

Botley Bypass Phase 3 Reptile Mitigation Strategy

West of Hamble

- Winter tree clearance. Woody vegetation will be cut to ground level with no stump removal during winter clearance. Reptile species are considered unlikely to be inhabiting wet/flooded riparian habitats during winter and therefore potential impacts to reptile species are considered to be minimal.
 - o Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to agree specific access/haul routes that avoid/minimise disturbance to habitats suitable for reptiles. These routes will be clearly marked (e.g. using site tape) to ensure informal access to adjacent areas is avoided.
- Working areas - Retain minimum 5m wide buffers around field margins where not within construction footprint.
- Ensure current mowing and grazing management is maintained to prevent further reptile habitat developing within works footprint.
- Non-woody vegetation - Phased vegetation clearance between Spring (March if weather suitable) and Autumn (September into October if weather suitable) working towards retained habitat with EcOW supervision.

East of Hamble

- Winter tree clearance. Woody vegetation will be cut to ground level with no stump removal during winter clearance. Reptile species are considered unlikely to be inhabiting wet/flooded riparian habitats during winter and therefore potential impacts to reptile species are considered to be minimal.
 - o ECoW to agree specific access/haul routes that avoid/minimise disturbance to habitats suitable for reptiles. These routes will be clearly marked (e.g. using site tape) to ensure informal access to adjacent areas is avoided.
- Maintain fields as per current/recent management – eg take hay cut summer/autumn to prevent better structured habitat developing. Maintain buffers of uncut grassland around field margins (minimum 5m).
- Working areas - Retain buffers around hedgerows/margins where possible to retain highest quality reptile habitat eg minimum of 5m buffer from edge of hedgerows/tree lines/rail embankments for compound areas or temporary works areas.
- Enhance areas where reptiles will be moved/encouraged into = hibernacula, log piles (e.g. using some arisings from tree clearance), vegetation management (allowing tussocky sward to develop).
- Install reptile fence outside of retained areas to enclose works areas. Install reptile fence in March 2025 followed by minimum 30 visit trap out. Installation of fencing may be undertaken during winter months in areas unsuitable for reptile hibernation – areas to be agreed with ecologist. Trapping would need to continue for the minimum 30 days and until there are 5 clear days with no reptiles. Compartmentalising areas may allow works to proceed in certain areas if trap out complete within compartment (e.g. compound areas).
- Trap out start March (weather dependent: 9-18C with sunshine). Programme trap out March to May for start of works May 2025. March is unlikely to provide sufficient suitable conditions to complete the trap out and trap out will need to continue into at least April, but trap out may commence in March where there are suitable conditions.
- Reptiles to be relocated to retained habitats outside construction area and to wider corridor along Hamble.

An indicative draft reptile fencing plan is shown in Figure 1 below. The final layout will depend on the confirmed temporary working areas (eg buffers for hedgerows, rail embankment and tree lines and other retained areas such as around the water main). Reptile fencing must be placed outside of root protection areas of retained trees and should enclose any areas of temporary works.

Reptile fencing should be constructed using semi-permanent reptile fencing 1mm thick x 1200mm high (preconstruction height) with an anti-climb lip orientated away from the construction area. Fencing should be buried to 300mm and have a return at the base of 100mm.



Figure 1 Draft reptile fence layout – indicative only and will need updating once retained field margin buffers are known together with other retained areas e.g. buffers around water main.

