

784-B048171

South Street, Bridport

Reptile Survey Report

Planning Issues Ltd

June 2024

Document prepared on behalf of Tetra Tech Limited



Tetra Tech Southampton, International House, Solent International Business Park, George Curl Way,
Southampton, SO18 2RZ

Tetra Tech Limited. Registered in England number: 01959704
Registered Office: 3 Sovereign Square, Sovereign Street, Leeds, United Kingdom, LS1 4ER

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document:	Reptile Survey Report
Project:	784-B048171
Client:	Planning Issues Ltd
Project Number:	South Street, Bridport
File Origin:	\\lds-dc-vm-101\Data\Projects\784-B048171_South_Street__Bridport\60 Project Output\63 Published

Version:	1	Prepared by:	Chloe Mockridge Consultant Ecologist [REDACTED]
Date:	June 2024	Checked by:	Trish Holden MCIEEM Principal Ecologist [REDACTED]
Status:	Final	Approved By:	Tamsin Clark MCIEEM Associate Director [REDACTED]
Description of Revision:	N/A – First Draft		

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
1.0 INTRODUCTION	8
1.1 Background	8
1.2 Site Location.....	8
1.3 Development Proposals.....	8
1.4 Purpose of the Report	8
2.0 METHODOLOGY	10
2.1 Historic surveys	10
2.2 Desk Study.....	10
2.3 Field Surveys	10
2.3.1 Biosecurity.....	10
2.3.2 Presence / Likely Absence Surveys	10
2.4 Limitations.....	11
3.0 BASELINE CONDITONS.....	13
3.1 Historic Surveys.....	13
3.2 Desk Study.....	13
3.3 Field Study.....	13
4.0 DISCUSSION.....	15
4.1 Impacts	15
4.1.1 Loss of Habitats	15
4.1.2 Loss of Connectivity	15
4.1.3 Killing & Injury.....	15
4.1.4 Construction-phase Disturbance.....	15
4.1.5 Operational-phase Disturbance	16
4.2 Mitigation.....	16
4.2.1 Loss of Habitat.....	16
4.2.2 Loss of Connectivity	16
4.2.3 Killing & Injury.....	17
4.2.4 Construction-phase disturbance	20
4.2.5 Operational-phase disturbance.....	21

4.3 Enhancement 21

4.4 Monitoring 22

5.0 SUMMARY 23

6.0 CONCLUSION 23

REFERENCES 24

FIGURES 25

APPENDICES 26

APPENDICES

- APPENDIX A: REPORT CONDITIONS
- APPENDIX B: LEGISLATION & POLICY
- Appendix C: Survey Results

GLOSSARY

Acronyms/Abbreviations	Definition
CEMP	Construction Ecological Management Plan
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management
DEFRA	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MCIEEM	Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management
NERC Act	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
SAP	Species Action Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contents	Summary
Site Location	The site is located west of South Street in Bridport, Dorset and is centred at Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid Reference SY 46509 92260.
Proposals	The development proposals comprise a residential care home with associated parking, infrastructure and landscaping.
Scope of this Survey(s)	<p>The purpose of this assessment is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the presence or likely absence of reptiles within the site area. • Identify if any additional surveys are required to inform this assessment. • Determine if any potential impacts on reptiles are likely to arise from the development. • Provide preliminary advice and outline strategies to avoid/mitigate/compensate for any likely impacts on reptiles.
Results and Evaluation	<p>There is suitable habitat present on site in the form of mixed scrub and grassland areas along northern, north-eastern and southern edges of the site. The presence/ likely absence surveys recorded a breeding population of slow worm on site. This is likely to equate to a ‘good’ population as defined by Froglife (1999).</p> <p>Slow worms are protected from killing or injury under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended). As such, a reptile translocation will be required to an offsite location.</p>
Recommendations	<p>As only a small amount of habitat will be retained on site, a suitable receptor site will need to be identified, and enhanced to support the additional reptiles to be moved into it. This may need to be guided by surveys of the receptor site to confirm if it can support additional reptiles. Off-site habitat enhancements should take place as soon as possible to give time for any necessary habitat management.</p> <p>On site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As much suitable habitat as possible to be created on site with retained connectivity. • Suitable reptile habitat that needs to be removed to facilitate the development will be cleared of reptiles using the prescribed measures. • Enhancements to the retained boundary habitats, including installation of a hibernacula. • Installation of temporary reptile exclusion fencing to prevent the movement of reptiles back onto the development area. <p>Reptile translocation:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To take place between March and October.• Requires the placement of artificial refugia, and then a minimum of 60 days to trap and translocate reptiles. Once 5 clear days have passed with no reptiles found, no further visits will be required.• Once the site is clear of reptiles, this will be followed by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Displacement strategy (vegetation clearance).• Destructive search (top-soil clearance). <p>Final development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fencing to have gaps in, or gaps beneath where possible. <p>Any alterations to the plans are to be reviewed by the ecologist to inform updates to the reptile mitigation and enhancement.</p>
Conclusions	<p>If the mitigation within this report is followed, it is considered that the proposals meet with relevant planning policy and legislation.</p> <p>The current proposals must provide adequate and suitably enhanced sections to allow reptiles to potentially recolonise the site following the completion of the development and allow movement around boundaries and adjacent areas, therefore minimising impacts to slow worms.</p>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Tetra Tech was commissioned by Planning Issues Ltd on 14th March 2024 to undertake a reptile survey of land at South Street, Bridport, hereafter referred to as “the site”.

This report has been prepared by Consultant Ecologist Chloe Mockridge BSc (Hons), MSc and Assistant Ecologist Ryan Pearson BSc (Hons) and the conditions pertinent to it are provided in Appendix A.

Reptiles are protected species, full details of that protection, including types of offences and policy position are provided in Appendix B.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The site is located west of South Street in Bridport, Dorset and is centred at Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid Reference SY 46509 92260 – See Figure 1. The site is situated in an urban setting towards the south of Bridport and is immediately bounded by the River Brit to the west and south, which forms a confluence with the River Asker, with a man-made weir directly to the south of the site. There is a residential area immediately to the north and industrial development to the east. Further urban development associated with Bridport and Bothenhampton lie to the north and east respectively. The wider landscape is more rural, with open space comprising arable land, small parcels of woodland and a network of hedgerows.

The site is currently an active builder’s supply yard largely comprised of bare ground, with areas of grassland, scrub, lines of trees and ephemeral and ruderal vegetation.

1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The development proposals comprise a total of 48 retirement apartments and 25 cottages with associated parking, infrastructure and landscaping.

1.4 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this assessment is to:

- Determine the presence or likely absence of reptiles within the site area.
- Identify if any additional surveys are required to inform this assessment.
- Determine if any potential impacts on reptiles are likely to arise from the development.
- Provide preliminary advice and outline strategies to avoid/mitigate/compensate for any likely impacts on reptiles.

The details of this report will remain valid for a period of eighteen months from the date of the survey (November 2025), after which the validity of this assessment should be reviewed to determine whether further updates are necessary.

The recommendations within this report should be reviewed (and reassessed if necessary) should there be any changes to the red line boundary or development proposals which this report was based on.

Note that scientific names are provided at the first mention of each species and common names (where appropriate) are then used throughout the rest of the report for ease of reading.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 HISTORIC SURVEYS

Tetra Tech completed a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the site in June 2023 (Tetra Tech, 2023) and condition assessments to inform the Biodiversity Net Gain in April 2024 (Tetra Tech, 2024). The results of this survey have been reviewed and discussed in Section 3.1 below.

Other than the surveys undertaken by Tetra Tech, Tetra Tech are not aware of any previous survey work carried out at the site nor reports pertaining to ecological conditions at the site.

2.2 DESK STUDY

The desktop study comprised two elements:

- A data search obtained from Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC) in April 2023 of records of reptiles within 2km of the site boundary.
- Online element including a 2km search using: Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) (<https://magic.defra.gov.uk>) website and Ordnance Survey (OS) and Aerial Imagery (<https://www.bing.com/maps>). This included a search for any designated sites within 2km supporting reptiles. The search was conducted in March 2024.

2.3 FIELD SURVEYS

2.3.1 Biosecurity

All surveys were conducted in accordance with Tetra Tech Biosecurity Policy (June 2023).

2.3.2 Presence / Likely Absence Surveys

All surveys were conducted by experienced surveyors, Senior Ecologist Alex Coggins, Consultant Ecologist Izzy Frey and Assistant Ecologist Ryan Pearson.

Surveys were undertaken in accordance with the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (Gent & Gibson, 2003) and Advice Sheet 10 – Reptile Survey (Froglife, 1999) and comprised the use of two complementary methods – direct observation and artificial refuge checks. These two methods were applied over seven visits from 8th April 2024 to 8th May 2024 in suitable weather conditions.

Direct observation required surveyors to walk slowly towards suitable basking spots and artificial refuges, scanning 3-4 m ahead of footfall to observe any reptiles which may be basking out in the open or upon natural/artificial refuges. Natural refuges on site include features like sun traps, edge habitats, piles of logs, brash and bricks.

Artificial refuges are sections of bitumen roofing felts approximately 1x2m, which are clearly numbered and placed across the site in areas considered to have habitat suitable to support reptile activity (see Figure 2 for artificial refuge placement plan). As a general rule, the density of artificial refuges used should be 10 per ha. However, given the small area of the site, additional refugia were used in this instance.

On 26th March 2024 50 refuges were set out in suitable areas, these were then left undisturbed on the site for 13 days prior to the commencement of surveys. This allowed the refuges to settle within the environment and reptiles, if present, to find and utilise them.

The refugia were checked on seven occasions, in accordance with Froglife (2016). On each visit, each refuge was first checked for basking individuals from a distance before being hand searched for sheltering reptiles. The location and species of each reptile sighting was recorded to allow for analysis of distribution across the site. Where possible to do so animals were also aged and sexed .

Reptiles are active from March to October however it is considered that the most successful months to survey are April, May and September (Froglife, 1999 and 2016); although it is recognised that the exact optimal timing to survey is dependent on environmental variables such as temperature, rainfall and wind. Heavy rain, strong wind and high temperatures are unsuitable conditions to survey for reptiles. Froglife (1999) states that the best time of day to survey for reptiles is between 08:30 to 11:00 and between 16:00 and 18:30 when air temperature is between 9°C and 18°C. Weather conditions were recorded for each survey are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Survey Dates and Weather Conditions – Presence / Likely Absence Survey

Survey No.	Date	Time		Air Temperature (°C)		Wind Speed	Cloud Cover Start (%)	Cloud Cover	Precipitation (%)
		Start	End	Initial	Final				
1	08.04.24	10:00	10:55	12.0	13.0	Light air	80		0
2	11.04.24	10:25	11:15	14.0	15.0	Light air	80		0
3	15.04.24	11:30	12:15	11.0	11.0	Gentle breeze	60		Very light rain shortly before start
4	18.04.24	14:00	14:50	12.0	12.0	Light Breeze	20		0
5	23.04.24	10:25	11:15	11.0	11.0	Light Breeze	80		0
6	01.05.24	09:50	10:20	10.0	10.0	Light air	100		Very light rain shortly before start
7	08.05.24	10:20	10:55	17.0	16.0	Light Breeze	40		0

2.4 LIMITATIONS

Due to unsuitable weather conditions during optimal timings, surveys three and four on 15th April 2024 and 18th April 2024 were both conducted outside of the optimal timings, although at optimal temperatures. As reptiles were recorded during these surveys, this is not considered to have affected the overall findings.

Prior to the commencement of surveys 3 and 6, there were short spells of light rain. The surveyor waited until the rain had stopped and the refuges had warmed up slightly, hence the survey started slightly later in the morning. Surveys were undertaken in the most suitable weather possible while spacing surveys out

where possible. Reptiles were present during these surveys outside optimal weather conditions and therefore not considered to have affected the overall finding during the surveys.

Information on the sex of the reptiles recorded during the second survey is not available due to a technical error with the field recording application. Information on whether the reptiles were adults, sub-adults or juveniles was provided during this survey, and therefore this is not considered to be a limitation of the survey as a population size estimate can still be calculated.

Some of the refugia were misplaced or buried due to the active work yard moving large amounts of debris, this meant that a few refugia could not be surveyed. As refugia were distributed across the site's suitable habitats exceeding the required 10 per hectare, it is considered that the site was sufficiently covered thus not an overall limitation to the survey findings.

Notwithstanding the limitations highlighted above, the survey effort applied is considered sufficient to meet the aims of the survey and this report, in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines.

The details of this report will remain valid for a period of 18 months from the date of the survey (November 2025), after which the validity of this assessment should be reviewed to determine whether further updates are necessary. Note that the recommendations within this report should be reviewed (and reassessed if necessary) should there be any changes to the red line boundary or development proposals which this report was based on.

3.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

3.1 HISTORIC SURVEYS

A PEA of the site was carried out in June 2023 (Tetra Tech, 2023). This found the site to be suitable for reptiles due to the grassland and scrub on site, as well as log piles and building materials piled up on site creating hibernacula. There is also anecdotal evidence from staff who work on the site of slow worms being present in the north-west of the site and an adder had been seen previously.

3.2 DESK STUDY

The data search identified no known statutory designated sites which are designated in part for reptiles or non-statutory sites which are known to support reptiles within 2km of the site.

DERC returned 17 records for reptiles between 2014 and 2017 comprising 12 records of slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*, three for grass snake *Natrix helvetica*, one for common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and one for adder *Vipera berus*. The closest records to the site were grass snakes at the Watton Park development, 430m to the southwest. These records are isolated from the site by roads, residential development and the River Brit and River Asker. Although rivers are less of a barrier for dispersal for snakes, slow worm and common lizard are unlikely to be able to disperse into the site from the wider landscape. The wall surrounding the site is likely to be a barrier to dispersal for slow worm, both into and out of the site.

3.3 FIELD STUDY

Slow worms were recorded on site, predominantly in the northern and southern areas of the site. See Table 2 for summary survey results. When apparent, the sex of the individual was also recorded and noted within Table 2. Figure 3 shows the locations of reptile observations and the full results are given in Appendix C. Figures 3.1 – 3.7 illustrate the results from each survey. No grass snakes were recorded on site.

Table 2. Survey Results of the Site

Survey No.	Date	Records			
		Species	No. Adults	No. Sub-Adults	No. Juveniles
1	08.04.24	Slow worm	5♂, 10♀, 4 unknown sex	5	3
2	11.04.24	Slow worm	15, unknown sex	4	2
3	15.04.24	Slow worm	6♀	-	5
4	18.04.24	Slow worm	15♀, 4♂	5	-
5	23.04.24	Slow worm	11♀, 5♂	6	-
6	01.05.24	Slow worm	9♀, 2♂	2	4

Survey No.	Date	Records			
		Species	No. Adults	No. Sub-Adults	No. Juveniles
7	08.05.24	Slow worm	18 ♀, 6 ♂	3	4
Key	♂ male, ♀ female				

As both male and female slow worms were found along with sub-adults and juveniles, it can be assumed that the site or the immediate offsite areas hosts a breeding population.

Based on the peak counts recorded, indicative population estimates (Froglife 1999 would usually require 20 visits to fully inform a population estimate) have been made in accordance with criteria as set out in Table 3 and are shown in Table 4.

As 1.12ha of suitable habitat was found on site and 4.46 times the recommended refugia density were used to detect reptiles, the peak counts were divided by 4.46 to allow estimation of the population size from the Froglife (1999) (Table 3).

Froglife's Advice Sheet 9 recommends using 10 refugia per hectare. 50 refugia were used on site due to the amount of suitable habitat. According to their guidance, 11.2 refugia should have been distributed on this 1.12-hectare site. This gives a multiplying factor of 4.46. The peak count of 24 adults slow worms can then be divided by this multiplying factor to obtain a more accurate population size for the site.

Table 3. Assessing Population Size using Peak Counts (Froglife, 1999)*

Species	Low population	Good population	Exceptional population
Adder	<5	5-10	>10
Grass snake	<5	5-10	>10
Common lizard	<5	5-20	>20
Slow worm	<5	5-20	>20

* Figures in the above table refer to the maximum number of **adults** seen by observation and/or under refugia by one person in one day.

Table 4. Reptile Populations Based on Adjusted Results to Compensate for Increased Number of Refugia

Species	Peak Count	Population Estimate
Slow worm	5.38	Good population

* Figures in the above table refer to the maximum number of adults seen by observation and/or under mats by one person in one day.

Based on the assessment in Table 4, it is considered that at present the site is likely to support a good population of slow worms.

4.0 DISCUSSION

4.1 IMPACTS

Following the desk study and field survey, a good population of slow worms, likely breeding, have been confirmed as being present on site.

Without mitigation there are likely to be adverse effects on reptiles through loss of habitat, severance of connectivity, killing and injury and disturbance during the construction and operational phase of the proposed development. This would be a breach of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and contrary to local and national planning policy.

4.1.1 Loss of Habitats

The majority of scrub across the site will be lost permanently, with some small areas retained in the north and south of the site. These habitats support populations of slow worms across the site.

Much of the grassland on the site will also be lost however, some will be created around the boundaries making some areas a temporary loss and others a permanent loss.

The log pile and other man-made debris within the north-west of the site of the site will also be removed creating a loss in hibernacula for reptiles.

4.1.2 Loss of Connectivity

Most of the suitable habitat is on the north of the site. A wall is along the south and west boundaries, which potentially restricts the dispersal of reptiles in these directions. The habitat on the northern boundary connects to suitable habitat in the wider area through gardens and the edge of the River Brit. The scrub is due to be lost permanently. In addition, the construction phase will result in all areas of the grassland to be lost. This could potentially result in individuals becoming isolated during the works.

The operational phase will create new grassland within the northern boundary to provide future connectivity.

4.1.3 Killing & Injury

Removal of suitable vegetation will be required to facilitate the proposed development. These works have the potential to kill and injure slow worms, if unmitigated, which is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

During the operational phase there is potential for an increase in the number of cats and other domesticated pets living in the area due to the increase in residential units (The Mammal Society, 1997). Studies have shown that domestic cats do predate on reptiles, affecting the level of biodiversity in the area (Trouwborst et al., 2020; Trouwborst & Homsen, 2020). Mitigation measures are also required to minimise harm to reptiles due to increased predation pressure from domestic cats.

4.1.4 Construction-phase Disturbance

All works in suitable reptile habitat will cause disturbance to any reptiles within these areas of the site. The disturbance would potentially be fatal should works be carried out during their hibernation period

(generally accepted as October to March inclusive), where they are at increased risk of disturbance (unseasonal moving and use of bodily resources, unable to move away from harm) or without removing reptiles first during the remainder of the year. Unmitigated, works to suitable habitat will therefore likely cause harmful disturbance to reptiles, and potentially kill or injure them which would constitute an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended)

4.1.5 Operational-phase Disturbance

Increased recreational use around the edges of the site would likely cause disturbance to reptiles. This would reduce the areas' suitability for basking and would negatively impact upon animal health, due to constant movement away from residents. This would not, however, constitute an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), but would be undesirable as it could affect the ongoing viability of the on-site reptile population.

4.2 MITIGATION

As adverse effects on reptiles are anticipated, mitigation will be required to avoid an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), where it is illegal to cause injury or death to widespread reptile species (those found on site). In addition to this, consideration must be given to Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (see Appendix B), which lists habitats and species of Principal Importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England, which lists slow worms and grass snakes. The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan (2020-2036) (Appendix B) must also be reviewed in order to meet the need for "being located on sites that do not adversely affect the wider landscape setting" (Policy L1), "to demonstrate how they will provide a net gain in biodiversity and, where feasible, habitats and species, on the site" (Policy L2) and to "Make provision for Green infrastructure" (Policy L5).

The mitigation hierarchy principles are:

- Avoidance – to avoid adverse effects as far as possible by designing out or using preventative measures during the construction process thus resulting in an environmental effect of neutral significance.
- Reduction – to minimise adverse effects as far as possible.
- Compensation – involves measures of the same value to off-set the impact.
- Enhancement – involves improving management of or provision of new ecological features over and above those needed to mitigate and compensate for negative impacts.

4.2.1 Loss of Habitat

To satisfy the wildlife legislation, national and local planning policy and be in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy (CIEEM, 2018), the loss of suitable reptile habitat will be avoided and or minimised. Where this is not possible, impacts to habitats must be appropriately compensated for and enhancements undertaken. The proposed development will be landscaped, which will lead to an increase in the amount of grassland on site available for foraging and basking reptiles and will be connected around the site and into the wider area. The amount of scrub on site will reduce but will still offer protection for hibernating and partially basking reptiles in patches in the north and south of the site.

4.2.2 Loss of Connectivity

Any areas of suitable habitat to be retained must offer a means of dispersal into other areas of suitable vegetation to prevent isolation of reptiles. The retained scrub in the north of the site will ensure no loss of connectivity to the wider offsite habitats including the gardens of the residential development to the north of the site.

4.2.3 Killing & Injury

With works anticipated to clear large areas of suitable reptile habitat to facilitate the development, there is the potential to kill and injure reptiles on site.

Prior to the commencement of any works, any areas of suitable habitat proposed for removal will undergo a series of steps and these will be undertaken in a systematic approach under the strict supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist. The works must be done under a detailed non-licenced method statement.

A brief summary of the steps required (with further details in sections below) is as follows:

- 1 Enhancements to the retained reptile habitat in the north and south of the site to create more resilient habitats suitable which offer shelter during the development, and protecting and boosting the on-site reptile population, post development.
- 2 Installation of temporary reptile exclusion fencing around retained vegetation.
- 3 Translocation of the reptiles.
- 4 Vegetation clearance.
- 5 Destructive search (top-soil clearance).

1. Enhancements

All enhancements are detailed in section 4.3 and are to be completed prior to commencement of site works and exclusion strategy (steps 2-5).

2. Reptile Exclusion Fencing

To protect reptiles from entering the active work site, resulting in killing or injury, temporary reptile exclusion fencing will be installed around the edge of the retained suitable habitat along the site boundaries. The fence line will be erected along the boundaries as due to connectivity to the surrounding area these areas offer a means of colonisation of the site and could bring a larger population of reptiles than surveyed onto the site.

The diagram in Plate 1 shows an example specification for temporary fencing (a polythene and wood stake style is suggested) which is suitable for this purpose. This fencing is durable, lasts approximately two years and can be easily removed after the works are completed.

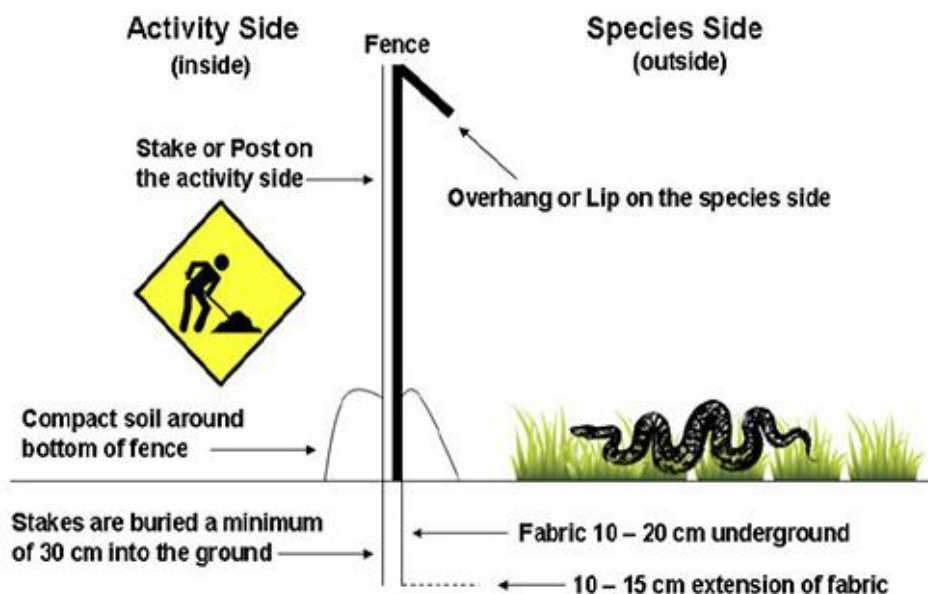


Plate 1 – Example specification for reptile exclusion fencing (Government of Ontario, 2023)

Any entrances or gaps in the fencing (i.e., to allow works access and around the newly created access roads and pathway) must be designed with ‘returns’ at the ends to direct animals away from the opening. Vegetation on the outer side of the fence must be managed to ensure it does not grow tall enough for animals to climb and get back into the works area. The wooden stakes of the temporary fencing must also be placed on the inner (works) side of the fence to prevent animals climbing back in.

Fencing is to remain in-situ throughout the construction phase, to prevent animals from returning to the site during the works. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be in place which will detail the ongoing monitoring of the fence during the construction phase.

3. Reptile Translocation

A translocation exercise will be carried out for a minimum of 60 suitable days (English Nature, 2004), to demonstrate that reasonable measures have been put in place to limit the potential for breaches in the legislative protection of reptiles on site. If it is anticipated that all reptiles are translocated in a shorter period of time, a trapping period of less than 60 days may be agreed with the LPA.

The translocation comprises the following steps:

- Identification of an offsite area of suitable habitat which will be retained and enhanced for the purposes of supporting reptiles will be agreed by the LPA. This would be specified as the ‘receptor site’ for any relocated individuals. The habitats within the receptor area must be diverse in terms of structure and species composition. They will also need to provide all habitat requirements for reptiles such as hibernation and sheltering sites, such that the receptor site can provide for these animals all year.
 - Surveys of the receptor site may be required to determine the carrying capacity of the receptor area, and to inform any enhancements required.

- Habitat enhancements and management may be required to increase the carrying capacity of the receptor site.
- Trapping and translocation of all the suitable habitat to be lost, and any areas likely to be impacted by the construction phase. This would comprise fencing the area to be lost and deploying artificial cover objects / refugia within this enclosed area, to catch reptiles and move them into the receptor site. Habitat manipulation is usually advised to enhance capture methods and involves carefully reducing the amount of suitable vegetation cover by removing brambles, scrub and creating patches of grass which work as islands where remaining reptiles tend to concentrate. This may only be completed during the active season for reptiles (March to October inclusive) and must be conducted by a supervising ecologist. The optimum period for capturing reptiles is generally between late April and June, and late August to late September (HGBI, 1998).

The translocation effort normally required for a **good** population of slow worms involves placing a minimum of 50 refuges per hectare, and a minimum of 60 days of trapping in suitable weather conditions, until there have been five days clear with no individuals found (HGBI, 1998). However, a review of the translocation effort will be undertaken after 30 days. If any changes are considered to the translocation, then this will be agreed with the LPA ecologist. The exact duration of the translocation period is therefore subject to weather conditions and the ability to achieve five 'clear' days.

4. Vegetation clearance

The vegetation clearance will consist of a directional clearance of vegetation so that no suitable vegetation is trampled during this process and to reduce the area reptiles are able to disperse to so if any left after the translocation these can be safely moved to the reptile translocation area. All works must be supervised by a suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) and must be carried out during the active season for reptiles (between March and October).

Clearance of vegetation will be completed in two stages:

- Vegetation must be cut down to 30cm in height and the arisings left for at least 24 hours.
- Vegetation will then be cut to ground level. All cuttings / arisings should be removed from the area to prevent reptiles using these vegetation piles for shelter. All vegetation removal should be done by hand and not using a rake in case any reptiles are still present.

5. Destructive search (top-soil removal)

This will need to take place where areas of suitable reptile habitat are being cleared (patches or grassland and scrub across the site).

This process is also done in two stages. Stage one is a hand / fingertip search and stage 2 involves topsoil removal.

Stage 1 will be conducted by an ECoW, who will search the ground for reptiles and remove any potential refuges. This will be done at the same time as the grass cuttings (step 4) are to be removed. Any reptiles found will be collected by the ECoW and moved to the retained habitat strips, at least 50m away from the site of works.

On the completion of stage 1, stage 2 can commence. This stage involves clearing the topsoil from the work area. This will be done with an ECoW present and using the method below:

- The destructive search will be conducted using a medium sized excavator (approximately 8-10 tonnes) with a toothed bucket carrying out a gradual scrape of the top one to two inches (25 – 50 mm) of topsoil.
- The areas where soil is removed will be checked for reptiles by the ECoW and moved where necessary.
- Deeper scrapes will be completed where needed, such as beneath root systems, buried material, cracks or holes in the ground.
- The excavated spoil will be stored, as directed by the ECoW in consultation with the developers, in an area identified as unsuitable reptile habitat (i.e., already devoid of vegetation, such as inside the arable field area) during the topsoil strip.
- After the strip is completed or a section is completed and a large enough area rendered unsuitable, the excavated spoil will then be compacted to prevent access by reptiles seeking refuge or hibernation within.

A proposed timetable for the works is provided in Table 5. Installation of reptile fencing, reptile displacement (including vegetation clearance) and destructive search can only be conducted during the active reptile season, to avoid disturbing or injuring hibernating reptiles.

Table 5. Proposed Timetable of Works

Proposed Works	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Installation of exclusion fencing	Red	Red	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Red	Red
Reptile Translocation	Red	Red	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Red	Red
Reptile Displacement (Vegetation Clearance)	Red	Red	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Red	Red
Destructive Search (Stage 1 and 2)	Red	Red	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Red	Red

Green=Works may proceed; Red = No works can be undertaken; Amber = Works can only be undertaken during suitable weather conditions.

For works to be undertaken in March, there must be a period of five days prior to works where overnight temperatures are consistently above 5 degrees Celsius, to ensure that hibernating reptiles are not disturbed. The same consideration must be made nearing October, where if temperature conditions overnight are consistently below this, works will need to stop as reptiles may be beginning to enter hibernation for winter. This is necessary to avoid the killing or injury of reptiles which would otherwise contravene the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

4.2.4 Construction-phase disturbance

The disturbance of the reptiles during the construction phase and how to mitigate this is discussed in Section 4.2.3. If any reptiles are found after the completion of the works to render the site unsuitable for reptiles, the ECoW will be called immediately and any changes or further works to render the site unsuitable will be carried out.

The temporary fencing will need to be maintained and will be checked daily for damage throughout the whole of the construction-phase. This daily check will be done by either the site manager or designated personnel. If damaged, it will be repaired as soon as possible to ensure reptiles do not move back into the active site.

4.2.5 Operational-phase disturbance

To ensure movement across the site with access into the newly created gardens as well as other open spaces, either suitable fencing with gaps in it already should be used, or gaps beneath the fencing in the north adjacent to the existing residential development should be installed. These will also allow the dispersal of reptiles and other wildlife across the site.

Considering the potential for domestic cats within the proposed development, as well as increased disturbance from residents, enhancing the retained habitats to allow for additional shelter and enhanced foraging areas will be a requirement and will help to off-set negative impacts.

4.3 ENHANCEMENT

It is a requirement of the NPPF (Appendix B), the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan (2020-2036) (Appendix B) and the mitigation hierarchy (CIEEM, 2018) to provide enhancements for biodiversity as part of development. This will ensure that any residual negative impacts from the proposed development works and operational phase are countered, giving the onsite reptile population a better habitat in which to live in perpetuity. Despite a full translocation being recommended for the slow worm population on site, it is possible that reptiles will recolonise the site following the completion of the works and the removal of the reptile exclusion fence as there is some connectivity to gardens of the residential development to the north of the site. For this reason, enhancement measures for reptiles are recommended. The following measures are proposed to enhance the site and off-site receptor area for reptiles.

Depending upon the condition of the receptor site, hibernacula may be required to be installed within the receptor site prior to the works commencing so that reptiles have an immediate location under which to take shelter once they are translocated, as well as providing ongoing places in which individuals can shelter and over-winter safely.

On site, the installation of at least one hibernacula is recommended, with one in the north-western corner of the site where there's connectivity to the wider area. The hibernacula will be created under the supervision of a suitably experienced ECoW. The design of the hibernacula will follow that set out in Plate 2. This design includes the use of logs, stones and loose topsoil, with a covering of turf. Materials for the hibernacula should be sourced from the site itself (where possible) and may include brick rubble / building materials and arisings from the removal of existing vegetation. The turf required to top them can be obtained directly from the area beneath the hibernaculum during its creation.

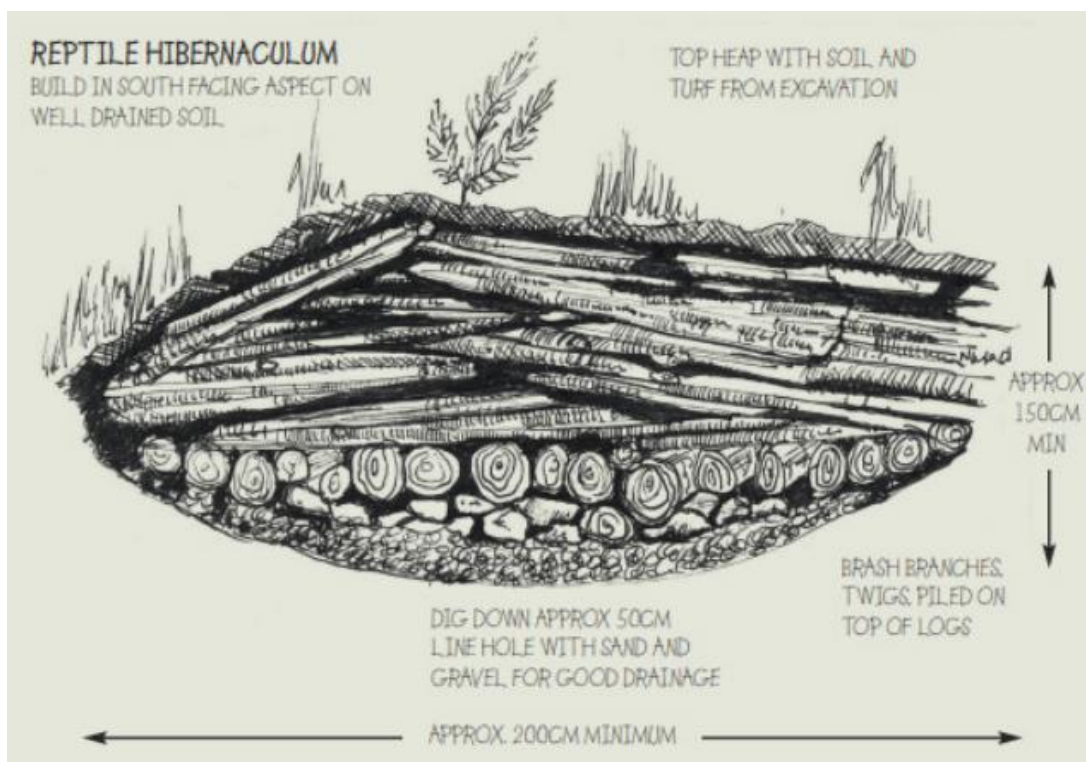


Plate 2 – Hibernaculum Design by Nigel Hand (ARG UK, 2018)

To further enhance the site’s retained habitats, any arisings from the vegetation clearance will be used to create additional log and brash piles within suitable locations of the site boundaries, to provide reptiles with shelter and foraging opportunities. The locations of these are recommended to be within the southern boundary of the site

To enhance the landscaped areas of the site, wildflower meadow mixes will be sown to create diverse species rich grassland areas, which will attract insects and mammals for reptiles to feed on. Refer to landscape plan “JBA 23 126 SK02 Rev C Landscape Strategy”. Mowing of grassland areas around the site should also be minimised where possible, to create diversity in vegetation content and structure.

4.4 MONITORING

Post development monitoring of the receptor site is proposed in order to determine the success of the above mitigation strategy. Monitoring will comprise seven monthly checks of artificial refuges following the methodology described in Section 2. Results of the monitoring surveys will inform the long-term management of the site by allowing management prescriptions to be revised.

5.0 SUMMARY

As a result of the findings of this reptile presence/likely absence survey it can be confirmed there is a good population of slow worm, likely breeding, on site. From this, it is recommended that:

- Identification of a suitable receptor site to be enhanced (if necessary) to support additional reptiles from the development site.
- As much suitable habitat as possible to be retained on site.
- Ensure there is still retained connectivity between the north, north-western and southern vegetation boundaries of the site.
- Any suitable reptile habitat that needs to be removed will be cleared of reptiles using the following stages carried out at a suitable time of year (generally accepted as March-October) and under suitable weather conditions.
- Enhancements to the retained boundary habitats to create a more suitable habitat, including installation of a hibernacula within the retained north-eastern corner with the supervision of an ECoW.
- Installation of temporary reptile exclusion fencing to prevent the movement of reptiles back onto the development area.
- A full reptile translocation to be carried out for a minimum of 60 days (unless a shorter period is agreed with the LPA) to ensure to limit the number of breaches in protected species legislation.
- Displacement strategy (vegetation clearance).
- Destructive search (top-soil clearance).
- New fencing around the gardens and other open spaces either suitable fencing with gaps in it already to be used or gaps beneath the fencing to be installed.
- Any changes within the final plans are reviewed by the ecologist to inform updates to the reptile mitigation and enhancement.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Under the current proposals, the works can proceed and be carried out on site in accordance with legal requirements for the protection of slow worms if the mitigation within this report are followed.

The current proposals should provide adequate and suitably enhanced sections to allow reptiles to recolonise on site post-development and allow movement around boundaries and adjacent areas and so, minimising impacts to slow worms.

REFERENCES

- ARG UK (2018). *Advice Note 11: Managing habitat for adders: advice for land managers*. ARG UK: Horspath. Available at: <https://www.arguk.org/info-advice/advice-notes/416-11-advice-note-11-managing-habitat-for-adders-advice-for-land-managers-may-2018/file>
- CIEEM (2018). *Guidelines for ecological impact assessment in the UK and Ireland*. CIEEM: Romsey.
- CIEEM (2019). *Advice Note. On the Lifespan of Ecological Reports & Surveys*. April 2019. [online] Available at: <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Advice-Note.pdf>. Accessed April 2024.
- Edgar, P., Foster, J., and Baker, J. (2010). *Reptile habitat management handbook*. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation: Bournemouth. Available at: <https://www.arc-trust.org/habitat-management-handbooks>
- English Nature, (2004). *Reptiles: guidelines for developers*. English Nature, Peterborough.
- Froglife (1999). *Advice Sheet 10 – Reptile Survey An introduction of planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation*.
- Froglife (2016). *Surveying for reptiles Tips, techniques and skills to help you survey for reptiles*.
- Gent, T. & Gibson, S. (2003). *Herpetofauna Workers' Manual*. JNCC, Peterborough.
- Herpetological Conservation Trust (2008). *National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme*.
- Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government, (2019). *National Planning Policy Framework*, [online] Available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf, Accessed April 2024.
- Natural England, (2011). *Natural England Technical Information Note TIN102 Reptile mitigation guidelines*.
- Government of Ontario (2023). *Reptile and amphibian exclusion fencing*. Available at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/reptile-and-amphibian-exclusion-fencing>
- Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 1012; *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)*, HMSO.
- Tetra Tech, 2023. 784-B048171 South Street, Bridport Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report, s.l.: s.n.
- Tetra Tech, 2024. 784-B048171 South Street, Bridport Biodiversity Net Gain Report, s.l.: s.n.
- The Mammal Society (1997), *Domestic Cat Predation on Wildlife*.
- Trouwborst, A. & Somsen, H. (2020). *Domestic Cats (Felis catus) and European Nature Conservation Law – Applying the EU birds and Habitats Directives to a Significant but Neglected Threat to Wildlife*. *Journal of Environmental Law*. [online] Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jel/eqz035>. Accessed March 2024

FIGURES

Figure 1 – Site Location Plan

Figure 2 – Refuge Placement Plan

Figures 3 - 3.7 – Reptile Results Plan



Site Location Plan

South Street, Bridport

Planning Issues Ltd



Legend

Site Boundary

Notes:

Drawn by: DYLAN.GUSSMAN

Checked by: IF

Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1

Revision No. A

10 April 2024

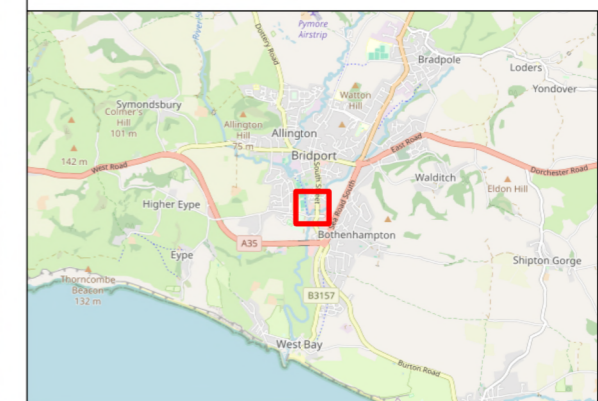
0 10 20 30 40 Meters

Scale 1:1,500 @A3

British National Grid

NGR: 346518E 92268N

© Crown Copyright All rights reserved. License number: 100019980



The Pavilion, 1st Floor
 Botleigh Grange
 Office Campus
 Hedge End
 Southampton
 Hampshire, SO30 2AF



Site Location and Artificial Refugia Location Plan

South Street, Bridport



Planning Issues Ltd

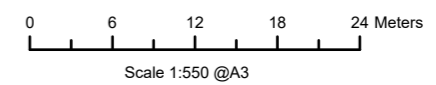
Legend

- Site Boundary
- Refugia Mat Locations

Notes:

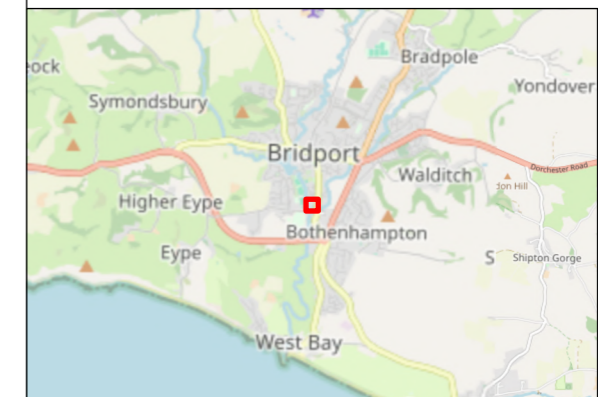
Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
 Checked by: IF
 Office: Southampton

Figure No. 2
 Revision No. A
 11 June 2024



British National Grid
 NGR: 346518E 92268N

© Crown Copyright All rights reserved. License number: 100019980



The Pavilion, 1st Floor
 Botleigh Grange
 Office Campus
 Hedge End
 Southampton
 Hampshire, SO30 2AF



Present Absence Plan



South Street, Bridport
 Planning Issues Ltd

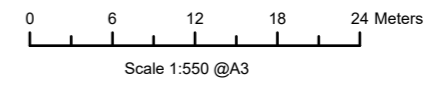
Legend

- Site Boundary
- Slow worms
 - Absence
 - Present

Notes:

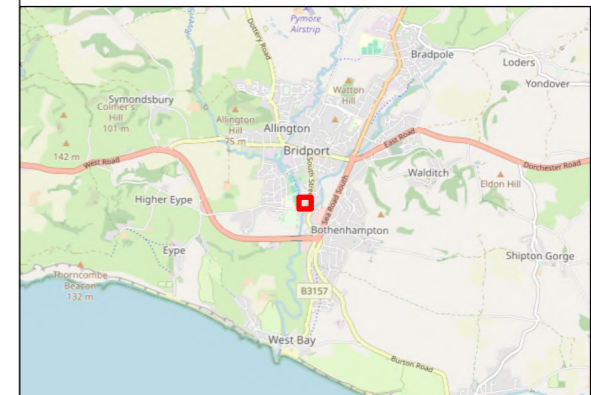
Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
 Checked by: IF
 Office: Southampton

Figure No. 3
 Revision No. A
 13 June 2024



British National Grid
 NGR: 346518E 92268N

© Crown Copyright All rights reserved. License number: 100019980



The Pavilion, 1st Floor
 Botleigh Grange
 Office Campus
 Hedge End
 Southampton
 Hampshire, SO30 2AF



Site Location and Artificial Refugia Location Plan - Survey 1

South Street, Bridport



Planning Issues Ltd

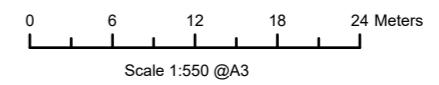
Legend

- Site Boundary
- No reptile present
- Slow worm - Adult
- Slow worm - Adults & Juveniles
- Slow worm - Adults & Sub-Adults
- Slow worm - Juveniles

Notes:

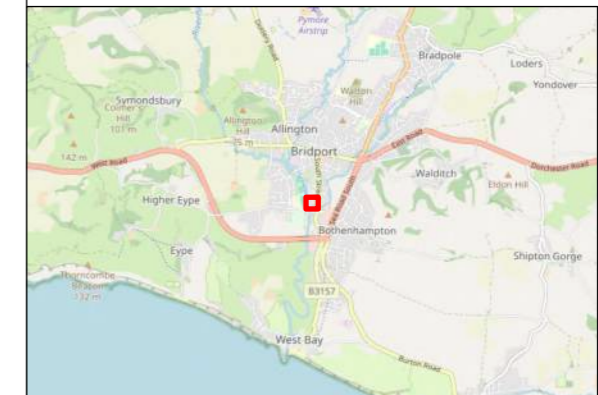
Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
 Checked by: AC
 Office: Southampton

Figure No. 3.1
 Revision No. A
 13 June 2024



British National Grid
 NGR: 346518E 92268N

© Crown Copyright All rights reserved. License number: 100019980



The Pavilion, 1st Floor
 Botleigh Grange
 Office Campus
 Hedge End
 Southampton
 Hampshire, SO30 2AF



Site Location and Artificial Refugia Location Plan - Survey 2

South Street, Bridport



Planning Issues Ltd

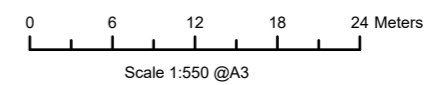
Legend

- Site Boundary
- No reptile present
- Slow worm - Adult
- Slow worm - Adults & Sub-Adults
- Slow worm - Juveniles
- Slow worm - Adults, Sub-Adults & Juveniles

Notes:

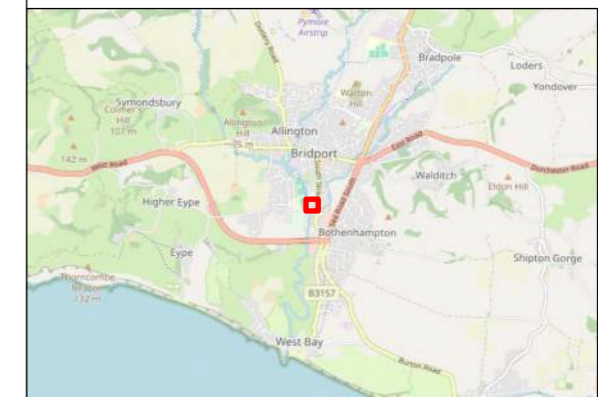
Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
Checked by: AC
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 3.2
Revision No. A
13 June 2024



British National Grid
NGR: 346518E 92268N

© Crown Copyright All rights reserved. License number: 100019980



The Pavilion, 1st Floor
Botleigh Grange
Office Campus
Hedge End
Southampton
Hampshire, SO30 2AF



Site Location and Artificial Refugia Location Plan - Survey 3

South Street, Bridport



Planning Issues Ltd

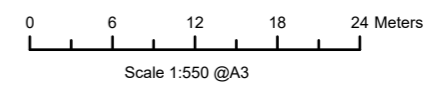
Legend

- Site Boundary
- No reptile present
- Slow worm - Adult
- Slow worm - Juveniles

Notes:

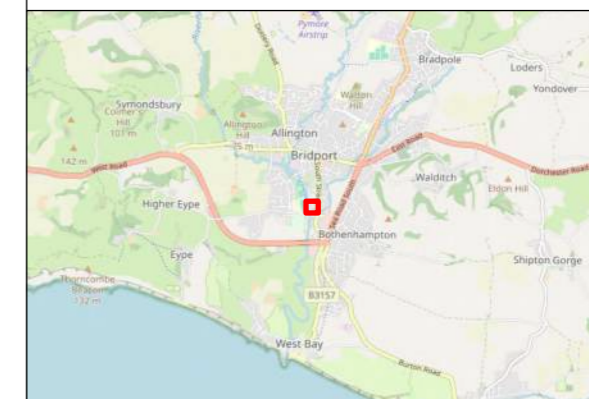
Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
 Checked by: AC
 Office: Southampton

Figure No. 3.3
 Revision No. A
 13 June 2024



British National Grid
 NGR: 346518E 92268N

© Crown Copyright All rights reserved. License number: 100019980



The Pavilion, 1st Floor
 Botleigh Grange
 Office Campus
 Hedge End
 Southampton
 Hampshire, SO30 2AF



Site Location and Artificial Refugia Location Plan - Survey 4

South Street, Bridport



Planning Issues Ltd

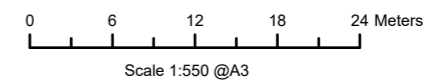
Legend

- Site Boundary
- No reptile present
- Slow worm - Adult
- Slow worm - Juveniles

Notes:

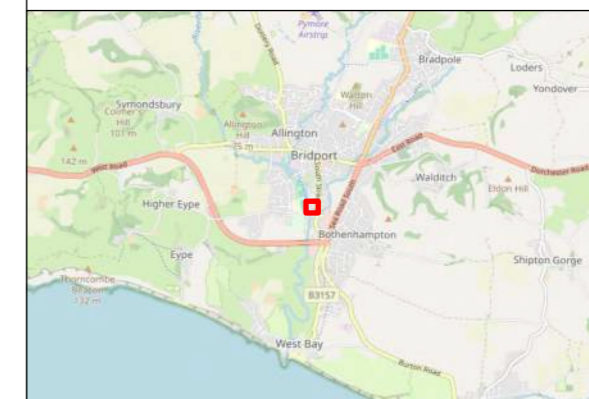
Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
 Checked by: AC
 Office: Southampton

Figure No. 3.4
 Revision No. A
 13 June 2024



British National Grid
 NGR: 346518E 92268N

© Crown Copyright All rights reserved. License number: 100019980



The Pavilion, 1st Floor
 Botleigh Grange
 Office Campus
 Hedge End
 Southampton
 Hampshire, SO30 2AF



Site Location and Artificial Refugia Location Plan - Survey 5

South Street, Bridport



Planning Issues Ltd

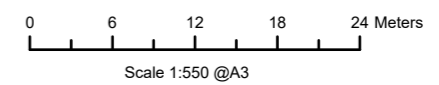
Legend

- Site Boundary
- No reptile present
- Slow worm - Adult
- Slow worm - Juveniles

Notes:

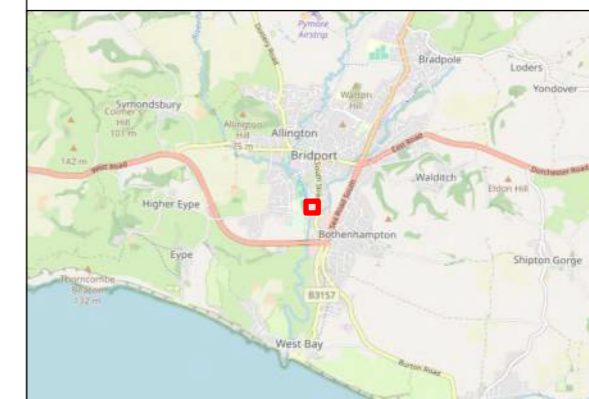
Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
Checked by: AC
Office: Southampton

Figure No. 3.5
Revision No. A
13 June 2024



British National Grid
NGR: 346518E 92268N

© Crown Copyright All rights reserved. License number: 100019980



The Pavilion, 1st Floor
Botleigh Grange
Office Campus
Hedge End
Southampton
Hampshire, SO30 2AF



Site Location and Artificial Refugia Location Plan - Survey 6

South Street, Bridport



Planning Issues Ltd

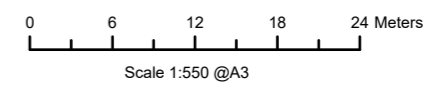
Legend

- Site Boundary
- No reptile present
- Slow worm - Adult
- Slow worm - Adults & Juveniles
- Slow worm - Juveniles
- Slow worm - Sub-Adults & Juveniles

Notes:

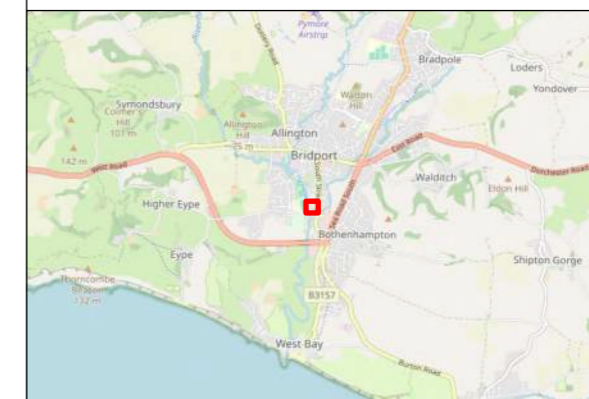
Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
 Checked by: AC
 Office: Southampton

Figure No. 3.6
 Revision No. A
 13 June 2024



British National Grid
 NGR: 346518E 92268N

© Crown Copyright All rights reserved. License number: 100019980



The Pavilion, 1st Floor
 Botleigh Grange
 Office Campus
 Hedge End
 Southampton
 Hampshire, SO30 2AF



Site Location and Artificial Refugia Location Plan - Survey 7

South Street, Bridport



Planning Issues Ltd

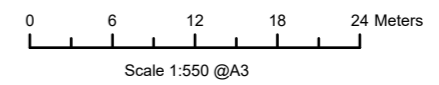
Legend

- Site Boundary
- No reptile present
- Slow worm - Adult
- Slow worm - Adults & Juveniles
- Slow worm - Juveniles
- Slow worm - Adults, Sub-Adults & Juveniles
- Slow worm - Sub-Adults

Notes:

Drawn by: HANNAH.HAMILTON
 Checked by: AC
 Office: Southampton

Figure No. 3.7
 Revision No. A
 13 June 2024



British National Grid
 NGR: 346518E 92268N

© Crown Copyright All rights reserved. License number: 100019980



The Pavilion, 1st Floor
 Botleigh Grange
 Office Campus
 Hedge End
 Southampton
 Hampshire, SO30 2AF

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Report Conditions

Appendix B – Legislation & Policy

Appendix C – Survey results

APPENDIX A: REPORT CONDITIONS

This Report has been prepared using reasonable skill and care for the sole benefit of Planning Issues Ltd. (“the Client”) for the proposed uses stated in the report by [Tetra Tech Limited] (“Tetra Tech”). Tetra Tech exclude all liability for any other uses and to any other party. The report must not be relied on or reproduced in whole or in part by any other party without the copyright holder’s permission.

No liability is accepted or warranty given for; unconfirmed data, third party documents and information supplied to Tetra Tech or for the performance, reliability, standing etc of any products, services, organisations or companies referred to in this report. Tetra Tech does not purport to provide specialist legal, tax or accounting advice.

The report refers, within the limitations stated, to the environment of the site in the context of the surrounding area at the time of the inspections'. Environmental conditions can vary and no warranty is given as to the possibility of changes in the environment of the site and surrounding area at differing times. No investigative method can eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise, incomplete or not fully representative information. Any monitoring or survey work undertaken as part of the commission will have been subject to limitations, including for example timescale, seasonal and weather-related conditions. Actual environmental conditions are typically more complex and variable than the investigative, predictive and modelling approaches indicate in practice, and the output of such approaches cannot be relied upon as a comprehensive or accurate indicator of future conditions. The “shelf life” of the Report will be determined by a number of factors including; its original purpose, the Client’s instructions, passage of time, advances in technology and techniques, changes in legislation etc. and therefore may require future re-assessment.

The whole of the report must be read as other sections of the report may contain information which puts into context the findings in any executive summary.

The performance of environmental protection measures and of buildings and other structures in relation to acoustics, vibration, noise mitigation and other environmental issues is influenced to a large extent by the degree to which the relevant environmental considerations are incorporated into the final design and specifications and the quality of workmanship and compliance with the specifications on site during construction. Tetra Tech accept no liability for issues with performance arising from such factors.

APPENDIX B: LEGISLATION & POLICY

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

This is the principal mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in the UK. Since it was first introduced, the Act has been amended several times. All six species of reptile native to the United Kingdom are protected through inclusion under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and benefit from various levels of protection. This legislation makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly kill or injure these animals; and
- Sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for the purpose of sale or publish advertisement to buy or sell individual reptiles.

The smooth snake, *Coronella austriaca*; and sand lizard, *Lacerta agilis* are also listed under Schedule 5 Section 9.4b and 9.4c which makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally disturb while occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection; and
- Obstruct access to such a site.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 41 (S41) of this Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list (in consultation with Natural England) of Habitats and Species which are of Principal Importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal (e.g. planning) functions. The S41 list includes 65 Habitats of Principal Importance and 1,150 Species of Principal Importance.

National Planning Policy Framework

A revised NPPF was issued in December 2023 (Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, 2023) and currently supplements government Circular 06/2005, Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2005).

Circular 06/2005 states that the presence of protected species is a material consideration in the planning process. Paragraph 186 of the NPPF then goes on to confirm that: When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.

Local Planning Policy

Bridport Area Neighbouring Plan 2020 -2036

Policy L2: Biodiversity

1. Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate how they will provide a net gain in biodiversity and, where feasible, habitats and species, on the site, over and above the existing biodiversity situation.
2. If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (For example through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission will not be supported.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) identify habitat and species conservation priorities at a local level (typically at the County level) and are usually drawn up by a consortium of local Government organisations and conservation charities.

Some LBAP's may also include Habitat Action Plans (HAP) and/or Species Action Plans (SAP), which are used to guide and inform the local decision-making process.

APPENDIX C: SURVEY RESULTS

Survey No.	Date	Records					Notes
		Mat No.	Species	No. Adults	No. Sub-Adults	No. Juveniles	
1	08.04.24	1	Slow worm	1 ♀			
		6	Slow worm	-		1	
		11	Slow worm	4	5		
		26	Slow worm	1 ♀	-	1	
		27	Slow worm	1 ♂			
		29	Slow worm	2 ♂ 2 ♀			
		35	Slow worm	1 ♂ 2 ♀			
		36	Slow worm	2 ♀			
		37	Slow worm	1 ♂			
		42	Slow worm	1 ♀			
		49	Slow worm	-		1	
		-	Slow worm	1 ♀	-	-	Under black mat in centre of the site
2	11.04.24	1	Slow worm	1	1		
		6	Slow worm	2	1	1	
		11	Slow worm	5	2		
		25	Slow worm	1			
		29	Slow worm	1			
		31	Slow worm	1			
		35	Slow worm	3			
		36	Slow worm	1			
		49	Slow worm	-		1	
3	15.04.24	5	Slow worm	1 ♀			

Survey No.	Date	Records					Notes
		Mat No.	Species	No. Adults	No. Sub-Adults	No. Juveniles	
		6	Slow worm	-		1	
		15	Slow worm	-		1	
		16	Slow worm	-		1	
		22	Slow worm	1 ♀			
		29	Slow worm	1 ♀			
		31	Slow worm	1 ♀			
		33	Slow worm	1 ♀			
		35	Slow worm	1 ♀			
		49	Slow worm	-		2	
4	18.04.24	4	Slow worm	1 ♂		3	
		6	Slow worm	-		3	
		11	Slow worm	1 ♂ 2 ♀			
		15	Slow worm	1 ♀			
		16	Slow worm	-	1		
		22	Slow worm	1 ♀			
		29	Slow worm	-	1		
		27	Slow worm	1 ♀			
		32	Slow worm	1 ♂ 1 ♀			
		35	Slow worm	1 ♂ 2			
		36	Slow worm	1 ♂			
		37	Slow worm	2 ♀			
		50	Slow worm	1 ♀			
5	23.04.24	1	Slow worm	1 ♀			
		3	Slow worm	1 ♂ 1 ♀			

Survey No.	Date	Records					Notes
		Mat No.	Species	No. Adults	No. Sub-Adults	No. Juveniles	
		11	Slow worm	2♂2♀			
		6	Slow worm	-	3		
		7	Slow worm	1♀			
		21	Slow worm	1♂1♀		1	
		29	Slow worm	1♂			
		32	Slow worm	1♂			
		33	Slow worm	1♀			
		35	Slow worm	1♀			
		45	Slow worm	1♀			
		49	Slow worm	-	2		
		50	Slow worm	1♀			
6	01.05.24	6	Slow worm	-	2		
		11	Slow worm	2♂3♀			
		26	Slow worm	1♀			
		29	Slow worm	1♀		1	
		30	Slow worm	1♀			
		32	Slow worm	1♀			
		49	Slow worm	-		2	
7	26.04.24	2	Slow worm	1♀		1	
		5	Slow worm	-		1	
		7	Slow worm	2♀	1		
		10	Slow worm	1♀			
		11	Slow worm	5♂5♀			
		18	Slow worm	-	1		

Survey No.	Date	Records					Notes
		Mat No.	Species	No. Adults	No. Sub-Adults	No. Juveniles	
		22	Slow worm	1 ♀			
		23	Slow worm	3 ♀			
		29	Slow worm	2 ♀			
		32	Slow worm	1 ♀		1	
		36	Slow worm	1 ♀			
		42	Slow worm	1 ♂			
		49	Slow worm	-	1		
		50	Slow worm	1 ♀			
Key	♂ male, ♀ female,						