



NatureScot
NàdarAlba

NATURAL
ENGLAND



Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales



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amphibian and reptile
conservation



3. INSPIRING EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES ON THE CONSERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES



In England, developing a tool to identify locations for adder *Vipera berus* dispersal and habitat management
Research into historical adder sites to interpret current land use and identify important sites based on proximity to known adder sites and connectivity, ranking of 'lost' adder sites and their potential for habitat restoration and colonisation through natural dispersal.

National Adder Survey: 30 Years on in Scotland



3. INSPIRING EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES ON THE CONSERVATION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES



Background

- Reptiles hard to study
- Concerns of population declines
- Especially small populations (Gardner *et al.* 2019)
- Adder near threatened in Scotland (Foster *et al.* 2021)
- Survey commissioned by NatureScot (SNH) in early 1990s to assess adder status in Scotland (Reading *et al.* 1996)
- Project carried out by NatureScot, ARG UK, and ARC Trust to repeat this study and assess change in species status over last 30 years
- Mixture of questionnaires and field surveys

Species	Great Britain	England	Scotland	Wales
Adder (<i>Vipera berus</i>)	Near Threatened	Vulnerable	Near Threatened	Near Threatened

Modified from Foster *et al.* 2021

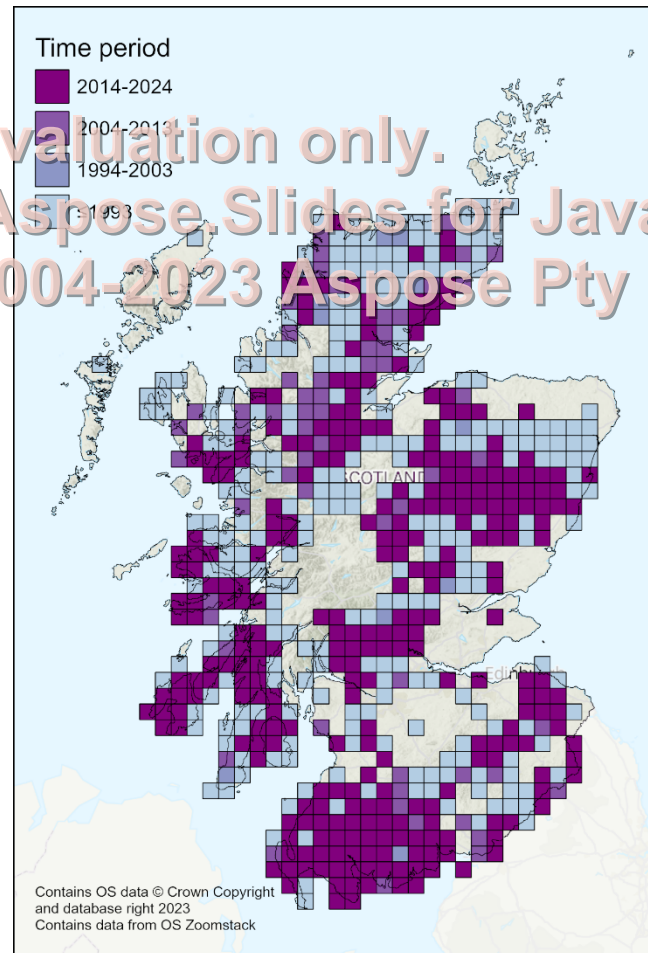


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Adder Occupancy in Scotland over Time

Data from field surveys, questionnaire responses and other data records



Presence of adders in Scotland over different time periods, as indicated by one or more adder records within a 10km square during that period.

North West Natterjack Toad Link

Cyswllt Llyffant y Twyni Y Gogledd-orllewin

Ceangal Màgan Natterjack Iar-thuath



1. UK Importance of the coastline between Southernness to Prestatyn for the species

2. SNCO Operations focused initiative pump primed by NE

- 3 Designated Sites (national and international (Ramsar))

4. Climate and land use change and its practical implications

5. Best practice dissemination

- Management
- Surveillance
- Records management
- Sustaining action
- Current Conservation status (CCS) and Conservation objectives
- Innovation



Research and Reintroductions



Natterjack Toad (*Epidalea calamita*)

- Heathland pool pH
- population genomics
- Reintroduction in Norfolk



Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*)

- Understanding the ecology and behaviour of the common toad *Bufo bufo* to inform landscape-level decision making, assessment of impacts associated with 'Toads on Roads' patrols and modelling between breeding ponds and hibernation locations, to optimise habitat management.



Pool Frog (*Pelophylax lessonae*)

- Development of a new breeding facility with laboratory
- Research into pingo restoration

Disease Risk Analysis and Health Surveillance (DRAHS)

- Continuation of existing research programmes

FAVOURABLE CONSERVATION STATUS

– defining goals at different spatial scales

Applying concept of FCS to area-based/ landscape scale projects

1. Many area based projects or ‘landscape’ funding schemes – with a focus on habitats ; species conservation gets over-looked
2. Defining metrics for distribution, population status and habitat extent and condition for key species
3. Agreeing ‘Favourable Levels’ (FRVs)
4. Monitoring to track changes – intervention if needed
5. Apply to different taxa – make sure key species are covered. Great crested newt definition is awaiting review for publication. Other species are being drafted



4. IMPORTANT HERPETOFAUNA AREAS:

IHAs (GB):

- **Highlighting most important areas, using country specific criteria**
- **Using 10 x10 km grid**
- **Next steps:**

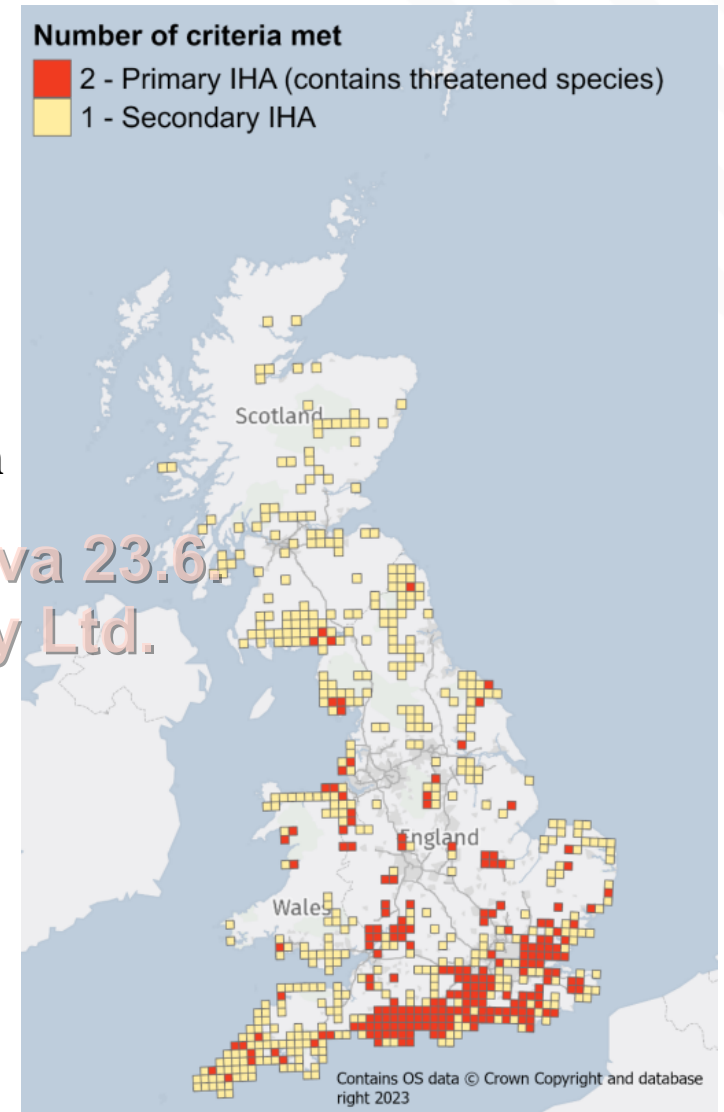
Assess each National Primary IHA with the following outcomes:

1. Appropriate ecologically relevant boundaries defined (e.g. based on habitat extent and barriers in the landscape)
2. Assess coverage against the Protected Sites network and opportunities for designation, and 30 x 30
3. Local (i.e. at the scale of an IHA) refinement undertaken.

IHAs (European level)

- **Supportive of concept – testing criteria and seeing how the UK fits**
- **Expect different criteria for European for different countries**
- **Explore scope for assessing impacts of climate change**

<https://www.arc-trust.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=d4ee0e80-d5e2-40af-b0c1-6ab4d816208b>.



Thank you : Diolch yn Fawr : Tapadh Leat
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