

Please find below the Ecological work carried out to accompany the application.

Kind regards
Drew Blackman

From: john@hantsecology.co.uk
Date: Fri, 4 Jul 2014 11:56:17 +0100
Subject: 53 Hart Plain Avenue, Cowplain, PO8 8RG; reptile translocation
To: drew_blackman@hotmail.co.uk

Dear Mr Blackman

Translocation of reptiles from 53 Hart Plain Avenue, Cowplain, PO8 8RG to Billy's Lake, Wecock Farm (SU672110)

Two of my colleagues met with Mr John Welford (Billy's Lake Conservation Officer) at Billy's Lake on the 3rd July to assess the proposed receptor site. The proposed receptor site is of good quality with dense tussocky grassland interspersed with scattered scrub. Mr Welford and his team of volunteers will maintain the extent of the grassland in the receptor site and remove excessive scrub if it became a problem (currently not an issue).

Within the last couple of years, the site has benefited from wayleave clearance under the electricity power lines. This additional habitat is becoming suitable for reptiles, helped by piles of decomposing brash left over from the works. This area directly connects to the proposed receptor site and will further boost the reptile carrying capacity of the area. Mr Welford and his team will maintain this as an open grassland/ wildflower area, rather than let it revert to scrub.

Mr Welford mentioned he has recorded slow-worm, common lizard and grass snake in the proposed receptor site under two refugia ('tins'), although these are checked very infrequently. As a suspected medium population of slow-worms (and potentially a low population of common lizard) will be translocated, an existing population may be beneficial as the numbers translocated may not be sufficient to successfully establish an independent population (particularly as the wayleave clearance has helped create additional habitat).

With regard to the donor site at 53 Hart Plain Avenue, the pre-existing report states a large population of slow-worm but only three surveys were completed with no biometric data (there was a maximum of 25 animals on one visit). The optimum habitat appears to be quite small (an old lawn area) so it may be that a medium population (<100) is more likely. There is the possibility of common lizard as it says on p20 *"Two refugia in zone B supported possible common lizard Zootoca (Lacerta) vivipara, although the identification was not certain because they moved so quickly as not to be caught or positively identified. Lizard would be unusual in a garden such as this and they could alternatively have been common newts"*.

In the event low numbers of common lizards are present, the receptor site is suitable for translocation (and there is an existing population). Additionally, the wayleave will provide further habitat should a greater than anticipated slow-worm population require translocation.

In summary, we would support the translocation subject to the agreement of the local authority.

I trust this is satisfactory but if you or the local authority require any other information, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Kind regards,

John Poland

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