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REPTILE SURVEY – POPULATION ASSESSMENT

**Land at Grimethorpe Colliery, Grimethorpe, South
Yorkshire, S72 7FZ
(Grid Ref: SE 3993 0851)**

**–
March – June 2023**

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Client: | Oakland Golf and Leisure |
| Issue Date: | 28 th August 2023 |
| Surveys Conducted: | March – June 2023 |

1 Introduction

Planning permission is being proposed for re-landscaping on land at Grimethorpe Colliery, Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire (Grid Ref: SE 3993 0851).

An initial assessment was carried out in May 2022 by Environmental Business Solutions (EBS) as part of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal survey. These initial surveys confirmed the presence of suitable habitat for breeding reptiles within the Site and records showed that Slow worm, Grass Snake and Common Lizard had been noted within the wider area.

Environmental business Solutions (EBS) were commissioned to conduct full reptile presence / absence surveys to fully assess the site. The objectives of the surveys were to:

- Determine presence/likely absence of reptiles on site
- Determine the population size if reptiles are present
- Determine if the site qualifies as a “Key Reptile Site”
- To advise on future possible surveys
- To advise on possible mitigation should development commence

All reptile surveys (9 in total) were conducted as per JNCC Herpetofauna Working Manual and Frog life’s guidelines over the months of April – June 2023 . The results showed no signs of reptiles being present on Site. It is therefore the opinion of EBS that a Natural England Protected Species Licence is not required for this site.

This report should be read in conjunction with Environmental Business Solutions report “Preliminary Ecological Appraisal – on land at Grimethorpe Colliery, Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire (Grid Ref: SE 3993 0851).). – September 2022.

Bill Gaudie
Hons. (Wildlife Conservation), MCIEEM
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2 Methodology

- 2.1 The reptile presence / absence survey was undertaken during March – June 2023.
- 2.2 The survey was supervised by Mr Bill Gaudie Bsc hons (Wildlife Conservation) MCIEEM.
- 2.3 The survey was conducted using artificial refugia made from roofing felt (tins) approximately 0.5m² at a density ≥ 25 tins per ha. They were placed to provide shelter and basking opportunities for reptiles, which can be recorded on or under the refugia in suitable weather conditions. Natural refugia (rocks, logs etc) were also searched. The survey followed the recommended methodology outlined in the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (JNCC, 2003) and Froglife's Advice Sheet 10 (1999).
- 2.4 Tins were placed on the 18th March 2023 (See Fig 1 for areas of tins placement). The tins were left unattended and thought to be bedded in by 7th April 2023.
- 2.5 The area also contained small amounts of 'natural' refugia and basking areas (small log piles, waste piles, etc), these areas were subjected to searches along with the above tins.
- 2.6 A total of 8 survey visits were conducted with inspections to both the artificial refugia and the newly marked 'natural' refugia.
- 2.7 On each visit, all refuge was lifted and the number, sex and species of any reptile observed were recorded (if any).
- 2.8 Transects were also walked in desirable areas for signs of reptile activity.
- 2.9 All visits were conducted in weather conditions suitable for recording reptile activity i.e. Temperature between 9 and 18°C.
- 2.10 All refugia was replaced as near as possible to original position after examination.
- 2.11 See Appendix 1 for site layout, tins positions and transect.

3 Results

- 3.1 In all 8 site visits were made from the 31st March to 26th June 2023 after tins were bedded in.
- 3.2 No reptiles were noted on any visit
- 3.3 No signs of reptile presence were noted on any visit.
- 3.4 Using the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (JNCC, 2003) and Froglife's Advice Sheet 10 (1999). The site does not qualify as a "Key Reptile Site".
- 3.5 Natural England Protected Species Licence is not required for this Site.

Table 1 Reptile survey results with date and weather conditions for each visit.
Key: M = Male Adult; F = Female Adult; Ad = Unsexed Adult; I = Immature, Y = Young

| Reptile Population Surveys –Grimethorpe Colliery, Grimethorpe, (Grid Ref: SE 3993 0851). | | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---|---|--|-------------------|
| Date / Weather | | | | | | |
| | Sand Lizard (<i>Lacerta agilis</i>) | Adder (<i>Vipera berus</i>) | Grass Snake (<i>Natrix natrix</i>) | Slow Worm (<i>Anguis fragilis</i>) | Common Lizard (<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>) | Comments |
| | Number (Area) | Number (Area) | Number (Area) | Number (Area) | Number (Area) | |
| 180323 - Noon Temp 07°C - Rain Nil | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | "Tins" laid down. |
| 070423 - Noon Temp 11°C - Rain Nil | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 150423 - Noon Temp 10°C - Rain Nil early drizzle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 220423 - Noon Temp 14°C - Rain Nil | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 090523 - Noon Temp 16°C - Rain Nil | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 150523 - Noon Temp 18°C - Rain Nil | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 250523 - Noon Temp 17°C - Rain Nil | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 120623 - Noon Temp 17°C - Rain Nil | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 260623 – Noon Temp 18°C - Rain Nil | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Tins removed |

Conclusions

Thorough reptile presence / absence surveys were conducted over the months of March through to June 2022 on land at former Grimethorpe Colliery . All reptile surveys (8 in total) were conducted as per JNCC Herpetofauna Working Manual and Frog life's. The results showed no signs of reptiles being present on Site. It is therefore concluded that a Natural England Protected Species Licence is not required for this site. No further surveys are necessary at the current time.

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References.

Froglife, 1999 **Froglife Advice Sheet 10**

Gent, T and Gibson, S (Eds.), 2003 **Herpetofauna Worker's Manual**. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

HMSO, 1981 **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)** HMSO, London. The Stationery Office, Norwich.

HMSO, 1994 **Conservation (Natural Habitats (&c.) Regulations 1994**. HMSO, London. The Stationary Office, Norwich.

1998 **HGBI Advisory Notes for Amphibians and Reptiles Groups**

Appendix 1

Site Layout and Artificial Refugia (Tins) Placements Former Grimethorpe Colliery March – June 2023

APPROXIMATE POSITION OF TINS - REPTILE PRESENCE SURVEY FORMER GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY MARCH – JUNE 2023

