



Vanishing Viper 2019: A European approach to developing an adder conservation strategy

Brambell Building, Bangor University, Deiniol Road, Bangor, LL57 2UW

Day 1: Saturday 8th June

- 9:30 - 10:00 Arrival/registration
- 10:00 - 10:10 Welcome address: Natasha Savage (North West Wales ARG) & Angela Julian (ARG UK) plus a special guest appearance.

Session 1: Adder conservation – what are the concerns? Chair: Natasha Savage, NWWARG

- 10:10 - 10:30 Is the Adder Vanishing, should we be concerned and what is needed to safeguard populations? Nigel Hand (Central Ecology, ARG UK)
- 10:30 - 10:50 Adder conservation priorities: feedback from the Vanishing Viper 2016, Richard Griffiths (DICE, University of Kent)
- 10:50 - 11:10 How robust are adder populations in the UK - a genetic analysis, Sarah Ball (Institute of Zoology)

11:10 – 11:40 Morning Break

Session 2: Managing sites sympathetically for adders: overcoming the challenges, Chair: Chris Monk (ARG UK)

- 11:40 - 12:00 Do Adders have a future in the Wyre? Changing management practices in the Wyre Forest and Wye Valley National Nature Reserves, Tom Simpson (Reserves Manager, Natural England)
- 12:00 - 12:20 Strategies for managing coastal sites for adders in Wales, Geraint Jones (Farm Conservation Officer, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA))
- 12:20 - 12:40 The challenges of managing a public site sympathetically for adders, Kevin James (Mid-Lincs Regional Warden, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust)
- 12:40 - 13:00 Round table discussion 1: How can land owners resolve conflicting user requirements whilst supporting adder populations

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH

Session 3: The Northern European Perspective, Chair: Wolfgang Wüster

- 14:00 - 14:20 The adder in Germany. Or: When the truth hurts, there is little hope for conservation? Ina Blanke (Independent consultant, www.reptilien-brauchen-freunde.de, Lehrte/Germany)
- 14:20 - 14:40 A long-term (2000-2018) study of a large Adder population in northern Belgium: demography, structure and implications for conservation, Dirk Bauwens & Katja Claus (University of Antwerp)
- 14:40 - 15:00 Approaches to conserving adders in the Netherlands, Rolf van Leeningen (RAVON, Netherlands)
- 15:00 - 15:20 Conserving adders in Hauts-de-France: a regional action plan. Gaëtan Rey (Conservatoire Espaces Naturels Hauts-de-France)

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15:20 - 15:50 Refreshment Break

15:50 - 16:10 The advantages of using TRIM in calculating population trends, Marnix de Zeeuw (Network Ecological Monitoring, The Netherlands)

16:10 - 16:50 Next Generation Sequencing and adder population demography, Thomas Madsen (University of Wollongong, Australia)

16:50 - 17:30 Round table discussion 2: What can we learn from our neighbours – do we need a European approach?

17:00 - 18:00 POSTER SESSION

19:00 pm EVENING MEAL- 'Chinese fiesta' at Eastern Origin, 9 High St, Bangor, LL57 1DQ (10 minute walk from the Brambell Building)

Day 2: Sunday 9th June

9:30 - 10:00 Arrival/registration

Session 4: Engaging volunteers and communities with adder conservation, Chair: Pete Hill (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation)

10:00 - 10:20 Adders are Amazing!: Novel approaches to engaging communities with adder conservation, Sam Langdon (ARG UK)

10:20 - 10:40 Good press for adders: managing the adder-bite media storm, Wolfgang Wüster (University of Bangor)

10:40 - 11:00 Make the Adder Count: population trends from a citizen science survey of UK adders, Emma Gardner (University of Reading/ARG UK)

11:00 - 11:30 Morning break

Session 5: Adder conservation: The way forward: Chair: Angie Julian (ARG UK)

11:30 - 11:50 Developing volunteer survey and monitoring effort to drive conservation outcomes - an integrated approach, Steve Langham (SARG/ARG UK)

11:50 - 12:10 The future for UK adder conservation Jim Foster (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation)

12:10 - 13:00 Panel discussion: The way forward for adder conservation - developing a practical road map

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 - 17:30 Local Field visits led by Rob Booth (North West Wales Wildlife Trust)

Pre-booked only please, as places are limited. There will be three minibuses leaving campus shortly after 2 pm, two to Cors Goch Nature Reserve (around 11 miles, a 30 minute drive each way), and one travelling further to Gwaith-Powdwr (32 miles, this is an hour's drive each way so this group will not be back before 6 pm).

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