

Reptile Slough Genebank



Do you find shed reptile skins while surveying in the UK?

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) Trust and Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK (ARG UK) would like you to send us these sloughs please. They are a valuable resource for collecting DNA non-invasively. A comprehensive genebank can then be built up from across the UK, which can be made available to researchers to help conserve these species.

Do not disturb, handle or physically remove the slough from any reptile. If you find a snake or lizard (including slow-worm) slough anywhere in the UK, please follow these guidelines:

- *Please keep each individual slough separate, even if it is from the same site or refuge. Any contamination will compromise or invalidate the value of the slough.*
- Collect as much of the skin as possible, but it does not need to be entire to be useful
- Record the grid reference (Minimum four figure, i.e. XX 12 34) and/or postcode
- If the slough is wet/damp please dry it out as best as you can, but avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight as this can destroy the DNA.
- Before placing each slough in a separate, dry paper envelope and sealing it, write on it:
 - which species you think it is
 - the location you found the slough
 - the date you found it
 - your name and contact details (especially email)
- Place this envelope (or envelopes) in another envelope and at the end of each season post to:

Reptile Slough Genebank, ARC Trust, 655a Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH1 4AP