

Old Ashford Road, Lenham, Kent

Reptile Mitigation Strategy

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Client: EuroCanterbury



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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 along Old Ashford Road, Lenham Kent, in support of a planning application for the erection of a number of new dwelling houses.

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

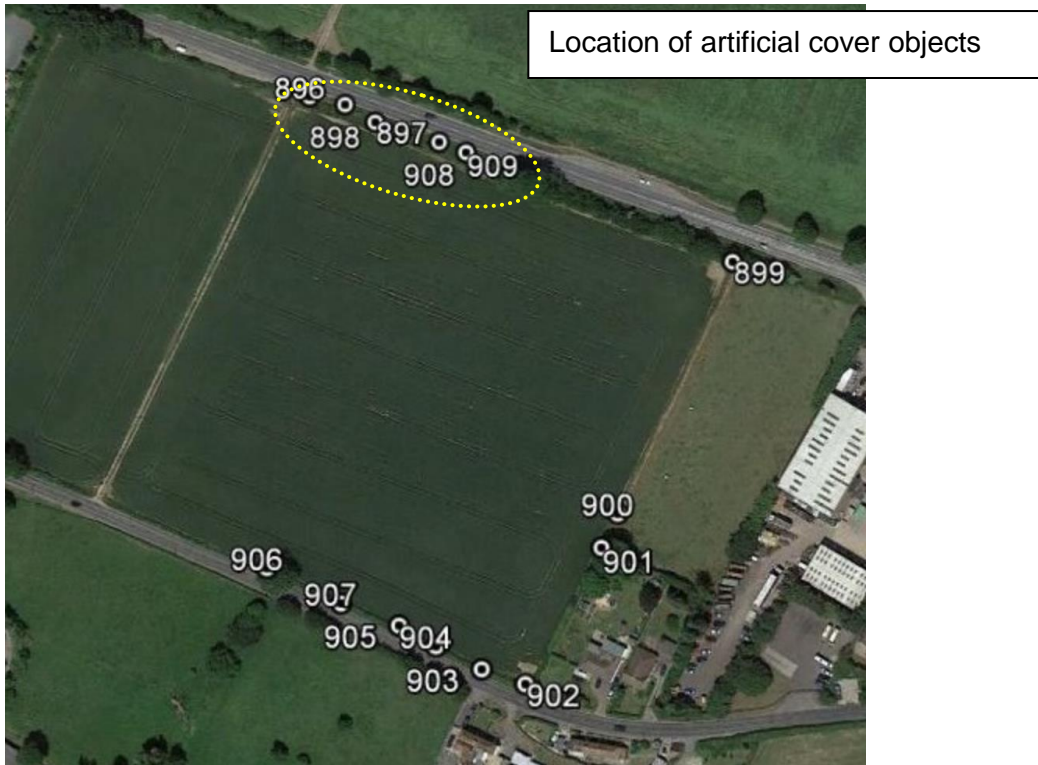
This report records the potential for flora and fauna evident on the day of the site visit. It does not record any flora or fauna that may appear at other times of the year and, as such, were not evident at the time of visit.

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 27 artificial cover objects were installed on 28th April 2015. They were then checked by Katia Bresso BSc MSc CEnv MIEEM and Megan Austin, on ten separate occasions in May-July 2015. 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.



3 Results

A low population of common lizard was found along the grass verge along the A20, with a maximum of 3 adults in any one survey. Table 1 below gives the details of the survey.

Table 1: Results and weather conditions for each survey visit

Reptile survey, Land off A20, Lenham Heath

27 felt refuges installed 28/04/2015

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	13 May 2015	9:50	14	5	light									No animals
2	15 May 2015	15:45	15	90	none									No animals
3	19 May 2015	14:00	16	30	light									after rain
4	20 May 2015	11:15	14	60	light	2								898,908
5	29 May 2015	10:00	12	70	light	1								897
6	1 Jun 2015	13:20	13	80	light	3								896,898,908
7	3 Jun 2015	12:20	13	70	v.light	2								896
8	8 Jun 2015	17:30	17	10	none	1								909
9	12 Jun 2015	10:00	17	30	v.light	3								897,898, nr909
10	8 Jul 2015	8:15	15	70	light	1								897

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

The proposal will entail the loss of a small amount of reptile habitat for the new footpath towards the A20. As meadow areas are proposed along the North/South open areas, this will provide additional habitat for the animals in time.





Prior to any ground works starting, a translocation exercise should take place, entailing the erection of reptile-proof fence around all area of the site where ground works will take place in potential reptile habitat, following some vegetation management (outside of the bird nesting season as birds are expected to be nesting in the bramble scrub and trees), the installation of refuges and the trapping of animals for a number of sessions¹ between March and October, during suitable weather conditions (i.e. cool weather with no heavy rain but sunny intervals between showers, and ambient air temperatures between 10-20°C).

For the Detailed Planning Project, any animals caught will be released along the un-impacted road verge to the East. They will then be able to colonise the newly created meadows.




Should trapping be needed for the Outline Planning Project (if the plots were not kept under cultivation throughout), any animals caught will be released in the newly created meadows, which should have matured by then. As 5m buffer zones will be kept around the North and East boundaries (with native planting), it is expected that these areas will also get colonised by reptiles over time, until the trees shade the ground.

¹ minimum of 20 trapping sessions, ceasing trapping after five clear days with no trapping during suitable weather conditions

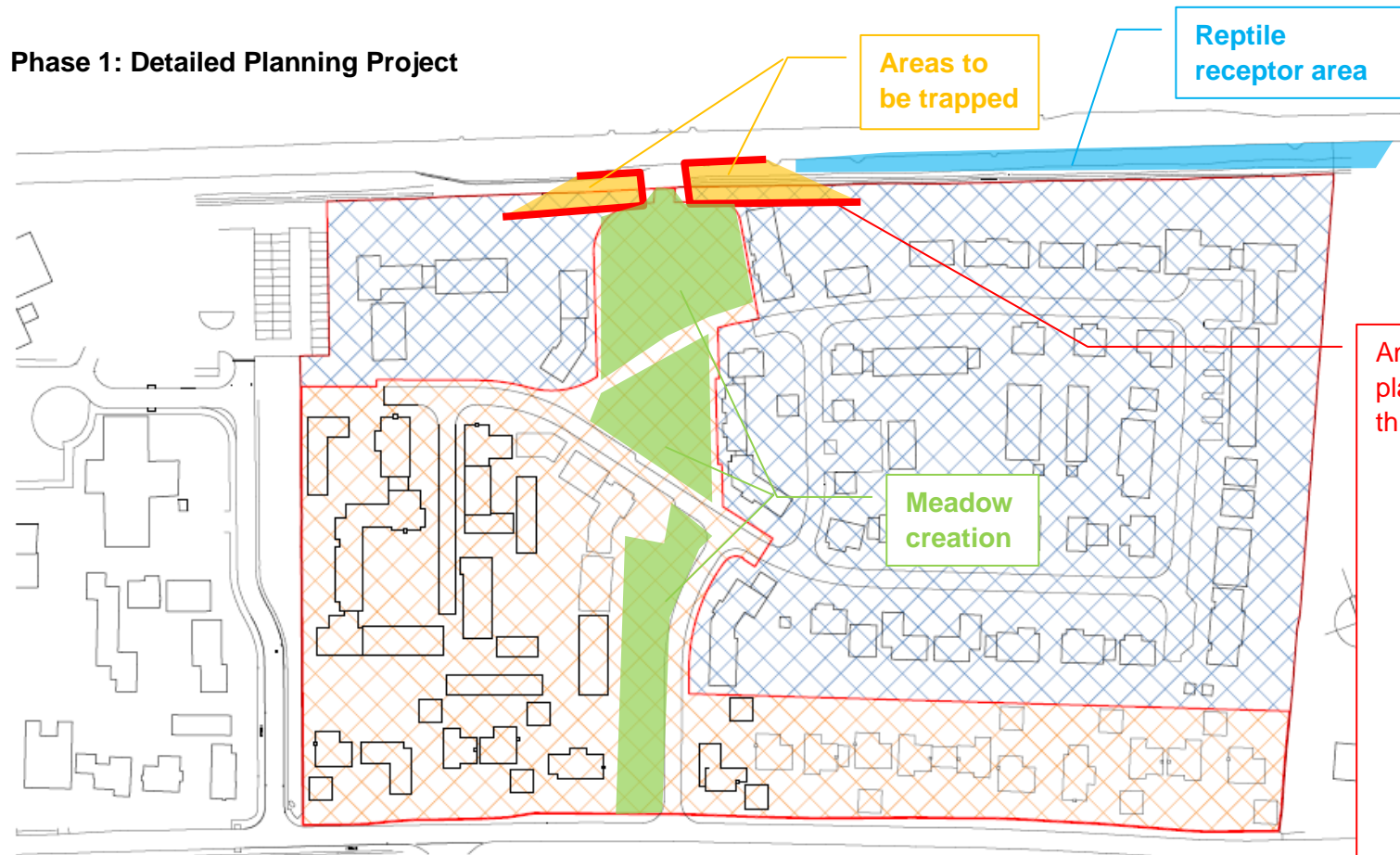
Proposed Timeline of Phase 1: Detailed Planning Project:

<p>Scrub and tree cutting along A20 (for new access), using hand tools only, to be done outside the breeding bird season September - February</p>				
	<p>Erection of reptile exclusion fencing and refuges – Trapping starts March to October</p>			
		<p>Destructive habitat search under supervision by ecologist March to October</p>		
			<p>Ground and construction works starting. Seeding of new meadow areas</p>	
				<p>Removal of reptile exclusion fencing once all ground works completed</p>

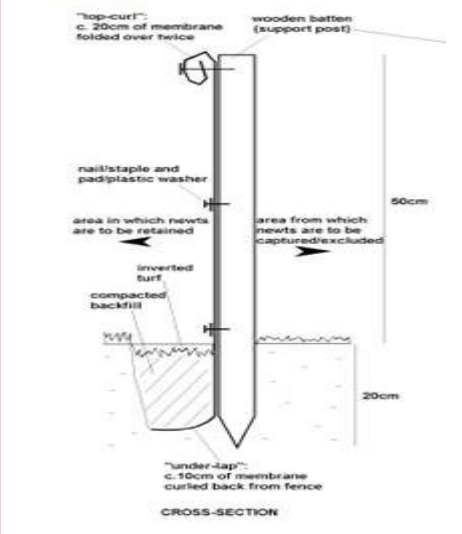
Proposed Timeline of Phase 2: Outline Planning Project: Only if the plots were not kept under cultivation throughout

Erection of reptile exclusion fencing and refuges – Trapping starts March to October			
	Destructive habitat search under supervision by ecologist March to October		
		Ground and construction works starting.	
			Removal of reptile exclusion fencing once all ground works completed

Phase 1: Detailed Planning Project



Amphibian-proof fence to stay in place during trapping and throughout ground works:



Rev	Description	By	Date

Client	Rogette
Project	Proposed Residential Development Lenham

Detailed Planning Application
 Outline Planning Application



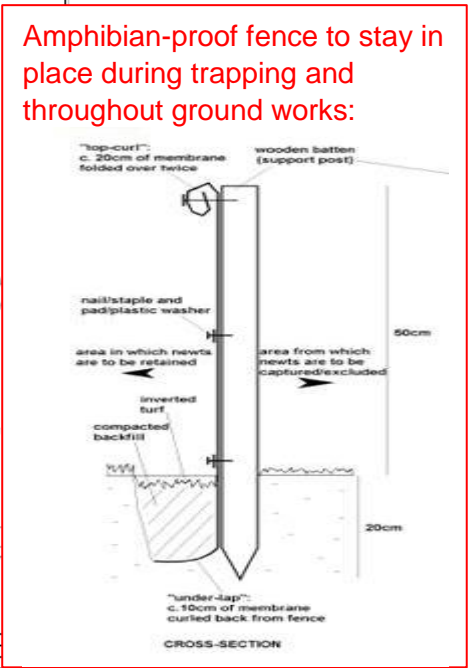
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Drawing No	Application Areas Plan
Scale	700 : P09

Phase 2: Outline Planning Project

Areas to be trapped if not under cultivation

Reptile receptor area



Rev	Description	Date

Client: Rogite
 Project: Proposed Residential Development, Lenham

Orange cross-hatch: Detailed Planning Application
 Blue cross-hatch: Outline Planning Application



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 0m 20m 40m
 COP original printed to scale. Prints from PDFs could distort.

Area 78 Application Area Plan

Scale	1:1000
Date	18/03/2018
Drawn	CP
Checked	CP
Approved	CP
Client Ref	700 : P09