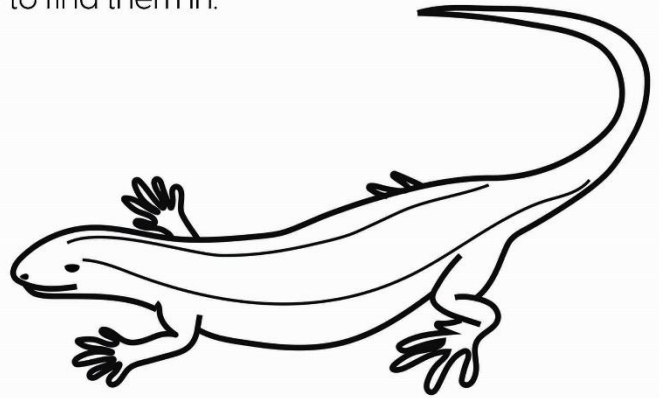


# Tips for spotting Common Lizards

Lizards like to live where they can safely feed, bask in the sun, and hibernate over winter. For these reasons you are more likely to find them in:

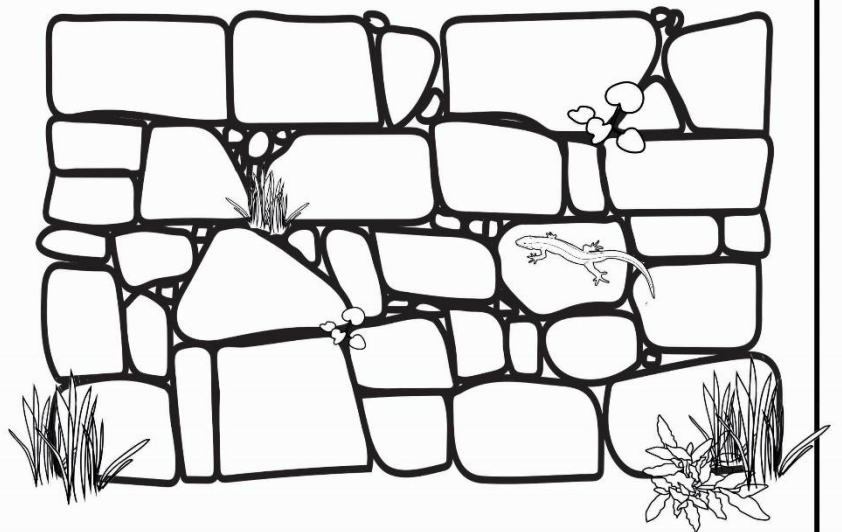
- South facing banks or old stone walls
- Vegetated sand dunes
- Dry sections of bogs
- Upland heath
- Old stone ruins



It is rare to see lizards out in the open. You are more likely to see them close to cover - where they can easily retreat if danger appears. Look along the edge of vegetation changes, such as where heather gives way to a trail or the edges of sections of marram grass on sand dunes.

If there is some vegetation on a bank or old stone wall, look for sunny spots, such as a patch of bare soil. There might be lizards hiding in the grass, but these sunny spots are easier places to see them.

Check for them on stones or fallen fences posts. These are ideal spots for them to crawl out of the vegetation and bask in the sun to warm up.



# Tips for spotting Common Lizards

- You may find somewhere that looks perfect for lizards, but you can't find any. Check on the area in winter – if it gets water logged then it might not be suitable for lizards to hibernate so it's unlikely you'll find any living there.
- Habitats that have been badly disturbed are unlikely to have lizards. Eg. regular digging, pollution or pesticide use.
- If you see a lizard and it runs off, wait. Be patient. Chances are it will come back to that same spot to continue basking.
- Keep your distance. If you see a lizard and rush in for a closer look, it will probably run away.
- Be aware of your shadow. If you see a lizard, try to avoid your shadow passing over it. The lizard might think that you are a flying predator so it will hide.
- In July, pregnant females spend more time in the sun to help their babies grow internally. This is a good time to see them but also a very important time not to disturb them.
- Don't stay too long. The time a lizard spends on figuring out if you are trying to eat it, is time lost doing what lizards need to do – hunt, control their body temperature, mate, etc.
- And of course, lizards hibernate over winter so your chances of seeing one from October – February are slim. However, they occasionally emerge on warm or sunny days so it's always worth having a look!

**Please remember it is illegal to handle common lizards without a license.**

**Only do so if a lizard is in danger, such as you are rescuing one from a cat or you find one indoors. Never try to catch a lizard by its tail!**