

# Environmental Standard Operating Procedure 11

## Reptile Mitigation

The Broads flood banks and surrounding areas are habitats for 4 species of native British reptile; common lizard, grass snake, slow worm & adder. All are UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority species. Working practices aim to comply with the protected species legislation which protects all species against killing and injury.

### Aim

To avoid killing and injury to reptiles whilst undertaking works on flood banks, grazing marshes and heaths

### Environmental Risk

Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation
Killing and injury of reptiles during active summer & winter hibernation periods	High	Pre-survey & exclude reptiles from works area prior to & during work



### Delivery method

- Vegetation cutting with hand operated cutters between May and mid September only when ambient temp > 15oC, sunny with no rain, usually between 10am and 4pm
- Direction of cut to be from centre of works area outwards
- Cut vegetation down to not less than 15cms, rake off arisings and remove from works area
- Leave area for 48hrs before the second cut to ground level and removal of arisings in suitable weather conditions as above
- Carry out further cutting to maintain bare ground as above
- Consult with Environment Officer if translocation is needed

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### Standard Procedure

- **March or September** – identify work areas
- **March/April/May or September/October** – Environment Officer carries out reptile survey of works area(s) and determines mitigation requirement
- Mitigation most likely to be exclusion if other suitable habitat adjoins the works area but under some circumstances translocation might be required (see below)
- For exclusion, vegetation cutting is used to displace reptiles in spring (ideally), with follow up monitoring by Environment Officer
- Artificial refuges can be used to attract reptiles to a new area
- Translocation can be carried out if reptiles need to be moved to another site – this is likely to apply where existing habitat is being permanently affected, i.e. bank removal (NE should be consulted as best practice)
- **Mid September to October** – commence works when reptiles excluded
- **Translocation:**
  - Suitable receptor site identified prior to translocation
  - Installation of fencing and pitfall traps by BA operatives in May/June under supervision of ecologist
  - Reptile capture over 30 days (small population) to 90 days (large population)
  - Maintenance of fencing during works
- Surveys should be carried out a year after the works to ensure no detrimental impacts to reptile numbers

### Consultation Required

- **Broads Authority internal** – Environment Officer
- **External** – Natural England (translocation)

### Further Information

Herpetological Conservation Trust – [Herpetofauna Workers Manual](#)