



# What is Natural England Doing About Adder Declines?

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# Policy/Legislation



- UK Biodiversity Action Plan
- Biodiversity 2020 (co-chair herp group with ARC)
- Conservation Strategy
- Species Recovery Programme
- National Red Listing project with ARC
- Development mitigation
- Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
- EU Habitats Directive
- Other relevant legislation







# Protected Areas



- 4,128 SSSIs: 104 have one or more herp feature
  - Only 6 with a reptile assemblage feature
  - 0 with adder as a feature
- Revision of SSSI selection guidance
  - Adder proposed as a formal SSSI feature
- Specialist's SSSI review
  - New adder features on existing SSSIs?
  - Brand new SSSIs for adders?
- Site conservation objectives (integrated advice)





# Wider Countryside Management



- Existing Agri-environment Schemes (esp. HLS)
  - Buffer strips project
- Countryside Stewardship
  - Targeting for herps
  - Internal advice/training
  - Internal herp network
  - Threatened species supplement















# Species Conservation



- Species Recovery Programme?
- Moratorium on guidance
- Re-introductions
- Captive breeding
- Disease
- Genetics
- “Mosaic” vs “bespoke” species
- Join forces with other species
- Hibernacula protection and monitoring







# Improving Evidence



- Conservation status in different habitats and regions of England
- Reasons for declines
- Population trends
- Common standards monitoring on SSSIs
- NARRS 1 and 2, Make the Adder Count
- Agri-environment scheme monitoring
- HSIs
- Remote sensing/Species Distribution Models













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