



Development projects

Our staff have considerable experience in the development and construction sector. We are able to advise on legislation, plan and conduct any necessary mitigation works.

Case study: Fulston Manor Farm, Kent.

Badgers

This project involved the development of a disused orchard and farmland for residential homes by David Wilson Homes.

A preliminary survey by MKA Ecology confirmed the presence of badgers and common lizards at the site.

A full badger survey revealed that two social groups of badgers were likely to be utilising the site.



Badger sett being closed under English Nature licence

Bait marking surveys confirmed the relationship of specific social groups within the development area enabling accurate and cost efficient mitigation to be undertaken.

One subsidiary sett subsequently underwent destruction under licence.

Reptiles

The site also supported a high density of common lizards which required a mitigation strategy.



Male common lizard

Translocation involved the re-design and use of retained areas within the housing development as receptor sites together with translocation to two other receptor sites.

The homogenous nature of the site led to the development of pioneering techniques for efficient capture of lizards involving habitat manipulation and extensive use of pitfall traps and exclusion fencing.

All receptor sites underwent habitat improvements to ensure the long term viability of translocated populations.

Efficient capture techniques enabled quicker release of areas for the client once absence of reptiles had been established.

Over a three-year period, more than 1000 common lizards and fifty slow worms were translocated to receptor sites.