



## **UK priority species pages – Version 2**

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## SPECIES PAGES FOR 2007 UK BAP PRIORITY SPECIES

(see endnotes for an explanation of the various components of this compilation).

### **Vipera berus (Linnaeus, 1758)**

#### **Adder**

## **1 General information**

Level 1	Herptiles (amphibians and reptiles)
Level 2	reptile
On 1997 UK BAP list	

## **2 UK BAP criteria<sup>i</sup>**

1. International threat	2. International responsibility (2a) + moderate decline in UK (2b)	3. Marked decline in the UK	4. Other important factor(s)
False	False	False	True

## **3 Evidence for Criteria<sup>ii</sup>**

Criterion 1	
Criterion 2a	
Criterion 2b	
Criterion 3	
Criterion 4	<p>A declining species and a good 'indicator' species for a declining taxonomic group, a threatened habitat type or a pressing conservation issue (UK BAP stage 1 Guidelines 3.3.4.v). This snake is still persecuted as well as suffering from habitat fragmentation, afforestation, public pressure, inappropriate habitat management and of course development and general tidying of the countryside. Severe declines in several counties have already been reported ( Warks, Worcs, Wyre Forest, London, Herts) by local herp groups and a project to find out more about distributional changes is under way (National Adder Survey, 2005). Baker, Suckling and Carey (2004) found population decreases in all regions studied, but it was most marked in the Midlands. Most of the survey responses came from nature reserves; the only known adder site in Nottingham was damaged by forestry works in 2003 and the current status of that population is unknown, monitoring in the Wyre Forest has detected decreases in the number of populations and of individuals within them (from 150-200 individuals in the early 1990's to 20-30 individuals in 2004-5- despite this being a protected site). Would advise a separate stage 3 approach from the widespread species, perhaps limited to specific areas if found to be more threatened in some counties than others.</p>

## 4 Distribution by Country

England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	International Waters
Y	Y	Y	N	

## 5 Distribution Information

Distribution data source	Stage 1 information
Distribution data notes	Has probably suffered greater declines in some LBAP areas than others
number of sites (where less than or equal to 10)	
Units used for number of sites	

## 6 Actions identified by experts<sup>iii</sup>

Action number	Action text	Reporting category
1	<b>SINGLE SPECIES ACTION- SITE SPECIFIC:</b> Mixed public attitudes towards a venomous species and the specific habitat requirements of the adder require `single species` actions, although these may differ according to location. The priority is to raise awareness of habitat requirements of this species and consequent habitat management measures. Key to this in England and Wales is identification of hibernation sites and protection of them and appropriate management of adjacent habitat.	Species-specific awareness raising
2	<b>WIDER ACTION-PLANNING:</b> Taking account of/ or determining its presence during the early stages of local authority development plans, land allocation could significantly enhance its current conservation status, particularly in areas adjacent to or including areas of semi-natural habitat ( grassland, heathland, fen, blanket and raised bog, maritime cliff, sand dune). Countering the effects of habitat fragmentation at the local scale is a high priority. Planning access routes and recreation areas should take account of the effects of disturbance on this species.	Wider "landscape" action
3	<b>WIDER ACTION- HABITAT MANAGEMENT:</b> This snake would benefit greatly from recognition of its habitat and management needs at the wider landscape scale in development schemes, agri-env, highways schemes and land management by public bodies etc. Habitat management (grassland, heathland, fen, blanket and raised bog, maritime cliff, sand dune) that provides suitable basking, feeding, breeding and hibernation sites in a connected landscape for the adder is required. Such management would include (not exhaustive list), scrub management, not planting up areas with trees, grassland management to suitable heights, provision of hibernacula, providing habitat connectivity etc.	Wider "landscape" action
4	<b>MONITORING:</b> The National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme (NARRS) should be implemented to determine conservation status and investigate extent of perceived declines.	Species-specific monitoring/survey

**8 Additional information from specialists<sup>iv</sup>**

Attribute	Value
NBN current scientific name	Vipera berus
NBN common name	Adder
classification level 1	Herptiles (amphibians and reptiles)
classification level 2	reptile
Latest UK Population/extent Estimate	1308
Units of measurement	populations
Proportion left	1
decline	0
over observed years	0
decline over 25 years	0
Crit2 satisfied Yes/No/ Unknown	no
Crit3 satisfied Yes/No/ Unknown	unknown
Factor	Guideline 3.3.4.v.This snake is still persecuted as well as suffering from habitat fragmentation, afforestation, public pressure, inappropriate habitat management and of course development and general tidying of the countryside. Severe declines in several counties have already been reported ( Warks, Worcs, Wyre Forest, London, Herts) by local herp groups and a project to find out more about distributional changes is under way (National Adder Survey,2005). Baker, Suckling and Carey (2004) found population decreases in all regions studied, but it was most marked in the Midlands. Most of the survey responses came from nature reserves; the only known adder site in Nottingham was damaged by forestry works in 2003 and the current status of that population is unknown, monitoring in the Wyre Forest has detected decreases in the number of populations and of individuals within them (from 150-200 individuals in the early 1990's to 20-30 individuals in 2004-5- despite this being a protected site). Would advise a separate stage 3 approach from the widespread species, perhaps limited to specific areas if found to be more threatened in some counties than others.
Crit4 satisfied (Yes/ No/ Unknown)	yes
Confidence in assesment crit 4	high
1st source	Hilton-Brown & Oldham (1991)
2nd source	Baker, Suckling & Carey (2004)
3rd source	Langton & Beckett (1995)
Other sources	Arnold (1995)





## 10 Species designations<sup>v</sup>

Abbreviation	Reporting Category	Designation	Designation description	Year	Source	Comment
Bern:A3	Bern Convention	Appendix 3	Special protection through 'appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures', of the listed wild fauna species.	1982	Bern Convention	natural range includes GB
England NERC S.41	Biodiversity Lists - England	England NERC S.41	Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.	2008	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41) and Wales (section 42)	Geographic constraint=Listing is for England only
Wales NERC S.42	Biodiversity Lists - Wales	Wales NERC S.42	Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under Section 42 (Wales) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when	2009	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41)	Geographic constraint=Listing is for Wales only

			performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.		and Wales (section 42)	
BAP:2007	Biodiversity Action Plan UK list of priority species	Priority Species	The UK List of Priority Species and Habitats contains 1150 species and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).	2007	UK list of Priority Habitats and Species	not on former UK BAP list
WACA:Sch5_sect9.1(kill/injuring)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (killing/injuring)	Section 9.1. Animals which are protected from intentional killing or injuring.	1991	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	
WACA:Sch5_sect9.5a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.5a	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being sold, offered for sale or being held or transported for sale either live or dead, whole or part.	1991	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)	
WACA:Sch5_sect9.5b	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 5 Section 9.5b	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being published or advertised as being for sale.	1991	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals	

					and plants)	
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## UK BAP 2008 reporting<sup>vi</sup>

(nb this only applies to species on the original 1997 UK BAP priority species list)

### ENDNOTES

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<sup>i</sup> An explanation of these criteria is included at Annex 3 of [UK Biodiversity Action Plan; Report on the Species and Habitat Review](#). BRIG (ed. Ant Maddock) 2007. This review was organised in two stages. Stage 1 looked at the scientific evidence for selecting the UK List of Priority Species and Habitats while stage 2 considered the conservation action needed for these species and habitats and provided signposts to the means of implementing action.

<sup>ii</sup> The information on evidence and the species distribution is as presented on the UK BAP website. Users can download a spreadsheet of the [Stage 1 species evidence](#) from the home page of the UK BAP website.

<sup>iii</sup> Actions were assigned to each and every priority species by expert groups convened at Stage 2 of the Review process. These were subsequently categorised into “signpost categories”. This information is as shown on the UK BAP website See the link for [categorisation \(signposting\) of UK priority species](#).

<sup>iv</sup> This information has been derived from Stage 1 of the priority species review, and is presented in the “marine”, “terrestrial invertebrates” and “other terrestrial species” sheets within the spreadsheet of the [Stage 1 species evidence](#). The information presented here varies according to the taxonomic group. Please note that some of these data have been written for other Expert Group members and may not be of great value to a wider audience.

<sup>v</sup> Information on conservation designations has been extracted from JNCC’s collation of information on [species designations](#). The designations shown in version 2 of these pages are as at December 2010.

<sup>vi</sup> As part of the 2008 UK BAP reporting round lead partners of national plans were asked to answer a number of specific questions. The data will be analysed and used for the UK and country level reports. All of the responses provided through BARS as part of the 2008 reporting exercise are available to [download](#). Note that in the December 2010 version of these pages (version 2) includes corrections to previously truncated text fields.