

East Midlands Gateway Phase 2 (EMG2)

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ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Volume 2 Technical Appendices

Appendix 9G

Reptile Report

July 2025

09

The East Midlands Gateway Phase 2
and Highway Order 202X and The East Midlands Gateway
Rail Freight and Highway (Amendment) Order 202X

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SEGRO



SEGRO Properties Ltd and SEGRO (EMG) Ltd

East Midlands Gateway Phase 2

ES Appendix 9g

REPTILE REPORT

June 2025

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 FPCR Environment & Design Ltd. were commissioned by SEGRO PLC to undertake reptile surveys on land south of East Midlands Airport, Leicestershire for a second phase of, and material change to, SEGRO's East Midlands Gateway Logistics Park (EMG1) which is a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) located to the north of East Midlands Airport. EMG1 is a nationally significant infrastructure development comprising a rail freight terminal and warehousing authorised by The East Midlands Gateway Rail Freight Interchange and Highway Order 2016 (SI 2016/17) (the EMG1 Order) which is approaching substantial completion.
- 1.2 The main objective of this assessment was to establish levels of activity across the site to confirm potential impacts and mitigation requirements.
- 1.3 This document should be read in conjunction with the other ecological documents prepared for this Environmental Statement application which includes the Environmental Statement itself, the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal¹, protected species reports for badger², bats³, birds⁴, invertebrates⁵, and otter and water vole⁶, the shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment for the River Mease SAC⁷, and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) calculations⁸.

Site Context Location

- 1.4 The proposed second phase to EMG1 (known as EMG2), comprises of three interrelated component parts as follows, and collectively they are referred to as the Scheme:
- **Main Site** (herein referred to as 'the Site')- A new warehousing and manufacturing employment park located south of East Midlands Airport and the A453, and west of the M1 motorway. This part of the site falls within the 'East Midland Airport and Gateway Industrial Cluster' (EMAGIC) site, which forms part of the East Midlands Freeport designated by the Government in 2022;
 - **Highway works**- Highway works to the strategic road network including improvements at junction 24 of the M1 motorway and the road network interacting with that junction; and
 - **EMG1 works**- Additional warehousing together with works to increase the permitted height of the cranes at the rail-freight terminal, improvements to the EMG1 public transport interchange and site management building.
- 1.5 Surrounding land-use is dominated variously by grassland and arable field compartments bordered by hedgerows and scattered mature trees, with Diseworth village to the south-west of the Site.

Development proposals

- 1.6 The location of the Scheme is described in Chapter 2 of the ES for the Site with reference to its various component parts. In brief, the majority of new build development will be on the Main Site.

¹ FPCR (2024) EMG2 Appendix 9a: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

² FPCR (2024) EMG2 Appendix 9b: Badger Report

³ FPCR (2024) EMG2 Appendix 9c: Bat Report

⁴ FPCR (2024) EMG2 Appendix 9d: Bird Report

⁵ FPCR (2024) EMG2 Appendix 9e: Invertebrate Report

⁶ FPCR (2024) EMG2 Appendix 9f: Water Vole and Otter Report

⁷ FPCR (2024) EMG2 Appendix 9g: Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment – River Mease SAC

⁸ FPCR (2024) EMG2 Appendix 9h: Biodiversity Net Gain Report

The remaining components of the proposals are located on land within EMG1 and on land required for off-site highway improvements.

1.7 In brief, the proposals for the Scheme are as follows:

- **Main site-** a maximum of 300,000sq.m (approximately 3.23 million sq.ft) (GIA) of warehousing and manufacturing floorspace (GIA), with additional 100,000sq.m in the form of internal mezzanine space;
- **Highway Works-** new highway infrastructure and works to the existing highways network- including a new off-slip lane from the M1 northbound at J24 to provide a direct link to the A50 westbound, widening of the A50 eastbound link at Junction 24 and other related works and traffic management measures; and

1.8 EMG1 works- a maximum of 25,000sq (approximately 269,000 sq. ft) (GIA) of additional warehousing on land known as Plot 16, with an additional 5,000 sq. m in the form of internal mezzanine space. In addition, it is proposed to undertake freight handling and efficiency improvements at the existing rail freight terminal by way of increases to the maximum permitted height of gantry cranes by 4m to 24m overall; together with works to expand the management suite building and public transport interchange enhancements.

Legislation

1.9 All common reptile species, including slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*, common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and grass snake *Natrix helvetica*, are partially protected under Sections 9(1) and 9(5) of Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)⁹. This legislation protects these animals from:

- intentional killing and injury;
- selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale or publishing advertisements to buy or sell a protected species.

1.10 This partial protection does not directly protect the habitat of these reptile species. Where these animals are present on land that is to be affected by development, the implications of legislation are that providing that killing can reasonably be avoided then an operation is legal.

1.11 All reptile species are Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006)¹⁰.

⁹ The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). [Online]. London:HMSO Available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

¹⁰ The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [Online]. London: HMSO Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>

2.0 METHODOLOGY

Desk Study

2.1 The desktop study involved collating biodiversity information from the following sources:

- Derbyshire Biological Records Centre (DBRC)
- Leicester & Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC)
- Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Record Centre (NBGRC)

Field Survey

2.2 The field surveys at this site have been undertaken in detail on the EMG2 Main Site, with reduced survey effort in the Highways Works and EMG1 Works Areas.

2.3 The EMG2 Main Site was subject to previous surveys in 2022. A full update survey was undertaken in 2024.

2.4 The scope of impact within the highway zone is generally limited to in nature and unlikely to affect any significant area of suitable reptile habitat.

2.5 The EMG1 works area consists of a previously cleared plot with landscaping of the previous phase of development. During the survey period, much of this area comprised an active construction site and bare ground. The scope of impact within is generally limited to in nature and unlikely to affect any significant area of suitable reptile habitat.

2.6 This approach to survey work has been discussed and agreed in principle with the LPA Ecologist.

Reptile Presence/Absence Survey

2.7 A strategic reptile presence/absence survey was undertaken at specific locations offering potential habitat within the application site boundary. The survey was undertaken based on methodology detailed in the *Herpetofauna Workers Manual* (Gent and Gibson, 1998)¹¹ and the *Froglife Advice Sheet 10 - Reptile Survey* (Froglife 1999)¹². A total of 99 artificial refugia were placed within the survey area amongst habitats considered most suitable for reptiles to confirm presence/absence; the location of refugia is shown in Figure 1.

2.8 All of the surveys were undertaken between May and September 2024 by suitably experienced FPCR ecologists. The surveys were carried out in appropriate weather conditions i.e. air temperature between 9 and 18°C, no strong wind or heavy rain.

2.9 In addition, the surveys also followed the guidelines' recommendations by:

- Using regularly spaced roofing felt (0.5m²) as artificial refugia, with a black upper side,
- Approaching refugia from downwind and avoiding casting a shadow and with care so as to not disturb basking animals when checking,

¹¹ (2003) *Herpetofauna Workers Manual*

¹² Froglife (1999) *Reptile Survey: An introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation. Froglife Advice Sheet 10.*

- That lifting and replacing naturally occurring or artificial refugia, to check for the presence of reptiles, is undertaken with care as to avoid potential harm to any animals.

Table 1: Survey Dates and Weather Conditions 2024

Survey	Date	Time	Temp. (°C)	Cloud (%)	Rain	Wind
1	17.05.24	AM	13	60- 70	Dry	1/ 2
2	22.05.24	AM	13	90- 100	Dry	2/ 3
3	31.05.24	AM	13	60- 70	Drizzle	1/ 2
4	11.06.24	PM	13	80- 90	Dry	0
5	17.09.24	PM	16	50- 60	Dry	1/ 2
6	18.09.24	PM	18	0- 10	Dry	1/ 2
7	26.09.24	AM	16	50- 60	Dry	0

Survey Limitations

- 2.10 One survey was carried out in June outside of the optimal survey period recommended for reptiles (April, May and September), but within the wider recommended survey window (March to October). Although reptile species are still active during the summer, they may be under-recorded where temperatures are high, and use of artificial refugia/ basking occurs less frequently. Whilst a survey has been undertaken outside of the survey period, it was carried out in accordance with the weather conditions recommended in the guidelines (temperature range of 9 - 18°C, no/ little wind and no/ little rain). Subsequently, the current survey results are considered to be accurate, and survey timings to date are not considered to pose a limitation to the validity of the survey results.

3.0 RESULTS

Desk Study

- 3.1 No records of reptiles within 1km of the site boundary were identified during the desk study.
- 3.2 Previous surveys of the site were completed in 2022. No evidence of reptiles was observed throughout.

Field Survey

Habitat Assessment

EMG2 Main site

- 3.3 During the initial extended phase 1 habitat assessment certain areas of the Site were assessed as having some suitability to support reptiles. On-site habitats, including long-swarded areas of poor semi-improved grassland, hedgerows, tall ruderal and dense/scattered scrub, were all considered to offer suitable commuting, foraging and refuge habitats for reptiles. The presence of narrow grass verges also had the potential to provide basking areas.

Highways Works

- 3.4 The highway's verges and associated land is comprised of typical habitats. This includes areas of grassland, scrub and immature woodland alongside ruderal habitats. This mosaic is considered suitable for reptiles.

EMG1 Works

- 3.5 This development area is a cleared plot of the previous phase of development. This comprised an active construction site and bare ground. This area did not contain any features able to support reptiles. Surrounding areas of landscaping offer some suitability for reptiles.

Reptile Survey

- 3.6 During the course of the surveys on the main site no reptiles were recorded on any occasion, with all surveys completed during the wider survey window (March to October).

4.0 DISCUSSION

- 4.1 Although habitats within the Main Site were considered to provide some potential for occupation by reptile species, none were recorded during presence/absence surveys undertaken in 2022 or in 2024.
- 4.2 The EMG1 Works and Highways Works areas contain suitable habitats for reptiles. There are, however, no records of reptiles in close proximity to these work areas. Potential impacts are considered minimal due to the nature/location of proposals. As a precaution, all site operatives in this area will be briefed on how to identify reptiles. In the unlikely event that any are sited, they will be reported to the project ECoW, and suitable action will be taken



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Key

Red Line Boundary

- Order Limits EMG1 MCO
- Order Limits EMG2 DCO
- Reptile Refugia



client
SEGRO Properties Ltd and SEGRO (EMG) Ltd
project
East Midlands Gateway Phase 2
(EMG2)
Drawing Title
Reptile Refugia Location Plan

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Figure 1