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Report prepared for: Trevor Smith

For the Site of: Brookmans Park Golf Club Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 7AT

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Cherryfield Ecology has prepared this report for the named clients use only.

Ecological reports are limited in shelf life, Natural England usually expect reports for licenses to be from the most recent or current season. Therefore, should the project not proceed within 12 months of this report an updated survey should be undertaken in order to check for changes that may have occurred on site. Information is believed to be accurate at the time of survey; recommendations are made without bias based on good practice guidelines within the industry. However, species presence and ecological parameters can change over time.

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Full Common Reptile Survey

0.0 Non-Technical Summary

0.1 Background

The survey follows national guidelines allowing for refuges, commonly known as ‘felts’, to be placed across the site and then checked for reptiles. Recommendations for mitigation if considered necessary are detailed in section 4. If a deviation from the guidelines has been made, this will be detailed in the Method Section.

The following report details the findings and recommendations for the site of Brookmans Park Golf Club Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 7AT

The client commissioned Cherryfield Ecology to undertake an EA as the proposals include for the construction of multiple dwellings on a former horse paddock.

0.2 Results and Findings

- Following a Stage 1 Ecological Appraisal undertaken on October 2018 (Applied Ecology, 2018) further surveys were recommended, which included for seven checks across the months of June to August 2022.
- These surveys have shown the presumed absence of common reptile species on the site.

0.3 Impact Assessment and Recommendations

Reptiles - No impacts are foreseen.

No further surveys, or mitigation, is required; however:

- If works are not carried out within 12 months of this report, an updated survey is recommended.
- If reptiles are found throughout the development, all works must stop, and advice sought.

1.0 Introduction

The client, Trevor Smith, has commissioned Cherryfield Ecology to undertake a full reptile survey (FRS) for the site of Brookmans Park Golf Club Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 7AT. Planning permission is being sought to construct multiple dwellings on a former horse paddock.

This survey has utilised standard methods for checking for reptiles, by placing out felts, tins or carpet tiles across the site. These are then checked in suitable weather for reptiles. Whilst checking the felts, the surveyor also looks for reptiles moving around the site.

The inspections were conducted on the 28/06/2022, 05/07/2022, 14/07/2022, 28/07/2022, 21/08/2022, 26/08/2022 and 01/09/2022

The survey can only ever provide a 'snapshot' of the site at the time of the survey and circumstances may change following this report. Health and Safety restrictions or obstructions may limit the ability to find reptiles e.g. flooding.

Biological records have been requested to give the report context and allow a study of the surrounds. The information is often sensitive and, therefore, a synopsis is provided and the full data released separately for verification.

The survey can be conducted between March to October when temperatures of between 9-18°C are generally accepted to be the optimum for reptiles to be active. These months are generally considered optimal for observing active reptiles, except the warmest summer months (where temperatures can exceed 18°C, which are considered sub-optimal).

There are six species of reptiles in Great Britain (Edgar *et al.* 2010) and four of these are commonly found; the Grass Snake *Natrix natrix* and/or the Barred Grass Snake *Natrix helvetica*), Adder *Vipera berus*, Common Lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and Slow Worm *Anguis fragilis*.

All native British species of reptiles are legally protected through their inclusion in Schedule V of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. As such, all species are protected from deliberate killing or injury. Therefore, where development is permitted, and there will be a significant change in land use, a reasonable effort must be undertaken to avoid

committing an offence. The same act makes the trading of native reptile species a criminal offence without appropriate licensing.

Two species of reptile; the Smooth Snake *Coronella austriaca* and Sand Lizard *Lacerta agilis* are further protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, which defines UK protected species of animals (“rare reptiles”).

2.0 Methods

The survey follows the national guidelines, which is taken as following:

- Froglife (1999), Reptile Survey, Froglife Advice Sheet 10, Froglife, Halesworth.
- Herpetofauna Groups of Britain and Ireland (1998). Evaluating local mitigation/translocation programs: Maintaining Best Practice and Lawful Standards. HGBI.
- JNCC (2004). Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Reptiles and Amphibians.
- Edgar et al. (2010). Reptile Habitat Management Handbook. Amphibian and Reptile

The survey consists of placing out felts, tin or carpet tiles across the site. These are then checked for reptiles in suitable weather and notes made of the species, sex and age.

From this information, an estimate of the population can be made e.g. more than 5 slow-worms on the site would be a good population.

If a deviation from the guidelines has been made, the reason and justification will be explained below:

No deviation from the standard guidelines has been made for this survey.

Due to high temperatures from late July to mid-August, reptile checks could not take place until the 21st August.

3.0 Results

The following section details the results of the desk study, inspection and survey, it includes MAGIC information, biological records data and map/aerial photo information.

3.1 Desk Study

The desk study is centered on Grid Reference - TL253046 and Postcode - AL9 7AT.

Table 1: Weather Records.

Date	Survey	Weather: Start	Weather: Finish
21/06/2022	Set Up	Temp:21 °C Wind: 1/12 Cloud:30 % Precip: None	Temp: 21°C Wind: 1/12 Cloud:30 % Precip: None
28/06/2022	1 st Check	Temp: 18°C Wind: 3/12 Cloud: 90% Precip: None	Temp: 18°C Wind: 3/12 Cloud: 90% Precip: None
05/07/2022	2 nd Check	Temp: 21°C Wind: 2/12 Cloud: 60% Precip: None	Temp: 21°C Wind: 2/12 Cloud: 60% Precip: None
14/07/2022	3 rd Check	Temp: 16°C Wind: 2/12 Cloud: 30% Precip: None	Temp: 16°C Wind: 2/12 Cloud: 30% Precip: None
28/07/2022	4 th Check	Temp:16 °C Wind: 1/12 Cloud: 90% Precip: None	Temp: 16°C Wind: 1/12 Cloud: 90% Precip: None
21/08/2022	5 th Check	Temp:16 °C	Temp: 16°C

		Wind: 1/12 Cloud: 75% Precip: None	Wind: 1/12 Cloud: 75% Precip: None
26/08/2022	6 th Check	Temp:16 °C Wind: 2/12 Cloud: 100% Precip: None	Temp:16 °C Wind: 2/12 Cloud: 100% Precip: None
01/09/2022	7 th Check	Temp:19 °C Wind: 1/12 Cloud: 100% Precip: None	Temp: 19°C Wind: 1/12 Cloud: 100% Precip: None

3.2 MAGIC

The following statutory sites and Natural England Protected Species (NEPS) have been located within the 2km search area (Figure 1).

- There is one statutory site located within the search area:
 - Water End Swallow Holes (SSSI - favourable)
- There are five NEPS licences granted for bats within the search area:
 - Brown Long-Eared *Plecotus auritus*, Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, approx. 1200m East from the site
 - 2 Common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle, the closest approx. 1000m East from the site (Licence 2016-26558, 2019-40917)
 - 2 Brown long eared and common pipistrelle, the closest approx. 1200m Southwest from the site (Licence 2009-982, 2018-33420)

MAGiC

Magic Map

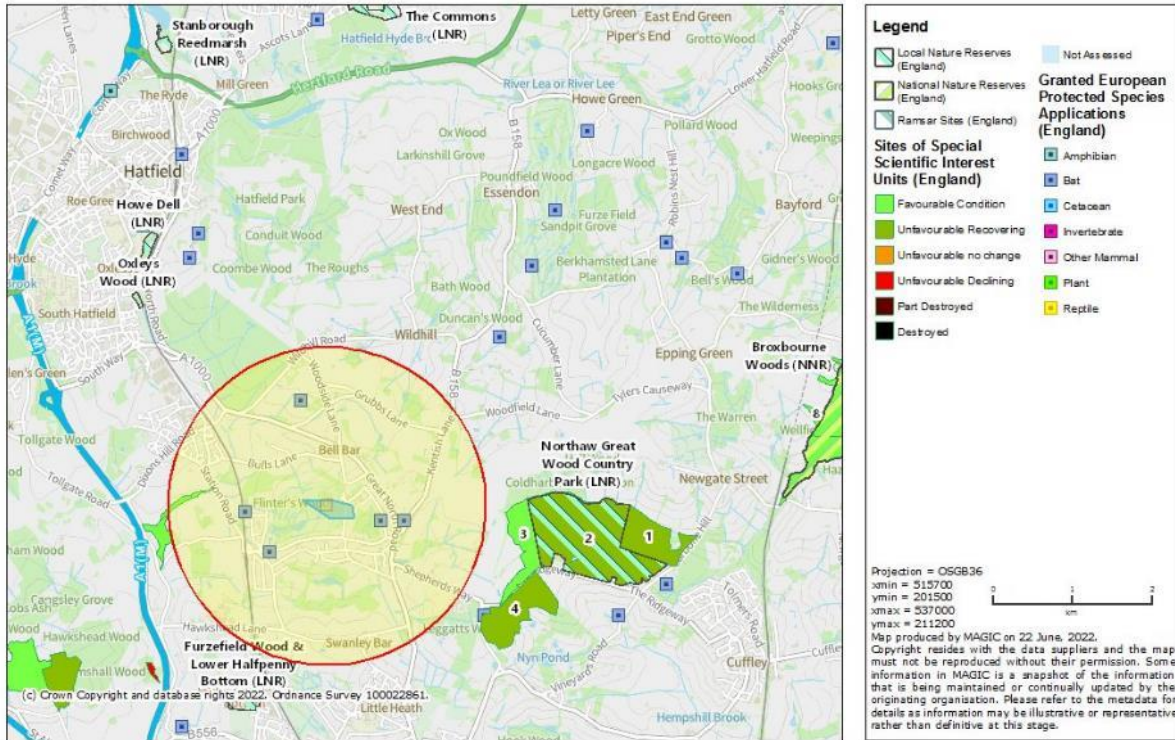


Figure 1: Magic Map Search

3.3 Biological Records Data

A standard 1km data search of existing records for protected species and nature reserves has been commissioned, below details the results and site context.

Biological records were obtained from Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre (2022).

Table 2: Biological Records

Species	Number of Records	Closest Record (accuracy)	Most Recent Record (year)
Reptiles			
Adder <i>Vipera berus</i>	0	n/a	n/a
Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	1	n/a	1988
Grass Snake <i>Natrix helvetica</i>	9	276m (10m)	2018
Slow-Worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	0	n/a	n/a

3.4 Site Location and Surrounds

The site is located in Brookman's Park, Hertfordshire and is surrounded by an amenity grassland and medium density housing in the immediate locale. Table 4 details the commuting, feeding and habitat features in a 1km radius of the site.

Table 4: Habitat features suitable for use by protected species.

Feature	Description
Water course	Mimmshall Brook is located approximately 480m to the West. An additional smaller water course is located approximately 395m to the Southeast.
Water bodies	Gobions Pond is located approximately 926m to the South. Another large pond is located approximately 485m to the Southwest. A smaller pond is located approximately 837m to the East. Shepherds' way Fishing Lake is located approximately 982m to the Southeast.
Woodland	George's Wood is located approximately 226m to the Southeast. Gobions Wood is located approximately 783m to the South. Peplin's Wood is located approximately 897m to the West. Additional Copses found throughout the vicinity of the site.
Linear e.g. hedgerows	Field boundary Hedgerows and Garden Hedgerows found throughout the surrounding area.
Pasture/arable/grassland	Chancellor's School fields are located approximately 70m to the East. Gobion's Open Space located approximately 831m to the South. Arable fields and amenity grassland found throughout the vicinity of the site.
Other	Euro Plants plant nursey is found approximately 662m to the North.

3.5 Observations

Table 4: Results and observations of the surveyors' checks (see Figure 3 for Site Plan)


Surveyor	Survey	Reptile Activity Observed and Other Observations
Luke Beeton (LB)	Set Up	No reptiles found.
LB	1 st check	No reptiles found.
LB	2 nd check	No reptiles found.
LB	3 rd check	No reptiles found.
	4 th check	No reptiles found.
LB	5 th check	No reptiles found.
LB	6 th check	No reptiles found
LB	7 th check	<p>No reptiles found. Badger latrine found</p>  <p>1 Sep 2022 10:34:51 Ash Close Cherryfield Ecology Ltd</p> <p>Figure 2: badger latrine</p>



Figure 3: Site Plan

4.0 Conclusions, Discussion and Recommendations

The following section details the conclusions, discussion and recommendations in the context of the proposed works.

4.1 Conclusion and Discussion

Following a Stage 1 Ecological Appraisal by Applied Ecology (2018), a full set of reptile surveys was recommended, these surveys showed no reptiles present on the site.

4.2 Potential Impact

Impact assessments must be proportionate to the scale of the development (CIEEM, 2018) and the following details a proportionate impact assessment based on current information.

Table 5: Impact Assessment.

Impact	No impact foreseen
Characterisation of unmitigated impact on the feature	n/a
Effect without mitigation	n/a
Mitigation	n/a
Significance of effects of residual impacts (after mitigation)	n/a.

4.3 Recommendations

Reptiles - No impacts are foreseen.

No further surveys, or mitigation, is required; however:

- If works are not carried out within 18 months of this report, an update survey is recommended.
- If reptiles are found throughout the development, all works must stop, and advice sought.

5.0 References

CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland:

Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal, September 2018. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester, online at

<https://www.cieem.net/data/files/ECIA%20Guidelines.pdf>

Froglife Advice 'Sheet 10' Reptile Survey. An introduction to planning, conducting + interpreting surveys for snake + lizard conservation.

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005a). Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation. London: HMSO.

Paul Edgar, Jim Foster and John Baker (2010). Reptile Habitat Management Handbook. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth

Records: Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre (2022)

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005). Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation. Para.99