

Common Lizard

Species Description

Scientific name: *Zootoca vivipara*

The common lizard is the UK's most common and widespread reptile. It is found across many habitats, including heathland, moorland, woodland and grassland, where it can be seen basking in sunny spots. Also known as the 'viviparous lizard', the common lizard is unusual among reptiles as it incubates its eggs inside its body and 'gives birth' to live young rather than laying eggs. Adults emerge from hibernation in spring, mating in April and May, and producing three to eleven young in July.

This species is Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.



Photo: Jon Hawkins - Surrey Hills Photography

Key ID features

Main body colour
brown-grey

Males brighter than
females, with orange-
yellow bellies and spots
(see above)

Darker spots or stripes
down side of body. Pale
underneath



Photo: Paul Thrush