
**Land at Johnson Drive
Finchampstead**

Report for:
Palatine Homes Limited
Ospreys
Scotswood Close
Beaconsfield
Buckinghamshire
HP9 2LJ

INTRODUCTION

AA Environmental Limited (AAe) was commissioned by Palatine Homes Limited to carry out a reptile translocation exercise at the above site, in accordance with the Reptile Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy produced by AAe (dated November 2024). This report details the findings of the exercise completed to date and provides further guidance, as necessary. A series of photographs has been attached for reference.

The consented schemes are for the erection of five or eight residential dwellings. This will require the demolition of the existing outbuildings and the clearance of some vegetation. The majority of the boundary vegetation will be retained, protected and enhanced as part of the works, with a series of wildlife corridors/areas provided.

LEGISLATION

All reptile species are protected at some level under Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)* and *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)*. The more common species of reptiles, which include slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*), common or viviparous lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), adder (*Vipera berus*) and grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) are protected by the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)* by part of *Section 9(1)* and all of *Section 9(5)*. This means that they are protected against intentional or reckless killing and injuring (but not 'taking') and against sale and transporting for sale.

METHODOLOGY

As reptiles have been recorded on the site, a targeted translocation exercise was agreed. The full details are provided within the Reptile Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy (dated November 2024), with the key measures summarised below:

Prior to the works, reptile proof fencing was erected to separate the 'construction zone' from the retained habitat. Also a number of hibernacula and log piles were created within the retained areas to provide enhancement measures for reptiles. All of this work was carried out carefully and directly supervised by an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).

A number of refugia (felt sheets) were positioned within the construction zone and left for a settlement period of at least a week. A number of site visits with a number of repeat lifts were completed in order to capture any reptiles that may be present. The lifts were conducted during suitable weather conditions and during the optimal months of April and May.

Any species found during the exercise would be caught and placed in a container and released within the retained habitat around the boundaries of the site.

RESULTS

During the exercise, no reptiles were recorded. The results from the lifts are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Translocation Results

Date	Weather	Slow-worm	Common Lizard	Grass Snake	Adder	Day Total
14.04.25	14°C, partly cloudy	0	0	0	0	0
02.05.25	20°C, sunny	0	0	0	0	0
07.05.25	15°C, partly cloudy	0	0	0	0	0
12.05.25	16°C, cloudy	0	0	0	0	0
16.05.25	15°C, sunny	0	0	0	0	0
20.05.25	18°C, sunny	0	0	0	0	0
22.05.25	15°C, sunny	0	0	0	0	0
28.05.25	17°C, cloudy	0	0	0	0	0
29.05.25	22°C, sunny	0	0	0	0	0

No other species of any note were found sheltering under any refugia lifted or elsewhere on site during the surveys.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No reptiles were found during the translocation exercise, with no other species of any note recorded. It is therefore considered that enough survey effort has been completed and the destructive search can now be carried out.

The destructive search will involve the removal of all vegetation to leave bare earth, which will be carried out under the direct supervision of the ECoW. Once this has been completed the construction phase can commence.

A final completion report will be submitted to the Council, which will summarise the findings of the destructive search and any ongoing control measures to be applied.

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Photograph Record Sheet



Photograph 1: Showing the reptile proof fencing, separating the 'construction zone' from the retained areas.



Photograph 2: Showing the 'construction zone' where the artificial refugia were placed.



Photograph 3: Showing the reptile proof fencing and Heras fencing, with retained habitat to the left.



Photograph 4: Showing one of the log piles created within the retained area in the north of the site.

Rev.	Details	Drawn Chkd.	Date
PROJECT Land at Johnson Drive Finchampstead			
TITLE Photograph Record Sheet			
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Scale NTS	Date 18.06.25	Drawn EC	Drg No. 233292/01
		Chkd. ARB	Rev.