

Old Ashford Road, Lenham, Kent

Reptile Survey

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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

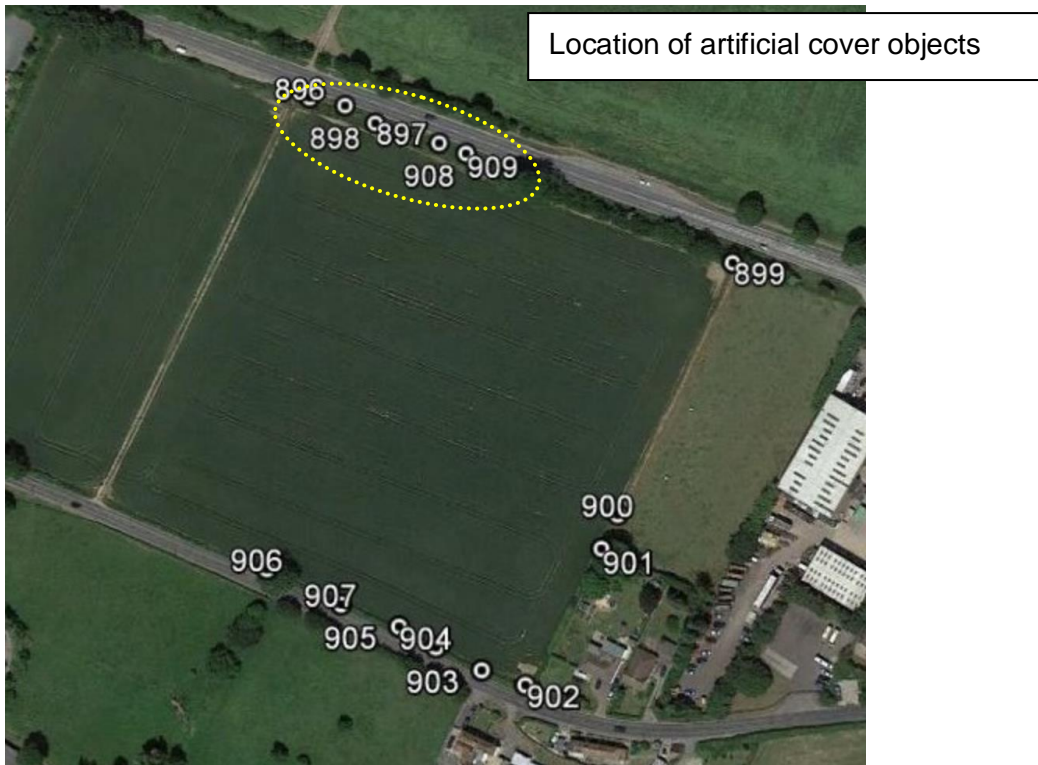
This report records the potential for flora and fauna evident on the day of the site visit. It does not record any flora or fauna that may appear at other times of the year and, as such, were not evident at the time of visit.

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 grass verge along the A20 should mainly remain unimpacted by the works. It may however be necessary to undertake some habitat manipulation (i.e. cutting of vegetation near works area) ahead of works to ensure no animals are injured.