



REPTILE SURVEY REPORT

**Hayling Pump Track, Furniss Way, Hayling
Island**

On behalf of: Havant Borough Council

Client:	Havant Borough Council			
Project:	Hayling Pump Track, Furniss Way, Hayling Island			
Reference:	LLD3305-ECO-REP-002-00-Reptile			
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Validity:

This report is valid for 18 months from the date of the site visit. If works have not commenced by this date, an updated site visit should be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist to assess any changes in the habitats present on site, and to inform a review of the conclusions and recommendations made.



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SUMMARY

Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned by Havant Borough Council to complete a reptile survey of Hayling Pump Track, Furniss Way, Hayling Island (*Grid Reference: SZ 70973 99884 – hereafter referred to as ‘the site’*).

14 no. artificial reptile refugia (*roofing felt; 1.0 x 0.50 m*) were laid out around the area on the 2nd of September 2024. Mats were equally distributed across the site. Refugia were allowed to bed-in for 14 days prior to survey visits beginning on the 16th of September 2024. The final survey visit was completed on the 11th of October 2024.

The site supports a low population of adult slow worm. A low number of juveniles slow worm and common lizard were also recorded, indicative of a breeding population.

The proposals may require the removal of very small areas of suitable reptile habitat to facilitate the scheme, with the retention of some areas of habitat on site. The implementation of mitigation measures as set out in this report will ensure that no reptiles are harmed and the development proceeds in accordance with The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

The scheme should incorporate areas of tussocky grassland, with areas of log piles and below-ground hibernacula to provide suitable reptile habitat. Provided that the mitigation and compensation measures are followed, the scheme shall have no significant impact upon the local reptile population.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned by Havant Borough Council to complete an updated reptile presence / absence and population assessment of Hayling Pump Track, Furniss Way, Hayling Island (*Central Grid Reference: SZ 70973 99884 – hereafter referred to as ‘the site’*).
- 1.2 The site was subject to a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal on 12th of August 2024. Due to the presence of suitable reptile habitat on site in the form of grassland areas, a full reptile survey was recommended to assess the presence/absence of reptiles on site.
- 1.3 This report has been compiled in accordance with current guidelines, including British Standard 42020:2013 Biodiversity. Code of Practice for Planning and Development, 2013 and CIEEM, 2017 and 2018.

Site Information

- 1.4 The site covers an area of c. 0.2 hectares (ha) of a roughly rectangular dirt BMX park, the site comprises a series of connected dirt tracks of various elevations and unmanaged grass interspersed between, with a tree lines surrounding the site and a public footpath running along the northwest border. The site is primarily used as a recreation area and is adjacent to farmland in the north, east and west, with an industrial estate and residential buildings to the south.

Surrounding Landscape

- 1.5 The surrounding landscape is semi-rural in nature with residential housing towards the south and east of the site. The west is dominated by the The Deeps estuary, whilst the north is formed of a matrix of arable fields interspersed by hedgerow and small pockets of woodland.
- 1.6 The surrounding landscape is highly suitable for all common UK reptile species, however no suitable habitat for sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* or smooth snake *Coronella austriaca* exists in the vicinity.

Development Proposals

- 1.7 It is understood that the proposals include the resurfacing and reprofiling of the current, soil tracks of the bike park with tarmac, keeping the area layout and intended use the same as pre-development.

Scope of the Survey

- 1.8 The aim of the updated reptile survey has been:
- To identify the continued presence / absence of reptiles on site;
 - To provide an updated population assessment where reptiles are present;
 - To proposed suitable mitigation measures (if reptiles are found to be present).

2.0 LEGISLATION

- 2.1 All species of UK reptile are listed under Schedule 5 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Reptiles are afforded protection under section 9(1) and section 9(5) against intentional killing or injuring, offering for sale, transport for sale or advertisement of any live or dead reptile. All UK reptile species are also recognised as species of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, meaning that local authorities must take into account the conservation of reptiles when assessing a planning application.
- 2.2 Smooth Snake and Sand Lizard receive additional protection under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) which makes it an offence to kill, injure, capture or disturb them; damage or destroy their habitat; or to possess or trade in them.

Licensing

- 2.3 If a site is found to support Smooth Snake or Sand Lizard and disturbance or removal or habitat is unavoidable, a licence will be required from Natural England to allow work to proceed.

- 2.4 A licence must show that there is no satisfactory alternative to the works proposed, and that they are for reasons of health and safety or overriding reasons of public interest. Licenses are only issued once planning permission has been granted.
- 2.5 There is no formal licensing requirement for sites which support only common UK reptile species (slow worm, common lizard, adder or grass snake *Natrix helvetica*).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Field Survey

- 3.1.1 14 no. artificial reptile refugia (*roofing felt; 1.0 x 0.50 m*) were laid out around the area on the 2nd of September 2024. Mats were equally distributed across the site. Refugia were allowed to bed-in for 14 days prior to survey visits beginning on the 16th of September 2024. The locations of artificial reptile refugia are detailed within *Figure No. 01*.



Figure No. 1: Reptile Refugia Location Plan.

- 3.1.2 07 no. site visits were conducted, where the number, species, age and sex of the reptile's present were recorded. Debris piles on-site considered suitable as reptile refugia were checked during the surveys, and repeated walkovers of the site were used to search for active reptiles.
- 3.1.3 Surveys were undertaken during recommended times (08:00–11:00 and 16:00–18:30) with suitable weather conditions for surveying reptiles wherever possible (*guidelines recommend temperatures 9–18°C*).

Table No. 01 – Weather Conditions during Surveys

Survey	Date of Visit	Time	Temp.	Weather Conditions
1	16/09/24	09:20	14°C	Dry, WF2, 5% cloud
2	20/09/24	09:30	18°C	Dry, WF3, 20% cloud
3	25/09/24	08:50	12°C	Dry , WF2, 80% cloud
4	30/09/24	09:15	16°C	Dry, WF4, 70% cloud
5	04/10/24	09:05	13°C	Dry, WF2, 5% cloud
6	08/10/24	09:35	15°C	Dry, WF5, 60% cloud
7	11/10/24	09:00	9°C	Dry, WF1, 30% cloud

3.2 Population Assessment

- 3.2.1 Reptile populations were assessed in accordance with population level criteria as stated for the Key Reptile Site Register (*Froglife, 1999*). This system classifies populations of individual reptile species into three population categories assessing the importance of the population. These categories are based on the total number of adult animals observed during individual survey occasions and based upon a survey density of 10/Ha.

Table No. 02 – Population Size Assessment

Species	Low Population	Good Population	Exceptional Population
Slow Worm	<5	5-20	>20
Common Lizard	<5	5-20	>20
Grass Snake	<5	5-10	>10
Adder	<5	5-10	>10

3.3 Details of Surveyors

3.3.1 The reptile survey was undertaken by the following ecologists, all of which have extensive experience undertaking both reptile surveys and reptile translocation:

- James Tann – Assistant Ecologist, 1 years' experience.
- Joe Peterson – Assistant Ecologist, 1 years' experience.
- Ben Lapham – Assistant Ecologist, 2 years' experience.

3.4 Constraints and Limitations

3.4.1 No constraints were identified which may have impacted the overall conclusions of this report.

4.0 RESULTS

Desk Study

4.1 The data search returned 5no. records of slow worm, 2no. records of common lizard, 1no. records of grass snake 1 no. records of sand lizard and 14no. records of adder within 2.0km of the site. The closest record was located approximately 700m north of the site consisting of an adder.

Field Survey

4.2 The results of the survey recorded a peak count of a single adult slow worm on site. No other adult reptile species were recorded during the surveys. A summary of each visit is detailed below:

Table No. 03 – Summary of Results

Survey	Date of Visit	Results
1	16/09/24	No reptiles found
2	20/09/24	1no. adult slow worm
3	25/09/24	No reptiles found
4	30/09/24	1no. juvenile slow worm & 1no. juvenile common lizard
5	04/10/24	No reptiles found
6	08/10/24	1no. juvenile common lizard
7	11/10/24	No reptiles found

- 4.3 The results indicate a low population of slow worm and common lizard on site. Reptiles were recorded to the margins of the site only, with no records within the more central areas.

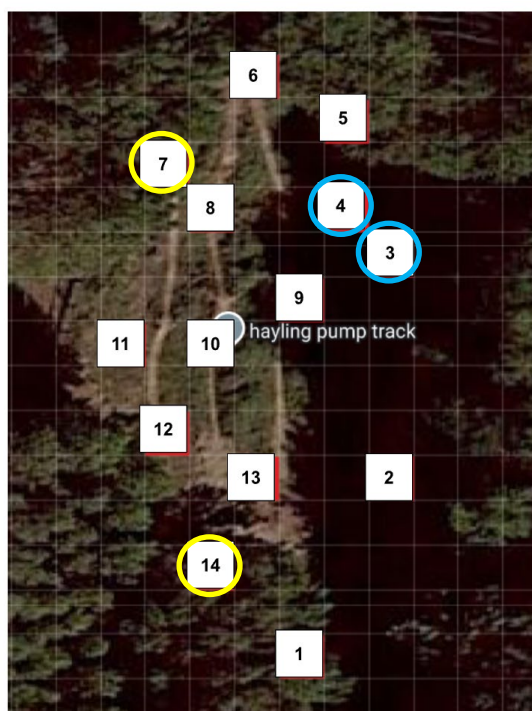


Figure No. 02 – Location of Reptile Sightings (yellow = slow worm, blue = common lizard)

5.0 EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Impacts

- 5.1.1 The site supports low numbers of 2no. reptile species and would therefore not be classified as a Key Reptile Site (Froglife, 1999). Without some form of mitigation however there is a risk that development could result in the killing or injuring of reptiles, contrary to The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (*as amended*), and loss of areas of suitable reptile habitat.

5.2 Mitigation

- 5.2.1 The proposals may result in the loss of very small areas of suitable reptile habitat should the existing dirt tracks be widened. To ensure that works proceed in accordance with the protection afforded reptiles under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 the following Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) are being recommended:

- All existing reptile habitat to the margins of the site shall be retained and protected throughout construction. The habitat shall be fenced using Heras fencing or similar clearly marked with signs to make it clear the area is an ecological exclusion zone.
- Areas of grassland within the centre of the site shall be cleared via a phased cut under ecological supervision. The first cut shall reduce the length of the sward to no less than 150mm, and the area shall then be subject to a fingertip search by the supervising ecologist. Vegetation shall then be reduced to <50mm, and kept this short until all works are complete to ensure it remains unsuitable for reptiles.
- All equipment and materials are to be stored off site, away from suitable reptile habitat to be retained wherever possible.

5.3 Compensation

- 5.3.1 Habitat to the margins of the site should be retained as suitable habitat in perpetuity. Enhancement of this area in the form of 1no. below ground hibernacula and 2no. long piles should be provided to compensate for temporary loss of habitat within the centre of the site.

- 5.3.2 Post-construction, habitat between within the centre of the site should be allowed to grow to ensure no net loss of reptile habitat across the site.



Figure No. 03 – Location of hibernacula (★) and log piles (▲)

5.4 Management

- 5.4.1 A suitable management plan should be in place to ensure the retention of suitable habitat on site in perpetuity. Management should include rotational cutting of the grassland on a two-year cycle to prevent scrub encroachment whilst ensuring that areas of suitable habitat always remain present on site.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The site supports a low population of slow worm and common lizard. A low number of juveniles were also recorded, indicative of a breeding population.
- 6.2 The implementation of the above mitigation measures will ensure that no reptiles are harmed and the development proceeds in accordance with The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 6.3 The scheme should incorporate areas of tussocky grassland, with areas of log piles and below-ground hibernacula to provide suitable reptile habitat. Provided mitigation measures are followed, the scheme shall have no significant impact upon the local reptile population.

7.0 REFERENCES

Froglife (1999) *Reptile Survey: an introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation. Froglife Advice Sheet 10*. Froglife: Halesworth

Herpetofauna Groups Of Britain And Ireland (1998) *Evaluating local mitigation/translocation programmes: Maintaining Best Practice and lawful standards*. HGBI advisory notes for Amphibian and Reptile Groups (ARGs). HGBI, c/o Froglife: Halesworth.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (1998) *Herpetofauna Worker's Manual* (Gent, T. and Gibson, S. eds) JNCC: Peterborough

Appendix A – Full Reptile Survey Results

Surveyor	JT			
Date	16/09/2024			
Time	9:20			
Temperature	14°C			
Wind (Beaufort)	2			
Cloud Cover %	5%			
Weather	Clear & Sunny			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
				Nothing Found

Surveyor	JP			
Date	20/09/2024			
Time	09:30			
Temperature	18°C			
Wind	3			
Cloud Cover %	20%			
Weather	Clear & Sunny			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
7	Slow Worm	Adult	Male	

Surveyor	JT			
Date	25/09/2024			
Time	08:50			
Temperature	12°C			
Wind	2			
Cloud Cover %	80%			
Weather	Light cloud			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
				Nothing Found

Surveyor	JT			
Date	30/09/2024			
Time	09:15			
Temperature	16°C			
Wind	4			
Cloud Cover %	100%			
Weather	Sunny spells			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
3	Common Lizard	Juvenile	Unknown	Very small + 2 mice
14	Slow Worm	Juvenile	Unknown	

Surveyor	JT			
Date	04/10/2024			
Time	09:05			
Temperature	13°C			
Wind	2			
Cloud Cover %	5%			
Weather	Clear & Sunny			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
				Nothing Found

Surveyor	BL			
Date	08/10/2024			
Time	09:35			
Temperature	15°C			
Wind	5			
Cloud Cover %	60%			
Weather	Sunny spells			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
4	Common Lizard	Juvenile	Unknown	

Surveyor	JT			
Date	11/10/2024			
Time	09:00			
Temperature	9°C			
Wind	1			
Cloud Cover %	30%			
Weather	Light Cloud			
Tile No.	Species	Ad/J	Sex	Notes
				Nothing Found