Llantrisant Health Park,

Ely Meadow, Talbot Green

Reptile Method Statement

April 2025

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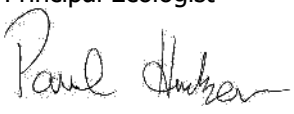
Llantrisant Health Park, Ely Meadow, Talbot Green Reptile Method Statement				
Revision	Date	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
1.0	28 April 2025	Charlotte Ingram Assistant Ecologist 	Kat Oliver Assistant Ecologist 	Paul Hudson MCIEEM Principal Ecologist 

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Brief

Acer Ecology Ltd were commissioned by Archus on behalf of Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board to prepare a reptile method statement in relation to work proposed at Llantrisant Health Park (former British Airways Avionics, Engineering site), Ely Meadow, Talbot Green, Llantrisant, CF72 8XL, within the boundary of Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council (Ordnance Survey Grid Reference centred at: ST 0362 8387)[1]. The method statement will outline how the development will avoid, mitigate, and compensate for any potential impacts on reptiles. The development will be undertaken in adherence to the agreed method statement. The location of the site is shown on Plan 1.

There are four widespread species of British reptile comprising the common grass snake (*Natrix natrix*), slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*), adder (*Vipera berus*) and common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*). These animals are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. They are given so called 'partial protection', which prohibits the deliberate killing or injury of individuals. The habitats of common reptiles are not specifically protected. Notes on the habitat preferences and ecology of the four common reptile species are contained in Appendix 1 and 2.

Statutory compliance requires measures to be taken to minimise the risk of reptiles being harmed during the site investigations, clearance and construction operations, and that these attempts are proportionate to the risk of causing harm to reptiles.

The report identifies the legal and policy constraints relevant to reptiles which may affect the development and gives an indication of mitigation measures that will be required.

1.2 Proposed Works

The proposed development works will involve the demolition of the existing buildings on site, followed by the construction of new buildings in their place. In the southern portion of the site, vegetation will be cleared to allow for the creation of a new Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) basin, with a network of footpaths proposed around it.

[1] Latitude and Longitude: 51.545465 , -3.3912730 / what3words: committee.clasping.counts

2.0 Survey Methods

2.1 Field Study

In accordance with the guidance outlined in the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's published Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2003) the Reptile Management Handbook (Edgar, Foster & Baker, 2011) and the Reptile Mitigation Guidelines Technical Note TIN 102 (Natural England, 2013), the site was appraised for its suitability to support reptiles.

The assessment was undertaken by Acer Ecology Ltd during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) undertaken on the 15th of April 2024. The following factors were considered: vegetation type and structure; insolation (sun exposure); slope aspect; topography; surface geology; habitat connectivity; habitat size; prey abundance; refuge opportunity; hibernation opportunity; egg-laying potential for grass snake; public pressure; percentage of shade; levels of disturbance and management regime. Further targeted species surveys for reptile were recommend.

Forty-four artificial cover objects (ACOs) were placed across the site on the 30th of May 2024, in areas considered to have habitat suitable for supporting reptiles. Seven return visits were undertaken in suitable weather conditions on non-consecutive days during September 2024. An additional two checks were conducted prior to these seven checks, one in July and another in August 2024. For more details of the reptile surveys undertaken, please refer to: Acer Ecology (2025) – Reptile Survey Report – Llantrisant Health Park, Ely Meadow, Talbot Green.

3.0 Survey Results

3.1 Assessment of Habitat for Reptiles

The northern half of the site is predominantly comprised of three connected buildings, car parks, and areas of hardstanding, interspersed with small patches of semi-improved grassland and broadleaved woodland. These areas offer limited suitability for reptiles, although the grassland and woodland edges provide some opportunities for basking and sheltering.

The southern section of the site consists mainly of semi-improved grassland bordered by scrub, with several steep banks present. This mosaic of habitats provides high-quality opportunities for basking, foraging, and sheltering, and reptiles have been confirmed as present within this area.

3.2 Further Reptile Surveys

The targeted species surveys identified a small/low population of slow-worm and a medium/good population of common lizard within the survey area. Slow-worms and common lizards were found in the grassland area in the southern section of the site. The refugia found to be utilised by reptiles were primarily located on the steep banks within the grassland area, the interfaces between dense scrub and grassland areas, and in areas of the grassland with varied sward height. For full results of the surveys, please refer to: Acer Ecology (2025) – Reptile Survey Report – Llantrisant Health Park, Ely Meadow, Talbot Green.

4.0 Discussion

Surveys identified a small/low population of slow-worm and a medium/good population of common lizard within the site. As the latest landscaping plans for the southern section of the site involve the clearance of grassland to accommodate SuDS features and pathways, reptiles currently using this habitat will need to be safely relocated to avoid harm.

In order to conserve the conservation status of reptiles within the site boundary, an on-site translocation is proposed. A suitable area of retained habitat will be fenced with reptile-proof fencing and enhanced with the creation of four hibernacula to increase its suitability as a receptor site.

The translocation exercise will be undertaken prior to the commencement of clearance works to ensure reptiles are safely moved out of the working area and into the enhanced receptor site.

5.0 Method Statement

All species of reptiles in the UK are afforded statutory protection against deliberate or reckless killing or injury under the amended Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Surveys identified a small/low population of slow-worm and a medium/good population of common lizard within the site.

To avoid harm during proposed works in the southern section of the site, where grassland will be cleared for SuDS features and pathways, reptiles will be translocated to the on-site receptor area shown on Plan 3.

A suitable area of retained habitat within the site will be fenced using reptile exclusion fencing and enhanced with the creation of four hibernacula to support the relocated population. The receptor area will be prepared in advance of translocation.

The remainder of this document comprises a method statement by which reptile mitigation will be achieved.

5.1 Site Induction / Toolbox Talk

All site workers will be inducted by Acer Ecology Ltd. Contractors will be warned of the presence of reptiles and informed on their protected status and the working practices required in order to avoid harming them. Personnel will also be made aware of the identification features of adders and the associated dangers of this species.

5.2 Receptor Site

The proposed reptile receptor area, shown on Plan 3, comprises an area of existing grassland within the site, which will be retained and enhanced with the creation of four hibernacula to increase carrying capacity and improve habitat suitability for reptiles. The area will be securely enclosed with reptile-proof fencing to prevent re-entry into the development area and to ensure the safe containment of translocated reptiles.

5.3 Timing of Works

As a general rule, habitats which could potentially support common reptiles will not be subject to ground disturbance during the reptile hibernation period, which runs approximately from October to February inclusive, so as to reduce the risk of encountering (and potentially injuring or killing) any hibernating individuals.

The capture and translocation of reptiles will ideally occur in May, August and September. At this time reptiles are very active and more easily detected. Completion by the end of September would also give the animals time to settle into their new habitat before the hibernation period begins.

5.4 Installation of Reptile-Proof Fencing

The receptor area will be securely enclosed with reptile-proof fencing, and ACOs will be placed within the reptile habitat proposed for clearance in the south of the site. Any reptiles present will be translocated to

the dedicated reptile habitat that will be retained and enhanced prior to the commencement of the translocation exercise.

The installation of the fencing will require careful supervision by a suitably qualified reptile handler to ensure that no reptiles are accidentally injured in the process.

In the areas where the reptile fencing is to be installed, vegetation to be cleared will first be strimmed or brush cut to a height of approximately 15cm and raked away to reduce its attractiveness for reptiles and other wildlife. Following a period of 24–48 hours to allow any remaining reptiles to disperse, a second cut will be undertaken to reduce the height of the vegetation to near ground level (approximately 5cm). The vegetation will then be maintained in this short condition for a minimum of 48 hours before reptile-proof fencing is installed. A suitably qualified ecologist will supervise the second cut.

Reptile-proof fencing will be erected around the proposed receptor area. If the reptile-proof fences are to be fabricated on site, this will be in accordance with Appendix 4, which is based on the advice provided by Natural England (2001) and DMRB (2005). Alternatively, purpose-made prefabricated moulded plastic fence units may be used, such as those of the 'Herpetosure' system, supplied and installed by a specialist contractor. The fencing will be at least 40 to 50 cm high above ground and held in place by timber tanalised stakes.

The fencing will be required to extend below ground level for a depth of about 25cm to prevent reptiles from moving into the area underneath the fence. The fencing may be installed using a mini-digger or a small tractor-and-harrow, but vehicle movement on the site will be kept to the minimum necessary to achieve the task, and this will be confined to the minimum number of defined routes necessary. The fencing membrane will be installed without noticeable folds or creases. All joins in the membrane will be 'curl-joined' (or equivalent) and well secured to a post with pads and nails. This jointing method will continue underground as well as above.

The plastic will be scored 50mm from the top to allow for the creation of an overhang to further prevent the passage of reptiles. The use of battens will be avoided as these could assist reptiles in climbing the fence.

The fencing layout will not contain gaps which reptiles can pass through, and the fences will be backfilled on both sides at the time of installation to ensure that there are no cavities along the line of the fence that offer refuge sites for reptiles.

5.5 Integrity and Security of the Reptile Fencing

Maintaining the integrity of the reptile fences will be the developer's responsibility, with the visiting ecologists advising of any observed breaks or failures in the fences. Any breaches or damage to fences will be repaired within a maximum of 24 hours. If any damage occurs to a perimeter reptile fence after the capture and translocation exercise has been completed it will be assumed that reptiles could potentially have re-entered the affected trapping area.

5.6 Management of Existing Reptile Habitat

The existing rank and tussocky nature of the semi-improved grassland habitat within the receptor site should be maintained, along with the high variation of vegetation structure between the grassland edges and scrub.

5.7 Ecological Enhancement of Reptile Habitat

Additional enhancement measures include the creation of artificial banks or 'hibernacula', which will be located within the areas of semi-improved grassland (Plan 3). The creation of the hibernacula will be undertaken within the area of habitat retained for reptiles prior to any site clearance works.

Hibernaculum Creation

Four artificial banks or 'hibernacula' will be created within the area of retained habitat, as marked on Plan 3.

Each hibernaculum will ideally measure 4m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.4m in height, and will be comprised of bricks, stone, rubble and/or timber. Ideally, the southern side of the banks will be finished with topsoil. Arisings from the subsequent vegetation clearance works can be added to the southern bank of the feature. The northern sides will be left with the rubble exposed to allow reptiles to enter cavities within the bank.

The hibernacula will provide optimal features for the reptiles in the designated area. They will be retained in-situ following completion of the construction works. Any future occupiers of the site will be made aware of their function and will ensure that it is kept in perpetuity.

Appendix 3 provides a visual representation of the artificial hibernacula.

5.8 Capture and On-Site Translocation

To undertake the capture and translocation of reptiles, ACOs will be deployed within the reptile habitat proposed for clearance in the south of the site.

After a period of two weeks, the site will be visited at regular intervals by the suitably qualified ecologist (i.e daily between 8:30am to 11:00am and between 16:00pm and 18:30pm), and any reptiles which are present will be collected and removed to the receptor site. The capture/transfer will involve a minimum of 15 visits[2] (dependant on numbers/capture rates and suitable weather conditions) to check the refuges and remove any reptiles. Daily visits will continue until at least five such consecutive visits have occurred, during suitable weather conditions[3], with no reptiles having been encountered. Alternatively, the capture exercise can be stopped if a 'reasonable capture effort' is agreed with the local authority.

[2] Froglife (1999) specifies a capture effort of between 60-120 days depending on the species, size of population to be translocated and capture rates, however this level of trapping is rarely required.
[3] During dry, still conditions with air temperatures in excess of 10°C.

When reptile numbers are detected to be declining, a final cut can be made of vegetation within the reptile habitat proposed for clearance to achieve very short, close-cropped vegetation of about 5-10cm in height. This staged removal of the vegetation is likely to drive reptiles to make greater and greater use of the refugia. This process will remove alternative sheltering places and rendering the rest of the site unattractive to reptiles. Once the five-day threshold has been reached or 'reasonable capture effort' has been agreed with the local authority, earthmoving operations may commence in the trapped-out area without further constraint. However, the perimeter fence around the receptor site must remain *in situ* until the site has been rendered unsuitable for reptiles (i.e. exposed earth).

Collected reptiles will be removed using suitable containers (e.g. steep sided buckets with lids) with the different species being kept separate. Slow worms and common lizards will initially be collected using gloved hands and will be placed in a cloth bag secured with a plastic clip before being transferred to a suitable container. All reptiles will be transferred to the adjacent receptor site immediately or within 1 hour of collection, where they will be released under suitable cover in an undisturbed area. Reptiles in temporary holding containers will be placed in a safe location under shade and will be monitored to ensure that they do not become either too hot or too cold.

Any such translocation of reptiles will ideally occur in May, August and September. At this time reptiles are very active and more easily detected. Completion by the end of September would also give the animals time to settle into their new habitat before the hibernation period begins.

Following the completion of the reptile translocation exercise and the installation of reptile-proof fencing, the majority of the site can be cleared of vegetation without further supervision. The area cleared of reptiles would ideally be immediately stripped of all vegetation and the topsoil removed, leaving bare sub soil. The final stripping maybe done with machinery (ideally using a toothed bucket). However, if there is a significant delay between the completion of translocation and the commencement of vegetation clearance, vegetation across the site will be reassessed for suitability as reptile habitat. Where necessary, precautionary two-stage clearance may be undertaken under supervision to ensure reptiles have not re-colonised the area, as described in Sections 5.10 and 5.11 below.

5.9 Vegetation Clearance

The scrub and grassland which could potentially support common reptiles should not be subject to ground disturbance during the reptile hibernation period (approximately from October to February inclusive), so as to reduce the risk of encountering (and potentially injuring or killing) any hibernating individuals. Clearance works on site will be undertaken within the active period for reptiles (March to September inclusive). If the season is mild (i.e. overnight temperatures remain relatively warm) it may be possible for clearance works to continue into October, but such works would have to be undertaken in agreement with the Local Authority ecologist. All works must be undertaken in suitable weather when reptiles are likely to be active.

Appropriate measures will include the following:

- Potential refugia such as piles, stone, rubble, logs, discarded timber, sheet metal, plastic sheet, carpets and large rocks etc. will be carefully lifted and dismantled by hand and removed from the area to be cleared;
- Clearance of the site will be undertaken in a piecemeal fashion; the main clearance of site will commence from the centre of the site and proceed towards the south (i.e towards the area of habitat proposed for retention). Clearance will be spread over several hours to allow reptiles time to disperse out of the immediate works area into safe habitats at the site periphery;
- Taller vegetation in the areas to be cleared will initially be strimmed or brush cut to a height of no less than 15cm, and raked away so as to reduce its attractiveness for reptiles, small mammals, hedgehogs and terrestrial amphibians. The cut will be made in a direction which allows any species present to move to the area of the site which is being retained in order to find refuge.
- Strimmed vegetation will be raked up and put in a compost bin or into green garden waste bags. Any reptiles (or other wildlife encountered) will be or will be carefully collected and held in an open topped container such as a bucket temporarily (grass will be included at the bottom as refuge) and then moved to the adjacent receptor area after the entire area of scrub and grassland has been strimmed.
- Immediately prior to the commencement of other site works (i.e. 24-48 hours ahead), the area to be cleared will be strimmed a second time, cutting the vegetation to 5cm with the cut vegetation again being raked away. A suitably qualified ecologist will supervise the second cut before works can commence;
- Raked or cut vegetation will be removed entirely from the site;
- An ecologist from Acer Ecology (or alternative company) will be on site to supervise all of the strimming work; and
- After the completion of the works a report of animals found, species, sex, status etc to will be sent to the Local Planning Authority.

5.10 Destructive Searching

The destructive search will commence within 24-48hours after the second phase of the vegetation clearance. The destructive search will comprise the sequential removal of the overlying vegetation, and then the removal of the top 250mm of soil using a wide toothed bucket on the back-actor of a suitable excavator. Works will begin in the central section of the site and progress in a linear fashion towards the southern boundary so that any reptiles present can move towards safer areas to be retained. The search will be carried out under the close supervision of an appropriately experienced reptile handler who will stop works, and rescue and remove any reptiles which are found during the operation.

Once these areas have been destructively searched in this manner, they will be considered to have been cleared of reptiles, and normal earthworks and construction activities will then proceed in a conventional manner with no further constraint. However, the services of an appropriately experienced reptile-handler

will be kept available on an 'on call' basis throughout the remainder of the construction period to deal promptly with any unexpected emergencies involving reptiles which may arise.

Action to be Taken if Reptiles Encountered on Site

In the event that any reptiles are encountered in the course of any of the above works, or at any subsequent stages, the site personnel will be instructed to carefully remove the animal from the development site and place it in the unaffected receptor habitat.

5.11 Species Deterrence

Upon completion of the destructive search (or translocation exercise) the site will remain in a sterile (reptile-free) condition by regular ploughing or intensive mowing to prevent the area from becoming suitable for re-colonisation of reptiles. The fence will remain intact and in place until the works are completed.

5.12 Storage of Building Compounds During Works

Building compounds and storage areas will be sited on areas of hard standing and not on areas of reptile habitat which are to be retained. Similarly, no equipment, machinery or materials should be brought into the areas of retained habitat.

General building materials (bricks, timber etc) stored on site during the construction phase will be done so on pallets to discourage animals using them from shelter. In addition, they will be located at as great a distance from the scrub and grass habitats. Any demolition materials will be stored in skips or similar containers rather than piles on the ground. Alternatively, this material could be stored in a compound which will have reptile proof exclusion fencing on all sides (see Appendix 4). This will be maintained throughout the construction period to prevent reptiles from entering the area.

5.13 Record Keeping

After the completion of the works a report will be sent to the Local Authority by the suitably qualified ecologist to confirm that works have been undertaken in accordance with the method statement. The report will include details of animals found (including species, sex, status, details of any injuries etc.). Photographs showing the implementation of the work will be included (e.g. installation of reptile fencing and creation of hibernacula).

6.0 References

English Nature (2001) *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*, Peterborough.

Froglife (2003) *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook*, Froglife, Halesworth, Suffolk.

Gent, T. & Gibson, S. (2003) *Herpetofauna Workers' Manual*. JNCC, Peterborough.

Herpetological Conservation Trust (2008) *National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme*.

Langton, T E S, Beckett, C L & Foster, J P (2001) *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook.* Froglife, Halesworth.

Oldham, R.S.; Keeble, J.; Swan, M.J.S. & Jeffcote M. (2001) *Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the great crested newt (Triturus cristatus)*, The Herpetological Journal 10 (4), 143-155.

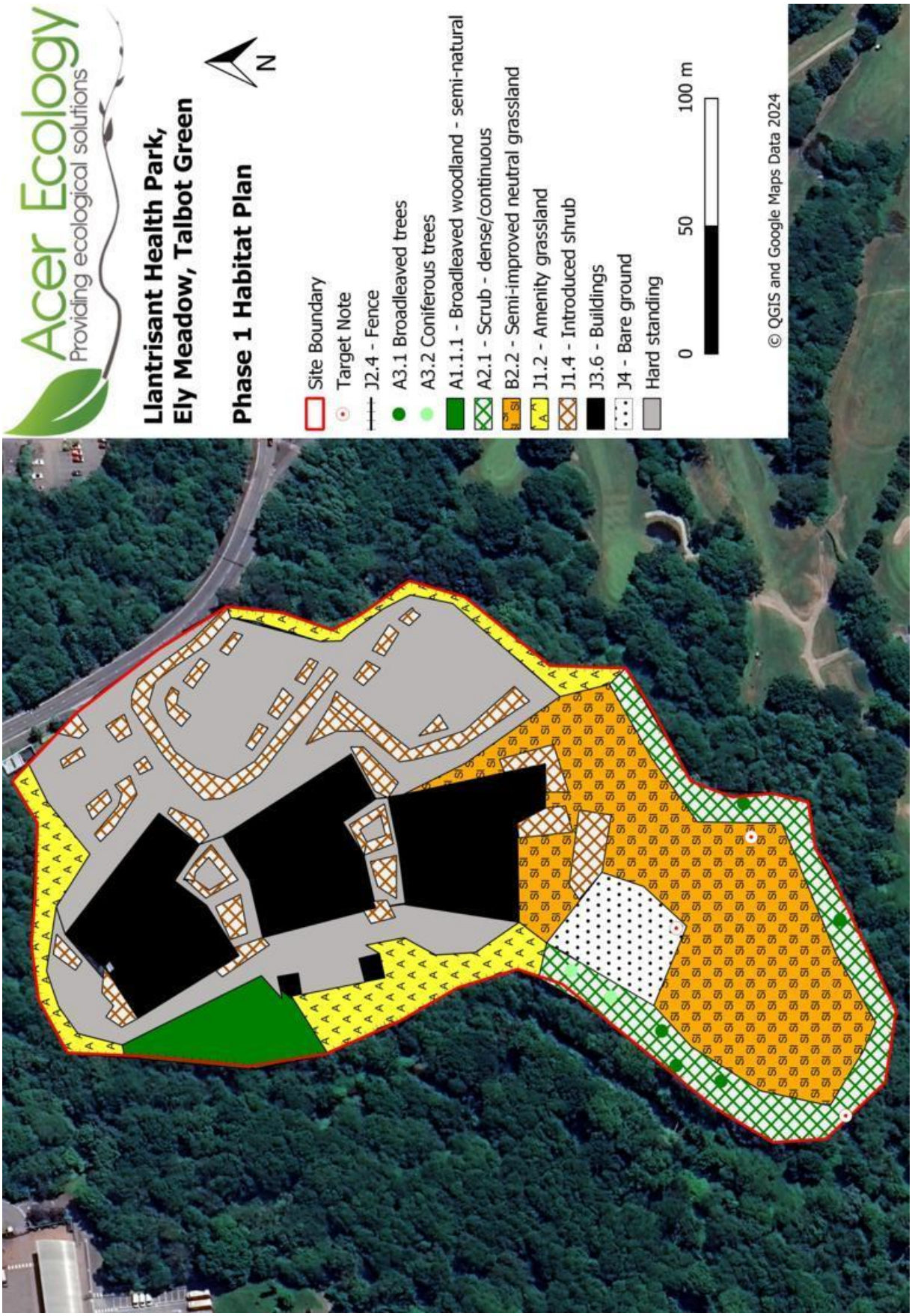
UK Biodiversity Group (UKBG 1998-99) *Tranche 2 Action Plans (6 vols).* English Nature.

Welsh Assembly Government (WAG 2000) *European Protected Species: Guidance Note.* In-house guidance note.

Welsh Assembly Government (WAG 2001) *New Guidance for Local Planning Authorities on European Protected Species and Changes in Licensing Procedures.* Circular 23/2001.

Plan 1: Site Location

Plan 2: Phase 1 Habitats and Vegetation



Plan 3: Reptile Mitigation Plan

Appendix 1: Reptile Ecology

Reptiles are ectothermic and must be able to warm themselves to maintain their body temperature and those that lay eggs must have heat to hatch them. In winter, British reptiles become torpid and hibernate in holes etc safe from severe frost. Cold reptiles move slowly, if at all and are easily killed by predators such as birds and cats.

The need to control body temperature governs much of the day-to-day activity of reptiles. Typically they aim to maintain body temperatures between 20 and 30°C. Habitats need to provide a structure that allows reptiles to bask or otherwise warm up using the suns energy, but also avoid extremes of heat and cold.

Ideal reptile habitat consists of open areas and vegetative cover in close proximity to each other. Varied topography especially south facing slopes are favoured, with diverse vegetation type and structure. Microhabitats provide a range of basking opportunities, shelter from predators and wind, an abundance of prey and opportunities to cool down in humid, deeper vegetation when the weather is hot and dry.

Reptiles are only able to disperse over relatively short distances. They are dependent on large areas of continuous habitat or is most often the case, closely spaced patches linked by corridors of habitat. Habitat connectivity corridors play an essential role by maintaining population size and viability avoiding inbreeding whilst also reducing the risk of populations becoming extinct due to locally catastrophic events such as fire.

Hibernation sites or hibernacula must be frost free, humid, and safe from flooding and predators. Typical sites include burrows dug by other species such as rabbits, rotted tree stumps and root holes, large grass tussocks, ant hills, old walls and building foundations, piles of rubble and under large logs and fallen trees. Hibernation sites almost always have a south facing aspect and are normally in full or partial sun. Reptiles may hibernate singly or communally. Communal hibernacula are critical for some reptiles.

Smooth snakes are not found in Wales and sand lizard are restricted to recent reintroduction sites. Grass snakes are most commonly associated with wet habitats and frequently feed on aquatic animals such as frogs. Adders and slow-worms are typically associated with drier, heathland habitat and most types of grassland. Common lizards occupy a wide range of habitats, including wet and dry heathland, moorland, mountain scree slopes, most types of grassland (especially chalk grassland and rough grassland with bramble scrub), woodland glades and rides, coastal dunes and cliffs, vegetated shingle and hedgerows. The species avoids structurally uniform vegetation and prefers sites with a greater variation in the height of habitat cover. The highest densities seem to be found in damp or wet areas, especially where abundant grass tussocks are present to provide food, shelter, basking and hibernation sites. They feed on soft-bodied invertebrates.

Common lizards are diurnal and spend less time basking as they warm up quickly and can operate at lower temperatures. They can be active from February to November, and movement is normally limited to a few tens of metres. Around four to ten young are born in July (but birth can occur from late June to early September) in a transparent membrane from which the baby lizards rapidly break out.

Appendix 2: Species Requirements of Common Reptile Species

Notes on the habitat requirements of the four common reptile species is given below:

Slow-worms are widespread throughout England and Wales and occur in a variety of habitats including rough grassland, hedgerows, heathland, woodland edges, downs and moorland. They also occur in a wide variety of man-made habitats including railway and road embankments, gardens, churchyards, parks and allotments. Marshy and very arid habitats are usually avoided. Dense vegetation cover combined with sunny areas allowing thermoregulation is ideal. Habitats which allow the animals to burrow such as compost heaps or loose soils encourage their presence and they are often associated with piles of stones, rubble or pieces of tin or plastic (Beebee and Griffiths 2000). They are often found associated with anthills and these structures may also provide a convenient network of underground tunnels.

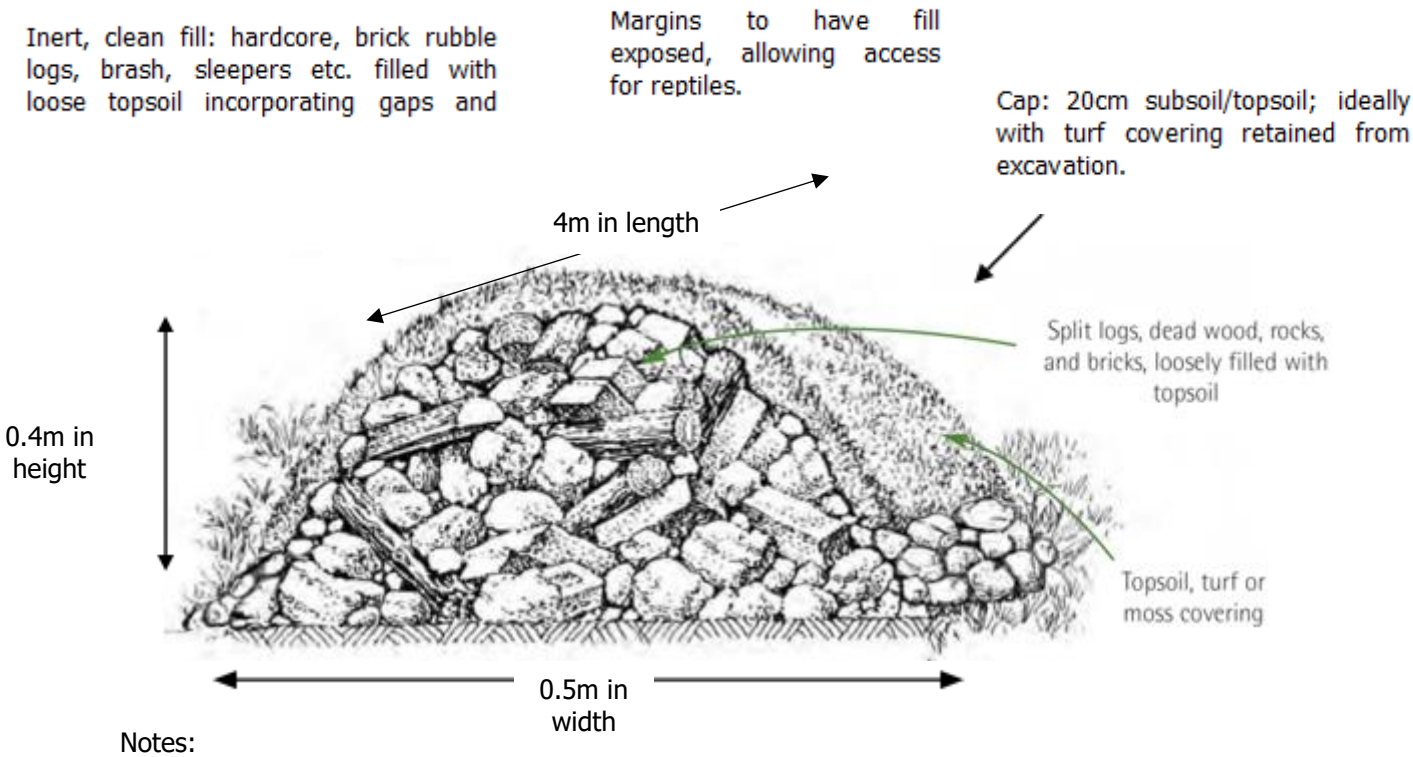
Common lizard occur in a wide range of habitats including roadside verges, uncultivated field edges, forest rides and glades, cliff edges and scree slopes, artificial embankments along railways and rivers, upland moors, heathlands and coastal sand dunes. Suitable habitat consists of undisturbed ground that is topographically diverse with fairly dense but short vegetation less than 0.5m high, open to the sun and with a few exposed areas that can be used for basking. The soil will be well drained and have adequate refugia for use in both summer and winter. South-facing slopes are preferred and humid sites often have the highest population densities.

Grass snakes are highly aquatic and are usually associated with ponds, lakes marshes, streams or ditches. They feed almost entirely on amphibians. They also occur in open woodlands, hedgerows and rough grassland. Drier habitats including heaths and moorlands are sometimes used. They require terrestrial habitat with an abundance of hiding places and access to sunshine. Open patches close to thick cover are frequently used for basking.

Adder occurs in a variety of habitats including heathlands, moors, chalk downlands, woodland rides, coastal dunes, rough commons, overgrown quarries, along field edges and railway embankments. The main requirement is undisturbed sunny glades or slopes, usually in the vicinity of some thick cover. South-facing slopes are preferred in upland areas.

Appendix 3: Artificial Hibernacula Creation

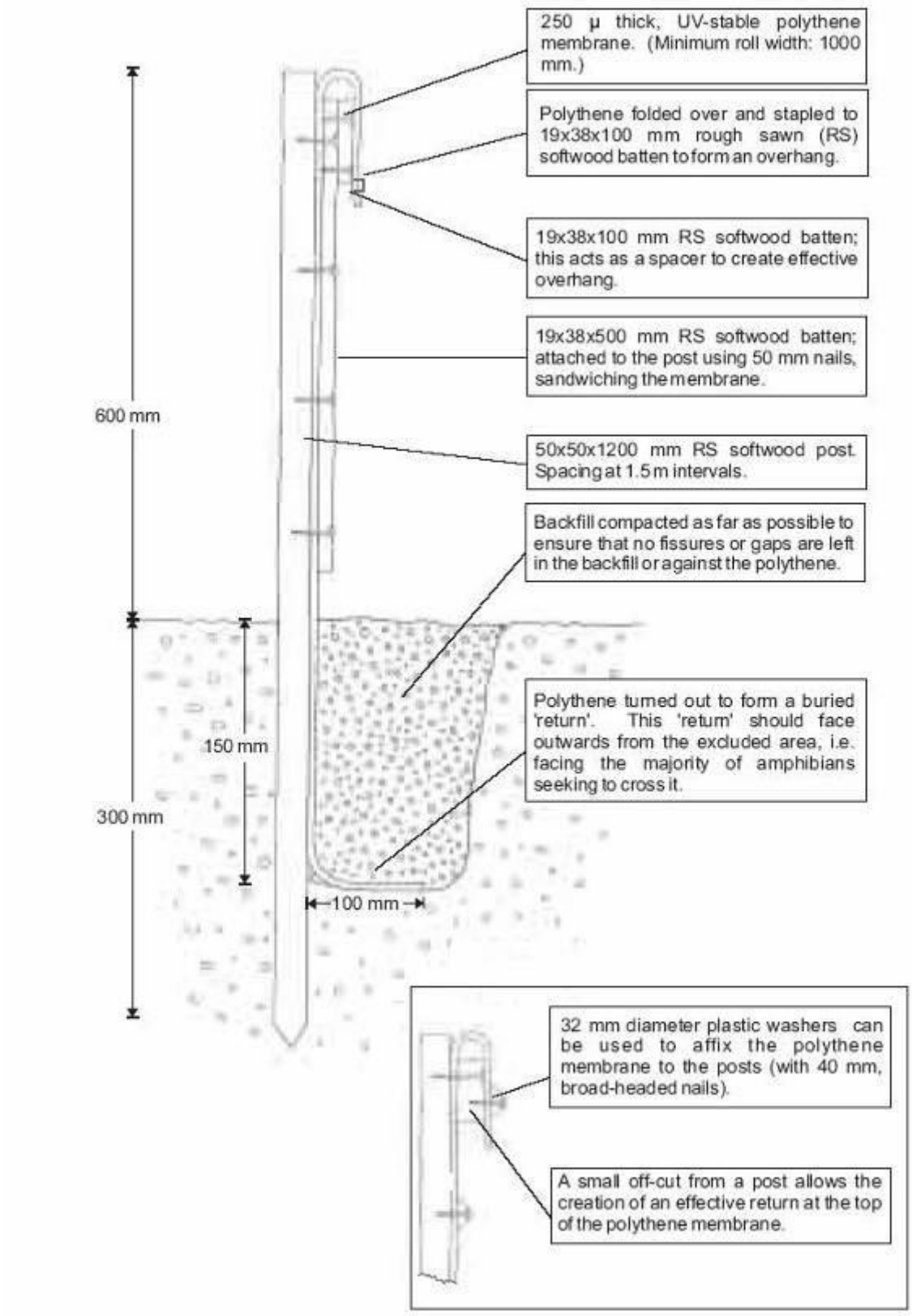
Above Ground Hibernaculum for Impermeable Soils



Notes:

- Ideally, the hibernacula should be constructed on a gentle slope to prevent flooding;
- Turfs should be removed from the footprint of the hibernacula before construction. These should be retained and relocated on the southern side of the completed hibernacula. A grading bucket rather than a toothed bucket will be required for this so that the topsoil remains as intact as possible;
- Once the topsoil has been removed (with a grading bucket) the first few centimetres of soil beneath will be checked for reptiles with a spade/fork under supervision of the ecologist;
- The topsoil turfs should be stored on tarpaulin or equivalent to prevent soil damaging surrounding vegetation;
- Materials which will decompose (e.g. plant matter) should not be placed under more enduring matter such as rocks, however, to avoid risk of collapse;
- Coia (biodegradable hessian) should be used between inert material and soil layer to ensure gaps retained;
- The hibernacula will have gently sloping (approximately 70º) edges;
- The hibernacula should be located in a sunny position;
- The hibernacula should run from east to west (i.e. with a long southern aspect)
- A suggested minimum size is 4m long by 0.5m wide by 0.4m high; and
- The area around the hibernacula should be managed as rough grassland.

Appendix 4: Specification for Reptile Proof Fences


250 µ thick, UV-stable polythene membrane. (Minimum roll width: 1000 mm.)
Polythene folded over and stapled to 19x38x100 mm rough sawn (RS) softwood batten to form an overhang.
19x38x100 mm RS softwood batten; this acts as a spacer to create effective overhang.
19x38x500 mm RS softwood batten; attached to the post using 50 mm nails, sandwiching the membrane.
50x50x1200 mm RS softwood post. Spacing at 1.5 m intervals.
Backfill compacted as far as possible to ensure that no fissures or gaps are left in the backfill or against the polythene.
Polythene turned out to form a buried 'return'. This 'return' should face outwards from the excluded area, i.e. facing the majority of amphibians seeking to cross it.
600 mm
150 mm
300 mm
100 mm
32 mm diameter plastic washers can be used to affix the polythene membrane to the posts (with 40 mm, broad-headed nails).
A small off-cut from a post allows the creation of an effective return at the top of the polythene membrane.