

# Charlotte Peacock Associates



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

## Reptile Surveys

Type of Survey	Most Suitable Time of Year
Presence / Absence Survey	7 surveys in April, May and/or September.
Population Survey	A minimum of 20 surveys in April, May and/or September.

### Legislation

There are four common reptile species in the UK; adder, grass snake, slow worm and common lizard. These species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Two other rarer species, the sand lizard and the smooth snake, also have additional protection from the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

This makes it illegal to amongst other things, kill or injure any of these reptile species. In addition it is also illegal to disturb a sand lizard or a smooth snake.

### Preferred Habitat

Reptiles can be found in a variety of habitats ranging from upland moors to gardens. Numbers are usually higher in the south of the UK due to the higher temperatures and longer summers.



### Guidance and Survey Methodology

The guidance regarding reptile surveys can be found in Froglife Advice Sheet 10: Reptile Survey (1999).

A presence /absence survey and population estimate surveys can be carried out site in April, May and/or September when morning and evening temperatures are usually between 9°C and 18°C. This involves a visit to a site to place artificial refuges such as roofing felt that reptiles will use for shelter. These are left to 'bed in' for two weeks before surveys commence. These surveys are heavily weather and temperature dependent.

If reptiles are present within a site then the mitigation will depend upon the species, number of animals found and type of works. This can range from habitat manipulation to make the area unsuitable for reptiles to a full translocation of individuals to a nearby receptor site.