



Reptile survey report



Adderley Mill,
Brookhouse Rd.
Cheadle
Staffordshire
ST10 2NJ

June 2019

Notice to readers

This report has been prepared by Charnia Ecology with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, within the terms of the contract with the client. The actions of the surveyor on site and during the production of the report were undertaken in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct for the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (www.ieem.org.uk).

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Client / Architect Details:
Mr. & Mrs. D. Craven
Application area:
Adderley Mill, Brookhouse Rd. Cheadle Staffordshire
Postcode/ OS Grid Ref:
ST10 2NJ / SJ991439
Issue No:
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May 2019
Author:
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Principal Ecologist

Surveyor capability

Ecological assessment and report preparation has been conducted by a qualified ecologist and member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM), and an associate member of the Society of Biology (AMRSB). The ecologist holds a First-Class Honours degree in Conservation Biology, and a Vice Chancellors award for academic excellence. He has undertaken protected species surveys for over five years, and is actively involved in scoping, presence/absence surveys, and Natural England licence applications with regard to planning and the law. The actions of the surveyor on site and during the production of written reports are undertaken in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct for the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

○ *Report rationale*

1. Following on from additional survey recommendations made in the existing Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) report (Charnia Ecology, 2019), a Reptile survey was conducted on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. D. Craven in relation to a proposed planning application at the former Adderley Mill, Brookhouse Road, Cheadle, Staffordshire, ST10 2NJ (NGR: SJ991439).

○ *Aims & objectives*

2. The objectives are to outline any further recommendations on how to proceed with the works in a legal and ecologically sensitive manner, in accordance to current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and UK Legislation.
3. An initial walkover survey was carried out on 18th September 2018, followed by seven extended site visits during the month of May 2019. Field survey methodology conformed to the standards outlined by Gent and Gibson (2003) and (Froglife, 1999). A total of seven daytime surveys were conducted by an experienced Ecologist in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Code of Practice.

○ *Proposed works*

1. The proposed planning application will entail demolition of all existing buildings onsite and erection of seven open market residential dwellings, comprising of four semi-detached and three detached buildings with a combined footprint area of 480m². The development will also entail removal of a road side building to improve highway visibility and modification of existing vehicular access road. The development will also entail removal of selected vegetation and tree removal.

○ *Site description*

4. Adderley Mill comprises of former industrial/mill buildings with associated hard-standing, and is located in semi-rural greenbelt ca. 1.8km NW of Cheadle in the Staffordshire Moorlands. In context to the wider landscape. A small earth mound and metal debris piles (south to south-west facing) are present on the central area, providing potential basking areas for reptiles; whilst the riparian habitat margins of the adjacent watercourse onto hard-standing also provide potential thermoregulation exchange and refugia areas.
5. The site fringes onto a semi-rural landscape with woodland blocks, pasture land and a number of large water bodies located to the SW. A narrow, running watercourse sits immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the site, being fed by the River Tean and Mobberly Brook ca. 2km SE. The surrounding habitats provide a number of valuable resources for reptiles, with good connectivity to the wider landscape considered.

○ *Results*

6. A total of seven daytime surveys were conducted during an optimal period of May 2019 under optimal weather conditions (dry / temp 10-20°C). All surveys commenced during late afternoon (16:00-18:30hrs) A total of ten artificial refugia 'mats' were inspected around site. No species of reptile was recorded on site, or within the zone of influence over the full survey period during May 2019.

○ *Further Surveys*

7. Although the survey period represents only a snap shot of activity onsite during the month of May 2019, no constraints were encountered and no further surveys are considered necessary.

IMPACTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

8. NO impact to any Key Reptile Sites is considered under the proposed scheme. The adjacent water brook on the western boundary is however still considered as being a potential conduit for individual migrating reptiles, with particular consideration given to Grass snake.

9. The adjacent water brook channel plus associated riparian habitat along the western boundary was considered as being the most ecologically sensitive, natural habitat within the zone of impact of the proposed development; whilst also being deemed a Valued Ecological Receptor for supporting potential protected Fauna species
- ***Site safeguard measures***
10. Best Practice Guidelines recommends a number of site safeguard measures within this report to to minimize any inadvertent impact to reptiles, and indeed any other terrestrial based wildlife (i.e. small mammals / amphibians) during development. A number of biodiversity enhancement and habitat creation recommendations have also been made for bats, birds and water vole (see separate corresponding reports by Charnia Ecology, 2019), and include mitigation measures suitable for reptiles:
 - **Ground works.**
 - **Plant machinery.**
 - **Building / waste materials.**
 - **Excavations.**
 - **Care and Vigilance.**
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1. INTRODUCTION

1. Following on from additional survey recommendations made in the existing Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) report (Charnia Ecology, 2019), a Reptile survey was conducted on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. D. Craven in relation to a proposed planning application at the former Adderley Mill, Brookhouse Road, Cheadle, Staffordshire, ST10 2NJ (NGR: SJ991439).

○ *Site description*

2. The site is located in a semi-rural greenbelt, and can be accessed immediately off Brookhouse Road which runs immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site. In context to the wider landscape, the site is situated ca. 1.8km NW of Cheadle in the Staffordshire Moorlands, and comprises of former industrial/mill buildings and associated hard-standing with a total foot print area of 1226m². The site is currently vacant, and last used for light industrial business. There is limited planning history relating to the site and the only application on record refers to proposed storage that was approved in 1979.



Figure 1. Location of proposed development area (arrow) in context to the wider landscape (source:OS Maps).

○ *Proposed works*

3. The proposed planning application will entail demolition of all existing buildings onsite and erection of seven open market residential dwellings, comprising of four semi-detached and three detached buildings with a combined footprint area of 480m². The development will also entail removal of a road side building to improve highway visibility and modification of existing vehicular access road (500m wide with 600m radius pavement kerbs at highway junction). Additional post-development tree, shrub and hedge planting is also intended.

2. METHODOLOGY

○ *Aims and objectives*

4. The aims of the field survey were as follows:
 - To establish presence/absence of reptiles
 - If reptile presence confirmed, to determine species, sex, an approximate density and distribution.
5. Habitat was assessed on the following criteria:
 - Rough neutral grassland, particularly:
 - south-facing and other sunny slopes, including vegetated soil bunds;
 - in close proximity to standing water with amphibian populations;
 - in close proximity to dry-stone walls or piles of stones;
 - in close proximity to areas of bare ground.
6. The objective of this report is to outline any mitigation recommendations on how to proceed with the works in a legal and ecologically sensitive manner should reptiles be present onsite. An initial walkover survey was carried out on 18th September 2018, followed by an extended survey during a more optimal survey period on May 16th 2019.

○ *Key Reptile Site Register Assessment*

7. A mechanism known as the *Key Reptile Site Register* can be used to obtain a basic evaluation of the population size and importance of the site. It has been designed to identify and promote the safeguarding of important reptile sites, with outstanding assemblages being the guiding principle in judging sites.
8. To qualify for the Key Reptile Site Register, the site must meet at least one of the following criteria (Froglife, 1999):
 - Supports three or more reptile species;
 - Supports two snake species;
 - Supports an exceptional population of one species; (see Table 2)
 - Supports an assemblage of species scoring at least 4; (see Table 2)
 - Does not satisfy any of the above but which is of particular regional importance due to local rarity.

Species	Low population Score 1	Good population Score 2	Exceptional population Score 3
Adder	< 5	5 – 10	> 10
Grass Snake	< 5	5 – 10	> 10
Common Lizard	< 5	5 – 20	> 20
Slow-worm	< 5	5 – 20	> 20

Figures in the table refer to maximum number of adults seen by observation and/or under refugia placed at a density of up to 10 per ha, in one day).

9. Where a survey identifies potential habitat for reptiles at a development site, mitigation may need to be devised through Natural England for any loss of reptile habitat as a result of a site's re-development.

○ **Desktop Survey**

10. A formal data search was requested from Staffordshire Ecological Records (SER) within a 1km radius of the application area, to further substantiate methodology and ascertain the following information:
 - An annotated list of protected species within the search area, covering European and UK protected species and species occurring on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (short list) and Staffordshire BAP.
11. Additionally, MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside, 2010) was used to establish whether any of the following are present:
 - Statutory site designations on or within 1 km of the site.
 - Statutory sites designated for bats within 5 km of the site.

○ **Field Survey**

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Reptiles	Reptiles hibernating		Peak survey months, April, May and June		Reduced basking time lowers effectiveness of refugia survey	Peak survey month	Limited activity	Reptiles hibernating				

12. To establish presence or absence, a minimum of seven visits were undertaken during an optimal period to survey, under suitable weather conditions during the month of May 2019. Methodology conformed to the standards outlined in the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (Gent and Gibson, 2003) and more specific guidelines in Froglife Advice Sheet 10: Reptile Survey (Froglife, 1999).

○ **Careful observation of basking / moving reptiles**

13. Direct observation is the least reliable method of recording reptiles, although important to record species such as common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) which use refugia less frequently, whilst grass snake *Natrix natrix* and adder (*Vipera berus*) can frequently be seen basking in areas where they occur. Slow-worm are probably the least likely to be observed because of their greater affinity for dense vegetation and subsurface habitats, although they can be encountered quite frequently in some habitats, particularly where they are abundant.

○ **Artificial refuge survey**

14. Artificial refugia can be considered an effective way to establish presence/absence of reptiles, whilst remaining both ethical and inert in the immediate landscape. As such bitumastic F1 roofing felt mats and corrugated metal sheets (500mm² and 700mm²) were laid out across site in areas considered suitable for basking reptiles. In principal, reptiles take advantage of the higher temperature radiated by these artificial refugia to optimize their body temperature.
15. In accordance with Gent & Gibson (2003) refugia was deployed at a density of at least 5-10/ha. A total of ten artificial refugia 'mats' were placed around selected boundaries and ecotones, predominantly along the western boundary adjacent to the brook. These mats were placed down in September 2018 in-order to establish and bed down, with all seven surveys being conducted during May 2019.



○ *Searching extant features likely to shelter reptiles*

16. There was a moderate degree of artificial and manmade features onsite that may attract reptiles. These areas were also searched for reptiles during all survey periods.
17. The location of both extant and artificial refugia were mapped to record any reptile distribution, and to calculate population density. All artificial refugia were removed from site upon completion of the field surveys.

Figure 2. Map showing placement of artificial refugia around site.



○ *Timing and weather conditions*

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Reptiles	Reptiles hibernating		Peak survey months, April, May and June			Reduced basking time lowers effectiveness of refugia survey		Peak survey month	Limited activity	Reptiles hibernating		

18. In accordance with Gent and Gibson (2003), all surveys were conducted during optimal weather conditions (dry / temp 10-20°C) and commenced during late afternoon (16:00-18:30hrs).

Survey no.	Date	Start time	Finish time	Temp start (°C)	Temp Finish (°C)	Weather Conditions
1	2/5/2019	17:00hrs	17:35hrs	18.0	17.2	Dry sunny with light breeze 90% cloud cover Mean Relative humidity 65.7%
2	5/5/2019	17:30hrs	18:05hrs	16.5	17.0	Dry sunny with light breeze 80% cloud cover Mean Relative humidity 65.3%
3	8/5/2019	16:50hrs	17:30hrs	16.5	15.8	Dry overcast with light breeze 90% cloud cover Mean Relative humidity 63.1%
4	11/5/2019	17:30hrs	18:05hrs	18.2	16.5	Dry sunny with light breeze 50% cloud cover Mean Relative humidity 69.2%
5	17/5/2019	17:15hrs	17:50hrs	17.0	16.5	Dry intermittent sunshine with light breeze 90% cloud cover Mean Relative humidity 65.3%
6	23/5/2019	17:15hrs	18:00hrs	15.0	15.0	Dry sunny with light breeze 30% cloud cover Mean Relative humidity 65.3%
7	28/5/2019	18:05hrs	18:30hrs	14.2	14.0	Dry sunny with light breeze 70% cloud cover Mean Relative humidity 62.8%

Table 2. Survey timing and conditions.

19. In circumstances where reptiles are found, the refugia would be checked for a further eight days to obtain a population size class assessment, in accordance with recommendations set out by Hill *et al.* (2005).

3. LEGISLATION AND STATUS

20. The four widespread species of reptile in the UK include common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*, grass snake *Natrix natrix* and adder *Vipera berus*, which are all protected under the terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) / part of Section 9 (1) and all of Section 9 (5). As such it is an offence to;
- Intentionally kill or injure an individual of these species
 - Transport for sale or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange a live or dead an individual or any part of an individual of these species.
 - All native reptile species are UK BAP Priority Species (UK BAP, 2007), Slow Worms, Grass Snakes and Adders are listed under the local Staffordshire BAP list.
21. The Smooth Snake and Sand Lizard are fully protected under Schedule 5 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). As such they receive full protection under Section 9 of this Act. This Act has been amended several times, most recently by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 which added 'or recklessly' to Section 9(4) (a) and (b). They also are protected under Regulations 41/42 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Collectively these means it is an offence to;
- intentionally kill, injure, disturb or take any individual of these species
 - intentionally take or destroy the eggs of any individual of these species
 - intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by any individual of these species
 - intentionally or recklessly disturb any individual of these species while it is occupying a structure which it uses for that purpose
 - Keep, transport, sell or exchange or offer for sale any individual of these species or anything derived from these species.
22. Edgar, Foster & Baker (2010) note declines in all the common reptile species in Britain in recent years, and in some regions severe. Factors may include:
- Habitat and micro-habitat degradation; Changes in land use such as agriculture and development;
 - Fragmentation of habitats and population isolation; Ecological succession;
 - Predation by domestic cats (and pheasants) and disturbance by dogs; Fire (especially moors and heaths);
 - Inappropriate conservation/habitat management; Overgrazing; Invasive exotic plant species;
 - Damage to habitats by excessive visitor pressure/off-road vehicles; deliberate killing by people, especially adder, grass-snake and slow-worm.



4. RESULTS

○ *Pre-survey data*

23. Whilst the surrounding habitat provides good potential for reptiles, with particular consideration given to mobile species such as Grass Snake and Adder, SER data provide no records of reptiles / Key Reptile Sites Register sites in a 1km radius.

○ *Habitat assessment*

24. The site is mainly composed of Hardstanding. Conversely, a small earth mound and metal debris piles (south to south-west facing) are present on the central area, providing potential basking areas for reptiles; whilst the riparian habitat margins of the adjacent watercourse onto hard-standing also provide potential thermoregulation exchange and refugia areas.
25. The site fringes onto a semi-rural landscape with woodland blocks, pasture land and a number of large water bodies located north and south. A narrow, running watercourse sits immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the site, being fed by the River Tean and Mobberly Brook ca. 2km SE. The site and adjacent water corridor is considered as offering excellent migration potential for reptile species, particularly mobile species such as grass snake and adder, with good connectivity to the wider landscape considered.



Figure 3. SW facing watercourse



Figure 4. Earth mound and refugia.



Figure 5 & 6. Running water channel adjacent to western boundary of Adderley Mill.



○ **Field survey results**

	Slow Worm			Common Lizard			Grass Snake			Adder		
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Juvenile	Adult Male	Adult Female	Juvenile	Adult Male	Adult Female	Juvenile	Adult Male	Adult Female	Juvenile
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3. Reptile presence/absence results.

26. No species of reptile was recorded on site, or within the zone of influence over the full survey period during May 2019.

○ **Survey constraints**

27. All surveys were conducted during an optimal time with no survey constraints encountered. The survey period however represents only a four-week window of activity during May, and cannot provide a full representation regarding the meta-population dynamics of reptiles over space and time.

5. IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

28. NO impact to any Key Reptile Sites is considered under the proposed scheme. The adjacent water brook on the western boundary is however still considered as being a potential conduit for individual migrating reptiles, with particular consideration given to Grass snake.
29. Grass snake is the most mobile of British reptile species, and individuals may metapopulate over several kilometres during the course of the active season, and migrate through relatively poor-quality habitat to reach favoured egg-laying, foraging or hibernation areas.

○ **Further Surveys**

30. Although the survey period represents only a snap shot of activity onsite during the month of May 2019, no constraints were encountered and no further surveys are considered necessary.

○ **SITE SAFEGUARD MEASURES**

31. Best Practice Guidelines recommends the following mitigation measure to minimize any inadvertent impact to reptiles and indeed any other terrestrial based wildlife (i.e. small mammals / amphibians).

○ **Ground works.**

32. Ground works that affects any of the ecotone on the SW boundary should be undertaken in a systematic manner outside the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive). Where low clearance of vegetation is intended – it is advisable to carry out maintenance tasks during winter months to reduce any inadvertent impact on migrating reptiles. Where extensive clearance of vegetation is intended – it is advisable to carry out maintenance tasks during spring to allow for regrowth and maintain refugia.

○ ***Plant machinery.***

33. Care should be taken that all works, plant and materials remain on existing open areas of hard-standing; avoiding the surrounding boundaries and woodland margins.

○ ***Building / waste materials.***

34. All building materials, rubble, bricks and soil should be stored only within existing areas of hard-standing and should be raised above ground level using either pallets, skips, or other suitable containers in order to prevent amphibians and/or reptiles from seeking refuge underneath them. Waste materials should be removed from site immediately or contained within skips.

○ ***Excavations.***

35. Any trenches should be excavated and closed in the same day to prevent any wildlife becoming trapped. If it is necessary to leave a trench open overnight then it should be sealed with a close-fitting plywood cover or a means of escape should be provided in the form of a shallow sloping earth ramp, sloped board or plank.

○ ***Care and Vigilance***

36. Where supervision by a suitably qualified ecologist is not deemed necessary; contractors working in the development area should be briefed on the following protocol in the event a reptile is found during works:
37. All open trenches and pipe work should be inspected at the start of each working day to ensure no animal is trapped. In the event that reptiles are found:

- Halt work.
- Capture reptile using gloves.
- Place in container provided and store in the site office.
- Contact appointed ecological consultant to transfer reptiles found to a safe receptor site and to seek confirmation that work can continue.

• ***Pollution and Surface Water Quality***

38. Any development near to water has an associated risk of pollutants that could negatively impact water quality and aquatic habitat and species. It is critical that all works should prevent any pollution to the water course. It is recommended that preventative guidelines are devised at an early stage. Preliminary consideration should be given to:

○

Suitable and appropriate measures or precautions to avoid any issues relating to fuel spillage.

- No concrete to be released into the river system;
- Any chemical and/or fuels on site are stored within a locked, sealed and bunded container at the furthest extremity away from water-bodies.
- Fugitive dust levels which may be deposited into the adjacent river channel should be kept to an absolute minimum, by-way-of spraying of water during construction to mitigate the escape of dust particles to the atmosphere, especially if construction work is carried out during the dry season;
- Haulage trucks must be covered or the aggregates sprayed with water before loading.



○ **Biodiversity Enhancement**

39. In accordance with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, development proposals should seek, where possible, to enhance opportunities available to local wildlife populations. A number of biodiversity enhancement and habitat creation recommendations have also been made for bats, birds and water vole (see separate corresponding reports by Charnia Ecology, 2019).
- Retain sufficient green infrastructure to screen the development, whilst maintaining a 4-5m vegetation buffer between water channel and post-development area to provide a corridor for reptile movement around site.
 - Remove some overhanging branches to reduce shading along watercourse.
 - Only flail existing vegetation around site where necessary, and then not to flail below 0.3m;
 - Should any landscaping be considered at a later date, then it is recommended that only native tree and shrub species are planted. Nectar and berry rich native shrubs providing a variety of habitats for invertebrates should be selected to benefit foraging birds and bats whilst providing structural diversity for wildlife around site.
 - Appropriate climbing species such as cotoneaster, ivy, climbing roses and honeysuckles to create green walls that will further enhance the site and gardens for wildlife. Species selected must be appropriate to the shade or moisture conditions on site.
 - No plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 should be planted during the landscaping of this development. For further details of Schedule 9 plants visit the Defra website: www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/non-native.

○ **Lighting**

40. Early consideration should be given to any post-development lighting scheme that may impede the movement of wildlife across site. The use of artificial lighting should follow the protocols outlined in the Institute for Lighting Engineers document "*Guidance for the Reduction of Obtrusive Lighting*" (2005) and Bat Conservation Trust's "*Artificial Lighting and Wildlife Interim Guidance: Recommendations to Help Minimise the Impact of Artificial Lighting*" (2014), to minimise disturbance and sky-glow across the site.
41. Any artificial light spill should be avoided around the river corridor and intermediate buffer zone at all times to prevent severance of a potential commuting corridor for reptiles.



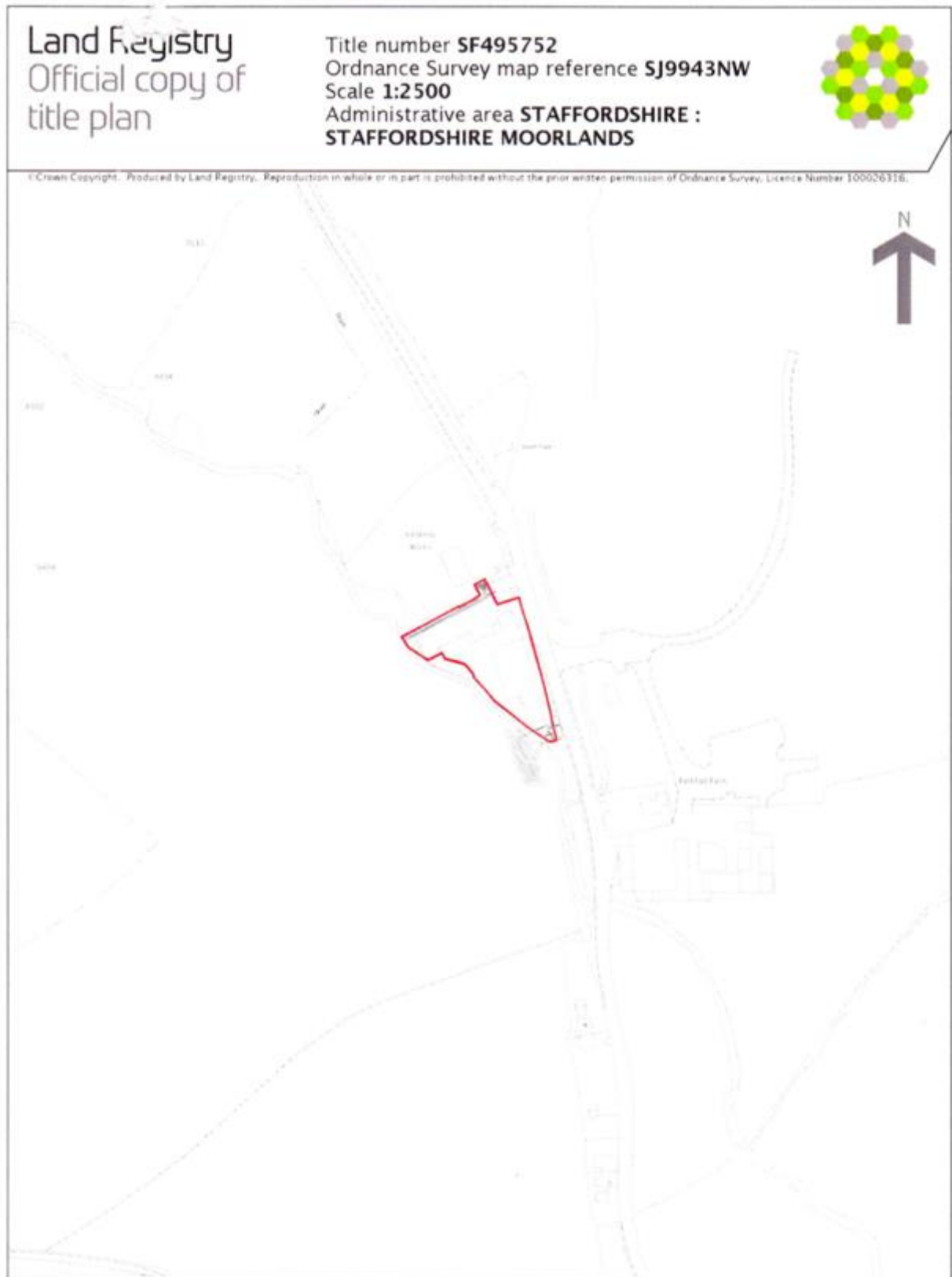
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7.0 APPENDICES

Maps & forms



Proposed architectural drawings.



○ **Policy guidelines**

PAS 2010	The published 'PAS 2010' 'Planning to halt the loss of biodiversity' which is the government's new policy aimed at all authorities and developers involved in the planning process in the UK to halt biodiversity decline by 2010 and deliver net biodiversity gains as part of the green infrastructure provisions.
National Planning Policy Framework, Section 11:	The recently published framework in 2012, replaces the previous Planning Policy Statement 9. Section 11: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment, reaffirms the Government's commitment to maintaining protections and preventing urban sprawl, retains the protection of designated sites and preserves wildlife, aims to improve the quality of the natural environment, and halt declines in species and habitats, protects and enhances biodiversity and promotes wildlife corridors.
Article 10 of the EC Habitats Directive:	The published Article requires government to develop features such as 'stepping stones' on the landscape, such as clusters of ponds, tracts of rough grassland or scrubland and vegetated railway line embankments.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981:	All species of bat are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the European Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994, and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This legislation makes it illegal to possess or control any live or dead specimens, to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter, protection or breeding, and to intentionally disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 consolidate all the various amendments made to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, in respect of England and Wales. It is an offence to possess, sell or offer, or transport for sale any European species of bat or any part derived from such a species. These Regulations also remove the 'incidental result defence'. In other words, it is no longer a defence to show that the killing, capture or disturbance of a species covered by the Regulations or the destruction or damage of their breeding sites or resting places was the incidental and unavoidable result of a lawful activity. Natural England can grant European Protected Species (EPS) licences in respect of development to permit activities that would otherwise be unlawful.
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)	Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), public bodies, including Local and Regional Planning Authorities, have a duty to 'have regard' to the conservation of biodiversity in England when carrying out their normal functions, which includes consideration of planning applications. In compliance with Section 41 of the Act, the Secretary of State has published a list of species considered to be of principal importance for conserving biodiversity in England. This is known as The England Biodiversity List, all of which make up the UK BAP Priority Species. Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities will use it to identify the species that should be afforded priority to maintain, restore and enhance species and habitats.
Bird legislation	Most resident nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which protects birds, nests, eggs and nestlings. Some rarer species, such as barn owls, are afforded extra protection.

Table A. Policy guidelines.



REPTILE IDENTIFICATION SHEET

Grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) **Smooth snake** (*Coronella austriaca*) **Adder** (*Vipera berus*)



Common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) **Sand lizard** (*Lacerta agilis*) **Slow worm** (*Anguis fragilis*)

AMPHIBIAN IDENTIFICATION SHEET

Smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) **Common toad** (*Bufo bufo*) **Palmate newt** (*Lissotriton helveticus*)



Common frog (*Rana temporaria*) **Natterjack toad** (*Epidalea calamita*) **Pool frog** (*Pelophylax lessonae*)



○ **Conditions & disclaimers**



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Services

This statement has been prepared with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, within the terms of the contract with the client. The actions of the surveyor on site and during the production of the report were undertaken in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (www.cieem.org.uk). No part of this document may be reproduced without the prior written approval of Charnia Ecology.

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