

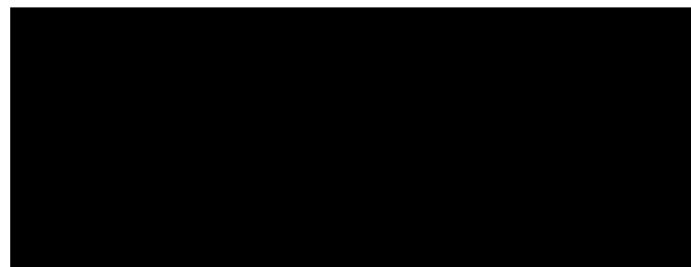


Reptile Survey Report,
Land to the rear of the Inglenook Hotel
255 Pagham Road
Nyetimber
Bognor Regis
West Sussex
PO21 3QB

22nd May 2018

ADM Architects
Trinity
Goodwood
Chichester
West Sussex
PO18 0LA

© ARBECO Ltd
Unit 1 Mill Farm
Barcombe Mills Road
Barcombe
East Sussex
BN8 5BP



Document information

Report title:	Reptile Survey Report
Client:	ADM Architects
Document ref:	ARB1183 Reptile Survey Report
Project manager:	Viola Zanetta BSc (Hons) MSc Grad CIEEM
Author:	Jessica Lewis BSc (Hons) MRes
Surveyors:	Jessica Lewis BSc (Hons) MRes, Georgina Baulcomb BSc (Hons) MSc GradCIEEM, Andrew Rowlandson BSc MSc and Sophie Bradfield
Report date:	22 nd May 2018

Checked by:	Viola Zanetta BSc (Hons) MSc Grad CIEEM and Rosie McLaughlin BSc (Hons) MSc Grad CIEEM
Authorised by:	Dr Stephanie Murphy PhD MCIEEM Director

Notice to Interested Parties

To achieve the study objectives stated in this report, we were required to base our conclusions on the best information available during the period of the investigation and within the limits prescribed by our client in the agreement.

No investigative method can completely eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise or incomplete information. Thus, we cannot guarantee that the investigations completely defined the degree or extent of e.g. species abundances or habitat management efficacy described in the report.

Copyright © Arbeco Ltd.

The material presented in this report is confidential. This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of ADM Architects and shall not be distributed or made available to any other company or person without the knowledge and written consent of Arbeco Ltd.

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
1 INTRODUCTION	5
2 METHODS.....	7
3 RESULTS.....	8
4 EVALUATION	9
5 CONCLUSION.....	9
6 RECOMMENDATIONS.....	10
REFERENCES	11
FIGURES.....	12

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 0.1 Arbeco Ltd. were commissioned by ADM Architects to carry out reptile presence / suspected absence surveys at the land behind the Inglenook Hotel, 255 Pagham Road, Nyetimber, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 3QB to help inform the proposed development of the site. The development proposals consist of the removal of the current stable block on site, and construction of nine residential dwellings with associated access, landscaping and parking.
- 0.2 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal undertaken by Arbeco Ltd in March 2018 identified the need for further ecological surveys at the site. The assessment considered that the site presented suitable terrestrial habitat for reptiles and, therefore, further surveys were recommended to ascertain presence / likely absence of reptiles.
- 0.3 The reptile surveys followed the recommended methodology outlined in the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (JNCC, 2003) and Froglife's Advice Sheet 10 (1999).
- 0.4 The surveys were undertaken in March, April and May 2018 and did not record any reptiles on site. Therefore, it is considered that the proposed development is unlikely be constrained by the presence of reptiles and the development is unlikely to impact local reptile populations.
- 0.5 Due to the presence of suitable habitats for reptiles, a precautionary approach with regards to the clearance of dense continuous scrub along the western and southern site boundary is recommended as detailed in Section 6 of this report. This includes directional strimming of this areas towards retained habitats to the west of the site. Additionally, it is recommended that the improved grassland on site should be maintained at the current short sward until works commence to discourage reptiles, known to be present in the surrounding area, from colonising the site
- 0.6 In the unlikely event that any reptiles are found during works the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist/Arbeco Ltd should be sought and the reptiles should be moved to the retained habitats to the east of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Arbeco Ltd. were commissioned by ADM Architects to carry out reptile surveys at the land behind the Inglenook Hotel, 255 Pagham Road, Nyetimber, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 3QB to help inform the proposed development of the site.
- 1.2 The objectives of the reptile surveys were to assess whether reptiles were present or likely absent on site and assess the population size of any species that were present. This will ensure that reptiles, if present, are not detrimentally impacted by the proposed works on the site.

Site Description

- 1.3 The site is located behind the Inglenook Hotel, 255 Pagham Road, Nyetimber, towards the western outskirts of the town of Bognor Regis in West Sussex (Ordnance Survey Grid Reference for the centre of the site: SZ 89199 98698). The site is approximately 0.63ha in area and comprises a horse paddock field with a wooden shed/ stable block in the far south-east corner and a small raised and overgrown area of dense scrub along the western border.
- 1.4 The site is bordered to the north by residential properties, with gardens backing directly up to the northern boundary, to the south by another development site, which has already cleared the natural habitats and is currently carrying out groundworks in preparation for the construction of 40 residential dwellings. To the west the site is bordered by a small grass field and further residential properties and to the east by the Inglenook Hotel gardens, which consists of a vegetable plot, orchard, garden area including a small number of caravans as guest accommodation, a car parking area with access track and the rear garden and Inglenook Hotel and Restaurant property.
- 1.5 The site is connected to the wider landscape by lines of scrub with trees which border most of the surrounding trees as well as by fences with trees and scrub which surround much of the housing within the locality.
- 1.6 The location of the site is shown in Figure 1.1 and the extent of the site boundary is shown in Figure 1.2.

Legislation

- 1.7 All species of reptile present in the UK are protected. Widespread and more common reptile species including adders *Vipera berus*, grass snakes *Natrix helvetica helvetica*, viviparous lizards *Zootoca vivipara* and slow worms *Anguis fragilis* are protected via part of Section 9(1) as well as part of Section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 1.8 European Protected Species of reptile, which include the smooth snake *Coronella austriaca* and sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* are protected via a combination of Section 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and Sub-sections 9(4) b & c and Section 9(5) of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 1.9 In general, the above legislation makes it an offence to:
 - Deliberately/intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take a protected species;

- Trade (i.e. sell, barter, exchange, transport for sale or advertising to sell or to buy) a protected species.

1.10 Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 protected sites and species are a material consideration in determining planning applications.

Background

1.11 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal undertaken by Arbeco Ltd on the 6th March 2018 identified the need for reptile surveys at the site. The site had suitable terrestrial habitat for reptiles, therefore further presence/absence surveys were recommended.

Development Proposals

1.12 The development proposals comprise the construction of nine residential properties on site and associated landscaping. These plans necessitate the demolition of a wooden-framed stable/ shed block, as well as clearance and re-profiling of the currently raised section of scrub, containing a few small trees, along the western boundary of the site, prior to construction works.

2 METHODS

Reptile Survey

- 2.1 The reptile survey was carried out in accordance with the recommended methodology outlined in the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (JNCC, 2003) and Froglife's Advice Sheet 10 (1999).
- 2.2 The survey was conducted using artificial refugia made from roofing felt measuring 50cm x 50cm. Refugia provide shelter and basking opportunities for reptiles, which can be recorded on or under the refugia during suitable weather conditions i.e. avoiding periods of strong wind, heavy rain or extreme temperatures, typically surveys are undertaken when air temperatures are between 9°C and 18°C.
- 2.3 On the 6rd March 2018, 61 artificial refugia were placed in areas of suitable habitat for reptiles. The location of refugia is shown in Figure 2.1.
- 2.4 Whilst setting out the refugia, a visual search of all areas of suitable habitat for reptiles was also undertaken. The refugia were left to settle in for a period of six days in order to provide time for reptiles to locate them and for the vegetation beneath them to become flattened, making it easier to observe reptiles.
- 2.5 In order to conform to the best practice guidelines for determining the presence or absence of reptile species, seven survey visits were undertaken to inspect the refugia. Each survey visit was conducted during suitable weather conditions.
- 2.6 Seven visits were undertaken by suitably qualified ecologists Jessica Lewis BSc (Hons) MRes, Georgina Baulcomb BSc (Hons) MSc GradCIEEM, Andrew Rowlandson BSc MSc and Sophie Bradfield in March, April and May 2018.
- 2.7 On each of the seven visits, refugia were inspected for reptiles above and beneath the refugia. The species and, where possible, the age and sex of each reptile observed was recorded. Any reptiles observed whilst walking between refugia were also recorded.
- 2.8 The artificial refugia were removed from site after the final survey on the 3rd May 2018.

Survey Constraints

- 2.9 There were not considered to be any constraints to the reptile surveys.

3 RESULTS

Reptile Survey

- 3.1 Survey visits were undertaken on the 14th and 26th March, the 5th, 9th, 18th and 23rd April and the 3rd May 2018. Findings of the surveys are detailed in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Reptile survey results

Date	Result	Weather conditions
14/03/2018	No reptiles recorded	Temperature (°C): 10.5 Cloud cover (%): 80 Wind (Beaufort Scale): 3 Rain: None
26/03/2018	No reptiles recorded	Temperature (°C): 11 Cloud cover (%): 20 Wind (Beaufort Scale): 3 Rain: None
05/04/2018	Four common shrew <i>Sorex araneus</i> , no reptiles recorded	Temperature (°C): 13 Cloud cover (%): 30 Wind (Beaufort Scale): 2 Rain: None
09/04/2018	No reptiles recorded	Temperature (°C): 10 Cloud cover (%): 100 Wind (Beaufort Scale): 3 Rain: None
18/04/2018	No reptiles recorded	Temperature (°C): 16 Cloud cover (%): 0 Wind (Beaufort Scale): 2 Rain: None
23/04/2018	No reptiles recorded	Temperature (°C): 11 Cloud cover (%): 70 Wind (Beaufort Scale): 2 Rain: None
03/05/2018	No reptiles recorded, reptile mats collected	Temperature (°C): 13 Cloud cover (%): 12.5 Wind (Beaufort Scale): 0 Rain: None

- 3.2 No reptiles were recorded during the seven visits.

4 EVALUATION

- 4.1 All species of reptile present in the UK are protected. Widespread and more common reptile species including adders *Vipera berus*, grass snakes *Natrix helvetica helvetica*, viviparous lizards *Zootoca vivipara* and slow worms *Anguis fragilis* are protected via part of Section 9(1) as well as part of Section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) from intentional killing, injury or sale.
- 4.2 European Protected Species of reptile, which include the smooth snake *Coronella austriaca* and sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* are protected via a combination of Section 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and Sub-sections 9(4) b & c and Section 9(5) of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) from deliberate capture, killing, injury, disturbance, sale, possession, and destruction or taking of eggs.
- 4.3 The habitats within the site boundary were identified as having potential to support reptiles during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal undertaken by Arbeco Ltd in March 2018.
- 4.4 The reptile surveys undertaken in March, April and May 2018 did not record any reptiles on site and, therefore, the reptiles are unlikely to be a constraint to the proposed re-development of the site and the proposed works are unlikely to impact local reptile populations.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The seven visits undertaken in March, April and May 2018 did not record reptiles on site and, therefore, it is considered that the proposed development is unlikely to impact local reptile populations and reptiles are not a constraint to the proposed re-development of the site. However, due to the presence of suitable habitat for reptiles including dense continuous scrub, a precautionary approach to the clearance of this habitat is recommended as outlined in Section 6 of this report.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The improved grassland on site should be maintained at the current short sward until works commence to discourage reptiles from colonising the site.
- 6.2 The clearance of the dense continuous scrub on site should be undertaken in a phased way to allow reptiles to move out of the area to be cleared:
- The vegetation should be first cut to a height of approximately 15-20cm
 - After a period of at least 24 hours from the first cut, the vegetation should be cut to ground level
- 6.3 The areas of dense continuous scrub should be strimmed directionally, starting from the east of the site and moving towards the west. This will encourage any reptiles that may be present to move away from the development footprint to suitable habitat to the west of the site.
- 6.4 The clearance of dense continuous scrub should be undertaken using hand tools only, including brush cutters and strimmers, and piles of cleared vegetation should be removed from the work area and disposed of off-site.
- 6.5 In the unlikely event that any reptiles are found during works the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist/Arbeco Ltd should be sought and the reptiles should be moved to the retained habitats to the east of the site within the Inglenook Hotel gardens.

REFERENCES

Beebee, T. & Griffiths, R. (2000) *Amphibians and Reptiles - A Natural History of the British Herpetofauna*. Harper Collins.

English Nature (1998) *Translocation of slow-worms – A Species Handbook*.

Froglife, (1999) *Reptile Survey: an introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation*. Froglife Advice Sheet 10. Froglife, Halesworth

Gent, T and Gibson, S (Eds.), (2003) *Herpetofauna Worker's Manual*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Location of site

Figure 1.2: Extent of site boundary

Figure 2.1: Location of reptile refugia

