

Appendix 9.11 – Draft Reptile Method Statement

Introduction

- 1.1 Grass snakes are most commonly associated with wet habitats such as ponds, lakes, marshes, streams, ditches and rivers and have a diet consisting almost entirely of amphibians. The adder and slow worm are typically associated with drier, heathland habitat and the common lizard is found in a wide range of habitats. The smooth snake and sand lizard are found in similar habitats, typically mature heathland. All these species are "cold blooded", and need to bask in sunlight; such basking opportunities are readily found on south-facing slopes.
- 1.2 During the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey undertaken in August 2012, a grass snake was observed along the northern boundary of the site by the Salt Way. No reptiles were observed during a walkover survey in 2014. From the habitats present on site it is considered highly likely that reptiles are limited to the hedgerows and field margins only as a large proportion of the site comprises arable fields which are considered unsuitable for reptiles.
- 1.3 There is a risk that a low number of reptiles could be disturbed or harmed by site clearance works and construction activities undertaken in the hedgerow and associated field margin habitats. This risk is increased if these works are undertaken during the reptile hibernation period as reptiles could potentially hibernate in the hedgerows.

Method Statement

- 1.4 The following measures will be implemented prior to commencement of the construction works:
 1. Cut hedgerow and field margin vegetation within the working areas to approximately 10cm above ground level two weeks prior to the commencement of the construction works to discourage reptiles from the working areas;
 2. Remove vegetation cuttings from the site;
 3. Maintain these areas in this condition until the commencement of the construction works;
 4. Remove any debris present within the affected areas, which could be used by reptiles as refuges.

Time constraints

| Activity | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Hedgerow clearance and vegetation removal | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Removal of debris | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | |

■ - Optimum period for undertaking activity