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Reptile Monitoring Survey: Land South of Maddoxford Lane, Phase 2

This letter report outlines the results of an updated reptile survey that was completed within the receptor area at the land south of Maddoxford Lane site. This was required as part of condition 6 (reptile monitoring) after a reptile capture was completed in summer 2021. The boundary fence around the receptor was damaged in spring 2023 which meant an additional reptile capture operation was undertaken. This monitoring survey therefore serves to see how the reptile population is doing within the site.

Methods

The reptile survey undertaken by Ecosupport was carried out in accordance with best practice guidelines as stated in various resources (Froglife 1999) (Gent & Gibson 1998) during April / May 2025 by Ecosupport staff. Artificial refugia comprising of bitumen roofing felt were distributed throughout the suitable reptile habitats within the fenced off receptor and surrounding habitats with the approximate locations shown in **Fig 1**. Seven visits to the site were subsequently undertaken during suitable weather conditions during which all the refugia were checked for the presence of reptiles in combination with a visual observation transect. This survey is considered sufficient to identify the presence or likely absence of reptiles on the site and a characterization of the population size.

Results

The distribution of the reptile refugia on the site is shown in **Fig 1** below with numberings of the refugia shown and the full results in **Table 1**.

Figure 1. The approximate distribution of the reptile mats within and adjacent to the fenced off receptor area with numberings given as well).



Table 1. Results of the monitoring survey undertaken in spring 2025 with the mat numberings as they relate to **Fig 1** above.

									Slow Worm				Reptile Mat Number/Location
Date	Surveyor	Start Time	End Time	Weather Conditions (Temp, Wind, Cloud &, Precipitation)	Comm on Lizard	Grass Snake	Adde r		AM	AF	SA	J	
23/04/25	MB	11.15	12.00	13°C,3,100%,0	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	RM32
29/04/25	RP	09:05	09:25	15°C,1,0%,0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	RM21, RM31
02/05/25	RP	08:20	08:40	16°C,1,15%,0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
06/05/25	RP	12:20	12:40	13°C,4,95%,0	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	RM12 RM26
08/05/25	RP, AJ (Amy)	10:30	10:40	13°C,1,90%,0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13/05/25	RP	08:15	08:30	15°C,1,95%,0	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	RM33, RM26
15/05/2025	RP	9:40	10:05	12°C; 2, 80%, 0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mats collected

AM – Adult Male, AF – Adult Female, SA – Sub-adult, J – Juvenile

Evaluation

Based on the results of the monitoring survey conducted in spring 2025 by Ecosupport staff, there is a low population of Slow Worms persisting within the fenced off reptile receptor with some Slow Worms around the perimeter of the fencing as well. As construction progresses, it is advised that the fencing is removed in autumn 2025 to allow for the dispersal of the reptiles into the wider and then another monitoring survey complete in spring 2026.

Kind regards,

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Principal Ecologist