



Unit 4, Langham Stables, Langham Lane, Lodsworth, West Sussex GU28 9BU

16<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### Land at Toddington Lane

To whom it may concern,

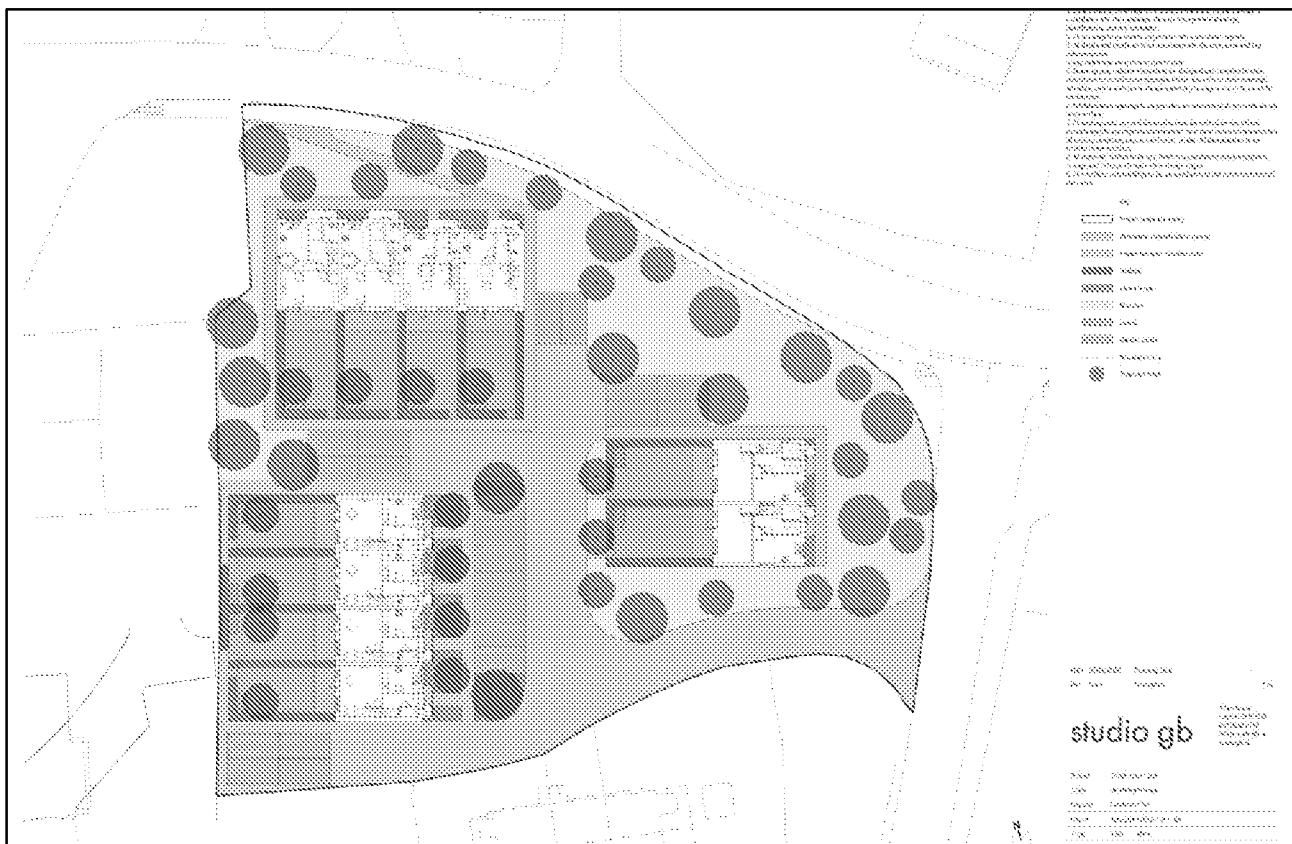
The Ecology Co-op has been commissioned by Worthing Homes to undertake an updated site appraisal of the site as the previously conducted Preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA)<sup>1</sup> was based upon an initial site visit from 2022 which would be considered out of date. The site has been subject to previous reptile presence/absence surveys also in 2022 which identified populations of both slow worms and common lizards, these were subsequently translocated to Littlehampton golf course in 2022 with reptile exclusion fencing installed at Toddington lane.

An updated survey was undertaken on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 by Joshua Harwood ACIEEM and it was determined that the site habitats were different to those identified in 2022 comprised of more ruderal/ephemeral habitats compared to the previously identified grassland habitats seemingly growing through natural succession of the land due to its changed management. On site the previously installed reptile exclusion fencing is shown to have collapsed or been totally removed in places in additional there is strong evidence of fly tipping on the site which may also act as refuge for reptile species.

Despite a change in habitat on site the previous PEA conducted in 2022 was updated in March 2024 with new site plans (which have since been updated and are illustrated in Figure 1 bellow) and continued to detail proposed reptile translocation in line with guidance. It is believed that the on-site habitats still support reptiles on site though due to the size and habitats present on site the numbers are not considered to be significant populations as the carrying capacity on site will be limited by these constraints. It is proposed that a reptile presence/absence survey update is not required to inform an updated reptile translocation on site and reptile mitigation methods (detailed section 6 of the reptile presence/absence and mitigation strategy<sup>2</sup>) will still be valid and suitable on site.

<sup>1</sup> The Ecology Co-op (2024) Preliminary Ecological Appraisal – Land at Toddington Lane Rev 02

<sup>2</sup> The ecology Co-op (2024) Reptile Presence/Absence Survey Report and Mitigation Strategy – Land at Toddington Lane Rev01



**Figure 1.** Proposed landscaping plan for the development at Land at Toddington Lane, reproduced from Studio gb, dated September 2024 (drawing no. TLN-SGB-00-GF-DR-L-101).

Kind regards,

**Joshua Harwood**

BSc (Hons), ACIEEM

