

HAWKESWOOD ECOLOGY

Specialists in Ecological Survey and Assessment

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Tom Bevan
Construction Director
J G Hale Construction Ltd
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Neath
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21/01/2024

Our Ref: HE/30/2024

Dear Tom,

Proposed Initial Works, Parc Hadau.

Good to meet you this morning (20th January 2025). Having discussed the scope of the proposed commencement of works at Parc Hadau we are satisfied that with proper supervision the works can proceed without serious concerns over the potential presence of reptiles.

The Site was previously surveyed for reptiles in 2019 and this area was included in part of the Site that underwent a reptile capture and translocation exercise in 2020 and 2022. Following this, the area was cleared of vegetation under ecological supervision. The area is re-vegetating but still consists of a high frequency of bare ground, much of which is compacted and ground across the whole area is saturated with water despite the relatively dry weather since the end of December.

The works comprise the removal of an earth bund at the entrance of the Site and levelling of a small area to allow footings and drainage pipes to be laid. The assessment this morning showed the bund to be well compacted offering limited opportunities for reptiles to access the interior for brumation purposes. In addition the ground around the bund is water saturated and run off on the downhill side of the bund was seen. No hibernacula were noted within the proposed works area. Photos showing the works location are attached.

The remainder of the area involved in the current proposal is heavy clay and saturated with water. It currently does not support tussock vegetation and as a result of this is not considered to be an area that would be used by reptiles for brumation.

However, as the works will take place in the brumation period the removal of the bund will be undertaken with care and under supervision by an experienced ecologist. The removal will take place by taking small sections (up to 80mm per take) of the bund until

the waterlogged ground is exposed. Prior to the remaining area being cleared a visual inspection of the Site will be undertaken to ensure no reptiles are present.

I hope you find this helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric Hawkeswood', written in a cursive style.

Eric Hawkeswood
Principal Ecologist

Photographs:



Looking across the proposed work area to the access gate



The Bund showing compacted nature and water saturation of the soils.



The Bund and water saturation of the soils



Looking north across the proposed work area.