

Adders are Amazing! Gwiberod Gwych!

## 4. ADDER WANDS

### INTRODUCTION

This is a great craft activity for festivals and community events. Children love making something they can run around with – and they love these ‘Harry Potter’ wands. They are also a great way to catch the attention of passers-by to come and introduce to our native reptiles. We found that even the adults love making a decorated stick – it really is quite therapeutic!

### MATERIALS:

- A selection of fine-line permanent marker pens (Sharpies)
- Bleached (but not brittle) driftwood sticks or from non-coastal areas, straight sticks cut from a non-toxic tree, such as hazel, sycamore, willow, alder silver birch or lime
- If using cut sticks, a traditional sideways vegetable peeler and whittling knife (optional) or sand paper
- Spools of inexpensive ribbon
- Pictures of adders to show participants

### MAKE IT!

1

If using driftwood, check for sharp edges and splits before starting. If using cut sticks, prepare them by peeling the bark off and leaving to dry before use.

2

Use a whittling knife to tidy up and decorate the stick (we use an Opinel no. 6). If done with a Forest School, knife safety is taught to the children, otherwise prepare the sticks yourself, ahead of the day.



## MAKE IT!

- 3** Show the participants pictures of adders and talk about them. Then ask each person to choose a stick and think of an adder pattern or picture to decorate it.



- 4** Using fine-line marker pens, the participants can decorate their chosen stick to give it an adder design. Precious clothes need to be protected!



- 5** Once the drawing is finished, ribbons can be tied to the end of the stick to decorate it. We suggest 1 m lengths of ribbon, in bundles of three.



- 6** Set the children free to run around in an open space! Remind them not to hurt each other with their wands ☺



- 7** Adults really enjoy this activity too! How creative can you get?!

