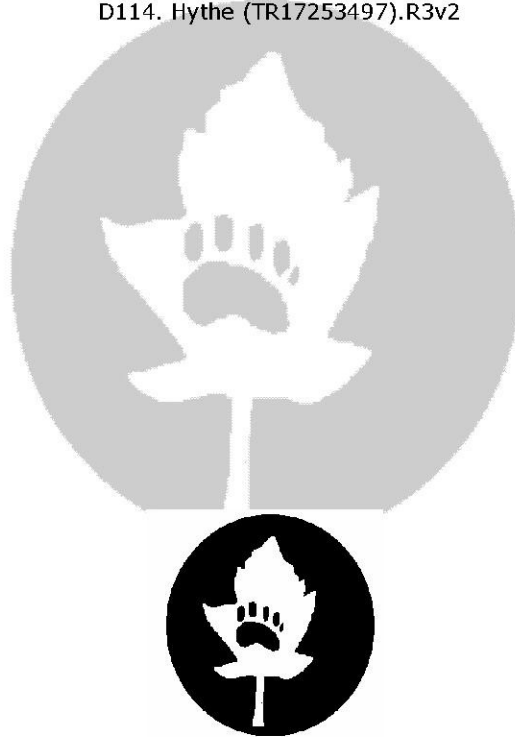


**SEA CLOSE
CANNONGATE ROAD
HYTHE
KENT
REPTILE TRANSLOCATION PROPOSALS 2017
BY**

MARTIN NEWCOMBE

28th April 2017
(Revised 12th July 2017)

D114. Hythe (TR17253497).R3v2



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- 1.0** In 2015, proposals were put forward to redevelop the site of Sea Close, Cannongate Road, Hythe¹. Following the compilation of an ecological scoping report², further investigations showed the presence of reptiles³ on site. Due to their status, as protected species under the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the reptile report⁴ stated that translocation of the animals was required prior to the commencement of development.
- 2.0** At the time of writing of the reptile report, no receptor site for the animals was available, but subsequently part of the back of the site, which consisted then of a small former orchard with long grass, was agreed as a potential receptor site.
- 3.0** This site was revisited on 3rd July 2017, and the receptor site was still available, but although there was still some grassland, it had become overgrown; the location of the area is shown in Figure 1.
- 4.0** Subject to suitable management taking place at the receptor site prior to the commencement of its use, it is, on the basis of the new information supplied, considered that the site will be suitable for the small number of animals which were reported from the site during 2015.
- 5.0** An appropriate management plan will have to be prepared, not only to make the site suitable for the reptiles during development, but also for at least five years following the completion of development⁵. The following elements are considered to be a priority at the receptor site:
- Reduction but not elimination of the surrounding tree and shrub cover so as to allow sufficient sunlight to be available for basking animals.
 - Management of boundary shrubs for the same reason. This will include the removal of the large privet⁶ hedge that forms the northern boundary of the receptor area and its subsequent seeding with grass to offer additional reptile habitat.
 - Creation of reptile hibernacula e.g. log piles or similar in the adjoining shrubbery / woodland.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Newcombe, M. J. T. 2015a. Sea Close, Cannongate Road, Hythe, Kent. Ecological scoping survey. Unpublished report.
- Newcombe, M. J. T. 2015b. Sea Close, Cannongate Road, Hythe, Kent. Reptile survey. Unpublished report.

¹ OS / TR17253497

² Newcombe, 2015a.

³ Slow – worms (*Anguis fragilis*) and grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*).

⁴ Newcombe, 2015b.

⁵ In order to allow the reptiles to gradually recolonise the development site from the receptor site.

⁶ *Ligustrum ovalifolium*.

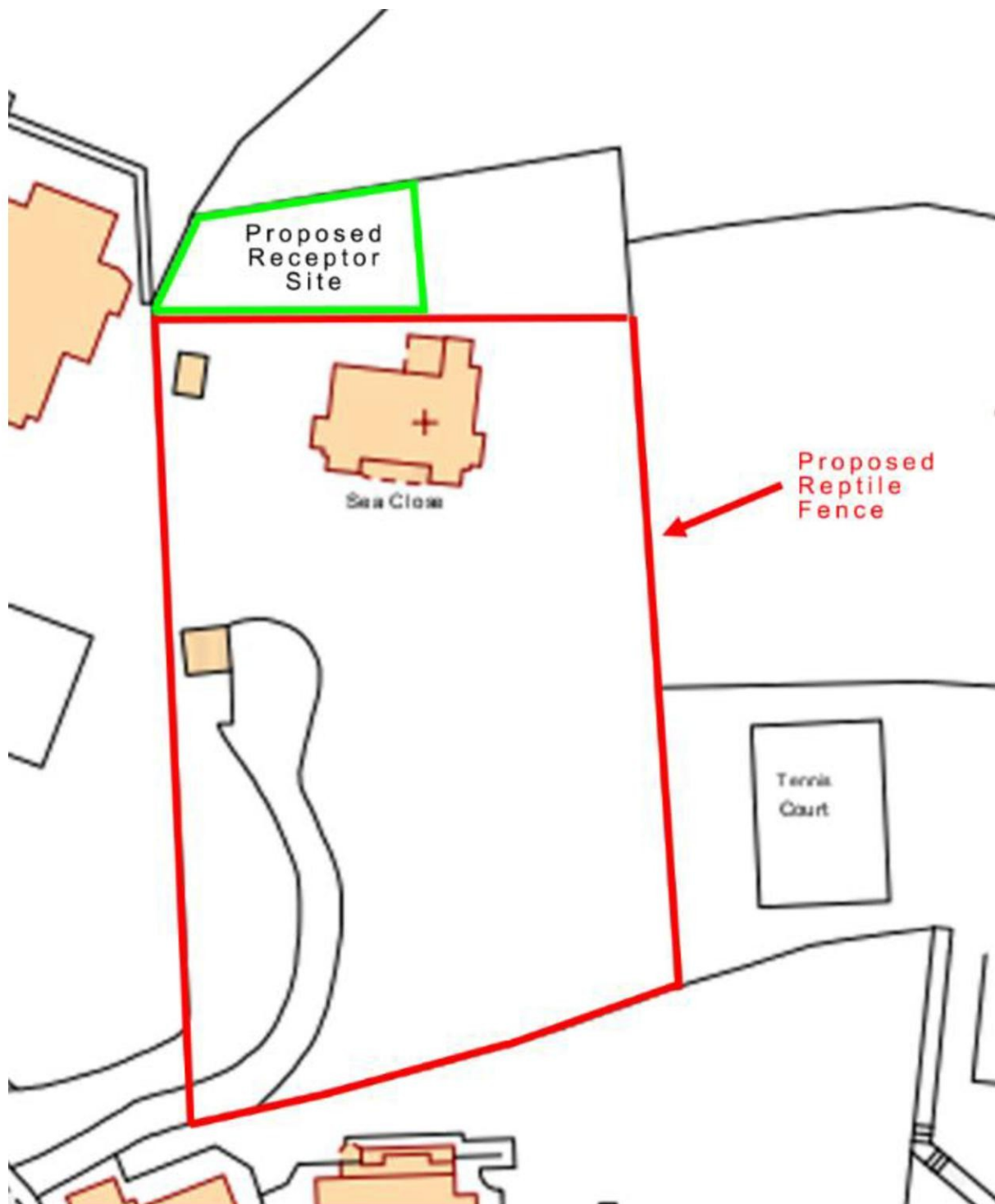


Figure 1; PROPOSED REPTILE RECEPTOR SITE SHOWN SHADED GREEN. (Figure supplied by S. Kingston)