

Reptile Surveys

THE LEGISLATION:



Adder
Vipera berus



Grass snake
Natrix helvetica



Smooth snake
Coronella austriaca



Sand lizard
Lacerta agilis



Common lizard
Zootoca vivipara



Slow worm
Anguis fragilis

FOR ALL UK REPTILES

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

- ❌ Possess/control/transport/sell or exchange individuals (live or dead)
- ❌ Intentionally or recklessly kill/injure individuals



EUROPEAN PROTECTED SPECIES (EPS)

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017



EPS individuals AND their habitat are fully protected from harm.



Smooth snake
Coronella austriaca



Sand lizard
Lacerta agilis

SURVEY SEASON

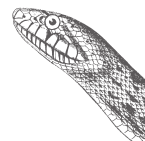
- Optimal
- Survey not possible
- Sub-optimal - subject to conditions



Reptiles are very sensitive to external temperature conditions. All reptile species found in the UK hibernate during the winter months which makes it almost impossible to spot individuals during this time. Breeding season (April - May) provides the greatest chance of finding individuals and improving data reliability.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

All six 'widespread' reptiles are considered of "Principal Importance" for enhancing biodiversity in the UK. This means local planning authorities have a duty of care in relation to conservation for these species.



WHEN MIGHT YOU NEED A SURVEY?

There may be suitable habitats on site or a record of reported sightings in the area. Think areas for basking, rest or safe passage (paths, rock piles, open habitat etc).

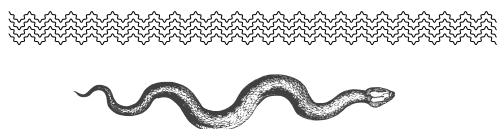


TOP TIP!

Often mitigation measures can offset the need for surveys.

REFUGE SURVEY METHOD

Artificial cover objects/refugia (usually roofing felt) is laid in suitable basking areas such as sunny, south facing, open habitat.



MID-MARCH

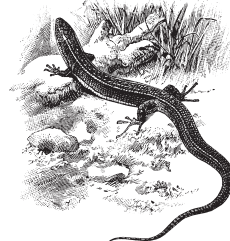
After an initial bedding in period of 10-14 days, an Ecologist will revisit the Site to check the tiles for evidence of reptile activity. After the initial visit, a further six checks must be made, at regular intervals, during the course of the survey season.

DIRECT OBSERVATION

An Ecologist will walk a transect of the site to search for individual reptiles or field signs such as skin or basking sites.



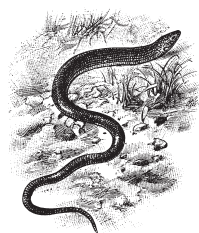
END OF SEPTEMBER



TIMINGS AND CONDITIONS

Surveys are conducted either in the morning (8:30am - 11am) or afternoon (4pm - 6:30pm) and best results are obtained when temperatures are between 9C and 20C.

IF REPTILES ARE PRESENT



The type of species found, number of individuals and their locations will be written up in a report. Mitigations will need to be put in place to prevent any accidental (or deliberate) harm to individuals. Enhancements or replacement of habitat may also be required if the original habitat is destroyed during or after construction. A habitat mitigation licence may be required.

IF REPTILES ARE NOT PRESENT

If no evidence of reptiles are found on the Site, **no further actions** will be required. If reptiles are found at any point during construction an ecologist must be contacted.

SPEAK TO US ABOUT YOUR PROJECT TODAY!

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