

Bio Diversity
Green Lizard
(Lacerta bilineata)
Action Plan



1. Current status

- 1.1 Within Jersey, *Lacerta bilineata* is found predominantly on dune systems and cliff and coastal heaths. It also occurs in small numbers in inland areas, including private gardens. Within these habitats, there needs to be an invertebrate food source cover, protection from predation, options for hibernation and a suitable substrate for egg laying.
- 1.2 The largest populations exist in the west and the south-west of the Island, Les Blanchés Banques and L'Ouaisné Common being strongholds. Small populations are scattered throughout the rest of the Island.
- 1.3 Jersey is the only part of the British Isles in which *L. bilineata* naturally occurs. Within Jersey *L. bilineata* is classed as common, appearing in more than sixteen 1-km grid squares..
- 1.4 Outside the UK, *L. bilineata* is widespread throughout Western Europe, and further east.
- 1.5 *L. bilineata* is fully protected under the Conservation of Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2000. This law also forbids the release of non-native species in the Island

2. Current factors causing loss or decline

- 2.1 Loss and fragmentation of sites through development and agricultural intensification.
- 2.2 Isolation of sites through development and agricultural intensification.
- 2.3 Deterioration of sites through agricultural pollution and run off, drainage, salt water ingress and fire and trampling.
- 2.4 Loss of potential or actual sites through bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and scrub encroachment.
- 2.5 Declines caused by cat predation: - *L. bilineata* are susceptible to cat predation, especially populations which occur in low densities, have fragmented distributions and are found in areas where cat numbers are high.

3. Current action

- 3.1 Little direct management for *L. bilineata* although scrub and bracken control are undertaken on Les Blanchés Banques and at L'Ouaisné.

4. Action plan objectives and targets

- 4.1 Maintain all breeding populations at current levels, and enhance where possible.
- 4.2 Where possible, increase connectivity between isolated populations by the creation of suitable habitat corridors.
- 4.3 Identify possible sites for lizard introduction along the north coast. After appropriate management, translocate of individuals from similar heathland populations (La Landes du Ouest, Les Landes) to the north coast, with the result being monitored.
- 4.4 Provide site protection at L'Ouaisné by 2008.
- 4.5 Commence research into the impact of cat predation on vulnerable populations of *L. bilineata*.

5. Proposed actions with lead agencies

5.1 Policy and Legislation

- 5.1.1 Within the Countryside Renewal Scheme, offer incentive payments for the maintenance and restoration of habitats important for lizards. (Action: ED)

5.2 Site Safeguard and Management

- 5.2.1 Consider designation of all important sites for lizards in Jersey. (Action: ED)
- 5.2.2 Implement scrub and bracken clearance along the north coast in an effort to expand the current range of *L. bilineata*. (Action: ED)
- 5.2.3 Recognise the value of non-designated land in the conservation of *L. bilineata* and identify important areas for consideration in planning applications. (Action: ED)

5.3 Species Protection and Management

- 5.3.1 Maintain all breeding populations at current levels, and enhance where possible. (Action: ED)
- 5.3.2 Ensure *L. bilineata* are catered for in programmes of cutting, burning or grazing management on sites supporting populations. (Action: ED)
- 5.3.3 Identify suitable areas on the north coast for the translocation of lizards in an effort to increase the range of the species. (Action: ED)

5.4 Advisory

- 5.4.1 Ensure managers of golf courses which hold important populations of lizards (Grouville Golf Course, La Moye, Les Ormes, Les Mielles) are aware of its conservation needs and offer management advice. (Action: ED)

5.5 Future Research and Monitoring

- 5.5.1 Monitor existing populations annually. (Action: ED)
- 5.5.2 Undertake full survey of north coast to establish presence or absence of lizards. (Action: ED)
- 5.5.3 Monitor success of translocated populations. (Action: ED)
- 5.5.4 Undertake research into the effect of cat predation on small, vulnerable populations. (Action: ED)

5.6 Communications and Publicity

- 5.6.1 Publicity campaign to highlight threat of cat predation on *L. bilineata*, with recommendations on how to reduce their impact. (Action: ED)

5.7 Links with other Action Plans

- 5.7.1 The conservation requirements of Green Lizards are consistent with the conservation plans for most dune and heathland species. The general aim in these areas is to retain species diversity and maintain a three-dimensional vegetation mosaic.

Green Lizard *Lacerta bilineata*

○ records pre 1965 - 1976 ● records before and after 1976 ● records 1988 - 2001

Distribution of Green Lizard in Jersey, by 1 Km square.

Source: 'A Natural History of Jersey', Le Sueur, 1976, 'The Green Lizard and Wall Lizard in Jersey', Perkins, 1988 and 'The Green Lizard (*Lacerta bilineata*) in Jersey', Godfrey 2001.

