



The Ecology Co-op

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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8th January 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

R.e. Reptile receptor survey at Staunton Country Park.

This letter details the survey results and evaluation of an area of land within the Staunton Country Park after it was identified as a potential reptile receptor site for a small population of slow worms found at the proposed development site of 15 Billett Avenue, Waterloooville.

The initial presence / absence survey detailed in the Ecology Co-op Reptile survey report¹ identified a peak count of one slow worm suggesting a low population to be present. As the entire grass area within the development site will be lost, an off-site receptor site needed to be identified that was within 4 miles.

Staunton Country Park is approximately 2miles southeast of 15 Billett Avenue and contains a range of habitats including the chosen receptor site 'Well Meadow' which consists of a mixture of woodland and woodland pasture surrounded by deciduous woodland and either woodland pasture or semi-improved grassland. It is currently under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

The reptile presence / absence survey of the potential receptor site was carried out by Hamish Muirden BSc between 15th September and 10th October 2017. The survey was carried out by placing artificial refugia across the site in areas of suitable habitat for reptiles, which heat up in the sun and provide cover. 10 bitumen reptile refugia sheets were set out on the 6th September 2017 and left for a minimum of ten days to 'bed in' before the commencement of the survey process. Reptiles are attracted to these refugia to warm up in the mornings and late afternoon to regulate their temperature and a suitably qualified surveyor is able to count the number and in some cases the sex of each species present. A total of seven surveys are undertaken and the highest count of reptiles from these visits is used to estimate the population of each reptile species on the site as low, good or exceptional according to Froglife advice sheet².

During the reptile survey no reptiles were recorded despite the habitat within the survey area consisting of mostly rough grassland with scattered scrub and a mature woodland shaw. The lack of reptiles could

¹ P2310.P2 24.05.17 Reptile Survey Billett Avenue, Waterloooville. The Ecology Co-op.

² Froglife (1999) Reptile survey: an introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation. Froglife Advice Sheet 10. Froglife, Halesworth.

either suggest no presence at all, a very low population of slow worms or a widely dispersed population that is constantly moving.

The Ecology Co-op has deemed the field being surveyed to be suitable for supporting a low population of translocated slow worms, given that the habitats within the field are of high value to slow worms, the site is larger in size than the donor site at Billett Avenue with suitable connectivity to other high value habitats and the population from Billett Avenue is a very low population as well.

Enhancements will be created within the field to include at least two ground level hibernacula and the future management of the site will be reptile sensitive, including light grazing and some scrub removal where necessary.

Table 1: Results of reptile presence / absence survey undertaken at Staunton Country Park. SW – Slow worm, GS – Grass snake, CL – Common Lizard, Juv – Juvenile, SA – Sub adult, F- Female, M – Male.

Date	Start Time of Survey	Air Temp/Refugia Temp °C	Weather Notes, cc = Cloud cover	Species Total
15/09/17	12:10	14/16	70% cc, light breeze	None
19/09/17	11:50	13/16	50% cc, still	None
22/09/17	12:05	14/17	00% cc, light breeze	None
26/09/17	12:45	17/23	90% cc, light breeze	None
02/10/17	13:40	16/19	80% cc, strong breeze	None
05/10/17	14:20	16/18	30% cc, light breeze	None
10/10/17	10:20	14/18	100% cc, still	None



Photograph 1: Well Meadow



Photograph 2: Well Meadow with grassland and scrub present.

Kind regards



Sam Lunn
Ecologist
MSc, ACIEEM