

COMMON LIZARD SURVEY - SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

In Northern Ireland the Common Lizard (*Lacerta Viviparous*) is protected under Schedules 5, 6 & 7 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. The species is listed under Articles 10 to 13, and 28 of the Order. It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take a Common Lizard, possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a Common Lizard, unless acquired lawfully, intentionally damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a common lizard, intentionally damage or destroy anything that conceals or protects any such structure; and intentionally disturb a common lizard in a place used for shelter or protection.

To ensure your development proposals comply with the Order, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has asked you to carry out an appropriate Common Lizard survey. You should follow these guidelines:

- The surveyor contracted to undertake this work must have relevant experience which is deemed acceptable to the Department, for example an ecological consultant with experience of, and/or qualifications in reptile surveying.
- The date and time of the survey and the qualifications of the surveyor should be included in the survey report. The best times to search are generally between 8.30am and 11.00am and between 4.00pm and 6.30pm.
- There should be a minimum of three visits carried out to the site.
- The weather conditions should also be included in the report. It is generally better to search when the air temperature is between 9 and 18°C, with bright sunshine. Rainy or windy conditions are unsuitable for a survey.
- Surveys should be carried out well in advance of any planned construction works. Common Lizards surveys should be carried out between March and October preferably April, May or September.
- The site and surrounding area should be surveyed initially to identify potential basking spots. This should be included in the report.
- The information should be presented in a written report and must include large scale maps at 1:500 scale.
- In the event that the planning application goes to appeal or public inquiry, the consultant contracted may be required to appear and/or give evidence.

For more information on Common Lizards and development, contact:
Wildlife Officer, Tel: (028) 9065 69602
Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Klondyke Building,
Cromac Avenue,
Gasworks Business Park
Belfast BT7 2JA