



Slow Worm Post-Translocation Monitoring 2013
Tesco Store, Well Street, Cefn Mawr
Delta-Simons Project Number: 07-3454.07
Dated: January 2014

1.0 Context and Purpose

Delta-Simons was instructed by Tesco Stores Ltd. (the 'Client') to undertake a series of slow worm monitoring surveys at the recently built Tesco Store off Well Street in Cefn Mawr, Wrexham (the 'Site'), and the associated reptile receptor site at Brynkinalt Country Park, Chirk.

A translocation programme was undertaken in 2010 and 2011 as one of the ecological mitigation measures for the pre-construction preparation works for a Tesco Store in Cefn Mawr. Following which, 40 % of slow worms were translocated to suitable habitat within the western area of the Site in Autumn 2010 were then recaptured and relocated to suitable habitat at a receptor Site at Brynkinalt Country Park in Chirk in late Spring 2011. The works were undertaken in agreement with the Wrexham County Borough Council Biodiversity Officer and, as part of the translocation programme, it was agreed to undertake monitoring of the slow worm populations over a number of years. This Report provides the results of the monitoring survey from 2013.

2.0 Methodology

Survey methodologies followed recommendations in the Herpetofauna Workers' Manual (Gent & Gibson 2003) and comprised the placement and repeat checks of artificial refugia within areas of suitable reptile habitat at both Sites.

A total of 20 no. 0.5 m x 0.5 m corrugated bitumen roofing tiles were placed within the receptor area at the Tesco Store site, whilst 40 were placed within the receptor area at Brynkinalt Country Park. Figures 1 and 2 show the locations of the artificial refugia. Artificial refugia were distributed on 10th April 2013. After allowing the refugia to settle into the habitats, they were all checked, above and below, on four separate occasions for slow worm.

The surveys were undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist during appropriate weather conditions between 30th May 2013 and 27th September 2013. A viable survey was considered to be within a temperature range of between 10 - 20 ° C (Edgar et al., 2010) with no heavy rain or considerable overnight frost.

3.0 Limitations

On each monitoring visit to Brynkinalt Country Park refugia, particularly within the open grassland and woodland edge habitat, had been removed. These were replaced, however, the majority were then found to have been taken again at the time of the following monitoring visit. This is considered to be a considerable constraint to the monitoring programme. The remaining refugia were placed in open areas within the woodland habitat, which, over the course of the survey visits became vegetated with thickening canopy and ground flora layers. Overshading would have limited the value of the refugia to slow worms.

4.0 Results and Discussion

The monitoring visits were undertaken on 30th May 2013, 31st May 2013, 10th June 2013 and 27th September 2013.

No slow worms were recorded within the Tesco Store Site receptor area during the 2013 monitoring surveys. Despite providing cover for slow worms, the ongoing disturbance at the Site from anthropogenic activity will limit opportunities for basking and movement between different habitats at the Site such that the Site is not considered to represent ideal habitat for this species.

No slow worms were recorded at the receptor Site within Brynkinalt Country Park during the 2013 monitoring surveys. It is anticipated that slow worms will have dispersed into other areas of the Country Park and, therefore, were not detected during the surveys beneath the refugia that remained. The Country Park is considered to represent an ideal mosaic of habitats for slow worm and, therefore, any individuals present may not have been identified during the monitoring surveys.

Further monitoring is due to be undertaken in 2014 and 2016.

5.0 Contact Details

We trust that this Report is sufficient for your current needs, however, if you require any further support on this project then please do not hesitate to contact either of the team below.

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Alex Ferguson	Projects Director	01522 882568	07771 945196	alex.ferguson@deltasimons.com

References

Gent, A. H. & Gibson S. D., eds (2003) Herpetofauna Workers Manual. Peterborough, Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Edgar, P., Foster, J. and Baker, J. (2010). Reptile Habitat Management Handbook. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.

Encl.

- Figure 1 Location of Artificial Refugia – Tesco Store
Figure 2 Location of Artificial Refugia – Brynkinalt Country Park

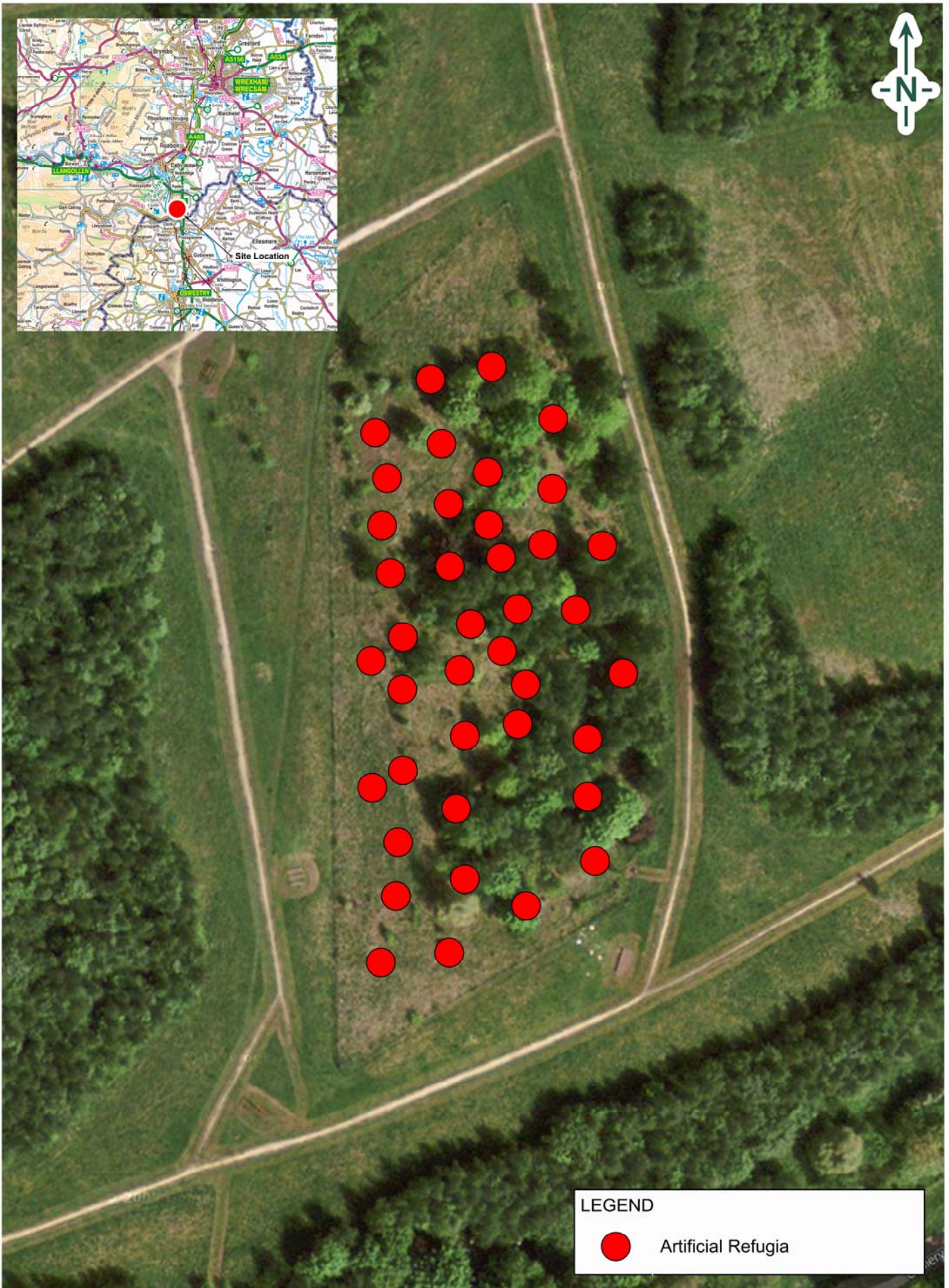




LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Slow Worm Receptor Area
- Artificial Refugia

Data provided by Aspect Landscape Planning. Drawing Reference: ASP2 Landscape Masterplan Rev.B



LEGEND

● Artificial Refugia

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TITLE:
Location of Artificial Refugia
Brynkinalt Country Park
Cefn Mawr

DWN: DE	SCA: Not to Scale
CHK: JB	REV: 1
DATE: 20 December 2013	

PROJECT NO.: 07-3454.07
FIGURE NO.: 2