



Reptile ecology, survey, mitigation and handling

This course is designed to enable you to identify UK reptile species, identify suitable reptile habitat, undertake reptile survey and develop reptile mitigation strategies. The course is part classroom and part field based to provide practical survey and handling experience.

Course content:

- Legislation/protection and conservation issues
- Reptile ecology
- Identification of UK reptile species
- Assessment of habitat potential for reptiles
- Reptile survey methods
- Mitigation strategies including reptile fencing, capture, translocation, habitat manipulation, watching briefs, habitat and hibernaculum creation
- Practical experience of undertaking reptile survey to current best practice
- Catching and handling of reptiles

Attendees must be fit and able to walk across rough terrain, and require appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear.

We will visit heathland where slow worm, grass snake, common lizard and adder are abundant. However, the results of the field survey will be weather dependant and we cannot guarantee that wild reptiles will be encountered or able to be handled. As a minimum, attendees will be able to handle slow worms. Should adders be encountered, capture and handling will be demonstrated by the instructor. Attendees wanting to handle adders should bring their own personal protective equipment, i.e., snake-proof gloves, and will handle adders at their own risk.

A course certificate will be issued following completion of a test.

