

Hever Avenue, West Kingsdown, Kent

Reptile Survey Report

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Client: Sevenoaks District Council



Prepared by Katia Bresso CEnv MCIEEM
Trading as 'KB Ecology Ltd' (Reg 7595382)
42, Douglas Road
Lenham, Kent
ME17 2QP
Tel: 07810 412 773
Email: katia.bresso@kbecology.co.uk

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Scheme

Following a 'Preliminary Ecological Appraisal' which identified the risk of reptiles being present, KB Ecology Ltd has been commissioned to undertake a reptile survey with regards to a proposed development at land south of 162 Hever Avenue, West Kingsdown, Kent TN15 6DU, in support of a planning application for the erection of a new dwelling.

1.2 Survey Objectives

The purpose of the survey was to assess the likely impact of the scheme on reptiles, and to assist in demonstrating compliance with wildlife legislation and planning policy objectives.

The key objectives of this survey were to:

- Confirm the presence / likely absence of reptile species within suitable terrestrial habitat.
- Determine the population size class for each species found on site.
- Provide recommendations for necessary mitigation work.

1.3 Limitations

This report records the potential for flora and fauna evident on the day of the site visit. It does not record any flora or fauna that may appear at other times of the year and, as such, were not evident at the time of visit.

The findings of this report represent the professional opinion of a qualified ecologist and do not constitute professional legal advice. The client may wish to seek professional legal interpretation of the relevant wildlife legislation cited in this document.

2 Methodology

Detailed reptile surveys were undertaken using artificial refuges, in accordance with best practice guidelines (Froglife, 1999). A total of nine artificial cover objects were installed on 02nd March 2016. They were then checked on seven separate occasions in March and April 2016. Numbers of each reptile species were recorded, as well as the air temperature. Naturally occurring refuges were also checked for reptiles, and any additional incidental sightings were also recorded.

Surveys were only undertaken during suitable weather, they were not carried out during wind or rain. Interferences with the refuges were experienced, with all the refuges being moved to one pile between 5th and 11th April. The surveyor then re-installed the refuges. But all the refuges then went missing between 13th and 18th April. During the 5th and 7th visit, the surveyor thus could only survey potential basking and resting places present on site (such as under discarded signs and boards).



3 Results

No reptiles were found on any of the seven surveys undertaken. Table 1 below gives the details of the survey.

Table 1: Results and weather conditions for each survey visit

Reptile survey, Hever Av. West Kingsdown														
12 felt refuges and tins installed 02/03/2016														
Survey	Date	Time	Average Air Temp. deg C:	Cloud cover, %	Wind	Viviparous Lizards		Slow worms		Grass snakes		Adders		Other notes
						adults	juveniles	adults	juveniles	adults	juveniles	adults	juveniles	
1	21.03.16	12:00	12	70	none									No animals
2	25.03.16	10:30	11	5	none									No animals
3	31.03.16	13:40	14	40	light									No animals
4	05.04.16	11:30	13	30	v.light									No animals
5	11.04.16	12:30	14	90	none									Felts had been moved, felts replaced*
6	13.04.16	14:30	15	30	light									No animals
7	18.04.16	11:45	13	90	light									Felts had been removed again* .

*could not survey properly although potential basking and resting places (such as under discarded signs and boards) were checked and no animals were seen.

4 Legislation

All British native reptiles are listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA). This legislation prohibits to:

- Intentionally or deliberately capture, kill or injure a common reptile species (which includes slow worms).
- Sell, barter, exchange, transport or offer for sale reptiles or any part of them.

The Abandonment of Animals Act 1960 (as amended) may also apply when translocation of reptiles are proposed as part of a mitigation strategy. As such, care must be taken to ensure that any receptor sites are suitable for the species in terms of habitat and carrying capacity in order that minimal stress and suffering is imposed upon the reptiles concerned.

5 Recommendations

No reptiles have been found during the seven surveys, therefore no mitigation measures are expected necessary for the species.