

**Reptiles**

Reptile surveys were carried out on site in April and May across all areas where habitat was deemed to be suitable. There was a maximum count of 13 Slow worms and 4 Juvenile Grass Snakes. Figure 1 shows the distribution of slow worms and grass snakes across the site found in the surveys. Reptiles will be translocated as stated in the mitigation section.



Figure 1 Above: Annotated Google aerial image with the presence of just slow worms indicated with a red line and the presence of both slow worms and grass snakes is indicated with a yellow line.

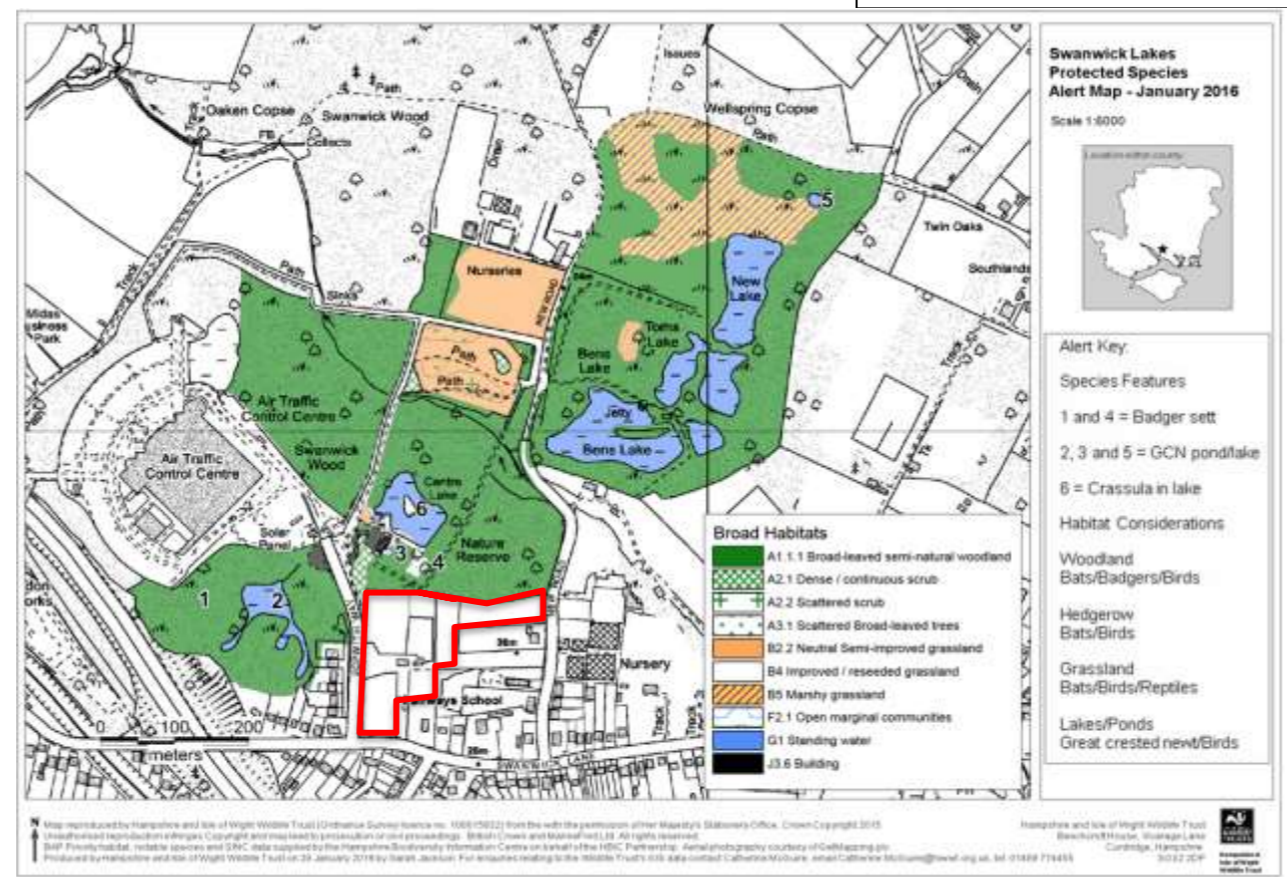
Figure 2 Right: picture of a juvenile grass snake taken on site at the yellow arrow in fig 1.



**Invertebrates**

Invert surveys are currently being undertaken in conjunction with HIWWT (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust) for Purple Emperor butterfly. These surveys started in April and so far no purple emperors have been recorded. However weather conditions have not been ideal, it has not yet reached the peak time of year for purple emperor and it has been a poor year for butterflies in general. However there are records of purple emperors in the adjacent Swanwick Lakes Nature Reserve and it is likely that they occasionally use the site for basking and getting nutrients from horse manure.

Figure 3 below: map of site highlighted in red and surrounding area



**Dormice**

Doormouse tubes were deployed around the site and in the adjacent Swanwick Lakes Nature Reserve to the north of the site to identify the presence or likely absence of dormice within the area. The dormouse tubes started being checked in September and as of yet no evidence of dormice has been found. These surveys will continue until August as per the guidelines.

**Bats**

Due to the presence of the ancient woodland to the north of the site it was deemed to be of high potential for foraging and commuting bats. As a result monthly transects were required as well as the deployment of static bat call recorders for a period of 5 nights, once per month between April and October. So far September - October 2016 and April - June 2017 have been carried out with just July and August surveys remaining. The following bat species have been recorded on site so far; Common Pipistrelles, Soprano Pipistrelles, Noctules, Serotines, two *Myotis spp* and 1 *Plecotus spp*. The area of the site where the majority of bat activity occurs is along the border of the Swanwick Lakes Nature Reserve.

As well as this 3 emergence surveys were required to be carried out on the small asbestos shed in the centre of the site. During the first survey a single Common Pipistrelle was recorded emerging from the southern aspect of the shed. However during the second survey no emergences were recorded and the third is due to be carried out during July.

Figure 5 below; Brown Long Eared (Ecosupport2017)



**Great Crested Newts**

Great crested are living in the ponds found in the nature reserve as shown in figure 3. Despite the poor habitat for newts to commute between ponds, due to the very close proximity of the site to the ponds there is still potential for the great crested newts to commute along the hedgerows.

Figure 3: Picture of GCN (Froglife 2017)



**Mitigation**

A 15 meter buffer strip will be implemented between the edge of the ancient woodland and the housing development. This will allow for the protection of the woodland from any works carried out. This buffer strip will also ensure that the commuting and foraging routes of bats is maintained, as this is where the majority of bat activity took place. The intention is for the buffer strip to be managed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to ensure that the habitat remains in optimal conditions for all wildlife that it will potentially support. This will therefore provide an improved habitat for reptiles and foraging bats compared currently conditions on site. This buffer strip will be used as a receptor area for the translocation of the reptiles on site.

As a precautionary measure trapping of great crested newts will be carried out on site to ensure that they are not harmed during works carried out.

Bat boxes will be implemented within the new development to replace any lost roosting locations. As well as this a sensitive lighting strategy will be adopted to ensure that the surrounding area is not polluted with light and the ensure bats can still use the site for commuting, foraging and roosting.



Slow worm, left (Ecosupport 2017) Dormouse, centre (BBC 2017) and Purple emperor, right (BBC 2017).