

Adder

DESCRIPTION

This stocky, little snake has a zig-zag pattern down its back. They rarely exceed 60 cm in length and can be found around patches of woodland and on heathland. Males are usually grey, whereas females and juveniles are brown. Adders are our only venomous snake.

Adders are widespread across England, Wales and Scotland, however, their occurrence is very patchy at a local level. In Scotland, the borders and highlands have traditionally been strongholds for the Adder, whereas they are considered rare across the central belt of Scotland. In many areas populations are disappearing and this is contributing to a worrying national decline of this species.

Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and classified as a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

DISTRIBUTION



THREATS

- Development & agricultural intensification
- Habitat fragmentation
- Loss of terrestrial habitat
- Human persecution and increased human disturbance
- Loss of suitable habitat due to inappropriate management practices and afforestation.

Photo: Matt Wilson



ACTIONS REQUIRED

- **Increased Habitat Management** to create and restore terrestrial habitats to suitable conditions.
- **Improved Planning Processes** to take better account of Adder presence during early stages of local authority plans & development.
- **Increased Survey & Monitoring** is essential to allow species status assessments to be made.
- **Changing Public Attitude**

MSP SPECIES CHAMPION



Joan McAlpine MSP

Member for: South Scotland

Party: Scottish National Party

FROGLIFE SCOTLAND,
Graham Kerr Building,
The University of Glasgow,
Glasgow, G12 8QQ.

Robert.Williams@froglife.org

www.froglife.org

