

Toolbox talk – Environment

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Adders

What?

- ❑ snakes are cold blooded, they can often be found basking in warm locations
- ❑ adders are the only venomous snake native to Great Britain
- ❑ on occasion, adders and other snakes may be found on construction sites
- ❑ adders are protected by law from being killed or injured.



Identification

- ❑ adders are relatively thick-bodied, and can grow up to 60–80 cm long
- ❑ the colour pattern varies, ranging from very light-coloured specimens with small incomplete patterning to individuals that are entirely dark and lack any apparent pattern
- ❑ most have some kind of zigzag dorsal pattern down the entire length of the body and tail.

Why?

- ❑ adders are venomous and bites can be painful, although rarely fatal. They are unlikely to bite unless they are alarmed or disturbed
- ❑ most bites occur from March-October
- ❑ they are active during the day in the summer and hibernate in the winter
- ❑ adders usually mate during April, and females give birth to live young typically in August/September.

Questions

- 1 How is an adder identified?
- 2 If it is suspected that an adder is present on this site what should be done?

Do

- ✓ stop work near to the snake and report to a line manager
- ✓ try to minimise disturbance. The adder should be left to move of its own accord
- ✓ seek professional medical attention in the event of a bite
- ✓ report any harm or injury that does occur to adders to a line manager.

Don't

- ✗ injure or harm the snake in any way – this is illegal
- ✗ handle adders – leave it to trained professionals.

Title:

Given by:

Date:

Site:

Name	Company	Signature

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