

'The Vanishing Viper: Priorities for adder conservation'

Draycott Village Hall, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3UE

Sat 8 – Sun 9 October 2016

Day 1: Saturday 8th October

Session 1: Chair: Strategic challenges and solutions for adder conservation, Introduced by Tony Gent (ARC)

- Strategic challenges and solutions for adder conservation, Jim Foster (ARC)
- National status and trends of adders in Britain: what do we know? Discussion about national status and trends, identification of key, Angie Julian & John Baker (ARG UK)

Session 2: Insights from survey and research, Chair: John Dickson (RAGS)

- Long term surveillance, Rick Hodges (KRAG)
- How do we turn surveys into an assessment of conservation status? Steve Langham (SARG)
- Using Radio-telemetry to unlock the secret life of the adder, Nigel Hand (HART)
- What genetic analysis tells us about UK adder populations, Trent Garner (Institute of Zoology)
- How did adders become extinct in Warwickshire? Jan Clemons (WART)
- Discussion – led by John Dickson

Session 3: Managing landscapes sympathetically for adders – the opportunities and challenges for land managers, Lee Brady/Mike Philips (KRAG) to Chair

- Challenges of managing the Quantocks, Iain Porter, Development Officer (The Quantock Hills AONB)
- Managing common land for adders – experiences from Greenham Common, Alex Cruickshank, Senior Land Manager, Berkshire (Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust)
- Managing ARC's reserves for adders, Gary Powell (ARC)
- Managing large tracts of upland moorland for adders – practical considerations, Steven Corcoran (Cairngorms National Park Authority)
- Changing traditional habitat restoration practices to manage adder habitats in South Staffordshire, Paul Wilkinson (Staffordshire ARG)
- Impact of cattle grazing on adders in the peak district, Chris Monk (DARG)
- Open discussion led by Lee Brady/Mike Philips (KRAG)

Session 4: Public interactions with adders – what messages should we be broadcasting (Workshop).

Facilitated by Pete Hill & Mark Barber (ARC).

POSTER SESSION, DRINKS/SNACKS

EVENING MEAL (Indian buffet)

Conference supported by:



habitat aid



Day 2: Sunday 9th October

Session 5: Site protection, regulation and policy issues – Chris Monk (Derbyshire ARG) to Chair and lead discussion

- How does the law protect adders? Tony Gent (ARC)
- Site protection, regulation and policy issues in England including the role of SSSIs, Paul Edgar (NE)
- Site protection, regulation and policy issues – the experience in Wales, Liz Howe (NRW)
- Discussion of regulatory issues led by Chris Monk

Session 6: Mitigating development impacts - Chris Gleed-Owen, (CGO Ecology/Dorset ARG) to Chair and lead discussion

- Case Study – Essex - Darren Nash (DICE)
- Case Study – Jon Cranfield (Herpetologic/Essex ARG)
- Case Study - Scotland - Chris Cathrine/Ian Bradley (Caledonian Conservation)
- Findings from the Hounslow Heath reintroduction, A Case Study, Gareth Matthes (SARG)
- Mitigation interventions: how can the IUCN reintroduction guidelines help improve practice? Richard Griffiths (DICE) & Gemma Harding (Wiltshire ARG)
- Challenges of managing adders on wildlife sites in Wales, Rob Parry (The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales)
- Discussion on mitigating development impacts led by Chris Gleed-Owen

Session 7: Prioritisation of threats and conservation actions for the Adder – ranking and voting by delegates, led by Richard Griffiths (DICE) and Steve Langham (SARG)

Discussion and Wrap up – Led by Richard Griffiths (DICE)

Post conference refreshments

Conference supported by:



habitat aid

