

Land adjoining Turner Court, Romney Avenue, Folkestone, Kent

Reptile Survey Report

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Client: Village Homes Folkestone Ltd



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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 adjoining Turner Court, Romney Avenue, Folkestone Kent, in support of a planning application for the erection of a number of new dwellings.

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.
- 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.

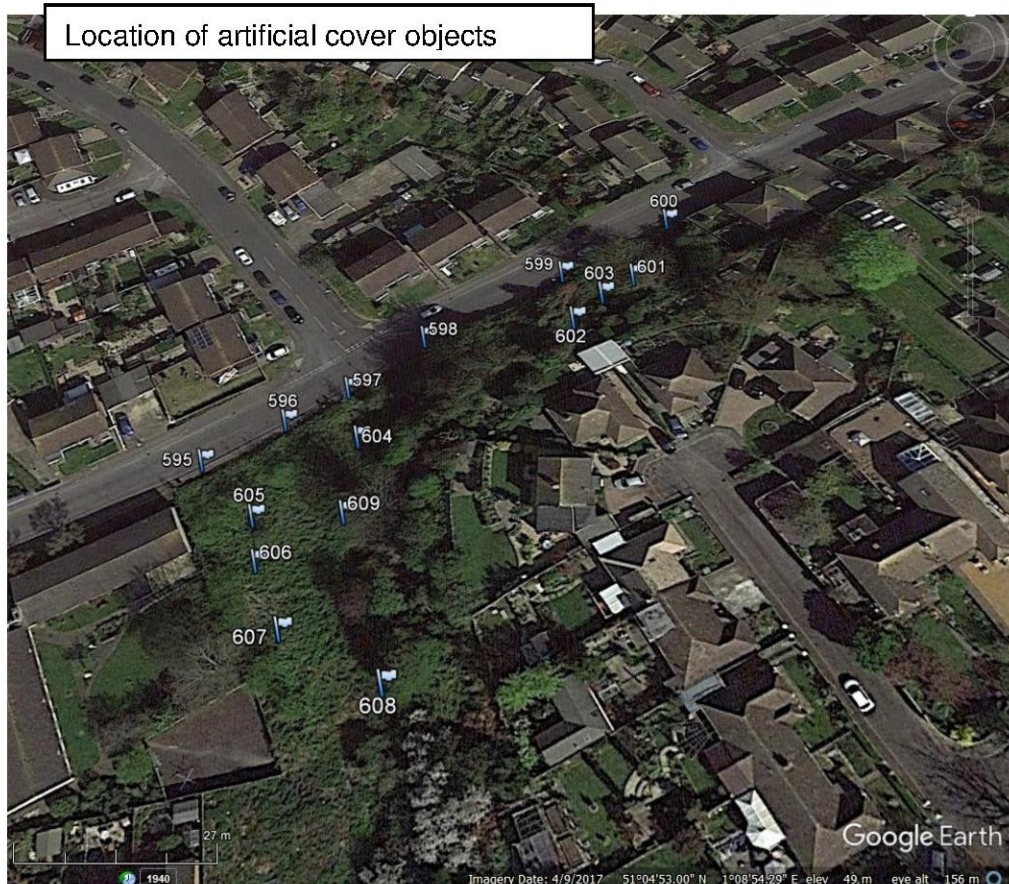
The findings of this report represent the professional opinion of a qualified ecologist and do not constitute professional legal advice. The client may wish to seek professional legal interpretation of the relevant wildlife legislation cited in this document.

2 Methodology

Detailed reptile surveys were undertaken using artificial refuges, in accordance with best practice guidelines (Froglife, 1999). A total of 15 artificial cover objects were installed on 18th March 2019. They were then checked on seven separate occasions in March to May 2019.

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. They were undertaken by Megan Austin, who has over seven years' experience in reptile survey and mitigation work.



3 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.

4 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, Turner Court, Folkstone										
Refuges installed 18.03.2019										
Survey	Date	Time	Average Air Temp. deg	Cloud cover, %	Wind	Viviparous Lizards	Slow worms	Grass snakes	Adders	Other notes
<u>1</u>	25.03.2019	12:30	12	20	light					No animals
<u>2</u>	28.03.2019	11:30	12	90	none					No animals
<u>3</u>	08.04.2019	16:00	16	80	v. light					No animals
<u>4</u>	23.04.2019	10:00	16	10	v. light					No animals
<u>5</u>	26.04.2019	12:45	16	30	light					No animals
<u>6</u>	30.04.2019	10:45	12	100	v. light					No animals
<u>7</u>	07.05.2019	14:10	18	10	v. light					No animals

5 Recommendations

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