

Robert Tutton Town Planning Consultants Limited,
293 Havant Road,
Farlington,
Portsmouth,
Hampshire,
PO6 1DD.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE ROBERT TUTTON

22 April, 2015.

Dear Mr Tutton,

RE: 41-49 FROGMORE LANE, WATERLOOVILLE, PO8 9QN - APP/15/00228
REPTILE MITIGATION

Further to the points raised by Tristan Norton, Senior Ecologist, Hampshire County Council in response to Richard Nash's request for his comments.

The further information required referred to by Tristan Norton comprises details from the current surveys and translocation process which is the next stage to having established a small colony of slow worms at Frogmore Lane in August, 2014 after meeting Bob Spencer on-site on 30 July, 2014.

It is not unreasonable to assume that anyone experienced in the study and translocation of reptiles over many years would have assessed the Site by inspecting the areas of grassland cover during seven site visits in appropriate weather conditions having previously laid sufficient artificial refugia in the form of cut sheets of roofing felt of a suitable size of approximately 500 mm x 800 mm as clearly detailed within the methodology. Seven site visits is considered acceptable to assess a small population of reptiles within previously cultivated rear gardens. There has never been a request to undertake twenty site visits to assess a small population of slow worms within formerly cultivated gardens and I do not consider it necessary to carry out that number of site visits to the donor site as suggested by Mr Norton. Clearly we are already aware that there is a small population from the previous site visits. A further twenty site visits to confirm what is already known is clearly unnecessary.

I visited the site at Frogmore Lane on Saturday 4 April and checked the site for nesting birds and slow worms. No nesting birds were found, (although the nesting season is underway as mentioned by Tristan Norton) Any tree removal should be preceded by an inspection to ensure that nesting is not underway.

One young adult female slow worm was found under a sheet of felt in the garden of 45, two baby slow worms and one adult female slow worm were found under two of the felts in the garden of 49 Frogmore Lane. In keeping with the standards that are maintained photographs of all four specimens were taken for reference and identification purposes. This now confirms that slow worms have emerged from hibernation and remain within the donor site and that following further discussions with Fred Gibson, The Countryside Officer of Gosport Borough Council, and Chris Lycett, his deputy, we should be able to carry out the translocation and commence the slow worm study asap as previously agreed.

During the afternoon of 7 April I checked the Alver Valley with Chris Lycett and we selected three sites which are viable receptors for the slow worms at Frogmore Lane. Following a meeting with Fred Gibson on Thursday morning, 9 April we are now in a position to commence the translocation process by placing artificial refugia within the selected site following seven visits and inspections. As we are also carrying out a search within the Alver Valley for specimens of black adders, Chris Lycett has also expressed an interest in checking the slow worms once they are translocated.

There is no question as to the suitability of areas of the Alver Valley for reptiles, particularly a small population of slow worms from the Frogmore Lane Site, as previous and much larger translocation programmes have been successfully undertaken. The area selected and agreed with Fred Gibson will be detailed fully with diagrams, the locations of artificial refugia and the locations where the slow worms migrate to will be accurately recorded. As indicated on this occasion the translocation will be carefully studied as an on-going exercise in order to provide accurate information about how translocated reptiles settle in an alternative habitat to that of the donor site.

It is not for Tristan Norton to question the agreement concerning the receptor site landowner or whether there is sufficient habitat to support the translocated specimens. There is far more expertise related to this exercise than he has previously demonstrated. As the translocation process has been dependent upon the recent emergence of the slow worms from hibernation it has not yet been necessary or possible to produce the details of the existing reptile population. Such detail obviously will be included within the study documentation and there is no necessity to query such detail as an on-going study is to form the basis of this particular translocation process.

As close liaison is maintained with all the staff at Grange Farm/Alver Valley, and this has been the case for a considerable number of years, there is no question as to the suitability of the chosen receptor site or the acceptance of the site landowner/managers and no question as to whether they are content with the arrangements concerning either the translocation process or the actual location of the receptor site.

I trust this information will be sufficient for the time being. Please let me know if there are any further queries.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Masterton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Masterton



**TOP, CENTRE AND BOTTOM:
PHOTOGRAPHS OF PARTS OF
THE THREE VIABLE RECEPTOR
SITES WITHIN THE ALVER VALLEY
CHECKED DURING THE VISIT ON
7 APRIL, 2015 WITH CHRIS LYCETT.
THE SITE SHOWN AT THE BOTTOM
HAS NO PUBLIC ACCESS WHICH
MAKES IT MORE FAVOURABLE
FOR THE TRANSLOCATION OF THE
SLOW WORMS AND THE
SUBSEQUENT STUDY.**



**TOP: ONE OF THE FELT SHEETS PREVIOUSLY PLACED WITHIN THE REAR GARDEN OF 45 FROGMORE LANE DURING EARLY AUGUST, 2014 AND LEFT IN PLACE OVER THE WINTER MONTHS.
ABOVE: THE SAME FELT SHEET LIFTED OVER SHOWING THE GROUND SURFACE UNDER THE FELT.**



TOP: THE BABY SLOW WORM FOUND UNDER FELT 20 IN THE REAR GARDEN OF 49 FROGMORE LANE DURING THE SITE VISIT ON 4 APRIL, 2015.

ABOVE: A CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPH OF THE BABY SLOW WORM.