



amphibian and reptile
conservation



Reptilewatch JE

surveying Jersey's reptiles

Part 2 – Level 2 Widespread



Reptilewatch JE training 2023

Part 2

- 13:00** Welcome to part 2
- 13:05** How to get involved Level 2 - Widespread reptiles
- 13:45** Launch and demonstration of the Reptilewatch App
- 14:15** Field Session - survey methods and use of the App
- 15:15** Questions, site allocations
- 16:00** Close



Reptilewatch Level 2 – widespread



No experience required, training is needed



Six surveys, **March–October**



Spend **1–2 hours** visually searching and checking artificial refugia



Record any wildlife that you see



Take photos, especially if you are not sure of what you have seen

SUBMIT

Complete the survey form and **submit your results**



Where to survey

Lowland heathland



Where to survey

Tussocky grass



Where to survey

Grassy, brambly bank (south-facing)



Where to survey

Field margins / hedgerows



Where to survey

Vegetated coastal cliffs and sand dunes



Where to survey

‘Lush’ grass



Where to survey

Manure / compost heaps



Reptile
watch, je



Where to survey (*Lev. 2 - widespread*)

Site of your own choice **or** one provided to you by Natural Environment.

Sites assigned to 500 m grid to spread effort.

Make sure you have **permission from the landowner** and it is **safe** to do so.

Landowner permission: If you have chosen a site of your own, get permission and fill out a **Landowner Survey Consent Form**.



When to survey (*Lev. 2 - widespread*)

Time of year: March–October

Reptiles rely on heat from the sun to regulate their body temperature. Better chances in the spring (April to June) and autumn (mid-August to mid-October).

Time of day: Depends on the weather, but peaks of activity are generally in the morning and afternoon.

Good conditions include days with sun or partial cloud between 10 and 20°C.

Strong wind and heavy rain are generally bad, but sunny periods after rain can be productive. Long periods of hot dry weather are not favourable.

Number of surveys: **Six**, aiming for **3 visits in spring, 2 visits in autumn.**



What might you see on a reptile survey?

Reptiles (adults, juveniles, sloughs (skin) and eggs)

Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*)

Green lizard (*Lacerta bilineata*)

Wall lizard (*Podarcis muralis*)

Grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*)



Alien reptiles

Corn snake (*Pantherophis guttatus*)

Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*)

Amphibians

Western toad / crapaud (*Bufo spinosus*)

Palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*)

Agile frog (*Rana dalmatina*)



What might you see on a reptile survey?

Small mammals (adults, juveniles, nests, faeces, burrows)

Bank vole (*Myodes glareolus* ssp. *caesarius*)

Wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)

Lesser white-toothed shrew (*Crocidura suaveolens*)

Millet's, Common or French shrew (*Sorex coronatus*)*

Cockroaches

Tawny cockroach (*Ectobius pallidus*)

Lesser cockroach (*Ectobius panzeri*)

Beetles

Glow worm (*Lampyris noctiluca*)

Lesser stag beetle (*Dorcus parallelipipedus*)



What might you see on a reptile survey?

Butterflies and moths (adults, caterpillars, cocoons)

Family Lasiocampidae

Drinker (*Euthrix potatoria*)

Fox moth (*Macrothylacia rubi*)

Oak eggar (*Lasiocampa quercus*)

Subfamily Arctiinae (Tigers and ermines)

Shoulder stripe (*Eurrophila badiata*)



What species? (*Lev. 2 - widespread*)

You can record any wildlife, **BUT** we are particularly interested in observations of reptiles.

If you have received training and feel sufficiently competent, you can **opt-in** to record some **supplementary species**. These consist of four groups:

1. Small mammals
2. Cockroaches
3. Beetles
4. Butterflies and moths



Photo: Tim Ransom

How to survey (Lev. 2 - widespread)

Step 1:

Complete the Volunteer Working Agreement.

State which Level 2 scheme you would like to do.


Return the agreement to the address shown.



Growth, Housing and Environment,
Howard Davis Farm, La Route de la Trinité,
Trinity, Jersey, JE3 5JP
Tel: 01534 441600
Email: environementenquiries@gov.je

Widespread / wall lizard

Volunteer Working Agreement Form

 **Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK**
VOLUNTEERS WORKING FOR THE CONSERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

This form is for the purpose of registering as a volunteer with Jersey Amphibian and Reptile Group (JARG) affiliated under ARG UK CIO (Charity no 1165504) part of ARG UK. I understand that I am not under any obligation to carry out voluntary work for ARG UK nor is ARG UK under any obligation to use my services.

Volunteer details

Full name:		Contact number:	
Correspondence address:			
Post code:			
Emergency contact name:		Emergency contact number:	

Important information

Before signing this form please read the following consent information carefully. It explains how your information will be used and provides a brief description of your rights under Jersey's Data Protection Law. For further information on how the Department of the Environment handles personal data please visit <http://www.gov.je/howweuseyourinfo>

Your Consent - I am aware and agree

That the personal information supplied in this form, together with any other accompanying information, to be used for the sole purpose of processing my application to volunteer for ARG UK and I understand that it's an offence to knowingly submit false or misleading information with an application.

To my personal information being shared with your insurance provider in the event that it is necessary for me to make an insurance claim.

That any information I collect during my volunteering activities will be shared with other interested parties (such as the Jersey Biodiversity Centre) and will be used to provide published statistical data and reports.

I understand that under Jersey's Data Protection Law I have the right to withdraw my consent to the further processing of my information. (Should you wish to exercise this right please contact us on tel. 441600)

I have received sufficient training and/or instructions for the planned activities and believe that I am fit and healthy enough to carry out the voluntary work involved. I understand that it is my responsibility to consult my doctor if I have any concerns about my health prior to carrying out any volunteer work for JARG Jersey.

I understand that I should not do anything that I do not feel qualified to do and that I should not put others or myself in danger during the course of any voluntary activities and that I should contact the JARG Jersey co-ordinator for further advice and/or training if necessary.

I have read and understood the Surveying and Monitoring Risk Assessment (attached) and Lone Working Procedures (detailed below). I understand that the purpose of these documents are to remind me of any potential risks and I should use these to make my own assessment(s) prior to commencement of each volunteering activity.

How to survey (*Lev. 2 - widespread*)

Equipment:

- Smart phone or tablet with Reptilewatch App
- Transect with 10–20 artificial refugia (Arranged by Natural Environment)
- map of survey site
- mobile phone (for emergencies)

Optional (recommended):

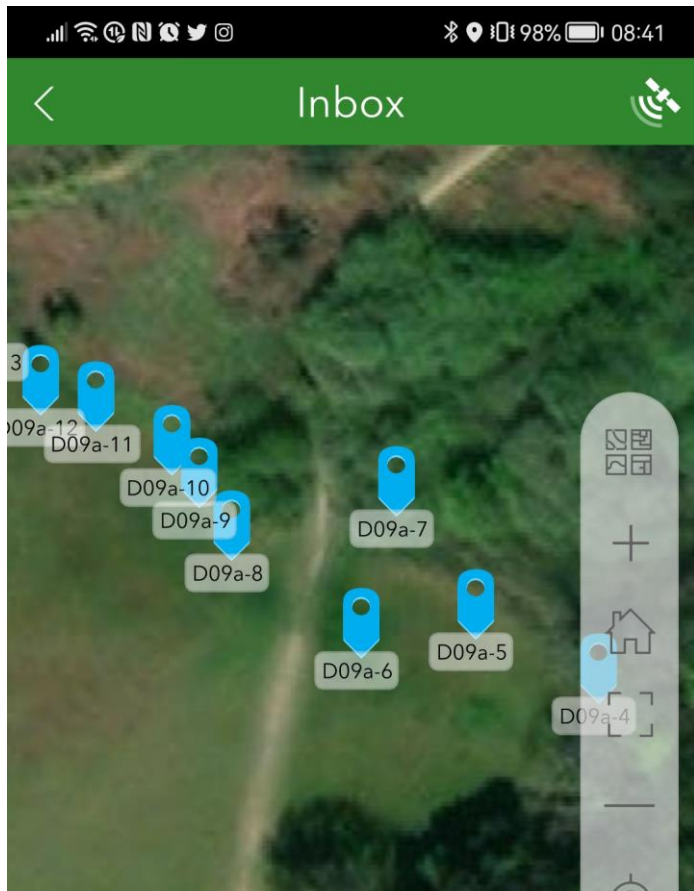
- Close focus binoculars
- camera (a smart phone camera is fine)
- species ID guides
- Global Positioning System (GPS) / GPS phone app that allows you to record coordinates



How to survey (*Lev. 2 - widespread*)

Step 2: Select a survey site that is convenient for you to survey.

The coordinator will set-up the transect for you and record the refugium in the App.



You are welcome to assist with this, as it is a good way to get to know your transect.



Reptile
watch, je

A small, bright green lizard is positioned behind the text 'watch, je' in the logo.

How to survey (*Lev. 2 - widespread*)

Step 3: Visit your chosen site during the day prior to surveying to familiarise yourself with the site and assess any risks. Update the risk assessment as necessary.



Reptile
watch, je

ARG UK Generic Risk Assessment (modified for Jersey)



	Hazard	Risk	Control measures	Probability	Comment
1	Assault	Physical injury, sexual assault	Try to defuse any potentially confrontational situations. If possible, walk away. Contact police if unsure or feel threatened. Apply Lone Working Procedures.	Low	
2	Stings and bites	Diseases, allergic reaction	If known allergy to stings take appropriate medication on site. If feeling unwell after a site visit seek medical attention.	Moderate	
3	Ticks	Transmission of Lyme disease	Be aware of ticks (e.g. BADA-UK www.bada-uk.org) and take precautions in the field. Wear long trousers and long sleeves, use insect repellent, avoid brushing through tall vegetation, check clothing for ticks, consult a doctor in the event of tick bite.	Low to high depending on whether ticks present locally.	
4	Pond (etc.) water	Pond water may contain bacteria that may cause disease (e.g. <i>Leptospirosis</i> /Weil's disease).	Treat all pond (etc.) water as potentially pathogenic. Do not ingest, do not expose cuts on skin to pond water. Wear gloves to protect against scratches when working near water. Wash hands after immersion in pond water and especially prior to eating. If feeling unwell after accidental ingestion of pond water or contact with open wound seek medical attention.	High	
5	Ponds /deep water	Drowning	Take care when near water bodies. Do not lone work near water bodies. Take throw-rope when working near water.	Moderate	
6	Cold	Hypothermia	Wear appropriate clothing. Inform group leader if feeling cold.	Low/Moderate in winter	
7	Concealed holes/ditches	Physical injury, ankle injuries	Take care when walking through areas of deep habitat or areas where there is poor footing visibility. Avoid areas of poor footing visibility is possible.	High	
8	Dogs	Bites, lacerations, disease	Be wary of dogs off leads. Disinfect any bites and seek medical attention.	Moderate	
9	Exposure to sun	Sun burn	Where appropriate use sunscreen. Avoid midday sun if possible.	High	
10	Hazardous waste/fly tipping	Cuts, lacerations, chemical burns, infection	Wear gloves when handling waste. If unsure of contents of containers or if known to be hazardous contact emergency services.	Moderate	

11	Heat and difficult terrain	Exhaustion, dehydration	Walking difficult terrain will cause extra fatigue in hot weather. Do not rush and drink plenty of water.	Low	
12	Old and partially buried structures (eg buried fences)	Tripping, ankle injuries	Take care when footing is not clearly visible. Look for signs nearby of structures e.g. partially collapsed fence.	Moderate	
13	Sharp grasses and thorny bushes	Eye injuries, cuts, lacerations, infection	Do not bend down or kneel in areas of <u>Sharp sea</u> grass or other sharp plants. Disinfect any lacerations or punctures	Moderate	
14	Sharp objects (eg tins)	Cuts, lacerations, infection	Take care when picking up any potentially sharp objects. Wear gloves if appropriate or desired.	High	
15	Shooting	Physical injury	Do not approach any person suspected of carrying a weapon. If there is shooting allowed on site establish where and when shooting will take place and avoid. In cases of unauthorised shooting contact the police.	Low	
16	Steep slopes/ unstable ground	Physical injury, trips, ankle injuries	Try to avoid climbing steep slopes. Take care with footing.	Moderate	
17	Stock	Physical injury, trampling	Be aware of stock behaviour, if in doubt leave site. Do not take dogs on site.	Moderate	
18	Tree felling	Injury from felled timber	In forestry plantations look out for indications of felling in progress (posted notices, sounds of felling activity). Avoid areas where/when felling is in progress.	Low	
19	Working with children	Harm to children or allegation of improper behaviour made against adult	Ensure that any children attending an activity do so under the responsibility of a guardian.	Low	

Activity _____

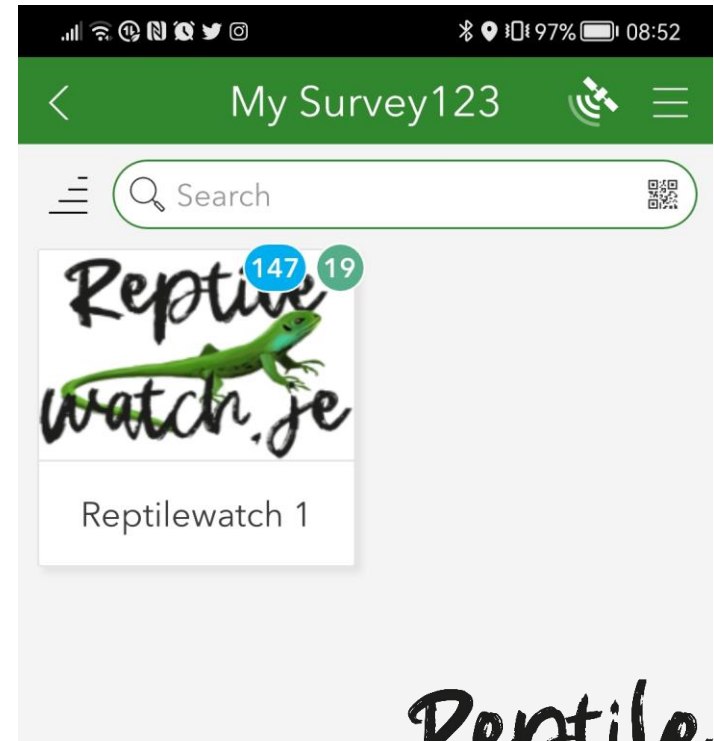
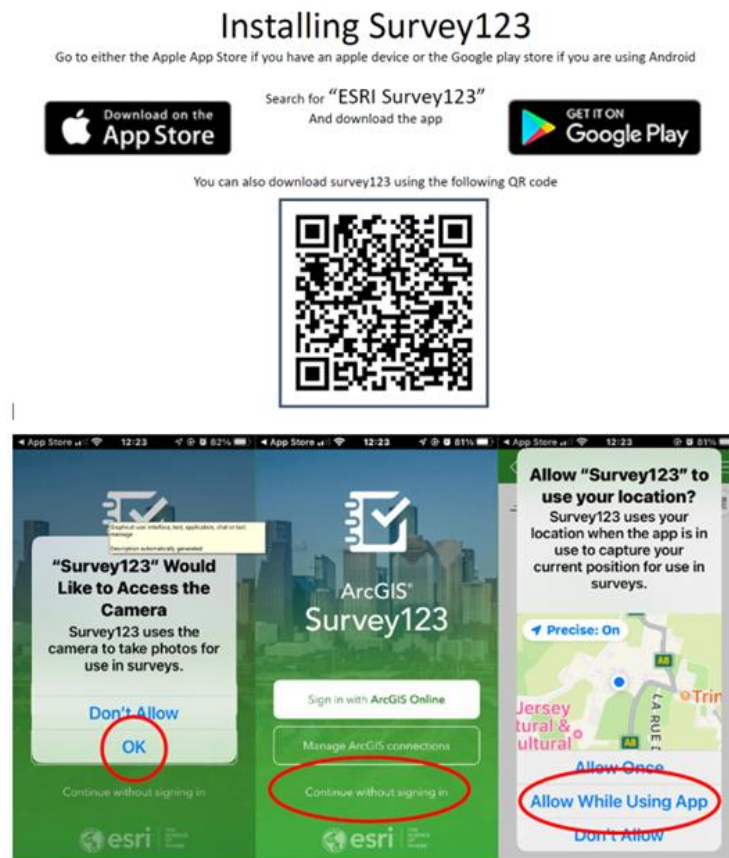
Date _____

Assessor _____

Amphibian and Reptile Groups of UK (ARG UK) is a registered charity (number 1165504) committed to the conservation of native amphibians and reptiles and their natural environment by supporting the development of a network of independent volunteer amphibian and reptile groups (ARGs)

How to survey (*Lev. 2 - widespread*)

Step 4: Download the “Survey 123” App to access the Reptilewatch survey application



How to survey (*Lev. 2 - widespread*)

DOING THE SURVEYS - **six** surveys March–October

Three in spring (April–June), **two** in autumn (mid-August to mid-October)

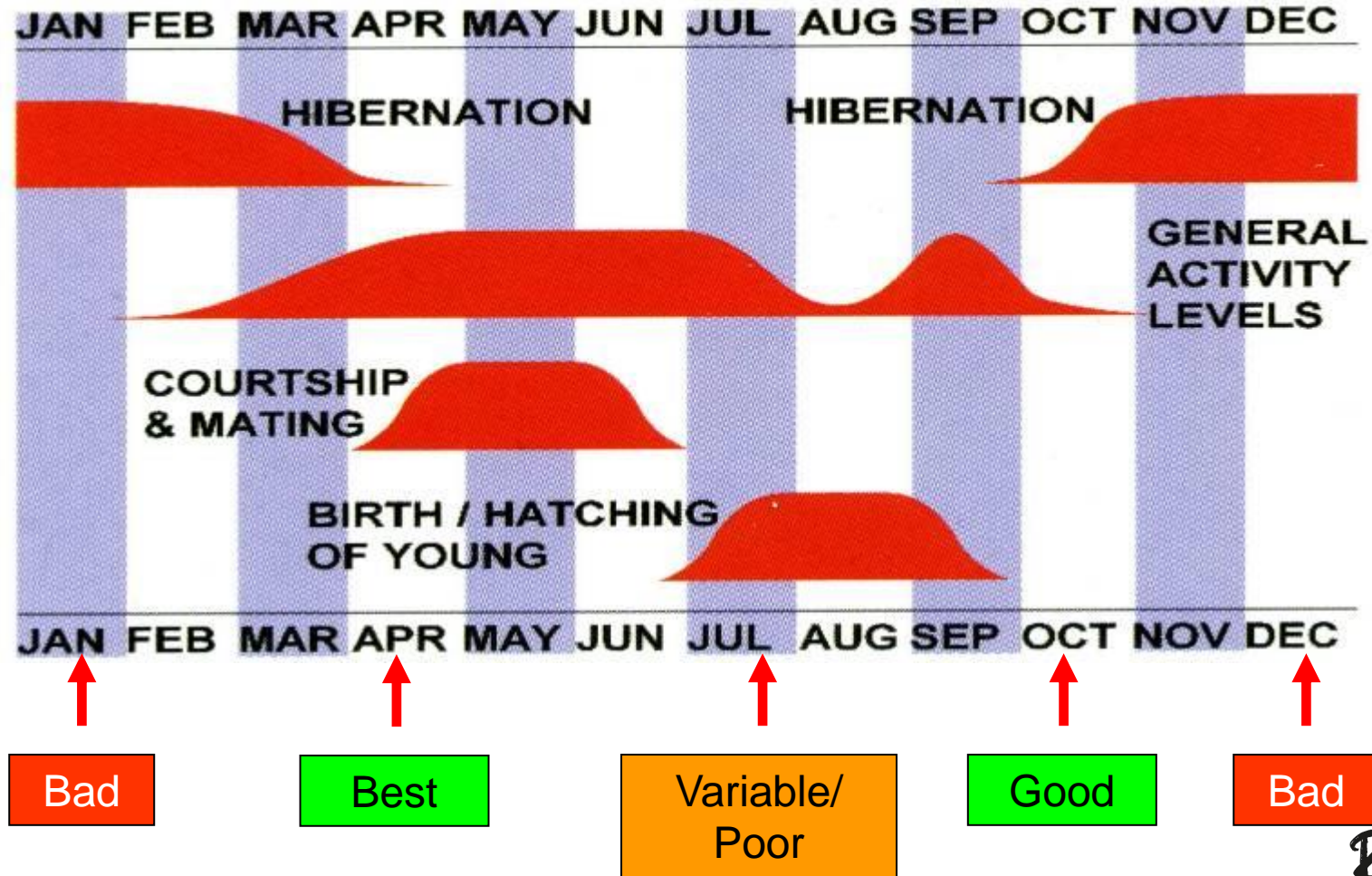
Step 5: Spend 1–2 hours searching along your route. Check refugia and pre-existing refugia. Take photos of what you see but be careful not to disturb the habitat and wildlife.

Do not attempt to touch or handle any animals.



Reptile survey tips

Time of year:



Reptile survey tips

Time of day:

- Early spring and autumn - middle hours of the day (c.11am-3pm)
- Late spring – mid morning (c.9-11am) and late afternoon (c.4-6pm)
- Summer – short periods in morning (c.7-9am) and evening (6-8pm); hot weather can produce totally negative results



Reptile survey methods

Visual searching:

- Reptiles need to warm themselves up (bask)
- They often stay partially hidden or very close to cover
- Look at interfaces between vegetation types and along edges!
- Walk slowly, scanning the ground as you go



Reptile
watch, je

A green lizard illustration is positioned between the text 'Reptile' and 'watch, je'.

Reptile survey methods

Artificial refugia:

- Used by reptiles to warm up without being visible to predators
- Both artificial and existing refugia work!
- Check and replace refugia carefully, taking care not to trap or injure animals



Reptile
watch, je



What might you see?

Reptiles

Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*)

Green lizard (*Lacerta bilineata*)

Wall lizard (*Podarcis muralis*)

Grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*)

Adults, juveniles, sloughs and eggs



Reptile
watch, je


A small, stylized illustration of a green lizard is positioned between the words "Reptile" and "watch, je".


How to survey (*Lev. 2 - widespread*)

Step 6: Record your survey as you go!

The Reptilewatch app has a list of all the artificial refugia for your site, these can be viewed as a list or as a map to help you locate each mat.

When you check a refugium or encounter an animal during your survey, use the Reptilewatch app to record what is seen or if no animals are encountered at a mat.

Collect

Inbox

For sightings in the open or at existing refugia select the “Collect option”

When checking artificial refugia use the “Inbox” option to open the survey form for each numbered mat, please complete for each mat even if nothing was seen at the check.

You will need to enter your PIN number each time,
If a mat is missing or has been destroyed, please
make a note in the comments box.



Find out more

- Survey forms and handbook - <https://groups.arguk.org/jarg>
- Reptile factsheets –
 - [Grass Snake factsheet](#)
 - [Green Lizard factsheet](#)
 - [Slow Worm factsheet](#)
 - [Wall Lizard fact sheet](#)
- Other species ID resources –
 - <https://ukmoths.org.uk>
 - butterfly-conservation.org
 - ukbutterflies.co.uk



Quiz time !



Quiz

What is this is and what species does it belong to?



Quiz

What is it?



Photo: Tim Ransom

©T.M. Ransom

Quiz

Which reptile is most likely to be seen on fortifications and dry stone walls?



Quiz

Artificial refugia are particularly helpful for finding which species of reptile?

