



# Reptile ecology, survey and handling

This introductory course is designed to enable you to identify UK reptile species, to be able to identify suitable reptile habitat and to undertake reptile survey and reporting. The course is part classroom and part field based to provide practical survey and handling experience.

## *Course content:*

- Legislation/protection and conservation priorities
- Reptile ecology
- Identification of UK reptile species
- Assessment of habitat potential for reptiles
- Survey and mitigation strategies
- Practical experience of planning and undertaking reptile survey to current best practice
- Catching and handling of reptiles
- Reporting survey results for clients and conservation purposes

Attendees must be fit and able to walk across rough terrain, and require appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear.

We will visit heathland where slow worm, grass snake, common lizard and adder are abundant. However, the results of the field survey will be weather dependant and we cannot guarantee that wild reptiles will be encountered or able to be handled. As a minimum, attendees will be able to handle slow worms. Should adders be encountered, capture and handling will be demonstrated by the instructor. Attendees wanting to handle adders should bring their own personal protective equipment, i.e., snake-proof gloves, and will handle adders at their own risk.

A course certificate will be issued following completion of a test.

