

XLINKS' MOROCCO-UK POWER PROJECT

Environmental Statement

Volume 2, Appendix 1.9: Reptile Survey Part 3

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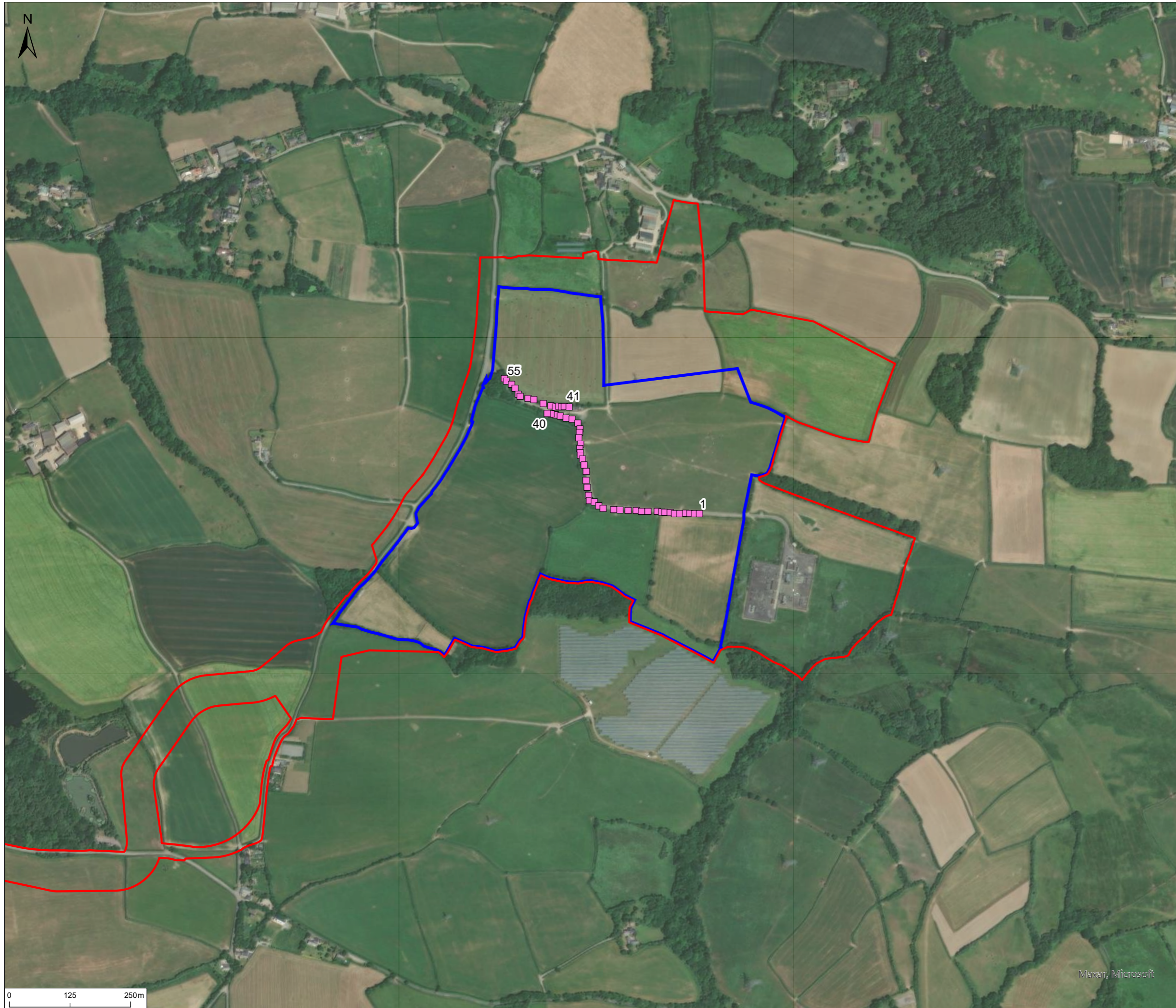
PINS Reference: EN010164/APP/6.2

APFP Regulations: 5(2)(a)

November 2024

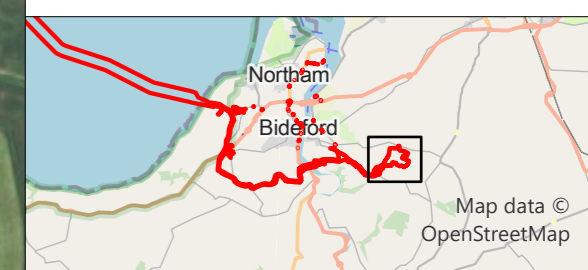
For Issue





Notes
 1. This plan is scaled at paper size A3. If received electronically it is the recipient's responsibility to print to the correct scale. Only written dimensions should be used.

- Legend**
- Order Limits
 - Converter Site
 - 2024 reptile mat location



P01	FINAL	MP	BC	18.11.24
Rev	Description	By	CB	Date



Client Xlinks 1 Limited
 Project Xlinks' Morocco-UK Power Project
 Title 2024 Reptile Survey Locations and Results (east)

Status FINAL Scale @ A3 1:7,500 Date Created Nov 2024
 Figure Number 1.15 Rev P01

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1.7 Summary

- 1.7.1 The survey identified the presence of a low population of slow worm in the vicinity of the A39 at Abbotsham Cross roundabout, a low population of slow worm in a field adjacent to the Kenwith Stream and Rocky Lane, and a low population of common lizard in the field containing the Landfall.
- 1.7.2 The population estimates for these species are based on guidance from Froglife (1999) and this suggests that the populations of slow worm are low. However, given that numbers of refuge sheets were disturbed and moved by grazing cattle (particularly in 2021) during the surveys, it is possible that populations may be present at other locations than can be assumed from the survey results.
- 1.7.3 What is clear is that the reptile populations appear to be small and limited to areas of suitable habitat associated with the Proposed Development.

Direct Impacts

Construction

- 1.7.4 The Proposed Development would directly affect the habitats with which the reptile populations are associated during its construction.
- 1.7.5 There is some risk of injury to individuals during construction activity, particularly associated with use of the Landfall trenchless cabling compound, some parts of the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor (particularly where it passes through hedgerows to the north of Abbotsham and crosses the Kenwith Stream) and in the vicinity of the compound at the crossing of the A39 road.
- 1.7.6 The impacts on the grass snake identified outside of the Onshore Infrastructure Area (relating to the previous converter location) will not now occur as this area will not be affected by construction activity.

Operation

- 1.7.7 Operation of the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor will not result in any additional impacts on reptiles, as existing habitats will be reinstated. If reptiles were found to be present at the Converter Site, there would be a direct loss of habitat resulting from its construction and operation.

Indirect Impacts

- 1.7.8 Potential indirect impacts to the reptile population as a result of the Proposed Development are limited. There may be a slight increase in habitats suitable for reptiles resulting from the landscape design associated with the Converter Site.

Assessment

- 1.7.9 The reptile population currently identified is strongly associated with the area associated with Abbotsham Cross roundabout on the A39 and at locations to the north of Abbotsham and around the Landfall. Along much of the route, habitats are not conducive to the presence of reptiles and they are not present in those areas deemed to have some potential (which have been accessible for survey).

- 1.7.10 It is possible that further populations do occur in locations which have not yet been surveyed due to landowner access limitations. In particular some areas of the Converter Site have not been accessible, although it would be expected that if large populations were present in this area, some indication would have been identified during the survey of the access road to the existing Alverdiscott Substation. Areas identified during this survey appear to coincide with locations where reptiles were found there previously during the Atlantic Array scheme.
- 1.7.11 The design of the Proposed Development retains or reinstates all of the features which currently support the reptile population. While there is a limited risk of injury to individuals as a result of construction activity this can be managed by careful habitat management to discourage reptiles from the areas affected.
- 1.7.12 A number of common amphibians were also identified during the 2021 surveys, notably in the vicinity of the stream leading to Jennetts Reservoir near Dunn Farm, Littleham.
- 1.7.13 Although common amphibians are not specifically protected against harm, these populations should be treated with the same mitigation measures as are finally identified for reptiles in order to protect them from harm as a result of construction of the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor.

1.8 References

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2023) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework> Accessed: October 2024.

Froglife (1999). Froglife Advice Sheet 10 Reptile Survey. An Introduction to Planning, Conducting and Interpreting Surveys for Snake and Lizard Conservation. Froglife UK.

Froglife (2015) Surveying for Reptiles (Tips, Techniques and Skills to Help You Survey for Reptiles). Froglife UK.

Gent, A. H., & Gibson, S.D., eds. (2003) Herpetofauna Workers' Manual. (revised reprint) JNCC, Peterborough.

Annex A: Relevant Legislation

A.1 REPTILES

A.1.1 All common UK reptile species (Adder, Grass Snake, Common Lizard and Slow Worm) are protected through part of Section 9(1 and 5) of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This prohibits:

- Intentional or reckless injuring or killing;
- Selling, offering or exposing for sale, or having in possession or transporting for the purpose of sale, any live or dead wild animal or any part of, or anything derived from, such an animal; or
- Publishing or causing to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying buying or selling, or intending to buy or sell, any of those things.

Annex B: Results Table

2021 Reptile Survey Results Summary

Survey	Date	Weather	Species found/Total count
1	06/09/2021	20% cloud, 19°C	
2	13/09/2021	60% cloud, 12°C	
3	16/09/2021	20% cloud, 18°C	
4	19/09/2021	60% cloud, 18°C	2 j toads, 1f smooth newt, common frog Dunn Farm, Littleham
5	20/09/2021	5% cloud, 17°C	1 m toad, 2 j toads, common frogs Dunn Farm Littleham
6	22/09/2021	40% cloud, 18°C	
7	29/09/2021	60% cloud, 14°C	1 f Slow worm, South of A39. 1m toad and 2 j toads Dunn Farm, Littleham

2024 Reptile Survey Results Summary

Survey	Date	Weather	Species found/Total count
1	20/09/2024	Cloud 4/8, light breeze, dry and 14 °C	Western section – 1 juvenile slow worm
2	24/09/2024	Cloud 7/8, light breeze, dry and 14 °C	
3	26/09/2024	Cloud 6/8, gentle breeze, drizzle and 15 °C	
4	27/09/2024	Cloud 5/8, moderate breeze, dry and 13 °C	
5	30/09/2024	Cloud 8/8, fresh breeze, dry and 14 °C	
6	2/10/2024	Cloud 7/8, gentle breeze, dry and 14 °C	
7	3/10/2024	Cloud 0/8, gentle breeze, dry and 14 °C	Western section - 1 adult common lizard

Notes:

SW – Slow worm

GS – Grass snake

VB – Adder

CL – Common lizard

m – Male

f – Female

j – Juvenile