



LAND OFF DINTING ROAD, GLOSSOP - REPTILE SURVEYS

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REPORT PREPARED BY:

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INTRODUCTION

Arc Ecology were commissioned to undertake herpetofauna surveys of an area of land off Dinting Lane, Glossop, Derbyshire to attempt to determine the presence/absence of any such species within the site following a request from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. A search through the National Biodiversity Network Gateway (NBNG) also gave records of grass snake (*Natrix natrix*), slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) and common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) from within 1km of the site, although it should be noted that the majority of these records were relatively old (see below).

Anguis fragilis 100m presence records

Search within these results:

Taxon Name	Organisation	Location	Site Name	Start Date	End Date	Recorder
Anguis fragilis Linnaeus, 1758	Derbyshire Biological Records Centre	SK09HG		1988-04-28	1988-04-28	

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Natrix natrix 100m presence records

Search within these results:

Taxon Name	Organisation	Location	Site Name	Start Date	End Date	Recorder
Natrix natrix (Linnaeus, 1758)	Derbyshire Biological Records Centre	SK09HH		2000-01-01	2000-12-31	

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Zootoca vivipara 100m presence records

Search within these results:

Taxon Name	Organisation	Location	Site Name	Start Date	End Date	Recorder
Zootoca vivipara (Jasquin, 1787)	Derbyshire Biological Records Centre	SK09MH		1950-01-01	2000-12-31	
Zootoca vivipara (Jasquin, 1787)	Derbyshire Biological Records Centre	SK09MH		1974-04-21	1974-04-21	
Zootoca vivipara (Jasquin, 1787)	Derbyshire Biological Records Centre	SK09L		1975-07-13	1975-07-13	
Zootoca vivipara (Jasquin, 1787)	Derbyshire Biological Records Centre	SK09L		1984-05-26	1984-05-26	

Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site lies approximately 1km to the north-west of the centre of the village of Glossop, High Peak at OSGR SK 024 925 (approximate site centre) and consists of an area of semi-improved grassland with its associated hedgerows, scrub and trees (see Photographs 1 and 2).

The grassland is comprised of common arable grass species with nettle (*Urtica dioica*), broadleaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), broad-leaved plantain (*Plantago major*) sow thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*) and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) scattered throughout, along with occasional foxglove (*Digitalis sp*) and garden escapees such as lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*).

There is a single hedgerow along the northern boundary of the site which consists of outgrown hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with some small pollarded ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) scattered throughout and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), nettle, ivy (*Hedera helix*) and cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) also present.

There are large areas of scrub within the site, mainly in the eastern section of the site, but also around the majority of the boundary. The scrub is mainly low-lying bramble, but also contains nettle and rosebay willow-herb (*Chamerion angustifolium*).

There are a number of trees and self-seeded saplings adjacent to the southern boundary of the site including hawthorn, elder (*Sambucus niger*), oak (*Quercus robur*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*).

Photograph 1 - View of site vegetation from western end



Photograph 2 - View towards eastern end of site showing bramble scrub



METHODOLOGY

Reptile mats were placed throughout the site, with particular attention paid to fringe habitats and likely basking areas at a minimum density of ten per hectare in accordance with current published guidelines.

The mats were left *in situ* for seven days to allow them to 'bed in', and were then checked on seven separate occasions in good weather conditions.

Any animals found were identified to species level and sexed if possible.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The proposed development of the site is construction of a number of new build dwelling properties and their associated amenity land.

CONSTRAINTS

There were no constraints to the survey and all areas of the site were accessible.

SURVEY RESULTS

Details of survey dates and conditions are given in Table 1 below.

During the surveys no herpetofauna species were found within the site.

Table 1 - Survey dates and conditions

Date	Time	Temp (°C)	Weather	Cloud (%)	Animals Located
03/09/16	08.00	12	Dry, fine	10	0
7/9/16	09.00	15	Dry, fine	5	0
12/9/16	09.00	13	Dry, overcast	40	0
15/9/16	09.30	15	Clear, some fog	30	0
20/9/16	09.30	11	Dry, overcast	50	0
22/9/16	10.30	14	Dry, fine	5	0
28/9/16	09.20	15	Dry, fine	30	0

CONSTRAINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

All British reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the CROW Act 2000). Grass snake, slow worm, common lizard and adder are protected against intentional killing or injury and against sale. In addition, all British reptiles are UKBAP priority species and are listed as Species of Principal Importance under the provisions of the NERC Act 2006

Sand lizard and smooth snake are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Crow Act 2000) and under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. Taken together, these make it an offence to:

- a. Deliberately capture or intentionally take sand lizard or smooth snake
- b. Deliberately or intentionally kill or injure sand lizard or smooth snake
- c. To be in possession or control of any live or dead sand lizard or smooth snake or any part of, or anything derived from either species
- d. Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a sand lizard or smooth snake or intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place that either species uses for shelter or protection

- e. Intentionally or recklessly disturb a sand lizard or smooth snake while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection
- f. Deliberately disturb a sand lizard or smooth snake in such a way as to be likely significantly to affect;
 - (i) the ability of any significant group of animals of that species to survive, breed or rear or nurture their young; or
 - (ii) the local distribution or abundance of that species.

All six native reptiles are listed as a Species of Principal Importance under the provisions of the NERC Act 2006. The National Planning Policy Network document 'ODPM Circular 06/2005' gives guidance on the treatment of such species and states that local authorities should ensure that they are protected from the adverse effects of development, where appropriate, by using planning conditions or obligations.

Although no herpetofauna species were found during any of the surveys, the records from the NBNG website indicate that such species could be present in the wider area.

As such, reasonable precautions should be taken to ensure that no harm comes to any animals. Vegetation removal within the site should be undertaken outside the active season for reptiles (i.e. November and December). An initial cut of vegetation to six inches in height should be undertaken and then left for 24hrs to allow any wildlife within the site to vacate the area, followed by removal to ground level to minimise the suitability of the site for reptiles and other fauna species. The site should then be checked again by an ecologist to ensure there are no further areas where reptiles could potentially shelter within the site.

Following the above clearance works, if the site has been deemed unsuitable for reptiles, semi-permanent reptile fencing should be placed around the site and maintained throughout the construction period, after which it can be removed to allow reptiles access to the amenity land associated with the new build dwellings.

SUMMARY

- Surveys for herpetofauna were carried out on land off Dinting Lane, Glossop, Derbyshire by Arc Ecology on various dates during September 2016.
- No herpetofauna species were found during the surveys, but records on the NBNG website indicate that such species could be present in the wider area.
- Reasonable avoidance methods should be employed to render the site unsuitable for reptiles, including vegetation removal as described in the Constraints and Recommendations section of this report.
- Once the site has been made unsuitable for reptiles, then semi-permanent reptile fencing should be erected around the site and maintained throughout the construction phase.
- Following construction, the fencing can be removed and any herpetofauna present can be allowed back into site to use potentially suitable habitat created by the amenity land attached to the new build dwellings.

REFERENCES

- Gent, T. & Gibson S. (2003)
Herpetofauna Workers Manual. JNCC, Peterborough.