



Reptiles & development

Our staff have considerable experience in the development and construction sector. We are able to advise on legislation, and conduct any necessary mitigation works.

Case study: Holborough Quarry, Kent



Aerial view of site after development of Phase 1, mitigation of phase 2 ongoing

This project involved the development of a disused quarry in Holborough, Kent for residential homes.

MKA Ecology was commissioned to devise a mitigation strategy for the presence of a high density and diversity of reptiles and amphibians.

Two site specific DEFRA licences were required to undertake the amphibian translocation.

Three receptor sites were found which did not already support reptiles, but had suitable reptile habitat and sympathetic future management regimes.

Over 120 grass snakes were translocated to London Wetland Centre where a unique monitoring programme was initiated in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London.



Translocated grass snake

Over a two year period, more than 3000 reptiles, (predominantly common lizards) were moved from the donor site.

This huge project required the coordination of a large team of ecologists and ancillary workers to facilitate delivery.



Common lizard



Reptiles & Development (continued):

The site was divided into discrete areas separated by exclusion fencing and managed so as to ensure the capture rate for each area could be individually monitored.



Holborough quarry ancillary workers

The size of the site required extensive habitat manipulation with the use of strimming teams and labourers.

Effective destructive searching ensured all reasonable effort was undertaken to prevent reptiles and amphibians being overlooked.



Destructive searching at Holborough

Habitat improvements (including the construction of more than ten hibernacula) were undertaken at all receptor sites to ensure reptiles had sufficient winter cover.

A three year monitoring programme is in place to ensure that translocated reptile and amphibian populations remain viable and that the receptor sites are managed appropriately.



Hibernaculum constructed at receptor site