:00 and 16:00–18:30*) 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
01	25.04.18	14:00	11°C – Sunny, Dry, Wind F1, 10% cloud.
02	26.05.18	10:30	11 °C – Sunny, Dry, Wind F0, 5% cloud.
03	03.05.18	10:00	14°C – Sun/clouds, Dry, Wind F1
04	09.05.18	17:30	15°C – Sunny, Wind F1, 50% cloud.
05	11.05.18	15:30	13 °C – Intermittent sun/cloud, Wind F1
06	06.06.18	10:00	16 °C – Sunny, Dry, WF2, 10% cloud.
07	11.06.18	10:15	15 °C – Intermittent sun/clouds, WF4.

3.4 Evaluation Methodology

- 3.4.1 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.

3.4.2 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.

3.4.3 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	5 – 20	> 20

3.4.4 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.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Background Information

4.1.1 Records of UK and Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan species of grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) and slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) exist within 2.0 km of the site.

4.2 Field Survey

4.2.1 No reptiles of any species were recorded during the reptile survey undertaken during the April – June 2018.

Constraints and Limitations

- 4.2.2 No major constraints or limitations were encountered during the survey. All survey visits were undertaken during the optimal time of year and in suitable weather conditions for reptiles to be active.

5.0 EVALUATION

- 5.1 No reptiles were recorded during the survey undertaken during 2018. The survey strongly suggests that the site area potentially affected by development is not of value to the *Favourable Conservation Status* of reptiles within the vicinity. Moreover the results suggest that reptiles should not be an ecological constraint to these development proposals. There is a '*negligible*' risk of killing and / or injuring reptiles during the construction process.
- 5.2 The survey was undertaken during the late spring and early summer during suitable weather conditions. It is therefore considered very unlikely that the results could represent a false negative.
- 5.3 Given the isolation of the area by swathes of existing buildings, roads and hardstanding, it is unlikely that the area will be populated by reptiles from an adjacent source population.
- 5.4 Small populations of reptiles can be difficult to detect, but the negative results obtained should provide adequate reassurance that development can proceed without legislative contravention of legal framework protecting reptiles within England and Wales (*The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*).

6.0 REFERENCES

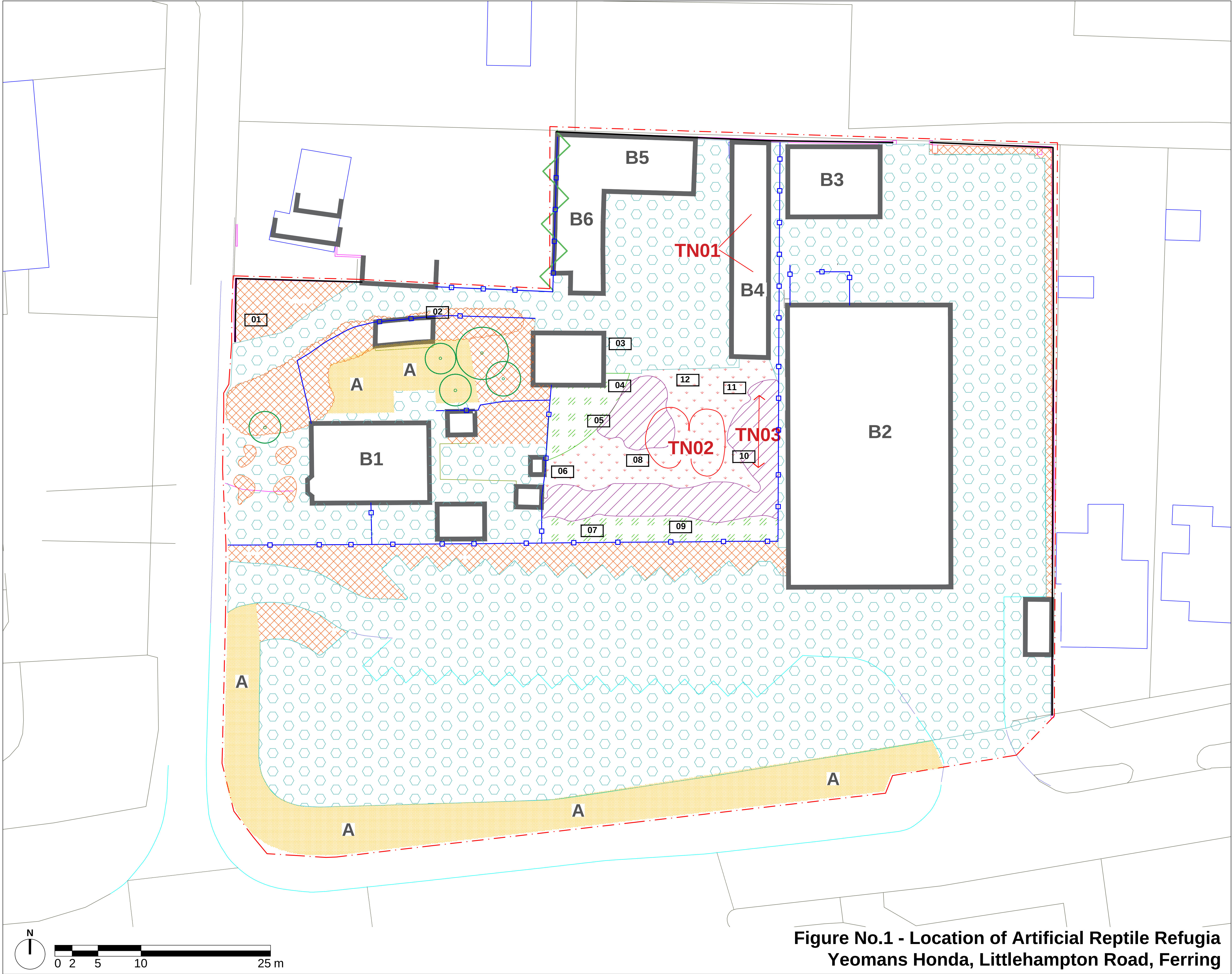
Griffiths, R. A. and Inns, H. (1998): Surveying - Herpetofauna Workers' Manual

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



- Legend**
- Site Survey Boundary.
 - Bare Ground / Hard Standing.
 - Amenity Grassland.
 - Rough Grassland.
 - Scattered Trees.
 - Scattered Scrub.
 - Existing Buildings / Walls.
 - Introduced Shrubs.
 - Tall Ruderal.
 - Target Notes.
 - Intact Species-Poor Hedge.
 - Fence.
 - Wall.

Note: Habitat Areas are indicative only - do not scale from this drawing.

- Reptile Legend**
- Reptile Refugia; Location of Artificial Reptile Refugia.

Notes: The original of this drawing was produced in colour - a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.

Planning Issue

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00	Planning Issue	12.04.18	LB



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Client
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Project Title and Location
Yeomans Honda
Littlehampton Road, Ferring

Drawing Title
Figure No.1 - Site Habitat Plan

Scale
1:200@A1

Drawn
LB

Approved
GS

Date
12.04.18

Drawing No
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**Figure No.1 - Location of Artificial Reptile Refugia
Yeomans Honda, Littlehampton Road, Ferring**