

Reptile Mitigation Strategy, August 2017

This report is provided in relation to planning condition 4 for application Y17/0563/SH and in conjunction with the attached Reptile Translocation Proposals Report R3v2 (revised 12 July 2017). Commencement of development is due to take place within 2 years of the planning permission date and in this case no further survey work is required.

The reptile receptor site will be enhanced to improve the habitat prior to arrival of translocated animals. The surrounding tree and shrub cover is currently too dense so this will be reduced but not eliminated so as to allow sufficient sunlight to be available for basking animals. The boundary shrubs will also be reduced for the same reason. This will include the removal of the large privet hedge that forms the northern boundary of the receptor area and its subsequent seeding with grass to offer additional reptile habitat. Log piles will be established in the adjoining shrubbery/woodland to create reptile hibernacula. Log piles to be created by burying logs a few centimetres into the soil and where possible using a mixture of soft and hardwood types with the bark retained. Logs to be heaped into a small pile about 30cm off the ground.

On completion of the development, a management company will be appointed whose responsibilities will include maintenance of the receptor site according to the simple management plan: The receptor site will be inspected on an annual basis to ensure that it remains in a suitable condition. Where necessary, management of shrubs and tree cover will take place to maintain the reptile habitat. Allow deadwood, jagged stumps, splits, fungal growths and holes in tree trunks to remain unless they are creating a safety hazard. Where tree works take place, allow some arisings to remain on site.

Prior to the start of development, the reptiles will need to be cleared from the development area. Reptile exclusion fencing will be erected as per plan (Reptile Translocation proposals report, revised 12 July 2017) to ensure that this is separated from development activities. The fence is to be constructed using 1000 gauge polythene fixed to 50 x 50mm stakes and buried 100mm underground. A trench shall be excavated to a depth of approximately 150mm and the fence sheet shall be laid around the edge and the trench back-filled so that there are no gaps under the fence. The fence will be closely checked for damage or gaps during the capture period and any damage will be repaired using duct tape or by replacing damaged material as appropriate. Refugia (roofing felt cut into rectangles, each measuring approximately 0.5m x 0.5m, i.e. 0.25 sqm) to be placed throughout the site with additional concentration at strategic locations, taking account of reptile survey results. The density of these refugia to be 50 per hectare. Reptiles shall be caught by hand during suitable weather conditions using the appropriate techniques that safeguard the well-being of the individual animals. The captured reptile individuals shall be stored separately in cloth bags to prevent asphyxiation until being translocated to the adjacent receptor site. The animals shall be released into suitable habitat in the receptor site. Capturing and translocation will be suspended during unsuitable weather conditions. When no further reptiles are detected, habitat within construction zone to be carefully reduced and any further reptiles to be

translocated. Timing of the receptor site works and translocation works is to take place during the months of March to September. The reptile receptor site now lies within ownership of the site, so there is no need for an agreement with another landowner. The reptile exclusion fencing will remain throughout the construction period, and only be removed once the construction phase has reached a point where no threat of killing or injuring any reptiles has been reached.