



4 Upavon Avenue, Greasby, Wirral, CH49 3PL
TEL: 07725 488648 - Web: www.ebsols.co.uk – email: admin@ebsols.co.uk

REPTILE SURVEY – POPULATION ASSESSMENT

**Northaw House, Coopers Lane,
Northaw, Herts, EN6 4NJ
(Grid Ref: TL 274 024)**

Client: LW Developments Ltd
ISSUE DATE: 1st July 2017
Surveys Conducted: April - August 2016

1 Introduction

Planning permission is being proposed for a residential development at land at Northaw House , Coopers Lane, Northaw, Herts, EN6 4NJ (Grid Ref: TL 274 024). An initial assessment was carried out on the 20th April 2016 by Environmental Business Solutions (EBS). These surveys confirmed the presence of suitable habitat for breeding reptiles within the Site.

Environmental business Solutions (EBS) were commissioned to conduct full reptile presence / absence surveys to fully assess the site. The objectives of the surveys were to:

- Determine presence/likely absence of reptiles on site
- Determine the population size if reptiles are present
- Determine if the site qualifies as a “Key Reptile Site”
- To advise on future possible surveys
- To advise on possible mitigation should development commence

All reptile surveys (14 in total) were conducted as per JNCC Herpetofauna Working Manual and Frog life’s guidelines over the months of April to August 2016. The results showed no signs of reptiles being present on Site. It is therefore the opinion of EBS that a Natural England Protected Species Licence is not required for this site and that further mitigation or compensation is not required in relation to reptiles.

Bill Gaudie
Hons. (Wildlife Conservation), MCIEEM
Ecological Consultant- Environmental Business Solutions

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The reptile presence / absence survey was undertaken during April – August 2016.
- 2.2 The survey was supervised by Mr Bill Gaudie Bsc hons (Wildlife Conservation) MCIEEM.
- 2.3 The survey was conducted using artificial refugia made from roofing felt (tins) approximately 0.5m² at a density ≥ 25 tins per ha. They were placed to provide shelter and basking opportunities for reptiles, which can be recorded on or under the refugia in suitable weather conditions. Natural refugia (rocks, logs etc) were also searched. The survey followed the recommended methodology outlined in the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (JNCC, 2003) and Froglife's Advice Sheet 10 (1999).
- 2.4 Tins were placed on the 13th April 2016 (See Fig 1 for locations). The tins were thought to be bedded in by 26th April 2016.
- 2.5 The area contained large amounts of natural refugia and basking areas (corrugated roofing, carpet tiles etc), these areas were subjected to searches along with the above tins.
- 2.6 A total of 14 survey visits were conducted with inspections to both the artificial refugia and the newly marked natural refugia.
- 2.7 On each visit, all refuge was lifted and the number, sex and species of any reptile observed were recorded (if any).
- 2.8 Transects were also walked in desirable areas for signs of reptile activity.
- 2.9 All visits were conducted in weather conditions suitable for recording reptile activity i.e. Temperature between 9 and 18°C.
- 2.10 All refugia was replaced as near as possible to original position after examination.
- 2.11 See Appendix 1 for site layout, tins positions and transect.

3 Results

- 3.1 In all 14 site visits were made from the 20th April to 12th August 2016 after tins were bedded in for 13 days.
- 3.2 No reptiles were noted on any visit
- 3.3 No signs of reptile presence was noted on any visit.
- 3.4 Using The Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (JNCC, 2003) and Froglife's Advice Sheet 10 (1999). The site does not qualify as a "Key Reptile Site".
- 3.5 Natural England Protected Species Licence is not required for this site and further mitigation / compensation is not required in relation to reptiles.

Table 1 Reptile survey results with date and weather conditions for each visit.
 Key: M = Male Adult; F = Female Adult; Ad = Unsexed Adult; I = Immature, Y = Young

Reptile Population Surveys – Castle Point Golf Centre - 2016						
Date / Weather	Adder (<i>Vipera berus</i>)	Grass Snake (<i>Natrix natrix</i>)	Slow Worm (<i>Anguis fragilis</i>)	Common Lizard (<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>)	Comments	
	Number (Area)	Number (Area)	Number (Area)	Number (Area)		
130416 - Noon Temp 12°C - Rain Light early on	0	0	0	0	"Tins" laid down.	
260416 - Noon Temp 17°C - Rain Nil	0	0	0	0	Tins fully bedded	
030516 - Noon Temp 16°C - Rain Nil	0	0	0	0		
130516 - Noon Temp 15°C - Rain Nil	0	0	0	0		
200516 - Noon Temp 16°C - Rain Shower	0	0	0	0		
150616 - Noon Temp 18°C - Rain Early drizzle	0	0	0	0		
190616 - Noon Temp 18°C - Rain Late showers	0	0	0	0		
250616 - Noon Temp 17°C - Rain Light	0	0	0	0		
060716 - Noon Temp 17°C - Rain Nil	0	0	0	0		
100716 - Noon Temp 19°C - Rain Nil	0	0	0	0		
130716 - Noon Temp 16°C - Rain Drizzle early	0	0	0	0		
220716 - Noon Temp 18°C - Rain Nil	0	0	0	0		
060816 - Noon Temp 20°C - Rain Nil	0	0	0	0		
130816 - Noon Temp 17°C - Rain Nil	0	0	0	0		
200816 - Noon Temp 18°C - Rain Light shower	0	0	0	0	Tins removed	

4 Conclusions

Thorough reptile presence / absence surveys were conducted over the months of April – August 2016 on land at Northaw House, Coopers Lane, Northaw, Herts EN6 4NJ (Grid Ref: TL 274 024). All reptile surveys (14 in total) were conducted as per JNCC Herpetofauna Working Manual and Frog life's guidelines over the months of April to August 2016. The results showed no signs of reptiles being present on Site. It is therefore the opinion of EBS that a Natural England Protected Species Licence is not required for this site and that further mitigation or compensation is not required in relation to reptiles.

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References.

Froglife, 1999 **Froglife Advice Sheet 10**

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

HMSO, 1981 **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)** HMSO, London. The Stationery Office, Norwich.

HMSO, 1994 **Conservation (Natural Habitats (&c.) Regulations 1994**. HMSO, London. The Stationary Office, Norwich.

1998 **HGBI Advisory Notes for Amphibians and Reptiles Groups**

Appendix 1

Site Layout and Artificial Refugia (Tins) Placements Northaw House , Herts April – August 2016

