

Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project
Anglian Water Services Limited

Appendix 8.5: Reptile Baseline Technical Appendix

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Overview	1
1.2	Aims and objectives	1
1.3	Project description	1
1.4	Legislation	4
2	Methodology.....	5
2.1	Desk study	5
2.2	Field survey.....	5
	Presence/absence surveys.....	5
	Evaluation methods	6
2.3	Methodology limitations and assumptions	7
3	Results	8
3.1	Desk study results	8
3.2	Field survey results.....	8
3.3	Survey limitations and assumptions	9
4	References	10
5	Appendix A.....	11
5.1	Site descriptions	11
6	Appendix B.....	15
6.1	Desk study records	15
7	Appendix C.....	16
7.1	Full survey results and weather conditions	16

Tables

Table 2-1: Reptile population size class assessment qualifying criteria	6
Table 3-1: Reptile sighting summary	8
Table 6-1: Desk study records	15
Table 7-1: Site R1, Existing Cambridge WWTP	16
Table 7-2: Site R2, Low Fen Drove Way CWS	16
Table 7-3: Site R3, Land adjacent to the barn on Low Fen Drove Way	16
Table 7-4: Site R4, land at Poplar Hall.....	17
Table 7-5: Site R5, Land adjacent to Biggin Abbey Cottages	17
Table 7-6: Site R6, Long Drove	18
Table 7-7: Site R7, Bannold Road	18
Table 7-8: Site R8, Burgess’s Drove	19
Table 7-9: Site R9 Land south of Burgess’s Drove.....	19
Table 7-10: Site R10, Clayhithe Farm	19
Table 7-11: Site R11, Eye Hall	20
Table 7-12: Site R12, Gayton Farm	20
Table 7-13: Site R13, Horningsea Rod.....	21
Table 7-14: Site R14, Green End	21

Figures

Figure 1.1: Scheme Order Limits	3
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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 The reptile surveys were carried out to inform the biodiversity assessment completed for the Proposed Development as reported in Chapter 8: Biodiversity (Application Document Reference 5.2.8). These species could be potential constraints to the Proposed Development or influence its design and implementation. An extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (Appendix 8.10, App Doc Ref 5.4.8.10) identified and mapped the main habitats within 5 km of the boundary of the Proposed Development as it was in 2020 – 2021.
- 1.1.2 The surveys have been completed in accordance with the Survey Technical Note (Appendix 8.12, App Doc Ref 5.4.8.12) as circulated to the Biodiversity Technical Working Group (TWG) and agreed in June – September 2020.
- 1.1.3 Figures 8.34 to 8.38 associated with this document can be found in the Book of Figures – Biodiversity (App Doc Ref 5.3.8).

1.2 Aims and objectives

- 1.2.1 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was undertaken between July and September 2020 to establish the broad ecological baseline for the Proposed Development, which includes the Proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), the Waterbeach Pipeline and surrounding areas which may be affected by the works (defined as the proposed survey area). Based on the findings of the PEA, habitat and protected species surveys¹ have been undertaken throughout 2021 to determine the ecological baseline. The PEA identified 14 sites as being suitable for further examination for reptiles.
- 1.2.2 This technical appendix presents a summary of the baseline data from reptile surveys undertaken in 2021 and within 100m of the Scheme Order Limits. It also sets out the methodology used and results of reptile surveys carried out in relation to the Proposed Development.
- 1.2.3 This report should be read in conjunction with Chapter 8: Biodiversity (App Doc Ref 5.2.8) of the Environmental Statement to which this report is appended.

1.3 Project description

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development involves the construction of a new integrated Waste Water Treatment Plant (hereafter Proposed WWTP) together with the associated waste water transfer infrastructure, comprising waste water transfer tunnel (underground tunnel), sewer rising main diversions and a treated effluent discharge outfall to the River Cam (the outfall). The Proposed Development also includes a

¹ Invasive species surveys were conducted in conjunction with other ecological receptor surveys. Target notes and annotations on maps were made when invasive species were encountered.

transfer pipeline corridor, the Waterbeach Pipeline, from the Waterbeach Water Recycling Centre (WRC) to the Existing Cambridge WWTP. The Proposed WWTP will incorporate an integrated Sludge Treatment Centre (STC) which would treat sludge imported from other treatment plants in the Cambridge catchment.

- 1.3.2 A detailed project description is included in Chapter 2: Project description (App Doc Ref 5.2.2) of the Environmental Statement.
- 1.3.3 The Proposed Development is located north-east of Cambridge and is mostly made up of arable land surrounded by drainage ditches. The A14 and Low Fen Drove Way County Wildlife Site (CWS) are dominant features of the landscape lying to the south and east, respectively, of the Proposed Development. The B1047 Horningsea Road borders the proposed WWTP site to the west. The River Cam is west of the WWTP site. Here, discharges of treated effluent will occur.
- 1.3.4 The Scheme Order Limits cover an area of approximately 211ha. Surveys were undertaken within the Scheme Order Limits plus a 100m buffer. Several habitats within the Scheme Order Limits boundary provide good quality foraging and hibernation potential for reptiles, including scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, poor semi-improved grassland and tall ruderal vegetation. Site descriptions are provided in Table 5.1, Appendix A.
- 1.3.5 Figure 1.1 below details the location of the Proposed Development and shows the Scheme Order Limits.

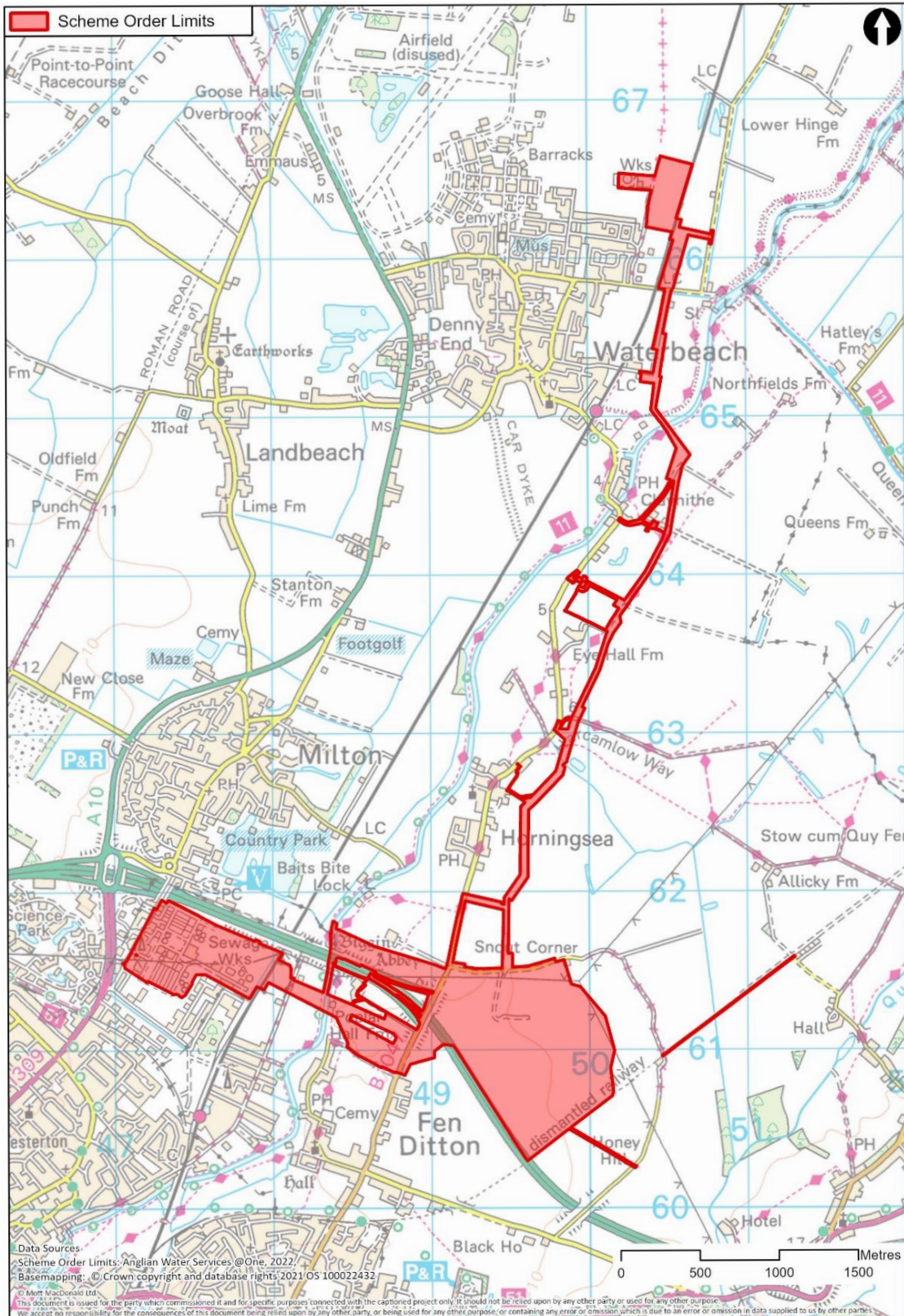


Figure 1.1: Scheme Order Limits

1.4 Legislation

- 1.4.1 In England, all six native species of reptile (common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, sand lizard *Lacerta agilis*, grass snake *Natrix natrix*, adder *Vipera berus* and smooth snake *Coronella austriaca*) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (HM Government, 1981) (as amended), making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill or injure any reptile species.
- 1.4.2 Additional protection is afforded to the sand lizard and smooth snake under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (HM Government, 2017)(as amended), under which they are listed as a European Protected Species, making it an offence to:
- deliberately capture, injure or kill these reptile species;
 - deliberately disturb these reptile species; and
 - damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of these reptiles; this applies whether the animals are present or not.

2 Methodology

2.1 Desk study

- 2.1.1 A desk study relating to reptiles was undertaken to ascertain the presence of the following:
- statutory designated sites;
 - non-statutory designated sites; and
 - the likely presence or absence of protected and priority habitats and species.
- 2.1.2 The aim of the desk study is to collate and review existing information about the area of land required for the Proposed Development and its surroundings to inform the design of subsequent reptile surveys and the impact assessment for the project.
- 2.1.3 A data search was undertaken to determine the presence of records of reptiles.
- 2.1.4 The data search for records of reptiles was conducted over a 5km radius from the approximate centre (grid reference: TL 49740 61214) of the location of the Proposed WWTP; with all statutory designated sites such as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) considered.
- 2.1.5 Information on the above features has been accessed from:
- Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC);
 - aerial photography at a scale of 1:25,000;
 - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Priority Species and Habitat Action Plans;
 - Ordnance Survey mapping (at scales of 1:50,000 and 1:25,000); and
 - local biological records held by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC) (Cambridge and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre, 2021) since 2012.

2.2 Field survey

Presence/absence surveys

- 2.2.1 In order to determine the presence or likely absence of reptiles within the Proposed Development, surveys were undertaken in accordance with the Froglife Advice Sheet 10 (Froglife, 1999) and The Herpetofauna Workers Manual (Griffiths & Inns, 2003).
- 2.2.2 Surveys were carried out within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) which was within a 100m buffer of the Scheme Order Limits.
- 2.2.3 Given the lack of any suitable habitats present within the ZoI, sand lizard and smooth snake (usually found within dune complexes/heath and heath/grassland habitats, respectively) were not surveyed for within this reptile survey. The more common

species of adder, grass snake, slow worm and common lizard were the focus of the survey.

- 2.2.4 Artificial refugia including mats and tins were placed around areas of habitat identified as of most likely value to reptiles. These habitats included semi-improved grassland, areas of tall ruderal vegetation, along hedgerows and adjacent to water courses. The number of artificial refugia was at a minimum density of 10/ha in order to conform with guidance.
- 2.2.5 The artificial refugia were deployed between 20 March and 26 August 2021 with surveys starting two weeks later, allowing the artificial mats to bed in for 14 days prior to the surveys commencing.
- 2.2.6 The artificial refugia were checked for the presence of reptiles a total of seven times between April and October 2021 during suitable weather conditions. On all survey occasions, weather conditions were dry, and all surveys commenced when temperatures were between 9°C and 20°C.
- 2.2.7 Surveying the refugia involved approaching the artificial mats slowly to check whether there were basking reptiles on top of the mats, and then lifting each mat and recording reptile presence, age and sex where possible. Where stones, log piles and other potential refugia were found across the Proposed Development area, they were lifted in the same way to assess reptile presence. In all cases, the refugia were placed back in the same location where they were found to prevent potential disturbance to reptiles and other species that may use them.
- 2.2.8 Whilst carrying out the refugia checks, additional observations were undertaken which involved walking slowly and scanning the ground around 3m – 4m in front for areas that could potentially be used as basking spots.

Evaluation methods

- 2.2.9 A basic evaluation of population size was undertaken for any reptiles recorded and was carried out using the guidelines for classifying the relative size of reptile populations based on survey counts, shown within Froglife Advice Sheet 10: Reptile Surveys (Froglife, 1999).
- 2.2.10 Table 2-1 below shows the qualifying criteria.

Table 2-1: Reptile population size class assessment qualifying criteria

Reptile species	Low population	Good population	Exceptional population
Adder	<5	5-10	>10
Grass snake	<5	5-10	>10
Common lizard	<5	5-20	>20
Slow worm	<5	5-20	>20

Source: Froglife 1999

2.3 Methodology limitations and assumptions

- 2.3.1 Biological records obtained from third parties and presented in the desk study do not represent a full and complete species list for the area. They are mostly given by individuals on an ad hoc basis, often meaning there are areas of deficiency in the data.
- 2.3.2 Records were provided from the last ten years only, as these are deemed to be most appropriate given local development and land management changes over longer periods of time.

3 Results

3.1 Desk study results

- 3.1.1 The desk study returned three records of reptiles within 5km of the Scheme Order Limits. Records were for two sightings of common lizard and one sighting of a grass snake along the River Cam.
- 3.1.2 Desk study records are shown in Table 6.1, Appendix B.
- 3.1.3 There were no statutory or non-statutory designated sites with reptiles as a reason for their designation within 5km of the Scheme Order Limits.
- 3.1.4 Following the PEA and using the data from the desk study, 14 sites were identified for further surveys. Sites were chosen based on the presence of suitable habitats for reptiles, including scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, poor semi-improved grassland and tall ruderal vegetation.

3.2 Field survey results

- 3.2.1 Although most sites returned low populations or no sightings of reptiles, two sites (R6 and R8) had exceptional populations of reptiles.
- 3.2.2 A summary of the sightings at each site is shown in Table 3-1 below.

Table 3-1: Reptile sighting summary

Site	Species	Sex/age class	Total number of sightings	Maximum number of sightings in one visit	Population class
R1	None recorded	N/A	N/A	N/A	Low
R2	Common lizard	F/adult	4	2	Low
	Grass snake	Juvenile	1	1	Low
R3	Grass snake	F/adult	1	1	Low
R4	None recorded	N/A	N/A	N/A	Low
	Common lizard	F/adult	1	1	Low
R5	Grass snake	Juvenile	2	1	Low
R6	Common lizard	F/adult	13	39	Exceptional
		M/adult	26		
		Juvenile	24		
R7	Grass snake	Juvenile	1	1	Low
R8	Common lizard	F/adult	15	21	Exceptional
		M/adult	23		
		Juvenile	9		

Site	Species	Sex/age class	Total number of sightings	Maximum number of sightings in one visit	Population class
	Grass snake		1	1	Low
R9	Common lizard	F/adult	1	1	Low
		M/adult	1		
R10	None recorded	N/A	N/A	N/A	Low
R11	None recorded	N/A	N/A	N/A	Low
R12	None recorded	N/A	N/A	N/A	Low
R13	None recorded	N/A	N/A	N/A	Low
R14	None recorded	N/A	N/A	N/A	Low

Source: Mott MacDonald Ltd

- 3.2.3 The full details of the survey results and weather conditions are presented in Appendix C.
- 3.2.4 The results suggest that the populations of grass snake and common lizard are low based on the Froglife qualifying criteria (fewer than five individuals per survey visit) at 12 out of the 14 sites. However, at sites R6 and R8 there are exceptional breeding populations of common lizard based on the Froglife qualifying criteria.
- 3.2.5 Although high numbers of individuals were recorded at sites R6 and R8, the Proposed Development is unlikely to impact on them due to the works in these areas being temporary and the use of trenchless drilling techniques. This would mean that these locations will remain unaffected, so adverse effects would be avoided completely.

3.3 Survey limitations and assumptions




- 1.1.2. Surveys were cancelled due to heavy rain on 21 May 2021 and due to extreme heat on 8 and 15 June 2021. They were re-scheduled a few days after the cancellations and so this inclement weather did not impact on the survey effort.




4 References





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- HM Government. (2017). *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*. Retrieved from UK Legislation: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/introduction/made>




5 Appendix A

5.1 Site descriptions

Site reference	Description	Photo
R1	<p>This area is the Existing Cambridge WWTP. Although mostly hard standing and buildings, there are margins of tall ruderal vegetation and semi-improved grassland suitable for reptiles as well as ditches and a railway running along the eastern boundary.</p>	
R2	<p>This area is a disused railway line between two lines of hawthorn hedge, with several basking spots and refugia for reptiles.</p> <p>It follows the south-eastern boundary of the Scheme Order Limits, adjacent to the Proposed WWTP location.</p>	
R3	<p>This area comprises of semi-improved grassland which provides good foraging and basking habitat for reptiles.</p> <p>It is approximately 50m from the Scheme Order Limits and the Proposed WWTP.</p>	
R4	<p>This area is split into two sections. The northern section is an area of semi-improved grassland and tall ruderal</p>	

Site reference	Description	Photo
	<p>vegetation adjacent to the River Cam. The southern section is an area of hedgerow and scrub in an arable field margin.</p> <p>It is within the Scheme Order Limits and the proposed waste water transfer tunnel cuts through this area.</p>	
R5	<p>This area was previously arable land but has been seeded as a cover crop and been left for a couple of seasons. The site has ditches on three sides and the River Cam to the west.</p> <p>It is within the Scheme Order Limits. The Final Effluent and storm flow pipelines run through this field. The Outfall compound is also present in this field.</p>	
R6	<p>This area comprises of semi-improved grassland with areas of scattered scrub. There is a small pond in the centre of the site and a railway line to the west.</p> <p>It is approximately 100m from the Proposed Waterbeach Pipeline.</p>	
R7	<p>This area includes the improved grassland margins along the edge of Bannold</p>	

Site reference	Description	Photo
	<p>Road. There is also an area of dense scrub.</p> <p>The proposed Waterbeach Pipeline cuts through the centre of this area from north to south.</p>	
R8	<p>This area comprises semi-improved grassland with ditches running along the boundary to the east and the railway line to west.</p> <p>The proposed Waterbeach Pipeline runs through this area along the eastern boundary from north to south.</p>	
R9	<p>This area comprises of improved grassland adjacent to the River Cam with areas of scattered scrub and hedgerows.</p> <p>The proposed Waterbeach Pipeline is located in the field to the west of this site running from north to south. The pipeline cuts across the southern tip of this area before crossing under the River Cam.</p>	
R10	<p>This area is arable land with semi-improved grassland margins. There are wet ditches on three sides as well as the River Cam to the north-west.</p> <p>The proposed Waterbeach Pipeline crosses under the River Cam and then crosses over the centre of this site.</p>	

Site reference	Description	Photo
R11	<p>This area is a field of improved grassland with a hedgerow to the east. There is also a section of broadleaf woodland.</p> <p>The proposed Waterbeach Pipeline crosses through the hedgerow to the east of this site.</p>	 An aerial photograph showing a green field on the left, a dark hedgerow running east-west, and a section of broadleaf woodland to the east. A red line outlines the field and hedgerow area.
R12	<p>This area comprises of poor semi-improved grassland with scattered scrub. There is a large agricultural reservoir with earth bunds on all sides. There is also a wet ditch to the south-west of the area.</p> <p>The proposed Waterbeach Pipeline crosses this area in the south-west corner of the reservoir.</p>	 An aerial photograph of a large blue agricultural reservoir surrounded by brown fields. A wet ditch is visible to the south-west. A red line outlines the reservoir and surrounding area.
R13	<p>This area is the margins of an arable field. The margins comprise semi-improved neutral grassland and a hedgerow.</p> <p>This area is within the Scheme Order Limits for the proposed Waterbeach Pipeline. The proposed pipeline travels from north to south in the arable land, approximately 40m east of the area.</p>	 An aerial photograph showing the margins of an arable field, including semi-improved neutral grassland and a hedgerow. A red line outlines the area.

6 Appendix B

6.1 Desk study records

Table 6-1: Desk study records

Common name	Latin name	Location	Grid reference	Precision	Date	Comments
Common lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Impington	TL442637	100m	April 2012	One seen in a private garden.
Common lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Bramble-fields Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	TL473760 63	10m	March 2012	One seen under corrugated tin.
Grass snake	<i>Natrix helvetica</i>	River Cam, Cambridge	TL447657 72	10m	August 2012	One seen in river at very close quarters.

7 Appendix C

7.1 Full survey results and weather conditions

Table 7-1: Site R1, Existing Cambridge WWTP

Survey number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	22/04/2021	No reptiles recorded	15	20
2	29/04/2021	No reptiles recorded	13	90
3	07/05/2021	No reptiles recorded	15	50
4	14/05/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	40
5	21/05/2021	No reptiles recorded	13	60
6	04/06/2021	No reptiles recorded	17	30
7	15/06/2021	No reptiles recorded	17	20

Table 7-2: Site R2, Low Fen Drove Way CWS

Survey number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	22/04/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	20
2	29/04/2021	One common lizard	12	80
3	07/05/2021	Two common lizards	15	50
4	14/05/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	40
5	04/06/2021	One common lizard	16	40
6	08/06/2021	One grass snake	17	10
7	15/06/2021	No reptiles recorded	17	20

Table 7-3: Site R3, Land adjacent to the barn on Low Fen Drove Way

Survey number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	29/04/2021	No reptiles recorded	12	80

2	07/05/2021	No reptiles recorded	15	50
3	14/05/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	40
4	04/06/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	40
5	08/06/2021	No reptiles recorded	17	10
6	22/06/2021	No reptiles recorded	15	40
7	01/07/2021	One grass snake	17	60

Table 7-4: Site R4, land at Poplar Hall

Survey number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	14/05/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	40
2	04/06/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	40
3	08/06/2021	No reptiles recorded	17	10
4	22/06/2021	No reptiles recorded	15	40
5	01/07/2021	No reptiles recorded	17	70
6	08/07/2021	No reptiles recorded	15	100
7	15/07/2021	No reptiles recorded	17	40

Table 7-5: Site R5, Land adjacent to Biggin Abbey Cottages

Survey number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	15/06/2021	No reptiles recorded	18	10
2	22/06/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	40
3	01/07/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	80
4	08/07/2021	One grass snake	16	100
5	15/07/2021	One grass snake One common lizard	17	30

Survey number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
6	16/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	15	40
7	20/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	17	95

Table 7-6: Site R6, Long Drove

Survey number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	16/9/21	One common lizard	19	50
2	23/9/21	Six common lizard	19	5
3	28/9/21	Eight common lizard	14	50
4	8/10/21	39 common lizard	19	40
5	15/10/21	5 common lizard	16	25
6	21/10/21	No reptiles recorded	18	0
7	28/10/21	1 common lizard	15	30

Table 7-7: Site R7, Bannold Road

Survey number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	15/9/21	No reptiles recorded	16	35
2	22/9/21	No reptiles recorded	14	5
3	28/9/21	No reptiles recorded	14	50
4	6/10/21	One grass snake	14	40
5	13/10/21	No reptiles recorded	14	25
6	20/10/21	No reptiles recorded	16	0
7	27/10/21	No reptiles recorded	15	30

Table 7-8: Site R8, Burgess's Drove

Survey number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	15/9/21	No reptiles recorded	16	35
2	23/9/21	10 common lizard 1 grass snake	19	5
3	28/9/21	21 common lizard	14	50
4	6/10/21	12 common lizard	14	40
5	15/10/21	2 common lizard	16	25
6	21/10/21	No reptiles recorded	18	0
7	28/10/21	No reptiles recorded	15	30

Table 7-9: Site R9 Land south of Burgess's Drove

Survey number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	16/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	19	50
2	23/09/2021	One common lizard	19	5
3	28/09/2021	One common lizard	14	50
4	06/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	40
5	13/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	25
6	20/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	0
7	27/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	15	30

Table 7-10: Site R10, Clayhithe Farm

Survey Number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	15/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	35
2	23/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	19	5
3	28/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	50

Survey Number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
4	06/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	40
5	15/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	25
6	21/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	18	0
7	28/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	15	30

Table 7-11: Site R11, Eye Hall

Survey number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	15/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	35
2	23/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	19	5
3	28/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	50
4	06/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	40
5	15/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	25
6	21/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	18	0
7	28/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	15	30

Table 7-12: Site R12, Gayton Farm

Survey number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	15/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	35
2	23/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	19	5
3	28/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	50
4	06/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	40
5	15/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	25
6	21/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	18	0
7	28/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	15	30

Table 7-13: Site R13, Horningsea Rod

Survey number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	15/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	35
2	23/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	19	5
3	28/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	50
4	06/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	40
5	15/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	25
6	21/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	18	0
7	28/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	15	30

Table 7-14: Site R14, Green End

Survey Number	Date of survey	Results	Temperature °C	Cloud cover %
1	15/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	35
2	22/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	5
3	24/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	15	10
4	27/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	16	60
5	29/09/2021	No reptiles recorded	18	50
6	01/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	17	70
7	06/10/2021	No reptiles recorded	14	40

Get in touch

You can contact us by:



Emailing at info@cwwtpr.com



Calling our Freephone information line on **0808 196 1661**



Writing to us at **Freepost: CWWTPR**



Visiting our website at 

You can view all our DCO application documents and updates on the application on The Planning Inspectorate website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/cambridge-waste-water-treatment-plant-relocation/>