

HOGWOOD FARM, FINCHAMPSTEAD

DETAILED REPTILE MITIGATION STRATEGY – PARCELS 4 and 5

Prepared for CALA Homes Thames Ltd

by

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site location and summary description

1.1.1 This report describes a Detailed Reptile Method Statement in relation to Parcels 4 and 5 of the development of approximately 110ha of land at Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead. The Parcels 4 and 5 development area comprises approximately 9ha of land, hereinafter referred to as 'the site'. The site centre is located by National Grid Reference SU 7653 6421. The study was commissioned by CALA Homes Thames Ltd in May 2024.

1.1.2 The Parcels 4 and 5 site is located to the north-west of the village of Finchampstead, Berkshire. In general terms, it comprises two fields supporting ruderal vegetation, bare ground, a small area of scrub and a hardstanding construction access track and compound area. The fields are bounded by areas of woodland, including ancient and aged woodland, in addition to native hedgerows with wet and dry ditches. The Parcels 4 and 5 site is bordered to the south by the existing Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) (delivered as part of the wider Hogwood Farm development); to the north by Parcels 2 and 3 of the development which are currently under construction; to the east by a future development parcel which currently comprises modified grassland and bare ground; and to the west by the A327 and Sheerlands Road, with ancient woodland and fields beyond. The location and boundary of the Parcels 4 and 5 site is shown in *Appendix A*.

1.1.3 The Parcels 4 and 5 site is part of a larger area covering a total of 110ha, hereinafter referred to as the 'wider site'. The wider site includes residential properties associated with Parcel 1 and a construction site associated with Parcel 2 in the north-west and a SANG in the south which comprises a mix of wetland, species-rich grassland, scrub and woodland habitats. In general terms, the western area of the wider site is comprised of three fields of disturbed ground dominated by short ruderal vegetation with scattered areas of tall ruderal vegetation and large spoil heaps bordered by mature trees and woodland with scrub field margins. The central and eastern areas of the site are comprised of areas of hardstanding and construction/disturbed ground bordered by mature treelines and woodland. The south-eastern areas of the site comprise two fields of semi-improved grassland fields intersected by a ditch with associated scrub and scattered trees. A species-rich hedgerow with trees adjacent to Park Lane is present along the southern boundary. Woodland shaws and copses are located in the northern, western and central areas of the site, including mixed, broadleaved and broadleaved plantation woodland types, some of which are included on Natural England's Inventory of Ancient Woodland. Wetland habitats within the site include drainage ditches and small streams associated with the field boundaries and several ponds in poor condition are located across the site. The wider site is bordered to the north by a construction site, the Bohunt School and the Hogwood Industrial Estate; to the east by Park Lane beyond which lie

residential dwellings and park homes; to the south by Park Lane and farmland; and to the west by A327 Reading Road and Sheerlands Road beyond which lie farmland and woodland. The wider area is dominated by agricultural land interspersed with woodland and residential properties.

- 1.1.4 Further information on the extent and composition of habitats across the Parcels 4 and 5 site and the wider site is provided in *Appendix A*.

1.2 Background and legislative context

- 1.2.1 Four species of reptile are widespread in England: Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*, Slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*, Common Lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, and Adder *Vipera berus*. The Sand Lizard *Lacerta agilis* and Smooth Snake *Coronella austriaca* are restricted to certain sand dune and heathland sites.

- 1.2.2 Reptiles can be found in a range of habitats and typically require a mosaic of vegetation types. Habitat interfaces are important, with reptiles requiring woodland, scrub or hedgerow for shelter, longer vegetation for hunting and patches of sheltered short turf, bare ground or log piles for basking areas. Areas that catch the sun (i.e. those with a southerly aspect) are preferred over those where direct sunlight is absent for most of the day. In addition, Grass Snakes favour damp habitats such as those associated with still and running water, grazing marshes, mires etc.

- 1.2.3 All species of reptile are protected through Sections 9(1) and 9(5) of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended). It is an offence to:

- Intentionally kill or injure any reptile; and/or
- Sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for the purposes of sale or publish advertisements to buy or sell any reptile.

Due to their rarity, Sand Lizards and Smooth Snakes have additional protection.

- 1.2.4 Reptiles across the UK have undergone significant declines in recent years and all species of reptile within the UK are listed as priority species on the UKBAP and listed as Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act. Section 40 of the Act requires that these species are a material consideration in the planning process.

1.3 Development proposals

- 1.3.1 Planning permission (O/2014/2179 and 140764) was granted in January 2017 for a hybrid application. This comprises:

- Outline permission for demolition of all existing buildings on site; up to 1,500 new dwellings; employment floor space; a Neighbourhood Centre; a primary school; sports pitches and associated pavilion building; highways infrastructure; associated

landscaping, public realm, open/green space and sustainable urban drainage systems; and

- Full permission for a 29.7ha Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) in the south of the site.

The hybrid planning permission was subsequently amended by a Section 73 application (181194) which was approved in November 2018.

1.4 Scope and purpose of the report

1.4.1 Reptile surveys of the site and wider site were conducted by HDA in 2017 (HDA, 2018), 2021 (HDA, 2021) and 2023 (HDA, 2024b). During the 2023 surveys no reptiles were recorded within the site or wider site. However, during the 2021 surveys, a low number of Slow-worm were recorded within the site and wider site and the presence of Grass Snake was identified within the wider site in 2017 and 2021. These update previous surveys of the site and wider site undertaken by Entec in 2008 and Amec in 2012 which identified 'low' populations of Common Lizard, Slow-worm and Grass Snake (Royal Haskoning DHV, 2014). Reptiles recorded within the Parcels 4 and 5 site during the 2021 reptile survey was limited to one Slow-worm located along the woodland boundary on the western edge of Parcels 4 and 5.

1.4.2 This Detailed Reptile Mitigation Strategy for Parcels 4 and 5 of the proposed development has been produced as a result of Planning Condition 26, which states:

“Prior to submission of any Reserved Matters applications other than pertaining to the Nine Mile Ride Extension South an outline reptile mitigation strategy shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. All sub phases of the development shall thereafter be designed to incorporate the requirements identified in the approved outline reptile mitigation strategy. All Reserved Matters applications for any sub phase of the development shall include a detailed reptile mitigation strategy that demonstrates how the relevant sub phases have been designed to incorporate the provisions of the outline reptile mitigation strategy and the detailed mitigation strategies shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details unless otherwise approved in writing by the local planning authority.”

1.4.3 In recognition of the historic presence of reptiles within the Parcels 4 and 5 site and the wider site and the requirements of Condition 26, this document provides a Detailed Reptile Mitigation Strategy for Parcels 4 and 5 that has been produced to ensure impact avoidance, minimisation and mitigation measures for reptiles are implemented within the Parcels 4 and 5 scheme. The measures identified are in keeping with the '2023 Reptile Survey and a Site-Wide Outline Reptile Mitigation Strategy' prepared for the wider site and Parcels 4 and 5 site in its entirety (HDA, 2024b).

2 PARCELS 4 AND 5 DETAILED REPTILE MITIGATION STRATEGY

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This section describes the methodology that will be employed to ensure that the Parcels 4 and 5 development scheme complements the Site-wide Outline Reptile Mitigation Strategy (HDA, 2024b) to maintain compliance with nature conservation legislation afforded to reptiles and maintain the favourable conservation status of the local reptile population. This methodology will be employed during construction of the Parcels 4 and 5 development unless otherwise agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

2.1.2 Although no reptiles were recorded at the site during the updated 2023 reptile survey, previously low numbers of Slow-worm, Grass Snake and Common Lizard have been recorded within the site and wider site. On this basis it is conceivable that very low numbers of Slow-worm, Grass Snake and Common Lizard may remain present at the site. The site is therefore considered to support very low numbers of Slow-worm, Grass Snake and Common Lizard and as such does not qualify as a SSSI, SINC or Key Reptile Site. The site is considered to be of no more than site value for Slow-worm, Grass Snake and Common Lizard. Notwithstanding this, the legal protection afforded to all reptiles still applies.

2.1.3 In accordance with the Site-wide Outline Reptile Mitigation Strategy (HDA, 2024b), as only very low numbers of Grass Snake, Slow-worm and Common Lizard are likely to be associated with the Parcels 4 and 5 site and the majority of suitable reptile habitat will be retained (including habitat corridors along the northern, eastern, southern and western site boundaries and bisecting Parcels 4 and 5) a full translocation exercise is not proposed for this phase of the development. Instead, a cautious approach to site clearance will be employed where suitable reptile habitat is to be lost, including sections of hedgerow along the site boundaries for access and any areas of scattered scrub and ruderal vegetation and refuge opportunities such as rubble piles located around the site boundaries. This will involve manipulation of habitats to displace reptiles present into areas of contiguous and improved habitats, following the stages set out below:

2.2 Stage 1: Habitat enhancement works

2.2.1 In accordance with the outline reptile mitigation strategy for the Parcels 4 and 5 development area and wider site (HDA, 2024b), the creation/enhancement of reptile receptor habitat focuses on the SANG which has been constructed and supports areas of grassland bordered by hedgerows and areas of woodland. Further areas of suitable reptile habitat will however be created in other areas of public open space within the Parcels 4 and 5 site, especially where these have good habitat connectivity to the SANG or suitable habitat elsewhere within the site or wider area. The prescriptions for

creation/enhancement of reptile habitats within the Parcels 4 and 5 site and the management of these areas are detailed within the Parcels 4 and 5 Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (HDA, 2024c) and shown on the SANG Masterplan (RPS, 2018a) and Overarching Landscape Strategy (RPS, 2018b). Those relevant to the Parcels 4 and 5 development area are summarised below.

2.2.2 The Parcels 4 and 5 development area is currently dominated by ruderal vegetation and bare ground (previously a fallow arable field and heavily sheep grazed semi-improved grassland) which provided limited opportunities for reptiles. In addition, limited areas of hedgerow, scrub and ditch habitats will be lost from the Parcels 4 and 5 site. In addition to the substantial reptile habitat creation works within the SANG and other areas of informal open space, the following measures within the Parcels 4 and 5 site are proposed to maintain opportunities for reptiles within this area of the site:

2.2.3 *Meadow grassland*

Areas of meadow grassland with a species-rich native sward will be established along the woodland margins associated with the western, southern and eastern site boundaries of the site; and the hedgerow corridors along the northern site boundary and the central hedgerow bisecting the site from east to west. Prescriptions of benefit to reptiles include:

- A 2.5m to 15m wide strip of meadow grassland immediately adjacent to hedgerows, scrub and woodland habitats, will be managed through cutting once per year. Of which, on rotation selected areas (10%) will be left during each mowing period in order to provide additional refuge habitat for reptiles, small mammals and invertebrates, and to encourage a more diverse flora; and
- Some of the grass cuttings will be used to create 'habitat piles' which will provide further opportunities for egg laying Grass Snakes.

2.2.4 *Hedgerows, woodland and scrub*

- Retained hedgerows and woodland will be strengthened through complementary scrub planting and infilling of existing gaps. New native species-rich hedgerows will be planted within and bordering the public open space along the southern and eastern site boundaries.
- Scrub is proposed in association with the retained central hedgerow and around the pump station. Once established selected areas of scrub will be coppiced on a short rotation of approximately 5 years in order to prevent succession into woodland. No more than 20% of the scrub will be coppiced in any one year. Arisings from the management would be used to create and maintain habitat piles (see below). Excess cuttings would be removed from site.

2.2.5 *Hibernacula and Refugia*

One hibernaculum will be constructed along the northern margin of the woodland band along the eastern site boundary to provide refuge and hibernation opportunities for reptiles. Construction measures will include:

- The hibernacula will have a minimum area of 200cm x 250cm.
- The hibernacula will be constructed on elevated ground to prevent flooding, with a thin layer of gravel along the base to aid drainage.
- A pit will be excavated and filled with rocks, logs, dead wood and other suitable rubble to an above ground height of 50-100cm.
- The mound will be capped with a layer of topsoil, turf or moss at a thickness of 5-10cm.
- The addition of a geotextile membrane beneath the capping layer may be used to prevent soil or other loose material from collapsing into the void below.
- Gaps will be left in the capping material at ground level to allow reptile access.



Figure 1: Example cross-section through hibernaculum

- In addition, a minimum of 4 log and brash piles will be created using arisings from construction clearance works. These will be maintained by adding the arisings from ongoing site maintenance, and piles of grass clippings from the mowing regime will provide further opportunities for egg laying Grass Snakes. The locations of the proposed hibernacula and log and brash piles are shown in *Appendix B*.

2.2.6 *Connectivity*

The development proposals have been designed to maintain a network of habitats suitable for the movement of wildlife, including reptiles, around the Parcels 4 and 5 development site. As indicated in the *Landscape Masterplan Proposals Parcel P4-5* (CSA, 2024) this includes the maintenance of corridors of semi-natural habitat around the Parcels 4 and 5 site boundaries. The number of crossing points across hedgerows and treelines has been minimised and where appropriate measures such as wildlife

underpasses, off-set gully pots and dropped kerbs will be provided to maximise connectivity and reduce risk of mortality. The locations of crossing points and proposed features to maintain connectivity for reptiles is shown on the *Parcels 4 and 5: Indicative Ecological and Pedestrian Permeability Plan* (JNP, 2024).

2.2.7 *Timing of habitat creation and enhancement works*

Due to the very limited extent of suitable reptile habitat affected by the Parcels 4 and 5 development works and the very low number of reptiles expected to be present, it is not considered necessary that habitat creation and enhancement works within the Parcels 4 and 5 site are implemented prior to Stage 2 habitat manipulations works being commenced. Notwithstanding this, habitat enhancement works associated with the Parcels 4 and 5 development should be undertaken as early as possible within the development programme. In addition, the habitat creation works within the SANG have already been carried out.

2.3 **Stage 2: Habitat manipulation**

2.3.1 Prior to development affecting areas of suitable reptile habitat within the Parcels 4 and 5 site, the following habitat manipulation measures will be undertaken under an ecological watching brief by a suitably experienced ecologist, in order to encourage the movement of reptiles from the Parcels 4 and 5 site into suitable habitats in the surrounding area.

- Firstly, vegetation cover will be reduced to minimum height of 150mm. This will take place at a time of year avoiding the bird breeding season (typically between March and September inclusive) or otherwise be preceded by a check of suitable habitat for active nests immediately prior to commencement of works by a suitably qualified ecologist or appropriate other.
- Where potential for reptiles to be present remains, a minimum period of 5 days with daytime temperatures of >12°C will then be allowed to elapse prior to the second stage of vegetation clearance (see below).
- The second stage will involve clearance of all suitable vegetation to ground level (i.e. <75mm) by hand during mild temperatures (>14°C) at a suitable time of year when reptiles are likely to be active (mid-March to early October inclusive). At this time any potential hibernacula or refugia encountered will be carefully dismantled by hand. This stage of clearance will be undertaken under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist who will capture and relocate any reptiles encountered to areas of retained habitat on the margins of the Parcels 4 and 5 site or pre-established refugia in the wider site.
- Where potential for reptiles to be present remains, a further 5 days with daytime temperatures of >12°C will then be allowed to elapse to enable any remaining reptiles to disperse from the area of works, prior to the destructive search.

- Following clearance of vegetation to ground level and removal of any refugia by hand, no suitable reptile habitat would remain and it is expected that any remaining reptiles would disperse from the area of works into adjacent habitat on their own accord.
- In order to be certain that no reptiles are present within the area of works, topsoil will then be progressively stripped from the area of works under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist, if required.
- In the event that the destructive search is delayed, the vegetation will be maintained at ground level until the destructive search is carried out. Similarly, following the destructive search, the land will be maintained as unsuitable for the recolonisation of reptiles prior to and throughout the proposed works.

3 MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

- 3.1 The ongoing maintenance of the areas of public open space, including retained and newly created reptile habitat, are detailed within the Detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) (HDA, 2024c). The LEMP will be implemented to ensure the long-term integrity of the newly created and enhanced areas of habitat for reptiles in the long-term, and includes monitoring to ensure the successful establishment and continuity of habitat for reptiles described in *Section 2.2* above.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Through implementation of the mitigation measures outlined above, the Parcels 4 and 5 development would avoid injury or killing of any reptiles present. Although the loss of limited areas of reptile habitat is highly unlikely to be significant within a local context, the described measures for the creation and enhancement of new areas of reptile habitat contiguous with the proposed development area would ensure long-term opportunities for reptiles within this area of the wider Hogwood Farm site. Through the implementation of these measures it would be expected that current reptile interest of the site could be maintained and increased.

- 4.2 It is therefore concluded that subject to employment of the approach outlined above in line with the Site-wide Outline Reptile Mitigation Strategy (HDA, 2024b), the development would protect individual reptiles currently occurring within the Parcels 4 and 5 site and ensure that the favourable conservation status of the local reptile population is maintained.

5 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan (showing Parcels 4 and 5 development area and wider site)

Target Notes – Arborfield

1. Site yard comprised a hardstanding area with mobile cabins.
2. Relatively sparse ruderal vegetation dominated by Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, Bristly Oxtongue *Helminthotheca echinoides* and Common Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*. Small areas of scattered bare ground/ recently disturbed ground are present. Field margins vary between 1 – 5m and are more densely vegetation with the above species with the inclusion of Annual Meadow Grass *Poa annua*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Cleavers *Galium aparine*, Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, Cut Leaved Cranes Bill *Geranium dissectum*, Field Forget-me-not *Geranium dissectum* and Scarlett Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*.
3. Mixed woodland along the western boundary with species including Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Larch *Larix decidua*, Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* and Black Poplar *Populus nigra*. Some of the trees are mature and have suitable bat roosting features. The understorey is comprised of Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Willow *Salix Sp.* and Hazel *Corylus avellana*. The ground layer is dominated by Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and Common Nettle with Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Cleavers, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, White Bryony *Bryonia dioica* and Black Bindweed *Fallopia convolvulus*. Part of the southern area of this woodland is listed on Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory; this area is especially dominated by Larch and other introduced coniferous species.
4. Native defunct hedgerow with trees comprising a hedgerow of Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Hazel, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and Ash, with Ash and Oak mature trees and a dry ditch below.
5. Newly created culvert with a small area of standing water.
6. Treeline of mature Ash and Pedunculate Oak trees with relic species rich hedgerow of Hazel, Holly, Field Maple, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. Some of the mature trees have the potential to support roosting bats. The ground layer vegetation is sparse and mostly comprised of Bramble with occasional Cowslip *Primula veris* and Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*.
7. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland comprised of Pedunculate Oak and coppiced Ash with Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Field Maple, Hazel, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. Mature trees are present, some of which have features of bat roosting potential. The ground layer includes Bramble, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Ground Ivy, Germander Speedwell *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and Lords-and-ladies *Arum maculatum*. A dry ditch is present along the western boundary of the parcel and a ditch that was wet at the time of the survey along the eastern boundary.
8. A field of ruderal vegetation of varying height from 10cm to 50cm in height dominated by Spear Thistle, Common Nettle and Perennial Ryegrass and White Clover *Trifolium repens* with the occasional Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Common

Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Ragwort and Broad Leaved Dock and Cleavers. Small areas within the parcel are sparsely vegetated with areas of bare ground with occasional ruderal species mentioned above but include Scarlett Pimpernel and Bird Foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

9. A small depression of bare ground that had standing water at the time of the survey with occasional Yellow Flag Iris present.
10. Plantation lowland mixed deciduous woodland comprised of White Poplar, Pedunculate Oak, Ash and Field Maple. Mature trees are present, some of which have features of bat roosting potential. Understorey comprised of Holly, Dog Rose *Rosa canina*, Common Nettle, Cow Parsley, Cleavers, Curled Dock *Rumex crispus*, Bramble and Ground Ivy. A dry ditch is present along the boundary along the southern boundary of the wooded strip.
11. Species poor modified grassland of varying sward length between 5cm – 40cm comprised of Perennial Ryegrass, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, White Clover, Oxeye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Creeping Buttercup with occasional Broad Leaved Dock, Dandelion and Scarlett Pimpernel. Field margins are approximately 4-6m wide and are comprised of Common Nettle, Spear Thistle, Common Vetch *Vicia sativa* and Cow Parsley.
12. Area of bare ground used for storage of construction materials.
13. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland comprised of Pedunculate Oak standards and coppiced Ash with Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, White Poplar, Field Maple, Hazel, Willow, English Elm *Ulmus procera*, Holly, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. Mature trees are present, some of which have features of bat roosting potential. The ground layer includes Bramble, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Herb Robert, Common Ivy, Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, Violet *Viola* sp., Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, Common Nettle, Remote Sedge *Carex remota*, False Brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum* and Butcher's Broom *Ruscus aculeatus* present. Standing and fallen dead wood is present throughout the woodland area. The woodland becomes increasingly wet to the west where Willow becomes dominant and dry ditches border most of the woodland edges, a further dry ditch running centrally through the southern area of woodland is also present. The eastern area of this woodland is listed on Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory; here the dominant tree species is White Poplar in the south and Pedunculate Oak in the north. This area is demarcated in its western boundary by a small woodbank.
14. Mixed Scrub comprised of Bramble, Blackthorn, Dog Rose and Pendulate Oak samplings over a dry ditch.
15. [REDACTED].
16. A wooden bat barn set between treelines of Pendulate Oak, Ash and Hazel.
17. Mixed scrub comprised of Bramble, Elder and Holly with large amounts of deadwood above a steep-sided wet ditch. Towards the eastern end of the scrub parcel, Elder becomes the dominant species with the inclusion of ruderals in the ground layer including Common Nettle, Spear Thistle, Cleaver and Broad Leaved Dock.

18. Ruderal vegetation comprised of Perennial Rye Grass, Spear Thistle, Common poppy *Papaver rhoeas*, Cocks Foot, Rosebay Willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*, Annual Sow Thistle *Sonchus oleraceus*, Common Nettle, and Curled Dock.
19. Listed building with multiple features with bat roost potential including lifted roof tiles and cracks in the brickwork. Situated on an area of concrete hardstanding. Surrounded by scaffolding at the time of the survey.
20. Species-rich native hedgerow comprised of Hawthorn, Hazel, Blackthorn, English Elm and Ash.
21. Ruderal vegetation similar to TN 20 with the inclusion of Oxeye Daisy at high densities and occasional Red Campion *Silene dioica*.
22. A SUDS pond within a parcel of ruderal vegetation described in TN21. Sloping earth banks with occasional Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*.
23. A shaded pond approximately 30cm in depth. Tussocks of Pendulous Sedge and patches of encroaching Bramble, Willow, Pedunculate Oak and Alder, border the edge of the pond. The pond area is enclosed by a chicken-wire fence.
24. Modified grassland with a short sward length of approximately 20cm in length comprised of Perennial Rye Grass, Cocks Foot, Red Fescue, Meadow Buttercup, Broadleaved Dock and Dandelion.
25. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland. Dominant species within the woodland include Ash, Pedunculate Oak and Alder with a Hawthorn and Field Maple understorey. The ground layer includes Bramble, Wood Aven, Herb Robert, Ground Ivy, and Hairy Brome *Bromopsis ramosa*. There are fallen wood and dead-wood piles throughout the woodland area and multiple trees with possible bat roosting potential. The woodland, in part, is listed on Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory.
26. Large parcel of bare ground with large spoil heaps. During the time of the survey, excavators were topping soil within the parcel. Field margins were sparsely vegetated with ruderal species including Bramble, Curly Dock, Spear Thistle, Ragwort and Common Nettle.
27. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland. A thin strip of broadleaved woodland plantation behind this comprised of Ash, Lombardy Poplar, Field Maple, White Willow, Grey Willow, Dogwood, Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Bramble with Common Ivy and Cleavers dominating the ground layer. Some of the trees have features of possible bat roosting potential. A ditch that had small pools of standing water is present along the southern side of the wooded strip.
28. Site compound on hardstanding area.
29. Short ruderal vegetation within the northern end of the parcel similar in species composition to TN18 with the inclusion of Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Timothy *Phleum pratense*, Musk Mallow *Malva moschata* and Bristly Oxtongue. Bare ground is present across the southern area of the parcel with small field margins

approximately 1m in width comprised of similar short ruderal species as the northern area.

30. A dense, intact, species-rich native hedgerow with trees comprising Pedunculate Oak, Beech, Ash, Goat Willow *Salix caprea*, Black Poplar *Populus nigra*, Field Maple, Dogwood, Hazel, Holly, Bramble and Common Broom *Sarothamnus scoparius*. The hedgerow is approximately 15 years old and tree guards are present on some individual plantings with some mature trees present along the roadside, especially within the southern section of the hedgerow.
31. Modified grassland with species including Yorkshire Fog, Perennial Rye-grass, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Cock's Foot, Red Fescue, Common Bent, Creeping Buttercup, White Clover, Doves-foot Cranesbill *Geranium molle*, Common Vetch, Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum*, Scentless Mayweed *Tripleurospermum inodorum*, Creeping Thistle, Spear Thistle, Common Sorrel, Ragwort, Greater Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Cleavers, Broad-leaved Dock, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, Forget-me-not sp., Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica* and Self-Heal *Prunella vulgaris*. Along the treeline to the south, Hemp Nettle *Galeopsis tetrahit*, Lady's Thumb *Persicaria maculosa*, Scentless Mayweed, Prickly Sow-Thistle and Clustered Dock with wet flushes of Sedge and Soft Rush. There are two soil bunds/soil storage piles with tall ruderals dominated by Spear Thistle, Common Nettle, Broadleaved Dock and Smooth Hawksbeard *Crepis capillaris* with large patches of scrub within the grassland with species including Bramble, Elder, Silver Birch and Dog-rose with Common Nettle. There are also piles of deadwood near and within the scrub.
32. Non-native and ornamental species-poor hedgerow comprising Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, Leylandii Cypress *Cupressus x leylandii* and Elder, broken by Bramble scrub on the north-eastern edge of the grassland field (TN 31). To the south of the hedgerow, continuing along the field boundary is a wooden post and electric wire fence which is overgrown with tall grasses and ruderal vegetation.
33. An outgrown, defunct native species-rich hedgerow with trees adjacent to Park Lane, with a dry ditch below. Species within the hedgerow include Pedunculate Oak, Black Poplar, Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Holly, Grey Willow, Blackthorn, Bracken and Bramble. A treeline of Pedunculate Oak is present approximately 5m into the field from the hedgerow.
34. A ditch that was dry at the time of survey with scattered Bramble scrub and trees including Willow and Pedunculate Oak, some of which have possible bat roosting potential. Behind the ditch is a fence and a dirt track, used as an access route into the site. A scrub line is present along the eastern side of the track and is 1-2m wide comprised of Grey Willow, Dog Rose, Oak and Bramble scrub. Track supports ephemeral vegetation including Scentless Mayweed, Cocks Foot, Smooth Hawksbeard, Common Yarrow, Hawthorn saplings, Common Bent and Spear Thistle.
35. Modified grassland field with a similar species composition to Target Note 31, with more Bent dominant in the north and False Oatgrass and Fescue sp. dominated to the south. Occasional species include Greater Plantain, Ribwort Plantain, Greater Birds-foot Trefoil, Common Hogweed, Cleavers, Meadow Vetchling, Mouse-ear, Common Vetch, Common Fleabane, Creeping Buttercup, Red Fescue and Soft Rush.

Bramble scrub is present along many of the field boundaries, with Common Nettle also present. A wet flush is present within the west of the field and contains Common Horsetail, Common Nettle, Sow Thistle, Soft Rush and occasional Hemp Nettle.

36. Scattered semi-mature trees and scattered areas of dense scrub along fence line. Species present include Oak, Ash, Blackthorn, Dog Rose, Bramble and Common Nettle.
37. A line of scrub and trees with a dry ditch bordering Park Lane.

APPENDIX B

Parcels 4 and 5 Reptile Mitigation



KEY

-  Parcels 4 and 5 boundary
-  Proposed hibernacula location*
-  Proposed log and brash pile location*

* Position indicative

CLIENT:
CALA Homes Thames Ltd
PROJECT:
Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead
TITLE:
Parcels 4 & 5 Reptile Mitigation
SCALE AT A3:
NTS
DATE:
November 2024

868.1/90a

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