

Toolbox Talk - Environment

Ecology – Reptiles in troughing route / cable runs



What?

- Cable runs and troughing routes are found across the majority of the railway estate, usually in the cess running parallel to the track;
- There is a small amount of heat generated by the cables. This plus general exposure to sunlight means the inside can be warmer than air temperature;
- Reptiles are cold-blooded and usually bask in sunlight to get warm... but will often make use of the troughing for shelter and even egg laying;

Why?

- All reptiles are protected by law;
- The adder is our only venomous snake and may strike if disturbed;
- The only risk of being bitten comes from putting an exposed hand into a trough.

DO

- ✓ In the unlikely event of being bitten, call NHS111 or seek medical advice
- ✓ Always wear appropriate PPE
- ✓ Stop work in the area and seek advice if reptiles are found

DON'T

- ✗ Deliberately capture, kill, injure, try to touch or otherwise disturb any reptiles

