

22nd August 2019



LIZARD

Landscape Design and Ecology

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Dear Mr Antony

Consultation Response – 209 – 219 Henley Road, Caversham

Thank you for providing us with the consultation documentation in association with the planning application for development of land at Henley Road, Caversham.

The original survey work completed by this company (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, June 2018) recommended:

'carry out a series of reptile surveys or to assume reptile presence and devise a reptile mitigation plan outlined in this report.'

Surveys of the adjacent land undertaken May – August 2019 revealed a peak count of 1no. adult grass snake on site (*Ethos, August 2019: 199 – 203, and land to the rear of 205-207 – relating to planning application no: 190835*). Due to the porosity of garden boundaries, and similarities between the habitats on both sites, it is reasonable to assume a low population of reptiles on this application site and mitigate accordingly.

Given the very small population of reptiles likely to be present, a full translocation is not proportionate to the predicted impacts of the scheme. The mitigation proposed would include;

- The provision of a buffer zone to the south of the site which will act as a receptor area followed by staggered vegetation clearance of the site.
- Vegetation would be cut from north to south to encourage any reptiles present to naturally disperse into retained vegetation.
- Vegetation would be removed in stages with an initial trim reducing vegetation to no less than 15.0 cm.
- A subsequent cut (24 hours later) would then reduce vegetation to a height of <5.0 cm rendering the area unsuitable for reptiles.
- All arisings would be removed from the construction zone to prevent the creation of compost piles which are attractive to reptiles.
- Vegetation on site would be maintained to a height of less than 5.0 cm before and during any construction activities to render the area unsuitable for re-colonisation by reptiles.

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The implementation of the above mitigation negates the need for a full reptile survey, and ensures that the local reptile population will be protected during works in accordance with CIEEM guidance (Dec 2017).

Yours sincerely,

Catherine O'Reilly MCIEEM
Senior Ecologist

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