The New Forest National Park:

The New Forest National Park is home to six of our native reptiles. Three lizard and three snake species can be spotted in a variety of habitats, particularly amongst the open heaths. Reptiles are cold-blooded animals, so look for them basking in sunny spots or warming up on fallen logs during spring to early autumn. In the winter they will hibernate, seeking refuge underground, perhaps in an old tree stump or rabbit burrow. The National Park is an important stronghold for Britain’s rarest reptile, the smooth snake (picture insert). It is a secretive species that usually hides underground and amongst the heather, and is rarely seen in the open. All our native reptiles are protected by law and it is an offence to kill, injure or trade them. The sand lizard and smooth snake have extra protection making it an offence to disturb them.

Find out more…

Reptiles of the New Forest National Park

The New Forest National Park Authority

Protect – Enjoy – Prosper

The New Forest National Park Authority’s statutory purposes are to:
Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park – Protect.
Promote opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities – Enjoy.
We also have a duty to: Seek to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities within the Park – Prosper.

Over half of the New Forest’s unique landscape is internationally important for wildlife – a higher proportion than in any other English National Park. A range of organisations are working to protect this iconic landscape for future generations at a ‘landscape scale’ – not only within the boundaries of the National Park but into surrounding areas. Find out more about current initiatives to connect habitats and to support the land management that sustains them.

www.newforestnpa.gov.uk

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Photographs by Jonathan Childwell, Chris Gladwell, Nick Moulton, Stuart Woodley, Warren Photographic

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Help us to conserve our native reptiles and amphibians by reporting your sightings to the Record Pool. Your records are very important to us as they directly support and inform the conservation and management of the National Park:

WWW.RECORDPOOL.ORG.UK

About Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation is a national wildlife charity committed to conserving our native amphibians and reptiles and saving the fragile habitats on which they depend.
Our vision for the future sees amphibians and reptiles thriving in their natural habitats, and a society committed to the conservation of all of our native species.
To find out more about how you can get involved in reptile and amphibian conservation, please visit our website. You can support us by volunteering or by becoming an ARC Friend!

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Reptiles of the New Forest National Park

Sand lizard

- Fully protected under UK law
- Often seen basking on log piles
- Prey: insects and spiders
- Young: gives birth to live young in late summer
- Length: up to 15 cm

Grass snake

- Greenish, grey or brown with distinct pale or yellow collar
- Black vertical stripes down side of body
- Prey: mainly amphibians and fish
- Young: clutches of 10–40 eggs are laid in rotting vegetation, particularly compost heaps or manure piles, and hatch in August after three months incubation
- Length: can reach over 100 cm

Slow-worm

- A legless lizard – not a snake!
- Often found in garden compost heaps
- Prey: insects and slugs
- Young: born live in broods of up to 25 from late summer
- Length: up to 40 cm

Common lizard

- Male has bright green sides in the spring to attract a mate
- Prey: insects and spiders
- Young: clutches of 10–40 eggs are laid in small burrows in open sand, hatching 2–3 months later
- Length: 16–19 cm

Adder

- Britain’s only venomous snake: DO NOT TOUCH
- Prey: small mammals and chicks of ground nesting birds
- Young: born live in broods of up to 10 during August
- Length: 40–70 cm

Smooth snake

- Britain’s rarest reptile
- Fully protected under UK law
- Found predominantly on the heaths of Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey
- Prey: a specialist predator of other reptiles
- Young: born live in broods of 8–10 in August to September
- Length: up to 60 cm

Britain’s rarest reptile

- Fully protected under UK law
- Found predominantly on the heaths of Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey
- Prey: insects and spiders
- Young: in June, eggs are laid in small burrows in open sand, hatching 2–3 months later
- Length: 16–19 cm

Prey:

- insects and spiders
- small mammals and chicks of ground nesting birds
- mainly amphibians and fish
- clutches of 10–40 eggs
- insects and spiders
- small mammals and chicks of ground nesting birds
- insects and spiders
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