

Environmental Statement: Chapter 7

Technical Appendix 7.8: Reptile Survey

Land East of Blackmore Farm, Melksham

Gleeson Land Ltd

March 2026

Report reference	Report Status	Date	Prepared by	Authorised
Appendix 7.8 Reptile Survey	Final	13 March 2026	A. Robinson BSc	J. Cook, BSc(Hons) PhD CEnv MCIEEM



EAD Ecology
Armada House
Odhams Wharf
Topsham
Exeter
EX3 0PB
Tel: 01392 260420

Email: info@eadecology.co.uk
www.eadecology.co.uk

The information which we have prepared is true, and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the client and unless otherwise agreed in writing by EAD Ecology, no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report. No liability is accepted by EAD Ecology for any use of this report, other than for the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

EAD Ecology has exercised due care in preparing this report. It has not, unless specifically stated, independently verified information provided by others. No other warranty, express or implied, is made in relation to the content of this report and EAD Ecology assumes no liability for any loss resulting from errors, omissions or misrepresentation made by others.

Any recommendation, opinion or finding stated in this report is based on circumstances and facts as they existed at the time that EAD Ecology performed the work.

Nothing in this report constitutes legal opinion. If legal opinion is required the advice of a qualified legal professional should be secured.

© Copyright EAD Ecology 2026

Contents

1	Methodology.....	1
2	Limitations	1
3	Results	1
4	References.....	2

Tables

Table A7.8.1.	2021 reptile survey results.....	2
Table A7.8.2.	2025 reptile survey results.....	2

1 Methodology

- 1.1.1 A reptile survey was undertaken in 2021 and updated in 2025. Both surveys were undertaken according to standard methodology (English Nature 1994; Froglife 1999).
- 1.1.2 256 artificial refuges (0.5m x 0.5m roofing felt tiles) were deployed in suitable habitat within the Site boundary on 15 and 16 April 2021 and checked on seven occasions in appropriate weather conditions in April and June 2021. Sites were selected to survey the most suitable habitat within the Site boundary and to provide information on the distribution of reptile populations across the Site.
- 1.1.3 257 artificial refuges (0.5m x 0.5m roofing felt tiles) were then deployed in suitable habitat within the Site boundary on 02 April 2025 and checked on seven occasions in appropriate weather conditions in April and May 2025. Sites were again selected to survey the most suitable habitat within the Site boundary and to provide information on the distribution of reptile populations across the Site.

2 Limitations

- 2.1.1 Minor limitations to the reptile surveys are summarised below:
 - A number of refugia on the western boundary were moved by a third party (not known) during the course of the 2021 survey period. These were subsequently re-deployed prior to the subsequent survey visit. This is not considered to be a significant limitation.
 - Survey refugia in the north-eastern field within the Survey Area were destroyed by cattle during the 2021 survey period; no reptiles were recorded prior to the action of the cattle. Due to the presence of livestock throughout the year within this field, it was not possible to replace these refugia. This area was considered to provide sub-optimal habitat for reptiles and, consequently, the absence of these refugia was not considered to be a significant constraint on the evaluation of the Survey Area for reptiles.
 - A small number of refugia were lost as an incidental result of land management (silage/hay cut) between the penultimate and final survey of the 2021 survey period and again during the 2025 survey period. This was not considered to be a significant constraint on the evaluation of the Survey Area for reptiles.

3 Results

- 3.1.1 Survey results from 2021 are provided in Table A7.8.1 with locations shown on Figure A7.8.1. A 'low' population of grass snake was identified within the Site (Froglife, 1999). Survey results from 2025 are provided in Table A7.8.2 with locations shown on Figure A7.8.1. A 'low' population of grass snake was identified within the Site again.
- 3.1.2 All grass snakes recorded during both the 2021 and 2025 surveys were found under refuges located adjacent to a single hedgerow located in the north of the Site.

Table A7.8.1. 2021 reptile survey results

Visit	Date	Start Time	Weather	Results
1	29/04/2021	10:40	Temp 9°C, cloud cover 5/8, wind force 1	No reptiles.
2	07/05/2021	10:00	Temp 11°C, cloud cover 5/8, wind force 2	1 grass snake.
3	12/05/2021	10:45	Temp 13°C, cloud cover 4/8, wind force 1	No reptiles.
4	19/05/2021	14:00	Temp 14°C, cloud cover 5/8, wind force 3	1 grass snake slough.
	20/05/2021	09:00	Temp 10°C, cloud cover 8/8, wind force 3	1 grass snake slough.
5	24/05/2021	12:45	Temp 12°C, cloud cover 6/8, wind force 1	No reptiles.
6	10/06/2021	13:00	Temp 19°C, cloud cover 7/8, wind force 1	1 grass snake.
7	17/06/2021	08:30	Temp 18°C, cloud cover 8/8, wind force 1	1 grass snake.

Table A7.8.2. 2025 reptile survey results

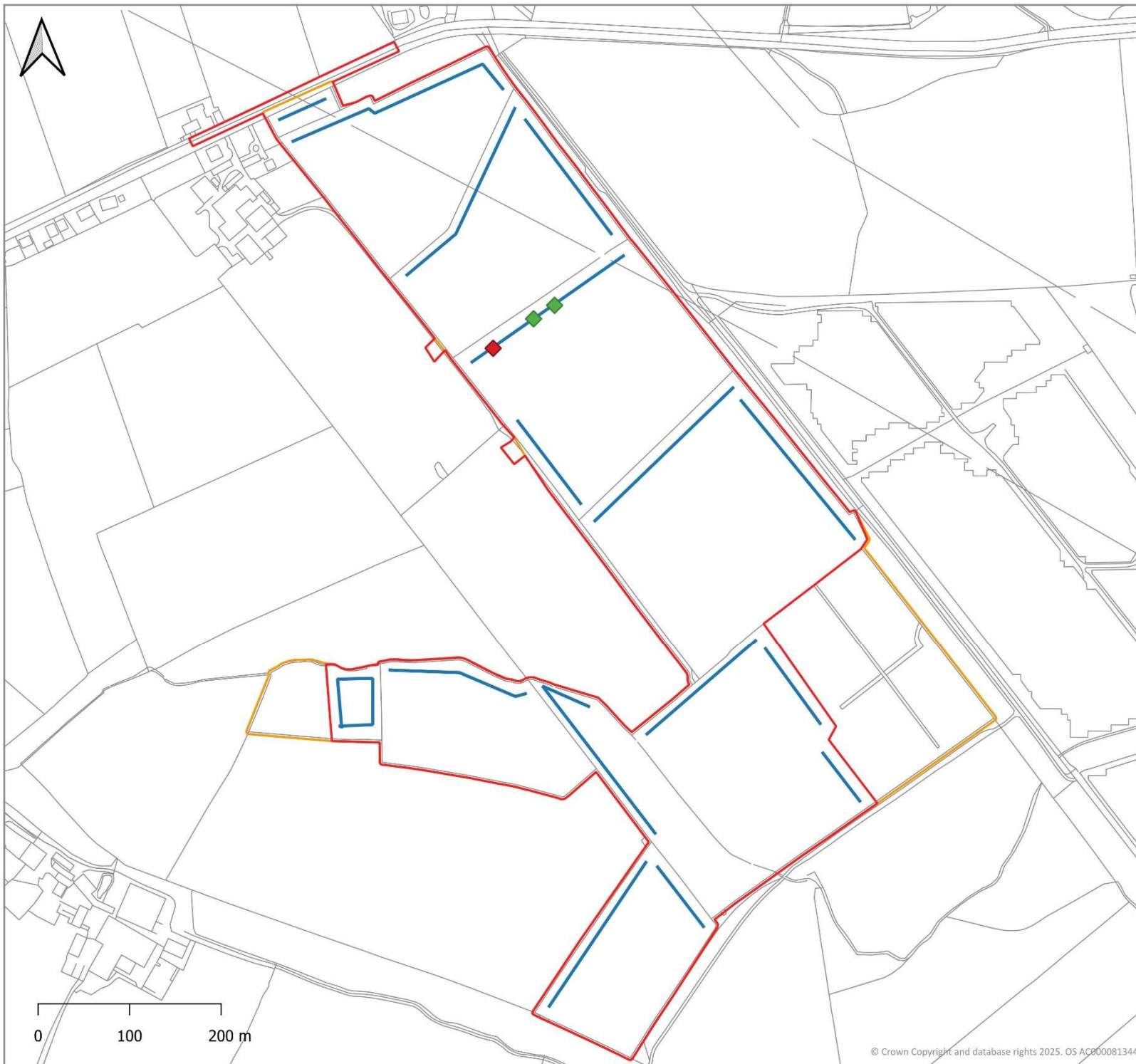
Visit	Date	Start Time	Weather	Results
1	15/04/2025	08:30	Temp 12°C, cloud cover 3/8, wind force 2	No reptiles.
2	24/04/2025	16:30	Temp 17°C, cloud cover 4/8, wind force 0	No reptiles.
3	29/04/2025	08:00	Temp 15°C, cloud cover 1/8, wind force 1	No reptiles.
4	01/05/2025	07:30	Temp 16°C, cloud cover 2/8, wind force 0	No reptiles.
5	07/05/2025	09:00	Temp 15°C, cloud cover 3/8, wind force 2	No reptiles.
6	11/05/2025	07:30	Temp 12°C, cloud cover 2/8, wind force 1	1 grass snake.
7	16/05/2025	08:00	Temp 14°C, cloud cover 0/8, wind force 1	No reptiles.

4 References

English Nature (1994). *Species Conservation Handbook*. JNCC, Peterborough.

Froglife (1999). *Reptile survey: an introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation*. *Froglife Advice Sheet 10*. Froglife, Halesworth.

Figure A7.8.1: Reptile Survey Plan



Key

- Site boundary
- Survey boundary
- Grass snake location 2021
- Grass snake location 2025
- Reptile felt location



Armada House, Odhams Wharf, Topsham, Exeter EX3 0PB
t: 01392 260420 e: info@eadecology.co.uk

www.eadecology.co.uk