

CONTENTS

APPENDIX 9G: REPTILES.....	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 METHODS	2
3.0 SURVEY RESULTS	3
5.0 REFERENCES	5
FIGURE 9G.1 REPTILE SURVEY AREA.....	6

TABLES

Table 9G.1: Weather Conditions and Survey Times.....	3
--	---

APPENDIX 9G: REPTILES

1.0 Introduction

1.1.1 This Appendix to the Preliminary Ecological Information Report (PEIR) presents the results of a reptile survey undertaken for the Proposed Development. The terms of reference used in this report are consistent with those defined within the main chapters of the PEIR (Volume 1).

1.2 Survey Scope

1.2.1 A presence/absence survey for reptiles was undertaken within the Survey Area. A total of seven visits were undertaken to meet the minimum requirements for determining presence/absence as set out in standard survey guidance (Froglife, 1999).

1.2.2 The Survey Area included all accessible habitats that were considered to be potentially suitable for reptiles within the Proposed Development (Figure 9G.1), as identified in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) report (see Appendix 9A in PEIR Volume 3). Land to the west of the Proposed Development boundary was also surveyed for reptiles, because at the time the surveys were undertaken, the layout and Proposed Development boundary had not been fixed.

1.3 Relevant Legislation

1.3.1 All widespread UK species of reptile (adder (*Vipera berus*), grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*), common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) and slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*)) receive legal protection through their inclusion on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill or injure a reptile. However, unlike European protected species, their habitat does not receive legal protection.

1.3.2 All native UK reptile species are listed as 'Species of Principal Importance for Conservation in England' under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Section 40 of the same Act requires that local and regional authorities have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.

1.3.3 The Proposed Development lies well outside the known range of the sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) and smooth snake (*Coronella austriaca*) which are European protected species and given that the site lacks the necessary habitat to support these species, neither are considered further in this report.

2.0 Methods

2.1 Desk Study

2.1.1 A desk study was undertaken as part of the scope of works for the Phase 1 Habitat survey and is reported in detail in the PEA Report (Appendix 9A in PEIR Volume 3). Reptile records were obtained from the local ecological records centre (Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership) for the entirety of the Survey Area and a radius of 1 km around it.

2.2 Reptile Survey

2.2.1 A reptile survey was undertaken following best practice guidance as detailed in Froglife (1999) with reference to Gent and Gibson (1998) and English Nature (2004), comprising a combination of Artificial Refuge Survey (ARS) and Visual Encounter Surveys (VES).

2.2.2 The VES involved surveyors slowly walking along predetermined transects scanning the vegetation for reptiles (refer to Figure 9G.1). The walked transects were designed to include, where possible, a range of suitable vegetation types, south facing banks and suitable natural and artificial refuges and basking areas.

2.2.3 A total of 58 artificial reptile refuges (roofing felt tiles measuring approximately 0.5m²) were placed in suitable reptile habitat where they would receive direct sun in the morning and afternoon to warm up. These were set on 3rd April 2018 and left for a period of over 2 weeks to enable them to bed in prior to the first reptile survey being undertaken. More than 10 refuges per hectare of suitable reptile habitat were installed in accordance with standard survey guidelines (Froglife, 1999).

2.2.4 A total of seven survey visits were undertaken between April and June 2018, during suitable weather conditions (temperature between 12 and 23°C, sunny with no rain or strong winds).

2.3 Limitations

2.3.1 There were no limitations to the completion of the reptile survey.

3.0 Survey Results

3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 The desk study did not return any records of reptiles from within the study area.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 The Phase 1 Habitat survey undertaken in 2017 identified suitable habitat within the survey area for reptiles (Appendix 9A, PEI Report Volume III), with a mosaic of rough grassland, scrub and bare ground along with hummocks providing good potential basking, refuge and hibernation sites for reptiles.

Weather Conditions and Timings of Surveys

3.2.2 The weather conditions reported during the reptile surveys are presented in Table 9G.1 below. All surveys were undertaken in suitable weather conditions with light winds and no or very light rain.

Table 9G.1: Weather Conditions and Survey Times

Survey Date	Temp	Wind speed	Cloud Cover	Weather	Survey Times
26/04/18	12°C	F3 – 4	80%	Overcast with sunny spells	10.00-11.00
04/05/18	14°C	F1	90%	Dry	10.10-11.00
10/05/18	12 - 14°C	F2	80%	Dry	09:10 - 11:15
24/05/18	12 – 13°C	F1 – 2	90 – 100%	Dry	10.10 - 10.40
04/06/18	12 – 14°C	F1 - 2	100%	Dry	12:40 - 14:25
15/06/18	16°C	F2	85 – 95%	Dry	13:55 - 14:50
25/06/18	23°C	F1	0%	Dry	09:05 - 10:15

Artificial Refuge Surveys

3.2.3 No reptiles were recorded during the Artificial Refuge Survey (ARS).

Visual Encounter Surveys

3.2.4 No reptiles were recorded during the Visual Encounter Surveys (VES).

4.0 Conclusions and Evaluation

- 4.1.1 No evidence of reptile presence was recorded within the Survey Area, and it is reasonable to conclude that reptiles are currently absent from the Proposed Development area.
- 4.1.2 However, given that there is suitable reptile habitat within the Survey Area and also within the wider local area, there is a low risk that reptiles could colonise habitat within the Survey Area in the future. It is therefore recommended that an updated reptile survey is undertaken prior to construction should there be more than a two year delay in the submission of the planning application. This should be completed within the reptile active season (April to early October). In the unlikely event that reptiles be confirmed, an appropriate mitigation strategy should be developed for compliance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

5.0 References

Edgar, P., Foster, J. and Baker, J. (2010) *Reptile Habitat Management Handbook*. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.

English Nature (2004) *Reptiles: guidelines for developers*. English Nature (now Natural England), Peterborough.

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

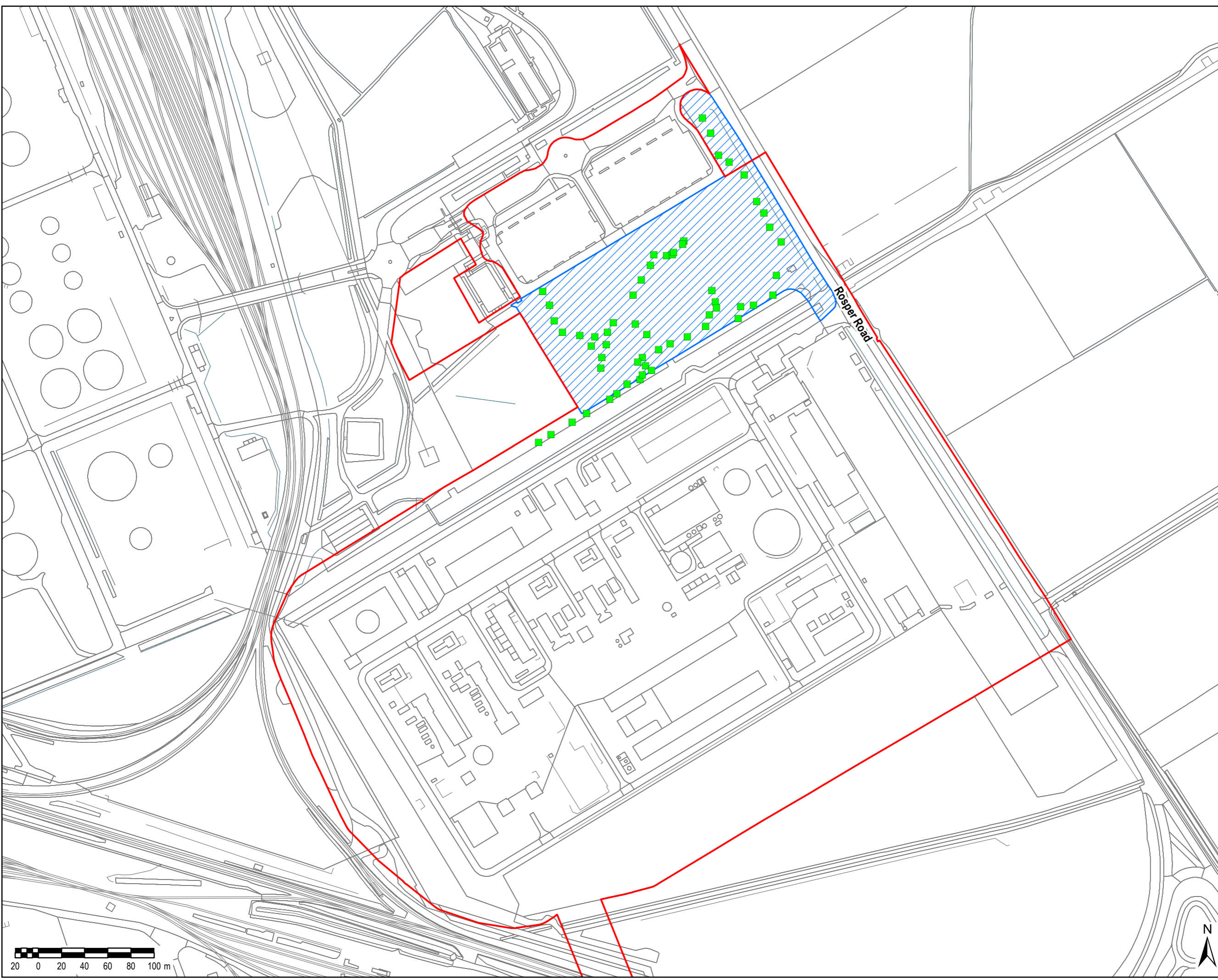
Gent, T. and Gibson, S. (1998) *Herpetofauna Workers' Manual*. JNCC, Peterborough.

Herpetofauna Groups of Britain and Ireland (HGBI) (1998) *Evaluating local mitigation/translocation programme: Maintaining Best Practice and lawful standards*. HGBI advisory notes for Amphibian and Reptile Groups c/o Froglife, Halesworth.

Figure 9G.1 Reptile Survey Area

THIS DRAWING IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUE THAT IT WAS ISSUED FOR AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

- LEGEND**
- Proposed Development
 - Reptile Survey Area
 - Reptile Tile Location



File Name: K:\5004 - Information Systems\60547702\Immingham Gas Pipeline\02_Maps\Power Plant Site\OCGT Draft PEIR\Ecology\PEA Appendix to the PEIR\Figure 9G.1 Reptile Survey Locations.mxd

Copyright
Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data
© Crown copyright 2018. All rights reserved.
Licence number 0100031673.

Purpose of Issue
FOR INFORMATION

Client
VPI IMMINGHAM B LTD

Project Title
PROPOSED 299MW OCGT POWER STATION - DRAFT PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT

Drawing Title
REPTILE SURVEY LOCATIONS

Drawn JW	Checked BB	Approved MS	Date 16/10/2018
AECOM Internal Project No. 60547702		Scale @ A3 1:3,000	

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO AND SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF AECOM'S APPOINTMENT BY ITS CLIENT. AECOM ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR ANY USE OF THIS DOCUMENT OTHER THAN BY ITS ORIGINAL CLIENT OR FOLLOWING AECOM'S EXPRESS AGREEMENT TO SUCH USE, AND ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS PREPARED AND PROVIDED.

AECOM
Midpoint
Alençon Link, Basingstoke
Hampshire, RG21 7PP
Telephone (01256) 310200
Fax (01256) 310201
www.aecom.com



Drawing Number
FIGURE 9G.1