

**Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.**



COMMON LANE, WOMBLETON.

OS REF: SE 66584 82833.

EXTENDED PHASE I HABITAT SURVEY.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are proposed plans to develop two fields to the east of Common Lane at Wombleton north of York and to put a number of log cabins in each field.

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 23rd February 2017 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.

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 Meryll 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 edition)* 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 Edition*.

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 Jenny Whitcher Roebuck MCIEEM. Since 2001 Jenny has had experience in a professional capacity as a Wildlife Consultant carrying out Ecology Surveys and Phase 1 Habitat surveys. Jenny holds Natural England Survey Licences in respect of bats, great crested newts, crayfish and barn owls, NRW and SNH Survey Licences in respect of bats and great crested newts. She has also successfully completed a number of courses run by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and the Field Studies Council (FSC) in the relative protected species, plant species and in carrying out Phase 1 Habitat Surveys. As a full member of CIEEM she is committed to continuous professional development, a continual process of learning and career development, a condition of CIEEM membership.

3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A desktop data search was requested from North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre for records of protected species and designated sites within 2km of the survey area.

3.1.2. There are two record of barn owls from 2014 and 2015, both records are at Wombleton at the property to the east of the survey area. There is no information on this record, whether the owls were seen flying or are nesting on the property.

3.1.3. There are records of otter over 2km to the southwest of the site from 1997 and records of otters over 2km to the north from 2002.

3.1.4. There are two records of pipistrelle bats, one record from 2003 located 2km to the southwest of the site and one from between 1979 and 1989 with no specific location for the record.

3.1.5. There is one record of badgers from 2000 located 2km to the north of the site.

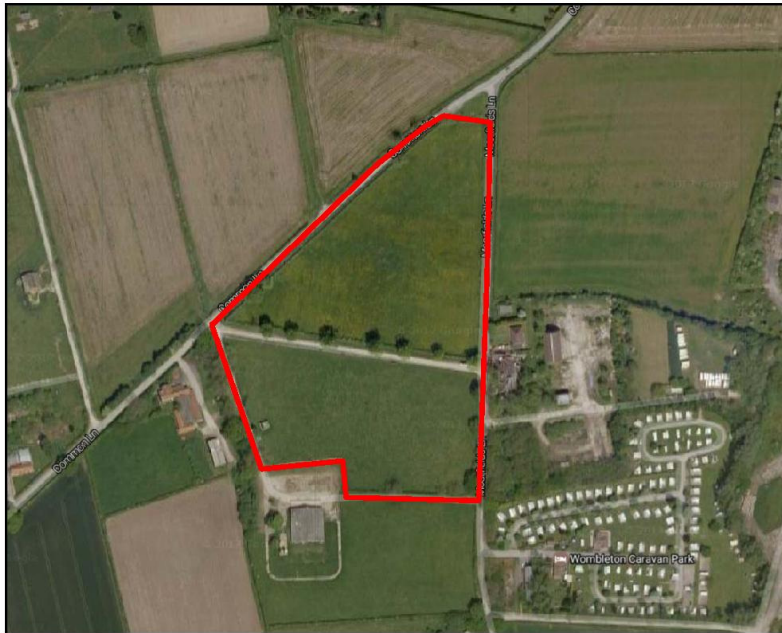
3.1.6. There are no records of protected species specific to the survey area.

3.1.7. There are no records of designated sites within or surrounding the survey area. The nearest site is the River Riccal Local Wildlife Site located 1.85km to the south of the survey area.

3.1.8. The full data search results are available on request.

3.2. The Surveyed Area.

3.2.1. The survey area is two fields on the east of Common Lane in Wombleton. Both fields have been grazing fields but there are no longer animals grazing these fields.



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:-

- Improved grassland
- Woodland Plantation Mixed
- Hedgerow, Defunct, Species Poor
- Hedge and trees, Species Poor
- Standing Water
- Bare Ground
- Building
- Fence
- Other

3.3.2. Improved grassland

3.3.2.1. The main area of the site is two large fields separated by a concrete road and field boundaries. Both fields were grazing fields and have the same species of short vegetation growing. The fields are very wet due to recent heavy rainfall.

3.3.2.2. The main species present are perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and crested dogs tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) with an abundance of creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus Repens*). Other species present are dock (*Rumex acetosella*), thistle (*Cirsium sp(p)*), clover (*Trifolium repens*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), greater plantain (*Plantago major*) and hairy bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*).

3.3.2.3. Both fields have recently had a margin of young trees planted around the edges leaving one gap in each field for access.

3.3.2.4. Across the western side of the southern field, extending from north to south, there is a what appears to be a rubble filled drainage channel which has been in place for some time as there is soil and herbs growing in this channel.

3.3.2.5. Photograph looking north across the northern field, taken from the muddy field entrance.



3.3.2.6. Photograph looking east across the southern field.



3.3.3. Woodland Plantation Mixed

3.3.3.1. There is a wide margin of young trees that has been recently planted around the edges of each of the fields. These are mixed deciduous and coniferous trees, including silver birch (*Betula pendula*), white beam (*Sorbus aria*), hybrid poplar (*Polar 'Tricobelle'*) and oak (*Quercus sp(p)*). The conifers planted appear to be a spruce species but the trees are very young and newly planted and identification was difficult.

3.3.3.2. The two photographs below shows this margin of trees.



3.3.4. Hedgerow, Defunct, Species Poor

3.3.4.1. There are hedgerows around most of the boundaries of both fields. These hedgerows are defunct as on their own they are no stock proof. Hedgerows around the eastern boundary of the northern field and around the northern boundary of the southern field are included in this habitat. These hedgerows are dominated by hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with sapling ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), occasional sapling oak (*Quercus sp(p)*) and some ivy (*Hedera helix*) present. There is little understory below these hedgerows.

3.3.4.2. Photograph showing the eastern boundary of the northern field.



3.3.4.3. Photograph showing the northern boundary of the southern field.



3.3.5. Hedge and trees, Species Poor

3.3.5.1. Hedgerows around the western and southern boundaries of the northern field and around the southern and eastern side boundaries of the southern field are included in this habitat. These hedgerows are dominated by hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with sapling ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), occasional sapling oak (*Quercus sp(p)*) and some ivy present. There are semi-mature and mature trees with these hedgerows, mainly oak (*Quercus sp(p)*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).

3.3.5.2. Photograph showing the southern boundary of the northern field on the left of the photograph.



3.3.5.3. Photograph showing the eastern boundary of the southern field.



3.3.6. Standing Water

3.3.6.1. There is ditch along the western half of the southern boundary of the northern field (T2 on the annotated map) which has recently been cleaned out with no vegetation on the banks. At the time of this survey the ditch was full of water due to recent heavy rainfall.

3.3.6.2. Photograph looking east along this ditch.



3.3.7. Bare Ground

3.3.7.1. The entrances to both fields from the road in the center of the site are both bare ground as access in and out of the field has churned up the ground leaving bare earth.

3.3.7.2. There is also bare ground around the edges of each field where works have been carried out to plant the margin of young trees.

3.3.7.3. The verges along each side of the road in the center of the site are bare earth with no vegetation growing.

3.3.7.4. The photographs below show the entrance to the northern field (left) and bare ground where the margin of trees has been planted (right).



3.3.8. Building

3.3.8.1. There is one building present on the site and this is located on within the southern field at the western side (T6 on the annotated map). This is a single storey building constructed with single skin brick walls, rendered externally, with a sloping corrugated cement sheet roof. The windows and doorways are all covered with boards. There are some cracks in the walls of the building, mainly above doors. These cracks go through to the interior of the building as it is only single skin brick. There are some holes in the corrugated roof sheets.

3.3.8.2. The photographs below show the exterior and the interior of the building.



3.3.9. Fence

All boundaries of both fields have a stock proof fence either within or adjacent to a hedgerow or standing alone. These are mainly post and mesh with some areas of wooden post and rail.

3.3.10. Other

There is a concrete road which divide the northern and southern fields with a double gate at each end of the road. The photograph below looks east along this road.



3.4. Description of Fauna.

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

3.4.2. A short section of ditch, 100m long, which has recently been cleaned out or created along the southern edge of the northern field has no vegetation and is unsuitable habitat for water voles, otters or white clawed crayfish. Therefore, there is no habitat for these species within the survey area. No other watercourses were identified within the survey area.

3.4.3. One pond was identified within 500m of the survey area on an Ordnance Survey Map of the area. This pond is located 150m to the north of the site in the large well-tended gardens of a private house. No access was available to this pond but google images show it to be a large ornamental pond. There are no other ponds within 500m of the site or of this pond making this an isolated pond. Therefore, this pond is

assessed as unsuitable habitat for great crested newts. The terrestrial habitat around the pond is poor as it is large well-tended gardens. The surrounding land is also poor value terrestrial habitat as it is large open grazing fields.

3.4.4. The building on the site has no bat roost potential as the construction of the building is unsuitable.

3.4.5. There are a number of mature trees within hedgerows along the field boundaries, some with ivy cover. Some of these trees are of a size and age that may provide features suitable for roosting bats, although no suitable features could be seen from the ground. These trees are assessed as having low potential for roosting bats.

3.4.6. The survey area provides moderate potential for foraging bats due to the hedgerow boundaries around the fields. There is also little connectivity to surrounding habitats as there are limited trees and hedgerow boundaries around adjacent fields. A thorough assessment of bat activity could not be made during a daytime survey of the site.

3.4.7. The vegetation within the field boundaries provides opportunities for nesting birds during the nesting season, which extends from March to September each year. However, no active nests were identified during this survey.

3.4.8. There are two records of barn owls at the property adjacent to the site. The site provides some foraging habitat for barn owls but the surrounding area is large areas of suitable foraging habitat for barn owls.

3.4.9. The site provides little potential habitat for reptiles as the main area is large grazing fields with no refugia. There may be some refugia along the hedgerow around these fields with other hedgerows adjacent to the site providing the same potential. No reptiles were identified during this survey.

3.4.10. No suitable dormouse habitat was identified during this survey.

3.4.11. No red squirrels or red squirrel field signs were identified during this survey and there is no suitable habitat within the survey area.

3.4.12. No invasive species of plant listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 were identified within the survey area.

4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. The main habitat on the site is two grazing fields which are of low ecological value. This is unlikely to increase in value in the peak season. The field boundaries are hedgerows and some mature trees which are of high ecological values. A wide margin of young trees has been planted around the edges of each field which, when established, will be of high ecological value. The areas of high ecological value on the site will remain unaffected by the proposed works as the works will be in the grassland only.

4.2. There are no designated sites within the survey area. Therefore, there will be no impact on designated sites.

4.3. No badger setts or badger field signs were identified within the survey area. Therefore, there will be no impact on badgers during the proposed works.

4.4. The small section of ditch on the site provides no suitable habitat for water voles, otters and white clawed crayfish. No other watercourses were identified within the survey area. Therefore, there will be no impact on water voles, otters or crayfish during the proposed works.

4.5. One pond was identified within 500m of the survey area on an Ordnance Survey Map of the area. This pond is a large ornamental pond in a large well-tended garden and the pond is isolated from other ponds. Therefore, the pond is assessed as unsuitable habitat for great crested newts and there will be no impact on the species during the proposed works.

4.6. The building on the site has no bat roost potential as the construction of the building is unsuitable. Works to this building will have no impact on roosting bats.

4.7. There are a number of mature trees within hedgerows along the field boundaries, some with ivy cover. Some of these trees are of a size and age that may provide features suitable for roosting bats. However, the proposed works will have no impact on these trees and no impact on any bats roosting in the trees as long as any lighting scheme on the site is not pointed at the trees and hedgerows.

4.8. The survey area provides some foraging potential for bats. The proposed works will have no impact on the field boundary hedgerows and trees. The newly planted

trees will also enhance the foraging and commuting routes along these boundaries. The proposed works will not fragment any foraging habitat and will therefore have no impact on foraging or commuting bats as long as any lighting scheme on the site is not pointed at the trees and hedgerows.

4.9. The vegetation within the field boundaries provides opportunities for nesting birds during the nesting season, which extends from March to September, inclusive, each year. Vegetation clearance within the nesting bird season will have an impact on any birds nesting within the work site.

4.10. There are two records of barn owls at the property adjacent to the site. The site provides some foraging habitat for barn owls but the surrounding area is large areas of suitable foraging habitat for barn owls so the loss of this small area of foraging habitat will have no impact on barn owls.

4.11. The site provides little potential habitat for reptiles as the main area is large grazing fields with no refugia. There may be some refugia along the hedgerow around these fields with other hedgerows adjacent to the site providing the same potential but these will remain unaffected. Therefore, the works will have no impact on any reptiles within the area.

4.12. No suitable dormouse habitat was identified during this survey. Therefore, there will be no impact on dormice during the proposed works.

4.13. No red squirrels or red squirrel field signs were identified during this survey and there is no suitable habitat within the survey area. Therefore, there will be no impact on red squirrels during the proposed works.

4.14. No invasive species of plant listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 were identified within the survey area. Therefore, there will be no impact on the proposed works.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. No works are to be carried out to any of the mature trees within the field boundaries. However, if works change and there will be any impact on the mature trees further bat surveys must be carried out before the trees are affected to determine whether bats are roosting in the trees. These can be either an aerial inspection survey or a bat activity survey.

5.2. No works are to be carried out that will affect the hedgerow boundaries and mature trees. However, if works change and there will be an impact on this vegetation this should be carried out outside the nesting bird season, which extends from March to September each year.

5.3. It is recommended that any lighting scheme on the site is designed as down lighting and it must be designed so that light does not shine on the trees and hedgerow boundaries around the fields.

5.4. If this cannot be achieved a further assessment must be made on the impact of lighting on the hedgerows and mature trees will have on roosting, foraging and commuting bats.

5.5. If any works that will affect the boundaries are to be carried out during the nesting bird season a thorough nesting bird survey must be carried out by a suitably experienced person immediately prior to works commencing. If any active nests are found during this survey they must be left undisturbed until the young have fledged. This could put a considerable delay on proposed works.

5.6. As there are barn owls in the surrounding area a barn owl nest box could be erected on one of the large trees on the site boundaries to provide additional nesting habitat for the owls.

5.7. As a precaution, it is recommended that all personnel are briefed on the potential presence of reptiles and in the unlikely event that any reptiles are found during the works they must be left to safely move away of their own accord. If large numbers of reptiles (5+) are found works must stop and Whitcher Wildlife Ltd contacted for further advice. Appendix IX of this report contains a toolbox talk to assist with this briefing.

Prepared by:	
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Checked by:	
Steven Whitcher, MCIEEM.	Date: 24 th February 2017.

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Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.

It is necessary to understand a little about bats, their basic nature, ecology and legal protection in order to evaluate the findings of this report.

18 species of bat currently reside in Britain, 17 of which are known to breed here. They are extremely difficult to identify in the hand and even more so in flight.

All appear to be diminishing in numbers, probably due to shortage of food, caused by pesticides, as insects are their sole diet, and habitat change.

As their diet consists solely of insects, bats hibernate during the winter when their food source is at its most scarce. They will spend the winter in hollow trees, caves, mines and the roofs of buildings.

Certain species, particularly the pipistrelle (the commonest and most widespread British bat) can quickly adapt to manmade structures and will readily use these to roost and to rear their young.

Bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Regulation 41 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, and the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.

It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture or disturb bats or to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter or protection.

A breeding or resting site of any bat is known as a bat roost. A bat roost is therefore any structure a bat uses for shelter or protection. Because bats tend to use the same roosts each year, legal opinion is that the roost site is protected whether or not the bats are present at that time.

Bat roosts can be identified by looking for:-

- Suitable holes, cracks and crevices.
- Bat droppings.
- Prey remains.
- By carrying out night observations using a bat detector.

Where development proposals are likely to affect a bat roost site, a licence is required from Natural England.

The person applying for that licence has to be suitably qualified and experienced in bat matters. That person is then responsible for ensuring that the measures contained in the licence are carried out.

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 1981 states 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 markings 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.

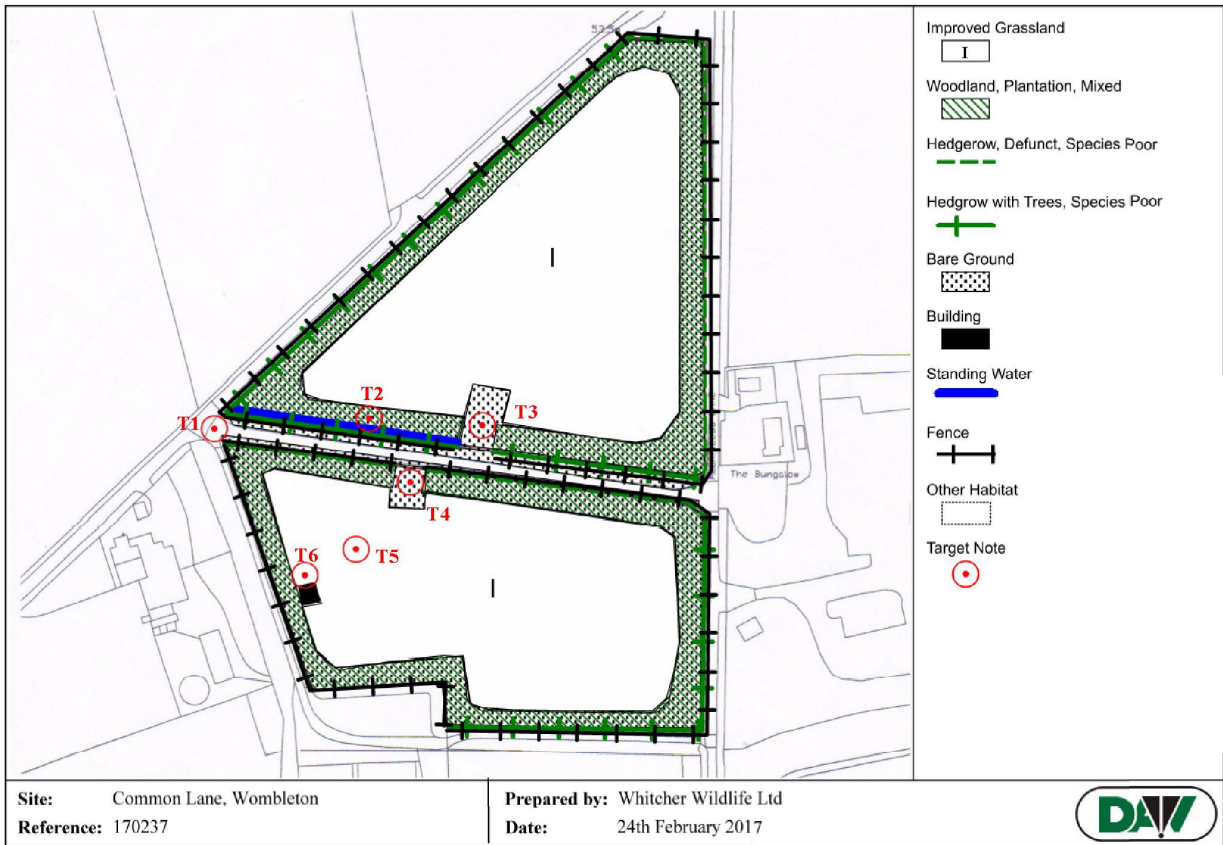
Slow worms hibernate over the winter, emerging from March onwards depending upon the weather. They begin to mate in April and May and six to twelve young are born in August or September.

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.

T1 – is the gated concrete road which separates the two fields.

T2 – is the short section of ditch which contained standing water during this survey due to recent heavy rainfall.

T3 – is the muddy entrance to the northern field.

T4 – is the muddy entrance to the southern field.

T5 – is the drainage channel across the southern field.

T6 – is the small building within the southern field.

Appendix VII. SPECIES LISTS.

Improved grassland

Species.	DAFOR Assessment.
perennial rye grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>)	D
Yorkshire fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>)	D
crested dogs tail (<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>)	D
creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus Repens</i>)	A
dock (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>)	O
thistle (<i>Cirsium sp(p)</i>)	O
clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>)	F
ribwort plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>)	F
greater plantain (<i>Plantago major</i>)	F
hairy bittercress (<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>)	O

Woodland Plantation Mixed

Species.	DAFOR Assessment.
silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	A
hybrid poplar (<i>Polar 'Tricobelle'</i>)	D
oak (<i>Quercus sp(p)</i>)	F
white beam (<i>Sorbus aria</i>)	F

Hedgerow, Defunct, Species Poor

Species.	DAFOR Assessment.
hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	D
ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	A
oak (<i>Quercus sp(p)</i>)	F
ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)	F

Hedge and trees, Species Poor

Species.	DAFOR Assessment.
hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	D
ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	A
oak (<i>Quercus sp(p)</i>)	F
ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)	F

Appendix VIII. DEVELOPMENT PLAN.









Toolbox Talk : Reptiles

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants



<p>Identification: Grass Snakes.</p> <p>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.</p>		<p>Other Reptiles.</p> <p>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 than 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.</p> <p>These species are also afforded a higher level of protection because they are European Protected Species.</p>
<p>Identification: Adders.</p> <p>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.</p>		<p>Habitat.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Identification: Slow Worms.</p> <p>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.</p>		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>When disturbed in their natural habitat reptiles will usually move away quickly.</p>
<p>Identification: Common Lizards.</p> <p>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.</p>		<p>Legislation.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>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</p>		