

### What?

- Adders are the only venomous snake native to Great Britain.
- The adder is a small, stocky snake which can grow up to 60-80cm long, with a distinctive dark zigzag pattern along its back. Males tend to be more silvery-grey, while females are more light or reddish-brown. Black (melanistic) forms are sometimes spotted.
- Adders bask in the sunshine and prefer woodland, heathland and moorland habitats.
- The adder is active during the day when it hunts, mainly for small mammals, nestlings and lizards. It hibernates in winter, typically from October to March.

### Why?

- Adders are protected by law from being killed or injured.
- They are not aggressive and are unlikely to bite unless they are alarmed or disturbed and don't have time to retreat.
- 50 to 100 people are bitten every year but these are rarely fatal; only 10 cases of human death have been recorded in the last 100 years.
- Although an adder's venom poses little danger to a healthy adult human, the bite can be painful and requires urgent medical attention. Children, the infirm and the elderly are more at risk.



### Do ✓

- Take care when moving logs, stones or rubble as adders may be sheltering there
- Stop work if you see an adder and report it to the leader
- Leave the adder to move of its own accord
- Report any harm or injury that occurs to adders
- Seek immediate professional medical help in the event of being bitten by an adder.

Symptoms of a bite may include:

- Pain, redness and swelling in the area of the bite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Dizziness and fainting

### Don't ✗

- Don't injure or harm the snake in any way – this is illegal
- Don't handle adders; if this is necessary leave it to trained professionals



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