**Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.**
**Ecological Consultants.**

# C. SOAR AND SONS, TANK ROW.

## OS REF: SE 370 061.

## EXTENDED PHASE I HABITAT SURVEY.

**Ref No:-** **160307 Rev 1.**

**Date:-** **24th April 2016.**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to develop an area of land within C Soars and Sons yard off Tank Row, Barnsley. The development will include vegetation clearance and the erection of a new workshop as shown in Appendix VIII.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out an Extended Phase I Habitat Survey of the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. The site survey was carried out on 8th February 2016 and this report outlines the findings of that survey and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendices I to IV of this report provide additional information on specific species and are designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

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# 2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. Prior to visiting the site the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.2. The survey area was walked where access was agreed and public rights of way were used where no access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat surveys.

2.3. The survey area and immediate surrounding area was thoroughly searched for evidence of badger (*Meles meles*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with Harris S, Cresswell P and Jefferies D (1989). *Surveying Badgers*. Mammal Society:-

* Badger setts.
* Badger latrines or dung pits.
* Badger snuffle holes and evidence of foraging.
* Badger paths.
* Badger prints in areas of soft mud.
* Badger hairs caught on fencing.

2.4. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) activity by looking for the following signs, in line with Rob Strachan, Tom Moorhouse and Merryl Gelling (2011). *Water Vole Handbook: Third Edition*:-

* Water vole burrows.
* Water vole faeces and latrines.
* Water vole feeding stations.
* Water vole runs.
* Water vole prints in areas of soft mud.
* Water vole lawns.
* Predator field signs.

2.5. The survey area was searched for watercourses and where found all watercourses within the survey area and for approximately 50m in each direction were thoroughly searched for evidence of otter (*Lutra lutra*) activity by looking for the following signs in line with the P Chanin (2003). *Monitoring the Otter* and *Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers: Monitoring Series No10 Guidelines:-*

* Otter prints in soft mud.
* Otter spraints.
* Otter Holts.

2.6. The survey area was searched for watercourses and waterbodies. Where found, and where safe to enter the water, all were thoroughly searched for the presence of crayfish, for approximately 50m in each direction of the site, by searching under rocks and logs. Where stated, crayfish traps were also deployed into the watercourse. All survey work was carried out in accordance with the *Conserving Natural 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No 1, Protocol for Monitoring the White Clawed Crayfish*.

2.7. The survey area was searched for mature trees and derelict buildings and where found these were checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines ( 3rd edn)* by looking for the following signs:-

* Holes, cracks or crevices.
* Bat Droppings.

2.8. The land immediately adjacent to the survey area was assessed for bat roosting potential and bat foraging potential. Connective routes and flight lines were also assessed whilst on site and using maps of the area.

2.9. The area within 500m of the survey site was cross referenced to maps to highlight all ponds close to the site. Where possible, all ponds identified were accessed using agreed access or public rights of way to assess the potential for great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) to be present.

2.10. The survey area was assessed for the potential for reptiles and suitable reptile habitats. Where applicable the area was also searched for the presence of reptiles.

2.11. Where appropriate, the habitat within and surrounding the survey area was searched for species such as hazel, oak, honeysuckle, bramble and other species which may provide potential habitat for hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). Field signs such as feeding remains and nests were also searched for where possible, in line with P Bright, P Morris and T Mitchell-Jones *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook 2nd Ed*.

2.12. Where appropriate, the area within and surrounding the survey area was assessed for its potential to house habitat for red squirrels. Field signs of red squirrels

were searched for at least every 50m, looking for any dreys, feeding signs or sightings of red squirrels.

2.13. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice.

2.14. This survey was carried out by Laura Hobbs BSc, MRes, Grad CIEEM. Since 2013 Laura has had experience in a professional capacity carrying out ecology, protected species and phase 1 habitat surveys. Laura holds degrees in Zoology (BSc) and Evolutionary Biology (MRes); Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage and Natural Resources Wales survey licences for Great Crested Newts and Bats; a Natural England licence for Schedule 1 Birds; and is a Graduate member of CIEEM. Laura has also completed numerous professional courses run by National Biodiversity Network (NBN), Field Studies Council (FSC), Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT), Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), CIEEM and others in relative protected species and phase 1 survey methodologies; and has completed a traineeship with YWT focusing on conservation and survey methods for water voles.

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# 3. SURVEY RESULTS.

### 3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. Barnsley Biological Records Council (BBRC) and South Yorkshire Badger Group were contacted to carry out a 2km data search within the area of the site for records of protected sites and /or species. Full results can be found within Appendix VIII of this report.

3.1.2. Stairfoot Brickworks, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) was identified approximately 1.65km to the south east of the surveyed area. The site is designated for its internationally important Aegiranum Marine Bank, the full citation for this site can be found in Appendix IX of this report.

3.1.3. Dearne Valley Park, a Local Nature Reserve lies 460m to the northwest of the surveyed area (fig 1). The site comprises an acid oak woodland with a mosaic of wetland habitat.

3.1.4. Numerous additional Local Wildlife Sites were identified within the area surrounding the site. These included:

- Stairfoot Disused Railway to the east of the site. This site contains a range of habitats including species rich grasslands, scrub, woodland, bracken stands, swamp and open water. The site contains a number of ancient woodland indicator species and UK BAP breeding birds.
- Sunny Bank , Horse Carr and Storrs Wood to the east of the site. This site comprises five separate areas of broadleaved semi-natural woodland which are connected through tree lined fields, tracks and disused railways. All five areas are on the register of ancient woodland sites. Kingfisher, a Schedule 1 species, otter and UK BAP breeding birds are present on site.
- Swaithe Flood Meadows to the south of the site. This site is currently an arable field with boundaries of species-poor hedgerows and ephemeral pools/marshy grassland areas. UK BAP breeding birds are present on site along with Barn Owl, a Schedule 1 species, bluebells and potential for water vole.
- Cliff Wood Local Wildlife Site also lies within Dearne Valley Park to the west of the site. Cliff Wood includes habitats of broadleaved woodland, with areas of open neutral grassland, scrub, bodies of standing water with associated

swamp habitat and areas of parkland. The site contains a number of ancient woodland indicator species and UK BAP breeding birds.

- Old Mill Lane to the north west of the site. This site consists of broadleaved woodlands and floodplains with bodies of standing water. There is a known maternity roost of Daubenton's bat, with abundant records of common Pipistrelle bats, breeding Kingfishers, a Schedule 1 species and UK BAP breeding birds and otters.

Appendix VIII gives detail of these sites.

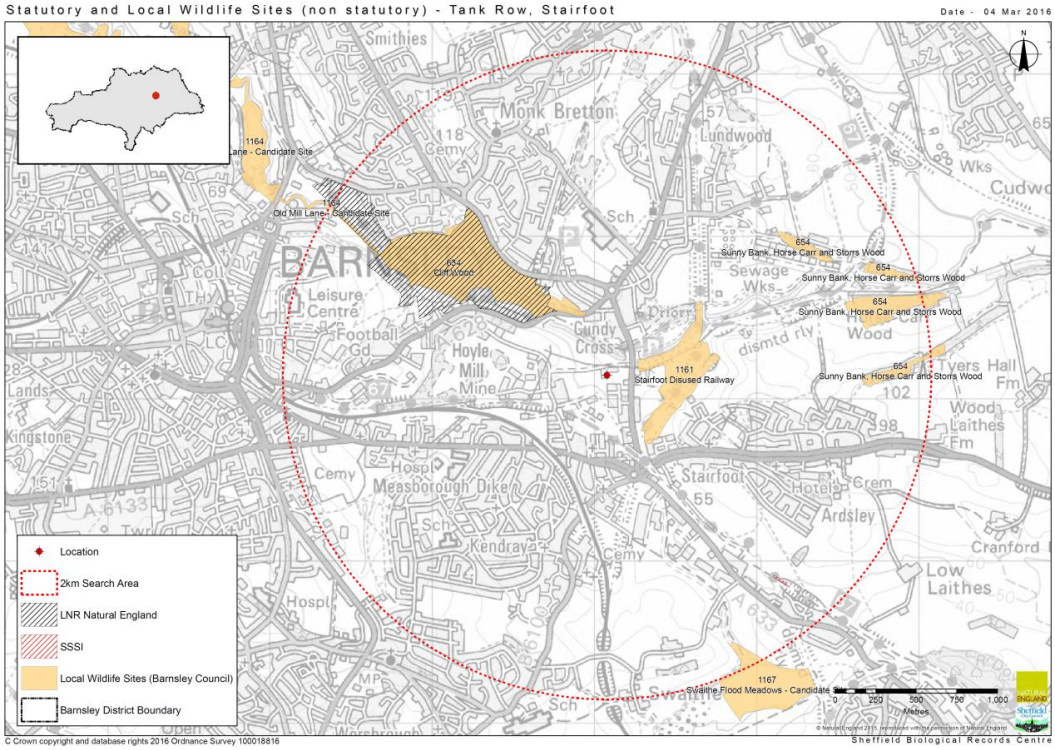


Figure 1. Map from BBRC showing all designated sites within area.

3.1.5. Records of Noctules, Daubenton's, Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats were identified within 2km of the surveyed area. No specificity of type of record was made for most of these records, but one Daubenton's, Natterer's and Pipistrelle roost was recorded 2km to the south west of the site. A badger sett was also located within this area. Additional records of otters, white clawed crayfish and water voles were identified within 2km of the surveyed area.

3.1.6. South Yorkshire Badger Group were also contacted for records of badgers and their setts within the area surrounding the site, no records were identified.

### 3.2. The Surveyed Area.

3.2.1. The surveyed area covered a section of land to the north west of C Soars and Sons yard located south of Tank Row, Barnsley.

3.2.2. The site lies 128m to the south of the River Dearne and is consequently surrounded by areas of woodland and open grassland, with built up industrial yards to the south (fig 2).


Figure 2. Aerial view of surveyed area and surrounding land.

3.2.3. An area immediately to the south of the site, shown as woodland on recent images and maps, has recently been cleared (fig 3). The adjacent surveyed area is dominated by semi-mature woodland and scrub. Piles of debris have been left on site, those thrown onto site from the roads, comprising of old Christmas trees, and those from the site itself comprising of digger buckets and piles of felt and plastic waste.

Figure 3. Area of cleared woodland to south of site.

### 3.3. Description of Habitats.

3.3.1. Appendix V of this report contains annotated maps marked up with the varying habitats that are cross referenced to target notes in Appendix VI of this report. The habitats on and adjacent to the site are:-

- Semi-Natural Woodland.
- Tall Ruderal
- Fence
- Hard standing

*3.3.2. Semi-Natural Woodland.*

3.3.2.1. The proposed development area was dominated by semi-mature semi-natural woodland no older than 20 years old (fig 4).

Figure 4. Woodland habitat on site.

3.3.2.2. Species found within this area included silver birch (*Betula pendula*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), gorse (*Ulex eruopaeus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sycamore (Acer pseudoplantus), alder (Alnus glutinosa), snowberry (*Symphoricarpus* sp.) and hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*).

3.3.2.3. Little to no ground flora could be identified at this time due to the level of leaf litter present; however some species of thistle (*Cirsium* sp.) were present.

*3.3.3. Tall Ruderal.*

3.3.3.1. To the east of the site a patch of ruderal vegetation was present.

Figure 5. Tall ruderal habitat on site.

3.3.3.2. Species present within this area included buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), dock (*Rumex acetosella*), nettles (*Urtica dioica*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), broadleaved willowherb (*Epilobium montanum*), false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and buttercup species *(Ranunculus* sp.).

*3.3.4. Fence.*

3.3.4.1. The site is bounded to the north and west by palisade fencing.

Figure 5. Palisade fencing along north of site.

*3.3.5. Hard Standing.*

3.3.5.1. To the south of the surveyed area lies the industrial yard associated with C Soars and Sons, this yard to hard standing concrete ground used for storage of materials and HGV parking (fig 6).

3.3.5.2. The surveyed woodland area lies on a raised section of ground, with a concrete wall below.


Figure 6. Hard standing yard to south of site.

**3.4. Description of Fauna.**

3.4.1. No badger setts or other badger field signs were identified within the surveyed area.

3.4.2. No watercourses lie within close proximity of the site to provide potential habitat for water voles, otters or crayfish. The River Dearne lies 128m to the north of the site, sufficient distance to remain unaffected by any proposed works.

3.4.3. All trees were inspected in line with BCT Good Practice Guidelines; no individual tree was identified to provide any roosting habitat for bats.

3.4.4. Woodland habitat provides suitable features for foraging bats. The small size of this area is however unlikely to provide significant opportunities, with more valuable

habitat located towards the River Dearne. A thorough assessment of bat foraging activity could not be made during this daytime survey of the site.

3.4.5. One pond was identified within close proximity to the site, which may provide potential habitat for great crested newts (fig 7). This could not be thoroughly assessed at this time as it lies on private land outside of the surveyed area. The pond is however, isolated with no other ponds with 500m with barriers of residential housing and the River Dearne between any other areas of suitable habitat.

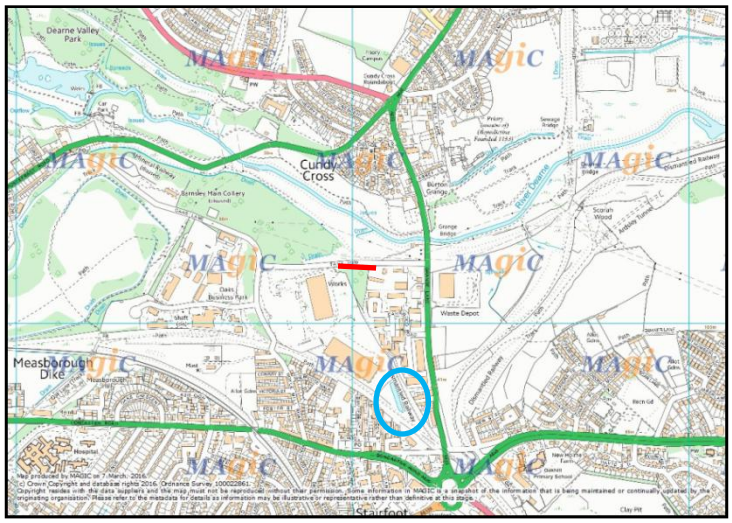


Figure 7. Map of ponds in area surrounding site.

3.4.6. The area surrounding the pond and on site, is however dominated by woodland and scrub which will provide suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts. This habitat is however very local and does not provide any significant connective routes to areas of suitable habitat.


Figure 8. Aerial view of pond and surrounding land.

3.4.7. The vegetation within the surveyed area will provide suitable features for various species of bird during the nesting season. Two nests were identified within the surveyed area; however these did not appear to be active at the time of the survey.

3.4.8. The surveyed area will provide some features suitable for reptiles due to the abundance of refugia provided by debris on site and scrub vegetation (fig 9). This habitat is however limited with better quality habitat away from site. No reptiles were identified during this survey of the site.

Figure 9. Suitable reptile habitat on site.

3.4.9. The habitat on site was assessed as unsuitable for hazel dormice. No dormice or dormouse field signs were identified during this survey of the site.

3.4.10. The habitat on site was assessed as unsuitable for red squirrels, with more suitable habitat located to the north towards the River Dearne. No red squirrels or squirrel field signs were identified during this survey of the site.

3.4.11. No invasive non native plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) were identified during this survey of the site.

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# 4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. Stairfoot Brickworks SSSI, Dearne Valley Park, a Local Nature Reserve and five Local Wildlife Sites were identified within 2km of the surveyed area. These all lie sufficient distance from site to remain unaffected by proposed works.

4.2. Mixed deciduous woodland is a habitat of principal importance in line with the NERC Act. It is therefore considered to have a high ecological value due to the range of species which can take advantage of its features. However, the area of woodland on site is young and is not considered to be a high value woodland area. The areas to the north of the site surrounding the River Dearne are more established and are considered to be of higher ecological value. The loss of this small area of woodland is therefore considered to have a low impact on the ecological value of this area.

4.3. Scrub habitat is also considered to provide high ecological value due to the number of species which can take advantage of its features. However the small size of this area means the loss of scrub habitat on site will have a low impact on the surrounding ecological value.

4.4. No badger setts or other badger field signs were identified within the surveyed area. There will therefore be no impact upon badgers during works.

4.5. No watercourses lie within close proximity to site to provide potential habitat for water voles, otters or crayfish. There will therefore be no impact upon these species during proposed works.

4.6. No individual tree was assessed to have roosting potential for bats. There will therefore be no impact upon any bat roost during proposed works.

4.7. The site will provide some opportunities for foraging bats, although this is thought to be limited due to the small size of suitable habitat and nearby location of more valuable foraging habitat along the River Dearne to the north of the site. The watercourse itself and tree lines and woodland habitat along the banks will provide extensive suitable foraging habitat. Works will consequently have minimal impact upon foraging bats.

4.8. One pond was identified within close proximity to the surveyed area which may provide habitat for great crested newts. It has however, been assessed as unlikely to

contain a population of great crested newts due to its isolation of further than 500m from any other waterbody and by barriers such as the River Dearne and extensive residential housing.

4.9. The area surrounding the pond and found on site provides suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts, although this is not extensive. It has therefore been assessed as very unlikely to great crested newts to be present on site.

4.10. The vegetation on site will provide suitable features for various species of bird during the nesting season, which extends from March to September each year with nests identified within vegetation on site. Any vegetation clearance to take place during this time will impact upon any birds present.

4.11. The surveyed area will provide some features suitable for reptiles due to the abundance of refugia provided by debris on site and scrub vegetation. This habitat is however limited and of a small size with higher quality habitat away from site. It is therefore unlikely for reptiles to be present on site.

4.12. The habitat on site was assessed as unsuitable for hazel dormice. There will therefore be no impact upon dormice during works.

4.13. The habitat on site was assessed as unsuitable for red squirrels, with more suitable habitat located to the north towards the River Dearne. There will therefore be no impact upon red squirrels during works.

4.14. No invasive non native plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) were identified during this survey of the site**.** There will therefore be no spread of invasive plant species during works.

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# 5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. Due to the very low potential presence of amphibians and reptiles on site; it is recommended that precautions are put in place to ensure no animals are injured during works. These should include the removal of all refugia, debris and logs on site by hand to allow any animal below to move away from site unharmed and of their own accord. Any materials to be stored on site must be raised off the ground in order to prevent the accidental creation of further refugia habitat. All vegetation should first be cleared to a maximum height of 150mm to allow any animal below to move away from site unharmed. At any time should a great crested newt or reptile be identified, all work should cease immediately and professional advice sought.

5.2. It is recommended that no vegetation clearance takes place during the nesting bird survey, which extends from March to September each year. Any clearance which must take place during this time must be preceded by a nesting bird survey carried out by a suitably experienced person, no further than a week in advance.

5.3. It is recommended that the area surrounding the new build is planted with a diverse range of native tree species which will raise the biodiversity and ecological value of the site should they be allowed to mature. Areas of planting should be focused along the site boundary, between the boundary fence and new build in mitigate the loss of vegetation currently present in this area. Planting should also be carried out to the east of the site surrounding the proposed concrete drive; and within any other suitable areas on site.

5.4. It is also recommended that a native seed mix is used on the area surrounding the build to allow a more diverse ground flora to establish.

5.5. The steel clad building will provide little ecological opportunities for any species. Therefore, in order to improve the ecological value of site for fauna, it is recommended that a variety of nesting bird and bat boxes are erected on the surrounding trees where suitably mature and/or poles where trees are not sufficiently mature. The location, height and design of boxes should be approved by a professional ecologist prior to their erection on site.

5.6. Should these recommendations be followed, the site will display an increased level of biodiversity and ecological value than it currently offers.

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|---|---|
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| Checked by: | |
|---|---|
| Derek Whitcher. BSc, MCIEEM, MCMI. | Date: 10th March 2016. |

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# Appendix I.

# BACKGROUND GREAT CRESTED NEWT INFORMATION.

The great crested newt population has suffered a major decline in Britain over the last century. Numerous ponds have been lost, unmanaged ponds have become silted up and over-shaded, development has destroyed ponds and associated terrestrial habitat and caused fragmentation of populations. The loss of grassland, scrub and woodland has resulted in fewer opportunities for foraging, dispersal and hibernation.

The UK Biodiversity Plan (BAP) contains a great crested newt Species Action Plan (SAP) aimed at maintaining its existing range and population status, as well as increasing the number of populations through re-colonisation.

The great crested newt is listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The great crested newt is therefore subject to the provisions of Schedule 9, which make it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take a great crested newt.
- Possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a great crested newt.
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a great crested newt.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt while it is occupying a structure or place, which it uses for that purpose.

The great crested newt is also listed on Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Regulation 41 makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture or kill a great crested newt
- Deliberately disturb a great crested newt.
- Deliberately take or destroy the eggs of a great crested newt.
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a great crested newt.

The legislation applies to all life stages of great crested newts.

The maximum fine on conviction of offences under Section 9 and Regulation 41 currently stands at £5,000. The CroW Act 2000 amendment also allows for a custodial sentence of up to six months instead of, or in addition to, a fine. In addition, items, which may constitute evidence of the commission of an offence, may be seized and detained.

In order to understand the potential effects of development it is essential to understand a little of the great crested newt ecology.

Great crested newts breed in ponds and other water bodies. They can begin to migrate to their breeding ponds as early as the first frost-free days in late January with the

majority reaching their breeding ponds by mid March. Timing will be influenced by a number of factors, mainly evening temperatures above 5ºC and recent rain.

The peak egg-laying period is from mid-March to mid-May. The newts will lay their eggs individually, mainly on the leaves of submerged plants. The larva hatch after three weeks and then take another 2-3 months to complete larval development. Adult newts generally leave their breeding ponds from late May onwards.

Once the larvae have completed metamorphosis (the transition from aquatic larvae to land-adapted juveniles, called efts), they emerge from the pond. This emergence begins in late August and generally continues until late October. It takes 2-4 years to reach sexual maturity, during which time the newts will be land based.

Adults and immature newts spend the winter in places that afford protection from frost and flooding. This will generally be underground amongst tree roots, in mammal burrows, or under suitable refuges above ground like deadwood or rubble piles. Hibernation may last from October to February.

Whilst on land, outside the hibernation period, great crested newts will forage at night, taking a wide range of invertebrate prey.

From the above, it can be seen that great crested newts spend the majority of their time on land and only visit the ponds for breeding purposes. As a result, surveys need to be timed very carefully. Terrestrial surveys are very inaccurate and the only time that surveys can be truly thorough is in the narrow window of opportunity between March and September.

Great crested newts will travel large distances between ponds and terrestrial refuges. It is recommended that anywhere within 500m of a pond should be treated as potential great crested newt habitat and should be surveyed and evaluated.

An experienced surveyor must carry out the surveys and must be in possession of an appropriate Natural England great crested newt survey licence.

It is essential that great crested newt surveys are planned well in advance of any development and ideally before Planning Consent is sought. Surveys can only be carried out at the appropriate time of year and repeat surveys are essential. The guidelines suggest that between four and six surveys need to be carried out, three of these between mid-March and mid-June.

If great crested newts are to be effected by any development, a thorough assessment of the population is essential followed by the design of a comprehensive mitigation package. Only when this has been done can a licence application be submitted to Natural England for approval. It takes 30 working days for a licence application to be determined and the period of time that mitigation measures take can be measured in months. It is therefore essential to plan well in advance of development commencing.

# Appendix II. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

It is necessary to understand a little about the legal protection offered to nesting birds in order to evaluate the findings of this report.

Part 1.-(1) Of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981states that:-

If any person intentionally:-

(a) kills, injures or takes any wild bird;
(b) takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or
(c) takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird,

he shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1.-(5) of the Act states that:-

If any person intentionally:-

(a) disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or
(b) disturbs dependant young of such a bird,

he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after "intentionally" the words "or recklessly".

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September.

It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees, scrub and buildings but others are ground nesting.

The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

# Appendix III.

# REPTILES - GRASS SNAKE AND ADDER INFORMATION.

The grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) and the adder (*Vipera berus*) are the two most common snakes to be found in the UK. Adders are found all over Britain while the grass snake becomes rarer towards the north and are rarely found in Scotland.

The grass snake is usually around 120cm long, live in a variety of rough habitats and lay their eggs in warm rotting vegetation. The background colour is dark green and the body is marked with vertical black bars and spots that run along its sides. There is generally a dark collar marking.

The adder is the only native species that is venomous but this is rarely harmful to humans. Adult adders are generally up to 66cm long. Background colouration is a light shade of grey or brown with a black zigzag marking along the length of the back. As with all reptiles, colouration varies and becomes duller as sloughing (skin shedding) approaches.

Both snakes hibernate, spending the winter in burrows or under logs protected from the cold and predators. Maintaining the right body temperature is vital to reptiles' survival. In the morning, they find a warm basking site to heat up their bodies, then later they may move back into the shade because they do not sweat and have to be careful not to overheat. During hot summers, adders will try to move to damper, cooler sites.

Both snakes are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991. This means they are protected against intentional or recklessly killing and injuring and against sale or transporting for sale.

# Appendix IV. REPTILES - LIZARD INFORMATION.

The common or viviparous lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) is one of three species of lizard that occur in the UK. They have a dry scaly skin and are variable in colour ranging from brown or yellow-brown to almost green with varying patterns of spots or stripes. The typical length of an adult is 150mm, including the tail.

Common lizards hibernate over the winter, emerging from February onwards depending upon the weather. They begin to mate in April and May and the young are born in late July or August. The lizard gives birth to live young, hence the term viviparous, meaning live bearing.

The lizards draw their body warmth from the sun and consequently spend long periods basking in the sun. They are commonly seen on road and railway embankments and on walls where they sit for long periods soaking up the heat of the sun before going to find food.

They occupy a wide range of habitats including woodland, marshes, heathland, moors, sand dunes, hedgerows and bogs.

Common lizards hunt insects, spiders, snails and earthworms. They stun their prey by shaking it and then swallow it whole.

At night, and when startled, they will shelter beneath logs or stones or under other refuges that may be available.

Common lizards are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (they received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991) and Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) making it a European Protected Species.

Common lizards should not be confused with the somewhat larger sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*). These are typically 190mm long and stockier than the common lizard. Their marking are distinctly different being considerably more colourful. Sand lizards are confined to moorland and coastal sand dunes where they lay their eggs in the warm sand. The range of the sand lizard in the UK is therefore very limited. Sand lizards are a European protected species.

The third species of lizard is the slow worm *(Anguis fragilis)*, which is frequently mis-identified as a snake. The firm body of the slow worm is distinctly cylindrical in shape and the tiny smooth scales result in a very smooth, shiny appearance. Colouration is typically a uniform grey to brown although there is a wide variation from straw coloured to almost black and some animals have very fine stripes or a zig-zag along the centre of the back. The typical length of an adult is 400mm.

Slow worms can be found in a wide variety of habitats throughout Britain and is the most likely reptile to be found in urban and suburban environments.

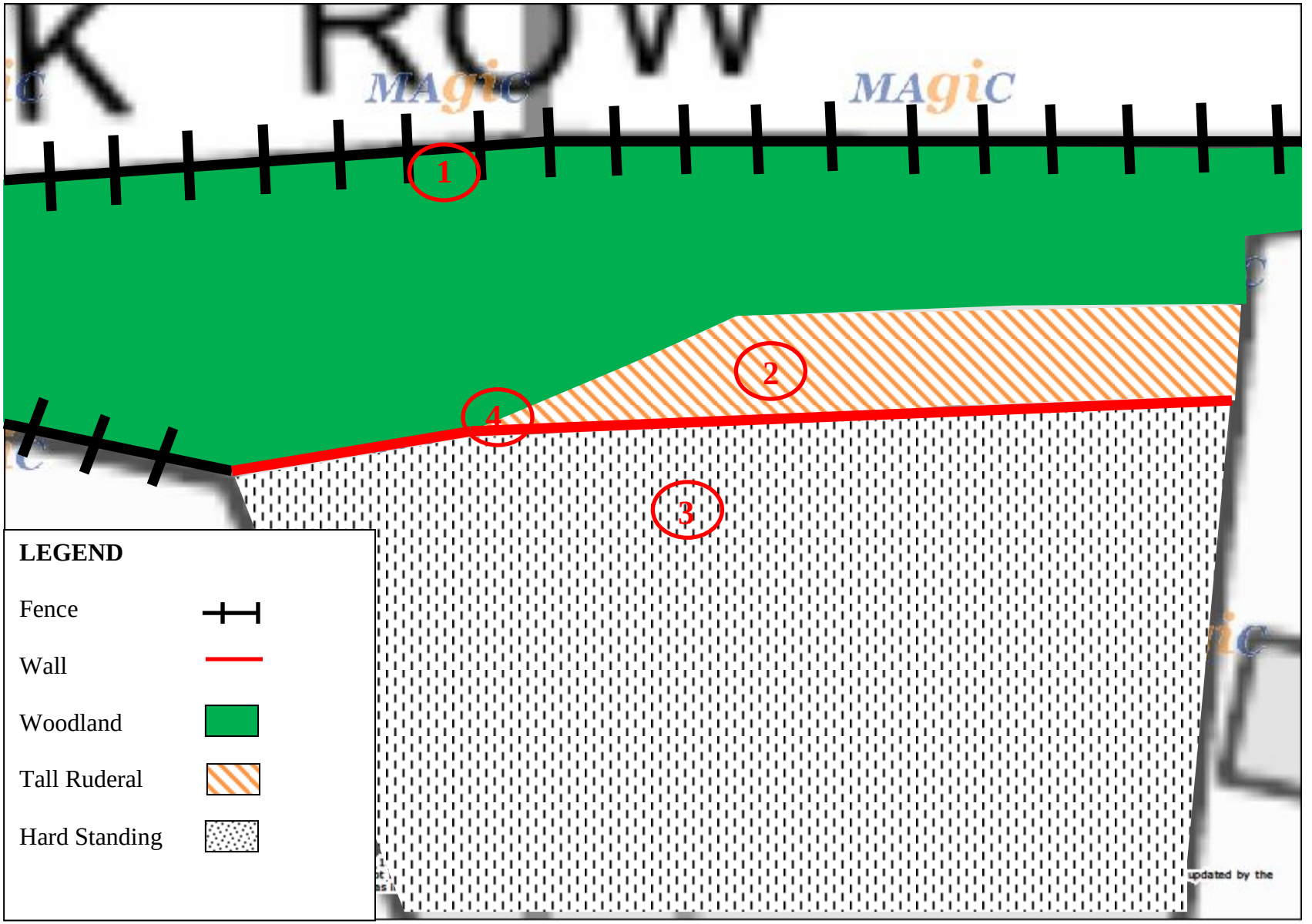
Slow worms hibernate over the winter, emerging from March onwards depending upon the weather. They begin to mate in April and May and six to twelve young are born in August or September.

Their favourite food is slugs but they will also eat insects and spiders.

Slow worms are hard to find. They will bask in the sun but they quickly and quietly move into cover when disturbed and do not generally attract attention as they retreat from a basking spot.

Slow worms are also protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991. This means they are protected against intentional or recklessly killing and injuring and against sale or transporting for sale.

## Appendix V. ANNOTATED MAP OF THE SURVEY AREA.



# Appendix VI. TARGET NOTES.

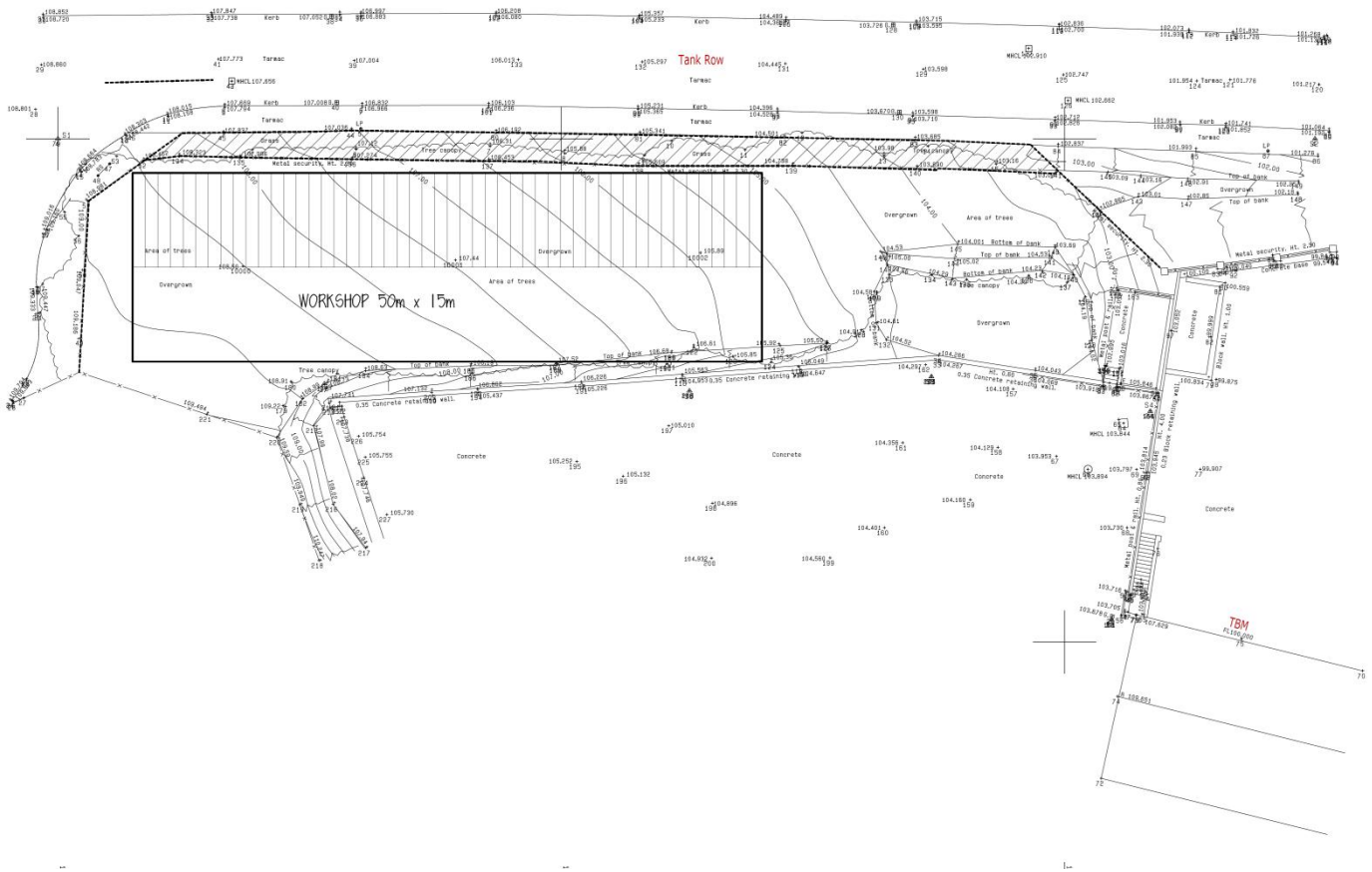
1. Discarded Christmas trees over fence of site.
2. Areas of reptile refugia, digger buckets and piles of stone.
3. Parked HGV’s.
4. Concrete Wall.

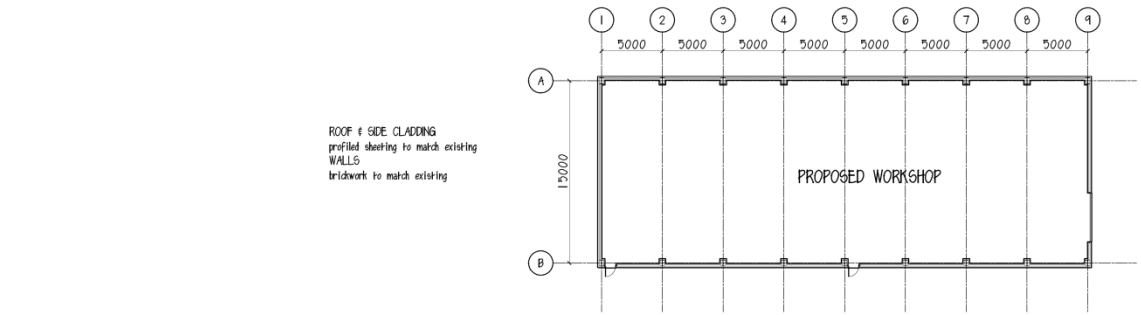
# Appendix VII. SPECIES LISTS.

| **Woodland Species**. | **DAFOR Assessment.** |
|---|---|
| silver birch (*Betula pendula*) | A |
| hazel (*Corylus avellana*) | O |
| elder (*Sambucus nigra*) | O |
| hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) | F |
| bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) | D |
| gorse (*Ulex eruopaeus*) | F |
| ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) | O |
| sycamore (Acer pseudoplantus) | F |
| alder (Alnus glutinosa) | A |
| snowberry (*Symphoricarpus* sp.) | O |
| hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) | O |
| thistle (*Cirsium* sp.) | A |

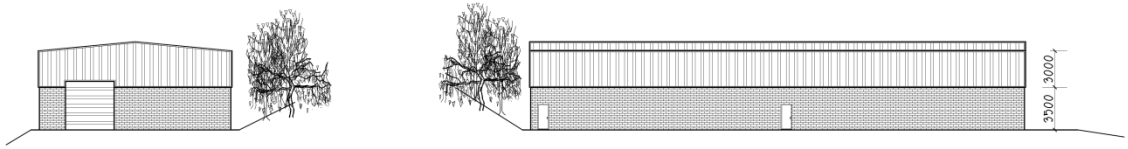
| **Tall Ruderal Species.** | **DAFOR Assessment.** |
|---|---|
| buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*) | A |
| bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) | D |
| dock (*Rumex acetosella*) | D |
| nettles (*Urtica dioica*) | F |
| ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) | F |
| broadleaved willowherb (*Epilobium montanum*) | A |
| false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) | A |
| creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) | A |
| annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*) | A |
| dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) | O |
| dog rose (*Rosa canina*) | O |
| buttercup species *(Ranunculus* sp.) | O |

# Appendix VIII. WORKSHOP DESIGN PROPOSAL.



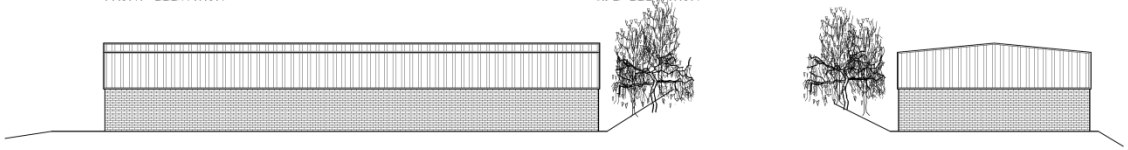



ROOF & SIDE CLADDING
profiled sheeting to match existing
WALLS
brickwork to match existing




FRONT ELEVATION

SIDE ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION

REAR ELEVATION

C. SOAR & SONS LTD

PROPOSED WORKSHOP
OLD TANK ROW
OFF GRANGE LANE
STAIRFOOT

PLAN & ELEVATIONS

1:200@A2 FEB15

**Peter Thompson** M.B.I.A.T.
Linwood
Barnsley Road
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# Toolbox Talk : Great Crested Newts

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants

The great crested newt population has suffered a major decline in Britain over the last century. Numerous ponds have been lost, unmanaged ponds have become silted up and over-shaded, development has destroyed ponds and associated terrestrial habitat and caused fragmentation of populations. The loss of grassland, scrub and woodland has resulted in fewer opportunities for foraging, dispersal and hibernation.

**Identification: Great Crested Newts.**

Great crested newts are dark, nearly black in colour with a speckled belly, distinctly orange in colour and with orange stripes across their toes. Great crested newts can grow up to 15cm in length.

**Identification: Smooth and Palmate Newts.**

Smooth newts are predominantly lighter in colour although their colour may vary from sandy coloured to very dark. Smooth newts also have a speckled orange belly but the orange colour fades to pale.

Palmate newts are similar to smooth newts but with a pinker belly and wedded feet.

**Habitat.**

Great crested newts live predominantly on land but breed in ponds between March and June.

Great crested newts may be found on land almost all year round. They spend the daytime under rocks or logs, in cracks, crevices or holes, or anywhere that is moist and cool and emerge at night to forage. During the winter months great crested newts hibernate deep down away from frost.

When disturbed in terrestrial habitats newts will usually be very sluggish and will take time to move away.

**Legislation.**

The great crested newt is listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, recently modified by the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000. The great crested newt is therefore subject to the provisions of Schedule 9, which make it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take a great crested newt.
- Possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a great crested newt.
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a great crested newt.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.

The great crested newt is also listed on Annex II and Annex IV of The Conservation (Natural Habitats & C) Regulations 1994. Regulation 39 makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture or kill a great crested newt.
- Deliberately disturb a great crested newt.
- Deliberately take or destroy the eggs of a great crested newt.
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a great crested newt.

The legislation applies to all life stages of great crested newts.

The maximum fine on conviction of offences under Section 9 and Regulation 39 currently stands at £5,000. The CroW Act 2000 amendment also allows for a custodial sentence of up to six months instead of, or in addition to, a fine. In addition, items, which may constitute evidence of the commission of an offence, may be seized and detained.

**If great crested newts are identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk**

# Toolbox Talk : Amphibians

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants

**Identification: Smooth Newts.**

Smooth newts can grow to around 10cm in length. They are usually brown in colour, often with visible black spots on the upper body. Their belly is pale orange with black spots fading away to the sides. The males have a wavy crest running from head to tail, although this can sometimes only be visible in water.

**Identification: Palmate Newts.**

Palmate newts are very similar to smooth newts but are usually smaller, to around 9cm. Their throat is usually pink and unspotted. The males often have webbed back feet and a fine filament at the end of the tail during the breeding season.

**Identification: Common Frogs.**

Common frogs are one of the more common amphibians in the UK. They have smooth skin with a distinctive patch behind their eyes. They are predominantly green or brown with black patches although their colour can vary through orange, red or black.

**Identification: Common Toads.**

Common toads are a Species of Principal Importance in the UK.

Common toads have rough warty skin with two distinctive lumps behind the eyes. When disturbed they have a tendency to remain still, when moving they crawl rather than hopping.

**Other Amphibians.**

In addition to the common amphibians listed adjacent there are also three other species present in the UK, those being great crested newts, natterjack toads and pool frogs. These species are less common.

The species are also afforded a higher level of protection because they are European Protected Species.

**Habitat.**

Amphibians predominantly live on land but breed in ponds. The aquatic requirements for each species vary slightly although the presence of one species does not rule out the potential presence of the other species.

When not in their ponds amphibians require a variety of refugia for shelter and can therefore be found under log piles, in rubble, under tree roots or within areas of scrub or rough grassland. Amphibians hibernate, spending the winter in burrows or under logs protected from the cold and predators.

**Legislation.**

The common amphibians listed above are protected only by Section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This section prohibits sale, barter, exchange, transporting for sale and advertising to sell or to buy. Collection and keeping of these amphibians is not an offence.

The common toad is also listed as a Species of Principal Importance in the UK.

**If amphibians are identified during works, allow them to move away of their own accord.**
**If large numbers or amphibians (5+) are identified stop works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk**

# Toolbox Talk : Reptiles

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants

**Identification: Grass Snakes.**

The grass snake can be up to 120cm long. It is generally dark green in colour but may occasionally appear grey with vertical black bars and spots that run along its sides. There is usually a yellow marking around the neck.

**Identification: Adders.**

The adder is the only native species that is venomous but it is rarely harmful to humans. Adult adders are generally up to 66cm long. Back ground colouration is a light shade of grey or brown with a back zig-zag marking along the length of the back. As with all reptiles, colouration varies and becomes duller as sloughing (skin shedding) approaches.

**Identification: Slow Worms.**

Slow worms grow to around 45cm in length. The males and females display a marked difference in colour when fully grown. In general the species displays colouring that varies from light brown, dark brown, grey, bronze or brick red with the females often displaying a dark vertebral stripe and both males and females displaying occasional markings on the flanks.

**Identification: Common Lizards.**

Common lizards grow to around 16cm. They are grey brown to dark brown, often with a darker streak that may run the entire length of the spine. A continuous dark band bordered by light yellow or white spots is often seen on either side of the body. The underside of the males is egg yolk yellow to orange spotted with black. Females are yellowish grey.

**Other Reptiles.**

In addition to the reptiles outlined on this document there are also two other reptile species in Great Britain, the smooth snakes and the sand lizard. These reptiles are a lot less common then the four species covered with the smooth snake being predominantly found on heathland in southern England and the sand lizard found throughout Great Britain in coastal dune areas.

These species are also afforded a higher level of protection because they are European Protected Species.

**Habitat.**

Maintaining the right body temperature is vital to reptiles' survival. In the morning they find a warm basking site to heat up their bodies and then later they may move back into the shade so as not to overheat. Hence, reptiles require a habitat that provides a range of suitable refugia for shelter such as dense vegetation, rubble or log piles, or crevices and open areas for basking such as bare ground, rocks or railway ballast shoulders. During hot summers reptiles may be found in damper, cooler sites. Reptiles hibernate, spending the winter in burrows or under logs protected from the cold and predators.

When disturbed in their natural habitat reptiles will usually move away quickly.

**Legislation.**

Reptiles are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They received greater protection following reviews of the schedules published in 1988 and 1991. This means they are protected against intentional or recklessly killing and injuring and against sale or transporting for sale.

**If reptiles are identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk**