

Appendix 7.7

Reptile Survey

Legislation

All native British reptile species are listed within Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and are afforded protection against killing and injury under parts of sub-section 9(1) of the Act. In addition, all native British reptile species are S41 priority species in England.

Methodology

A total of 125 reptile refugia, comprising a combination of rectangles and squares of roofing felt measuring 1.0 x 0.5m and 0.5m x 0.5m, were installed in reptile-friendly habitats across the site on 13 July 2016 by Michelle Bullock MCIEEM. Survey effort involved sampling suitable habitats present at the Site. A total of five sample areas, labelled A-E on **Figure 7.7**, were chosen, with each area comprising 25 refugia set out in a 5x5 grid. Each individual refugia were installed c. 10m apart.

Following an initial 2-week 'bedding-in' period for refugia, surveys were carried out on seven occasions during favourable weather conditions (e.g. intermittent or hazy sunshine, not too windy, sunny spells following wet or cloudy weather) between July and September 2016. Each survey visit comprised a slow walk of the site to visually and physically check refugia for the presence of reptiles. On each occasion a watching brief was also maintained for any reptiles elsewhere on site, whilst walking between refugia locations. Seven survey checks is generally considered to constitute a reasonable survey effort with which to establish the presence/likely absence of reptiles at a site.

Limitations

There were no limitations to the reptile survey at the Site.

Results

No reptiles were recorded at the Site. The survey weather conditions are detailed in Table 7.8.1 below.

Table 7.8.1 Reptile survey weather conditions

Survey Date (2016)	Temp (°C)	Precipitation	Cloud Cover	Wind (Beaufort Scale)
26 Jul	17	None	7	1
01 Aug	14-15	None, rain after survey	2	1
09 Aug	16	None, rain before survey.	2	1
31 Aug	16	None, drizzle after survey	7	2
05 Sept	15	Drizzle	8	1
12 Sept	17	None, drizzle after survey	7	0
22 Sept	15	None, drizzle after survey	8	2

Assessment

No reptiles were recorded during the presence/likely-absence survey. As such, reptiles are considered likely-absent from the Site. It is therefore

concluded that the Site falls short of the threshold for local importance for this species.